



# Notes from Mrs. Nash

St. John Fisher School

August 23, 2019

Dear SJF Families,

Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year! I am so looking forward to this fresh start chock-full of new opportunities to learn, explore, grow and build strong community with one another grounded in faith, honesty, friendship and kindness! It has been a very busy and productive summer here at SJF, as we worked to improve our school both inside and out in order to better serve our students and families. During the summer months, we planned for and purchased new curriculum, created new office space, moved classrooms, renovated the gym, attended conferences and classes and in collaboration with the School Advisory Board (SAB) refreshed our logo, mission statement and tagline through synthesizing feedback we received from many stakeholders in our community. There are many new faces that have joined our school community this year: students, faculty, board members and office staff alike. I am so excited to start this new venture with all of you and to celebrate our successes throughout the year! Together, I am confident that we are going to have a wonderful school year, keeping in mind this mantra every step of the way, "I can do things you cannot. You can do things I cannot. But together, we can do great things." -Mother Teresa.

Thank you for your continued support of Catholic education!

In unity and hope,

*Mrs. Maura Nash*



## Important Announcements

- **For general school questions**, please call or e-mail Mrs. Kate Spadoni in the school office at 773-445-4737, [kspadoni@sjfschool.net](mailto:kspadoni@sjfschool.net).
- In case you missed it, [here is a link](#) to our full school calendar.
- Students are allowed to wear shorts until October 1<sup>st</sup>. Don't forget to pack a water bottle to stay hydrated throughout the day. **Stay COOL!**
-  **Be safe when walking to and from school! *Students must cross 103<sup>rd</sup> street with the crossing guard at the stop light.***
- Back to School Noon Mass & Picnic at Beverly Park on Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup>! **HOMEROOM CHALLENGE:** Students, please stop and see Mrs. Nash to receive a ticket acknowledging your attendance. The homeroom with most students in attendance will win an **Ice Cream Party!**
- **Save the Date!** September 17<sup>th</sup>: **Roy Petitfils, Licensed Counselor**, will be presenting to students during the school day and parents in the evening, discussing the many challenges that face our students in today's society: social media, peer relationships, social/emotional intelligence, & bullying to name a few. Mr. Petitfils is an internationally recognized expert in understanding and raising teenagers. He is a therapist at Pax Renewal Center in Lafayette, LA. He holds a Masters in Mental Health and School Counseling from the University of Louisiana, Lafayette.

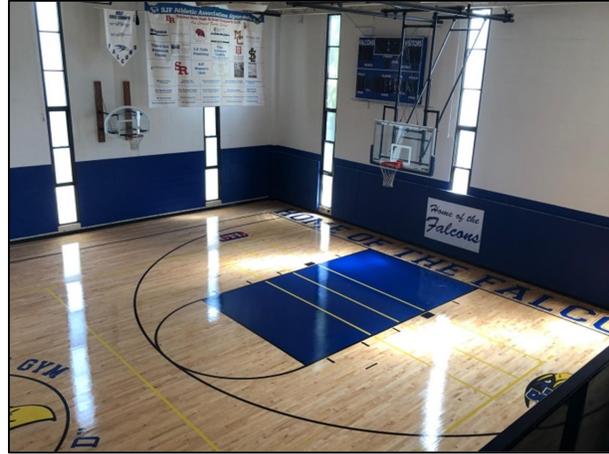
## Peek at the Week

Saturday, August 24 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blue &amp; Gray Intramural Football Game at Beverly Park: 10:00 4<sup>th</sup> gr; 1:00 JV; 2:30 Varsity</li> <li>• Presentation after varsity game to recognize Mr. Tim Bush</li> </ul>
Sunday, August 25 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Back to School Noon Mass &amp; Picnic @ Beverly Park</li> </ul>
Monday, August 26 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extended Day Begins</li> </ul>
Thursday, August 29 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First Varsity Football Game, 6:00 @ St. Rita</li> </ul>
Monday, September 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Labor Day (<i>No School!</i>)</li> </ul>
Tuesday, September 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HOT LUNCH Begins</li> </ul>
Wednesday, September 4 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Back to School Night</li> </ul>

Shout Outs and Thank You's!

