



Saint Joseph Regional School Our Lady of Mercy Academy



February 20, 2025

Empowering students to grow as informed, inspired, compassionate souls.

Dear Parents and Staff,

We had a healthy turnout for our Home and School meeting last night. After hearing from parents at the January meeting, we added babysitting and arranged for virtual participation through Google Meet.

Thank you to our fabulous OLMA students who earned service hours by babysitting and to Mrs. Jen Marshall for handling the virtual set-up.

The next meeting is March 26.

The highlights of the meeting will be sent in the March 5 newsletter.

The OLMA Sophomore Class was on Retreat today. Thank you to the OLMA staff for helping these young men and women on their faith journey and for helping them learn that God has a special plan for each one of them, one unique to them.

From all of us at SJRS and OLMA, we wish your family a wonderful winter break. Three of our community members, Mr. Cardine, Mr. Konopka, and Mr. Markiewicz, all Knights of Columbus, will be traveling to a K of C Convention in New York City and being elevated to the highest level, the Fourth Degree. We recognized these men at our Mass yesterday and thanked them and all the other Knights who support our schools with generous donations and events to benefit our students. We love the Knights!

I will be heading to Ireland to visit some of the nuns that I served with in Florida. They are Religious Sisters of Mercy, the Irish counterparts to the American Mercy Sisters who started St. Joseph School and for whom Our Lady of Mercy Academy is named. They pray daily for our schools and are very happy that we will be having a bagpiper come on St. Patrick's Day to play for our students. It's a month away, but you can never be too Irish!

In His service,

Miss Victoria Farrington
Principal

EPHESIANS 1:17-18

...that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation resulting in knowledge of him. May the eyes of [your] hearts be enlightened, that you

IMPORTANT DATES

Mon-Fri 2/24-28 -- Winter Break -- NO SCHOOL

Wednesday 3/5 -- Ash Wednesday All-School Mass -- 9:30am

Thursday 3/6 -- Junior Retreat, Sophomores PSAT10, Freshmen/Seniors community service

Thursday 3/20 -- Faculty In-service -- **NO SCHOOL**

Friday 3/21 -- **NO SCHOOL**

may know what is the hope that belongs to his call, what are the riches of glory in his inheritance among the holy ones.

Wednesday 3/26 -- Home and School Association meeting -- 6-7pm -- St. Bernard's Parish Hall
Thursday 3/27 -- International Night -- 5:30-7:30pm (see details below)

CLICK HERE for the UPDATED 2024-2025 SCHOOL CALENDAR

*****PLEASE NOTE***** The calendar has been updated to reflect that there will be **NO SCHOOL** on Thursday, March 20, AND Friday, March 21.

ASH WEDNESDAY/LENT INFORMATION

Ash Wednesday is one of the most popular and important holy days in the liturgical calendar. Ash Wednesday opens Lent, a season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Ash Wednesday takes place 46 days before Easter Sunday, and is chiefly observed by Catholics, although many other Christians observe it too. Ash Wednesday comes from the ancient Jewish tradition of penance and fasting. The practice includes the wearing of ashes on the head. The ashes symbolize the dust from which God made us. As the priest applies the ashes to a person's forehead, he says the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Priests administer ashes during Mass and all are invited to accept the ashes as a visible symbol of penance. The ashes are made from blessed palm branches, taken from the previous year's palm Sunday Mass. It is not required that a person wear the ashes for the rest of the day, and they may be washed off after Mass. However, many people keep the ashes as a reminder until the evening.

On March 5, we observe Ash Wednesday and begin the Lenten Season. Please note that Ash Wednesday is a day of **fast and abstinence**. The school will only be offering **meatless** sandwiches/hoagies for lunch that day. The following Wednesdays in Lent, the sandwiches/hoagies will be the regular offerings. On **meatless** Fridays during Lent, the school will only be offering cheese pizza. The Friday dates are March 7, 14, 21, 28, April 4, and 11. Please be sure to plan accordingly for your child's lunches during Lent.

