



# Saint Joseph Regional School Our Lady of Mercy Academy



September 12, 2024

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

Dear Parents, Students, and Staff,

This past week has served as a reminder to all of us that the environment provided in each of our Catholic schools is unique and also a great support to the health and well-being of every child.

First, we had our annual Keene Fire Department inspection with Lieutenant Meghan Manke who was pleased with the upgrades and repairs we have made to our 'seasoned' buildings and with our plan going forward to continue to abide by local ordinances. She noted that we conducted our first fire drill of the year successfully (thank you staff and students!) and how important these drills are for schools.

Then, on Wednesday, we were joined by local first responders including parents who are police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical personnel, as we honored all the heroes, past and present, who serve our community and protect our families. The Knights of Columbus have organized this 9/11 Remembrance Mass in the Parish for four years now, and it was wonderful to have them with us as our students sang patriotic songs, prayed special prayers for first responders and for all those lost in the 2001 terrorist attacks, and cheered for our guests after Fr. Alan offered a special blessing for them.

Additionally, our staff were invited to participate in an active shooter training from the diocesan safety agency, BLUE-U, that will be held online on September 19 from 3:30-4:30 pm. This training is available to every staff member, parent, and volunteer, at no cost. I am including the link to register here in case any parent would like to attend. <https://form.jotform.com/RCBM/training-091924>

After this training, we will discuss as a two-school community how we can implement safety guidelines more fully or revise any practices we have now that could be improved.

Finally, most of us know of the tragic event connected to the local middle school which has been in the news and on social media. Please be assured that our staff is vigilant about any instances where students are being mistreated or possibly bullied. Hurtful behavior is contradictory to our discipline code and goes against how Jesus taught us to treat one another and cannot be tolerated. This is where the foundation of a Catholic Christian education is such a benefit to youngsters. When each child is recognized and treated as a beautiful creation of God, there is no place for bullying. This is what you want for your children, and what we try to reinforce every day. I urge any parent who is concerned about possible bullying to speak to the teacher or to me as we work to make our schools peaceful and joy-filled for everyone.

One goal that I have for this year is to schedule a cyber safety session for parents, given by the local law enforcement officers who deal with these issues, so that parents can be better equipped to identify dangers and protect their children. Please stay tuned to our newsletter for further details.

In His service,

Miss Victoria Farrington  
Principal

### LUKE 6:20-23

Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours. Blessed are you who are now hungry, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who are now weeping, for you will laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude and insult you, and denounce your name as evil on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice and leap for joy on that day! Behold, your reward will be great in heaven.

### IMPORTANT DATES

**Friday 9/13** -- Therapy puppy visit -- 11am  
**Friday 9/13** -- Back-to-School Picnic -- 5:30-7:30pm (see details below)  
**Sunday 9/15** -- Parish of the Holy Spirit Faith Formation Family Picnic -- After the 11:15am Mass (see details below)  
**Sunday 9/15** -- Parish Youth Group -- 4-6pm (see details below)  
**Wednesday 9/18** -- All-school Mass -- 9:30am  
**Thursday 9/19** -- Back-to-School Night -- 6:00pm (see details below)  
**Friday 9/20** -- Student Council speeches and elections  
**Saturday 9/28** -- **Golf Tournament at Bretwood** (see details below)  
**Sunday 9/29** -- Blessing of the Animals -- 1pm (see details below)  
**Friday 10/11** -- Xavier University visit (see details below)  
**Monday 10/14** -- Columbus Day -- **NO SCHOOL**  
**Tuesday 10/15** -- Picture Day  
**Friday 10/18** -- Saint Anselm College visit (see details below)

[CLICK HERE for the UPDATED 2024-2025 SCHOOL CALENDAR](#)

### BACK TO SCHOOL PICNIC TOMORROW FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 5:30-7:30pm



Celebrate back to school time with our whole school community!

We are asking that families with the last name beginning with **A-L** please **bring a side dish or a salad** to share with everyone.

Families with the last name beginning with **M-Z** please **bring a dessert item** to share.

We'll have seating in the field and under the tree at Mercy. The playground will be open for students to play on, however, please know that we do not have any faculty/staff monitoring them, so parents should consider themselves in charge of their students while they are here.

### 2024-2025 FORMS TO BE COMPLETED

All permission and school acknowledgment forms are in the Renweb Family Portal to centralize all documents and forms. These forms can be accessed from the homepage of your account. **ALL FAMILIES MUST LOG IN AND COMPLETE ALL FORMS!**

To find the forms:

- Go to <https://sjo-nh.client.renweb.com/pwr/>
- Log into your Renweb Family Portal account.
- Type in the District Code: SJO-NH, your username, and password. (If you have

forgotten your username or password, please click on the link provided for help.)

- Under the “School” drop-down on the left side of the screen, locate “Web Forms.”