### Thank You

- Conner T. Lowry Memorial Foundation in partnership with the Holy Name Society and Athletic Association for the generous donation to renovate our gym



- Holy Name Society and Women's Club for providing us with the funding to purchase our new curriculum to support our Reading Intervention Program: Fountas & Pinnell
- Jennifer McVicker, Jackie Long, Chas Hayes and Kate Keller for all of their volunteer work over the summer making our grounds so beautiful
- All of the student volunteers over the summer who volunteered their time to move boxes, furniture, etc.
- Tuscher's Sign Shop, 3143 West 111th St. Chicago, IL 60655 for the motivational and inspiring decals placed throughout the school (pictured below)



## Shout Outs

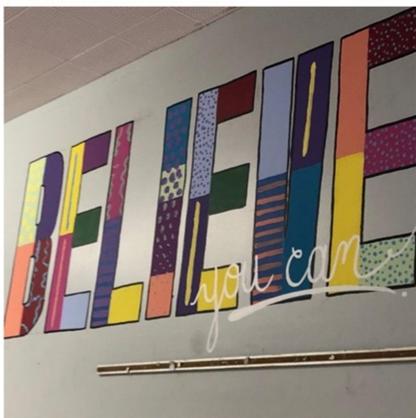
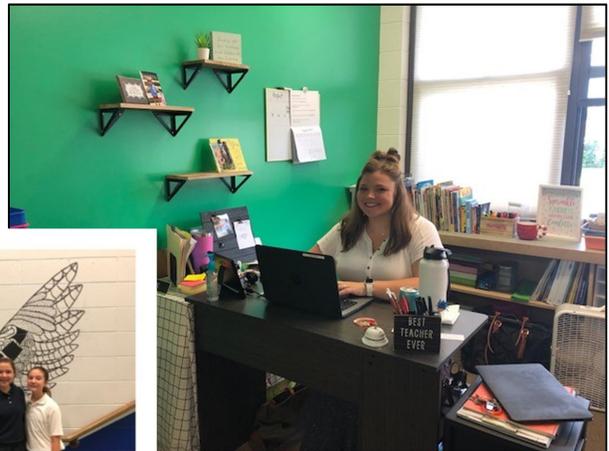
- **Desserts and Discussion:** Thank you to all who attended our Dessert & Discussion Round Tables this past spring. Please know that your feedback regarding the many aspects of our school are welcomed and valued. From our discussion, we have implemented new initiatives to the curriculum such as the reconfiguration of the grouping of students in grades 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>, a full-time school counselor, a new reading intervention program, and an emphasis and school-wide instructional goal of differentiation to name a few. Many other topics were touched on and addressed that evening; we hope to unveil our completed strategic plan during Catholic School's week in February.
- **SJF Brand Refresh:** Since this past Spring, the SAB Communications Committee has been working on a brand refresh for our school. Utilizing feedback from Desserts and Discussion, conversations with faculty, alumni and school parents, they have created a new logo, tagline and an updated mission statement. Their findings validated what we all know to be true about St. John Fisher – we are rooted in tradition, valuing faith and family while serving as a cornerstone to the community. These new brand elements will soon be up on our website. You'll also notice some new social media handles to follow: [facebook.com/sjfschoolchicago](https://www.facebook.com/sjfschoolchicago) and on [Instagram: stjohnfisher](https://www.instagram.com/stjohnfisher), as well as [Twitter: sjfschool](https://twitter.com/sjfschool). **Please follow and share our new school pages!** We are also working on some new school swag – so stay tuned!
- **Congratulations** to our newest Falcon, Maya Herdzik! Maya is the daughter to Director of Maintenance, Pawel Herdzik and his wife Marta.
- Please welcome **Mr. Jim Prunty**, our interim Physical Education Instructor. Mr. Prunty is a former teacher, coach and athletic director at the high school & college level. Mr. Prunty will be with us until we find a permanent replacement.
- We are so excited to also welcome back **Mrs. Bridget Quinn**. Mrs. Quinn will be stepping in as our permanent 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade Religion and Writing teacher.
- **Mrs. Mary Ellen Tatro-Mendoza**, M.Ed., is a Certified Wilson Dyslexic Practitioner and will be working in our Resource Department following Mrs. Sellas' retirement.



School Improvements



We are thrilled to introduce our **Reading Intervention Program** with Ms. Mary Schiavone!



Thank you to Mrs. Corley and 8<sup>th</sup> graders: Olivia Barry, Delia O'Keefe, Maura Poppish, Olivia Scarsella, Mia Volpentesta and Mara Zablocki (Elizabeth Gadzik not pictured) for the beautiful & inspiring murals in the hallways!

## SPECIAL LUNCH

**1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month:**

**September – Barraco’s      October – Pops**  
**November- Buona          December – Calabria**

Please fill out EACH form as follows:

- Student’s name, grade, and homeroom #
- Mark the number (#) of orders they would like on the appropriate menu item
- Total the amount (\$) under the number ordered on EACH form
- **PLEASE FILL OUT SEPARATE FORMS for each child.** Each child’s order must be on a separate form, but you may write one check for your family. Please mark who check was sent with including room #.  
Checks to: St. John Fisher Family School Association.
- Please return forms to homeroom teacher.
- Please do not mix Special Lunch order forms or payments with those for the regular hot lunch program.