UPCOMING STANDARDIZED TESTING

The **PSAT 10** will be given on Thursday, March 6th. All 10th graders will be taking the test. The cost of the test is \$16 and will be billed to the student's incidental account in **FACTS**.

The **SAT** will be on Thursday, April 3rd, for all 11th graders. There is no charge for this test as it is administered through the state of New Hampshire.

CONGRATULATIONS to all students who made the Honor Roll for the 2nd quarter! Unweighted grades are used for determining Honor Roll for each quarter report card.

FIRST HONORS

Average of 95% (A) or higher with no grade lower than 92% (A-).

Grade 12:

Allie Burgess
Francis Cardine

Grade 11:

Maddie Carlson
Liam Crisman
Dean Kangas



SECOND HONORS

Average of 92% (A-) or higher with no grade lower than 89% (B+).

Grade 12:

Mackenzie Ahern
Grace Jasmin

Ethan Petschik
Elio Saba
Ethan Young

Grade 10:
Madyson Brown
Jillian Boulay
Colleen Nelligan
Shannon Nelligan

Grade 9:
Lila Ball
Monica Lundin
Makayla Paolino

Taylor Johnson

Grade 11:
Harmony Brown
Lily Fitzpatrick
Kyle Paolino

Grade 10:
Liam Shea

Grade 9:
Betty Herstad



Last Friday, the OLMA Student Council spread the love by delivering secret Valentine's Grams!

SJRS/OLMA BUSINESS DIRECTORY

We have compiled all information sent by parents for our new SJRS/OLMA Business Directory. We encourage the support of the businesses within our school communities! If you have questions or would like your business to be added to the directory, please email Jen Marshall (jmarshall@stjosephkeene.org). Please **CLICK HERE for the Business Directory**.

After our all-school Mass last week, Miss Farrington and Fr. Alan presented the **Good Samaritan Awards** for the second quarter to Amelia Knowles (Grade 9) and Ryan Nuru (Grade 9). This award recognizes students who consistently show kindness, respect, compassion, empathy and helpfulness to their fellow classmates and throughout the school community.

CONGRATULATIONS!



FEATURED STUDENT-ATHLETE
Congratulations to Maddie Carlson (Grade 11) for a great season with KHS Nordic Ski Team!

ATHLETICS NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS to all of our student-athletes who have been competing throughout this Winter!

- Maddie Carlson - KHS nordic ski team
- Lizzie Gornall - KHS alpine ski team
- Amelia Knowles - KHS alpine ski team
- Kyle Paolino - Conant High School swim team
- Ben Stoning - Monadnock High School basketball

The spring sports season is getting underway now at the local public schools. For all of the details and contact information, please [CLICK HERE for the OLMA website](#) ! Please do not hesitate to reach out directly to the athletic directors about upcoming meet-the-coaches nights and first practices.

TUTORING AVAILABLE!

Tutoring by NHS scholars and Dr. Regney is available every day except Wednesdays. We meet during flex time in room 37. This is a quiet study/work space and only tutors and tutees may be in the room. Those seeking help please arrive by 11:40am at the latest to receive assistance. We can help you review areas on



Last week, our **Consumer Finance** class visited Better Homes & Gardens Real Estate The Masiello Group. The students had a great opportunity to speak directly with Chris Masiello, Executive Chairman of The Masiello Group. Real estate agent Bill Hutwelker of SVN The Masiello Group talked about the home buying process and Courtney Nazzaro from Great East Title spoke about title searches and the closing process. The students learn so much from these real world conversations!

HOUSE MERCHANDISE

Beeze Tees has put together a great House merchandise store for us!

[CLICK HERE](#) to check out the House merch store!



MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

HOST FAMILIES NEEDED!



2 weeks after OLMA
returns from France, the
same 30 French students
and 3 teachers who
hosted us are visiting
May 13-20, 2025

Please consider hosting....for more
information, text or call Kira Kangas at
603-242-5254 or email Mr. Sully
asully@mercyacademykeene.org

NOW OPEN!