- Click on “Web-Form” to access the permissions slips and acknowledgments.
- Forms that need to be completed will appear in blue. You will need to open and sign

each form individually.

**THE DEADLINE TO COMPLETE ALL FORMS HAS NOW PAST. IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY COMPLETED THEM, PLEASE DO SO ASAP.**

If you have any questions, please contact Megan Amundson  
([mamundson@stjosephkeene.org](mailto:mamundson@stjosephkeene.org)).



## A FAMILY OF FAITH

*Family Catechesis  
for Our Parish*

### Family Faith Formation

The theme of this year’s family faith formation program is Christian Prayer, as we follow volume four in the series A Family of Faith. We will be exploring and experiencing various forms of prayer, unpacking the significance of the petitions in the Our Father, drawing closer to our Blessed Mother, and more!

Parents meet monthly to receive teaching, inspiration, and support both for their own faith journey and for guiding their children in lessons at home. There are also opportunities to gather as families in community to live out our faith together.

We encourage all families with children from Kindergarten to middle school to participate in this opportunity to grow and deepen your faith life together. There is always more to learn!

Participation in the program is required for families of children in grades 1-3 or older who are preparing to receive the sacraments of reconciliation (typically, second grade), confirmation and first communion (generally, third grade).

Please register online using the link on the Parish website [swnhcatholics.com](http://swnhcatholics.com). Feel free to contact Carol at [faithformationswnh@gmail.com](mailto:faithformationswnh@gmail.com) with any questions.

Our year will begin with a family picnic after the 11:15 Mass on Sunday, September 15th! Burgers, hot dogs, and drinks will be provided. Feel free to bring a side dish or dessert to share.

### **CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD**



Honoring the beauty, depth, and joy of the child’s relationship with God

Based on the child development principles of Maria Montessori, CGS is hands-on, contemplative method of religious formation that takes place in a specially prepared space called the atrium. Everything in the atrium is designed to foster exploration and wonder as we work with essential elements of the liturgy and scriptures.

The Good Shepherd calls each of us by name, cares for us, and gives us everything we need. In the atrium we are given the freedom to hear His voice, to get to know Him, and to respond with our whole being.

CGS is an especially beautiful way for children to understand the gift and significance of receiving the sacraments of reconciliation, first communion, and confirmation.

We will be offering sessions for Level I (ages 3-6) and Level II (ages 6-9) beginning in late September. Please contact Carol at [faithformationswnh@gmail.com](mailto:faithformationswnh@gmail.com) if you are interested, and look for our table at coffee and donuts in the next weeks!

### **9/11 ALL-SCHOOL MASS -- HONORING FIRST RESPONDERS**



## **BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHT**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19**  
**6:00-7:15pm**

Back-to-School Night is a great opportunity to find out what your child's classes will be like and to get to know your children's teachers. It is not a required event, but we encourage it for everyone to learn more about their child's high school experience.

Parents will rotate through their student's schedules for both A/B days. This is an opportunity to meet the teachers, learn about general class expectations, and see what your student's day is like. Please note that Back-to-School Night is not intended for individual conversations about your student. Parent-teacher conferences in November are the perfect time for personalized discussions.

Also, please do not bring your students or young children to the Back-to-School Night. It is a parents-only event. We hope that you will join us!

## **COLLEGE VISITS**

Admissions counselors from the following schools will be visiting OLMA. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact School Counselor, Sarah Kaczenski ([skaczenski@mercyacademykeene.org](mailto:skaczenski@mercyacademykeene.org)).

### **Friday, October 11**

**Xavier University** is a private Jesuit university in Cincinnati, Ohio. It is the sixth-oldest Catholic and fourth-oldest Jesuit university in the United States. Xavier has an undergraduate enrollment of 4,860 students and graduate enrollment of 1,269 students. Xavier offers more than 90 majors and 60 minors within the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Professional Sciences, the Williams College of Business and the College of Nursing. Xavier also offers programs for students who plan to further their education in medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, optometry, and pharmacy.

### **Friday, October 18**

**Saint Anselm College** is a private Benedictine liberal arts college in Goffstown, New Hampshire. Founded in 1888, it is the third oldest Catholic College in New England. It is ranked as a Top 100 Liberal Arts Colleges by Forbes and Princeton Review ranks it #24 most engaged in community service.



## YOUTH GROUP

Calling all high school students! Mr. Sully will be holding the first parish Youth Group meeting of the year this Sunday, September 15. Come and join us for a time of prayer, food, and fun on Sunday from 4-6pm around the fire pit in the Saint Joseph Garden. All are invited, faith or no faith! Hope to see you there!



### FEATURED STUDENT-ATHLETE SENIOR ALLIE BURGESS

Allie Burgess starts as a center midfielder for the ConVal High School girls varsity soccer team. Allie has been playing soccer since 2nd grade. This is her fourth year for ConVal and is serving as a captain. GOOD LUCK THIS SEASON, ALLIE!