If your child has **food allergies or dietary restrictions**, or any other questions or concerns, please contact Kristen Schiesl and the FSA to discuss possible alternative options. Thank you

Email: [fsa@sjsfschool.net](mailto:fsa@sjsfschool.net)

**WE NEED YOUR HELP WITH SPECIAL LUNCH DUTIES EVERY MONTH!!!!**

On Special Lunch days, we would appreciate your help with: set up, distributing lunches, and clean up during the 3 lunch periods: 10 AM – 12 PM. Little ones are welcome too! Please come by for as long as you can if you’re free. Thank you!

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Homeroom \_\_\_\_\_

**September 4th – Barraco’s**  
**\*\*\*Please send back by Wednesday, Aug. 28th\*\*\***

Each menu item below comes with cookies and a drink.

Cheese Pizza \$5.00	Sausage Pizza \$5.00	Pepperoni Pizza \$5.00	6-Inch Cheesy Breadsticks (3) \$5.00
# _____	# _____	# _____	# _____
\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____

*\*Breadsticks come with red sauce.*

**ST. John Fisher**

# Parish

**FOOD • FAMILY • FAITH**

**PICNIC**

**Beverly Park**



**CELEBRATE SJF WITH MASS & LUNCH**

**AUGUST 25TH • BEGINS WITH 12 PM MASS**

Early Bird Fisher Fest Raffle & Raffles for the kids

Sponsored by: SJF Holy Name Society & SJF Women's Club

Prize for the grade level with the most students present

Dear Fisher Friends & Neighbors,

This year marks our 36th Fisher Fest! It is a happy reminder that our school and church have long enjoyed a partnership as a thriving parish. Fisher Fest always reveals how committed our parishioners through their volunteerism, attendance, promotion or welcoming our out-of-parish guests.

As most of you know, the **Fisher Fest Raffle** is one of the highlights of the weekend. Leading up to the Fest, parish volunteers work tirelessly to sell the limited 900 tickets, as this is **only** annual church fundraiser. This year, we want to make sure that we sell every ticket so the church can benefit from the raffle's full potential. (Plus, it just makes it that much more exciting to have a "sold-out" ticketed event in the house!)

That said, we would LOVE your support! Take the **Fisher Fest Raffle Pledge** and commit to a minimum of **two raffle tickets!** Buy to keep for your family's chance at a win OR to sell to friends OR to gift away to someone special!

We realize that we live in a very generous community and in a world with many expenses, so the Pledge is not obligatory by any means. But, we are proud that we have steered clear of mandatory school/parish fundraising, so we are hoping you will jump on board if you can.

We will once again have the tuition raffle: Any School Family that commits to taking two tickets (buy one/sell one) will be entered into a separate raffle for a \$1500 tuition credit. All money and tickets need to be turned in by 9/10/19 to be entered in the raffle.

Tickets Sales:

- Rectory : Monday-Friday from 10-3: Starting Friday 8/9
- Before/after the 10 a.m. and Noon masses (starting August 10), and before/after the 4 p.m. mass (starting August 10)
- School Office during school hours (starting 8/22)
- The Parish Picnic on Sunday August 25, 2019: **EARLY BIRD RAFFLE**
- By emailing [fisherfestaffle@gmail.com](mailto:fisherfestaffle@gmail.com)
- Pop-up Locations! Check Fisher social media pages for regular updates!

*Cash or check (payable to SJF) preferred.  
Credit Cards accepted via paypal on our website  
fisherfest.com*

*Thank You In Advance For Your Continued Support of SJF!  
Church and School Together we are one!*

*SJF Raffle Committee  
Brigid Riley, Molly Schneller, Peggy O'Connor*



Dear St. John Fisher Families,  
August 2019

I would like to take this time to thank you for your continued support for our partnership with St. John Fisher and your hot lunch program and for the trust you have put in us to feed your children! This is an endeavor in which we take great pride. We're extremely excited to begin our 3<sup>rd</sup> school year serving the St. John Fisher community.

With the continuous increase in labor costs and subsequently the increase in food costs, Gilhooley's is implementing a price increase in hot lunch and milk. We are adjusting the price of hot lunch to \$4.95 and milk to \$0.50. Decisions like this are not made easily and without doing everything on our end first to ensure there is no other choice. We consider the impact to everyone involved. This price increase not only applies to St. John Fisher, but all our grade schools.

We will continue to specialize in cooking homemade, from scratch meals. Freshness and quality will never be sacrificed. In our kitchen you will always see whole grains, unprocessed meats, and fresh produce. Once again as the year progresses, we will be updating the menu and offering new choices from our home-style recipes. We aim to keep the children happier than ever with the selection of meals!

We are continually striving to improve our service. We value your suggestions and comments and we are always available and happy to work with you. Please feel free to call or email. Thank you for your time.

Regards  
Jim Terri  
Gilhooley's Grade School Lunch Program  
773-233-2200  
terri@sxu.edu