2025-2026

OUR LADY OF MERCY ACADEMY

Admissions

GRADES 9-12

Schedule a
tour today!

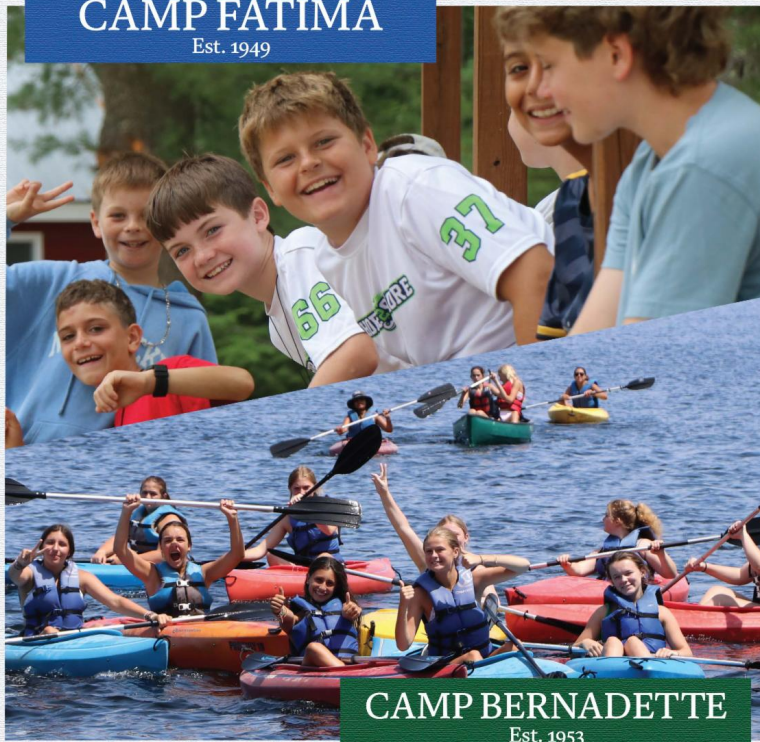


OUR LADY OF MERCY ACADEMY
161 Main Street | Keene NH | 603-352-2720
www.mercyacademykeene.org/admissions

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Est. 1953

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CAMP FATIMA & CAMP BERNADETTE

32 Fatima Road, Gilmanton Ironworks, New Hampshire, 03837
1-603-931-5500
info@bfcamp.com





For Girls Ages Six to Fifteen

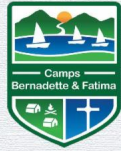
Camp Bernadette, located on the beautiful shores of Lake Wentworth in Wolfeboro, NH, provides girls with a place to grow in faith, friendship, and confidence. With activities like swimming, arts & crafts, and tennis, campers embrace new experiences in a close-knit sisterhood. Daily life is shaped by Catholic traditions, fostering a supportive and uplifting environment.

For Boys Ages Six to Fifteen

Camp Fatima, set along Upper Suncook Lake in Gilmanton Iron Works, NH, offers boys the freedom to explore, compete, and connect. From rock climbing and tubing to soccer and campfires, campers develop resilience and leadership while strengthening bonds of brotherhood. Faith is woven into the experience, creating a foundation for personal and spiritual growth in the heart of the outdoors.



Summer 2025 Dates



- Starter Week: June 22 – June 28
- Session 1: June 22 – July 5
- Session 2: July 6 – July 19
- Session 3: July 20 – August 2
- Session 4 at Bernadette: August 3 – August 16
- Session 4 at Fatima: August 3 – August 9
- Special Needs Week at Fatima (Co-Ed): June 8 – June 13



www.bfcamp.com

For your reference, all newsletters from previous weeks can be found on our website here:
<https://www.mercyacademykeene.org/news>



Our Lady of Mercy Academy | 161 Main Street | Keene, NH 03431 US

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