Photo credit: Mike Munhall

## ATHLETICS FORM

For any students playing sports outside of OLMA, please complete the below linked Google Form so that we can put a calendar together for teachers. Please note that all students should reach out to teachers if they will be missing a class PRIOR to leaving for the day. This form will need to be completed for each sport played.

**[CLICK HERE for the Athletic Participation Form](#)**

If you have any questions, please reach out to our Athletics Coordinator Ali Wilson ([awilson@stjosephkeene.org](mailto:awilson@stjosephkeene.org)).

OLMA baking students made the famous Paris Olympic Village Chocolate Muffins today with Ms. Avril. They were a huge success!



## LUNCHES

Hot lunches have started! Ordering via Renweb is now available in the Lunch Orders section. Orders are placed in Renweb, then you will be invoiced via FACTS, and payments should then be made promptly via FACTS. Our lunch options this year are:

Monday -- Cheese pizza -- \$2.75/slice Pepperoni pizza -- \$3.00/slice  
Tuesday -- Chicken nuggets with mac & cheese -- \$5.00  
Wednesday -- Ham/turkey/bologna/veggie sandwich with chips -- \$5.00  
Friday -- Cheese pizza -- \$2.75/slice Pepperoni pizza -- \$3.00/slice

All orders for chicken nuggets and sandwiches need to be in Renweb **by 3pm the day before**. Pizza orders need to be in by **9am on Mondays and Fridays**. Kate will be closing the Renweb ordering system at those times. Once the system is **closed**, you **can not** order lunch for that day.

### Instructions for Lunch Ordering in Renweb

- Student Information tab on the left side.
- Click on the "Lunch" tab.
- It will show "today's date" in the calendar area and you'll see the menu below.
- Upper right corner, hit the "Create Web Order."
- If you have more than one child, it will show the order menu for all your children. You will need to order individually per child.
- Choose what items you want each day.
- Enter quantity and you will need to scroll all the way to the bottom of the screen. (You will see a Order Items button)
- Payment for lunches will be **later**. You will be *invoiced via FACTS*, and payments should then be made via FACTS.

**Please do not hesitate to reach out to Kate in the SJRS office ( [kate@stjosephkeene.org](mailto:kate@stjosephkeene.org)) if you need any help with lunch ordering.**

## OCTOBER SAVES

OLMA freshman Raffi Podniesinski is a hockey goalie and participating in October Saves once again this year. It is his 6th season participating in the fundraiser!

He is closing in on his fundraising goal for this year, and is asking that even if people cannot donate that they read his mission and about Leo, who he is dedicating his season to. Leo is a friend of his that already has significant medical issues preventing him from playing hockey.



[CLICK HERE to support Raffi's October Saves fundraiser and to read about Leo's story!](#)

## 2024-2025 OLMA FAMILY HANDBOOK

Please make certain to review the updated OLMA Family Handbook.

[CLICK HERE to view the 2024-2025 OLMA Family Handbook on our website.](#)

*Bless your pet for the Feast of St. Francis*



# BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

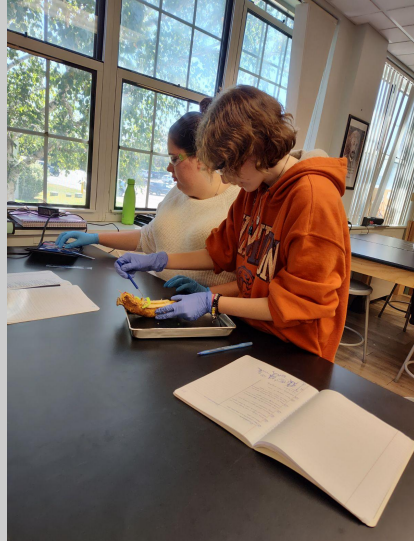
From kittens to chickens, guppies to puppies, there will be a blessing of the animals in honor of St. Francis of Assisi. This event is open to the parish, the schools and the entire community, so come and enjoy this wonderful tradition.

*Sunday, September 29th*  
*1:00PM*



**St. Bernard's Church Parking Lot**  
**185 Main St, Keene**





The Anatomy & Physiology Honors students arrived to class to find that a crime had taken place! They proceeded to conduct autopsies of the victims (to practice their dissection skills!) and determine the cause of death.

### 2024-2025 PARKING PERMITS

Students who hold a valid New Hampshire driver's license may apply for a parking permit. Students who are granted parking privileges will be charged a \$25 annual fee to help defer the cost of parking lot maintenance. Passes are not prorated. They must be purchased at the Main Office at full price at any point during the school year. **The Parking Permit Application can be found on our website [HERE](#).**

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 819  
ST. JOSEPH REGIONAL SCHOOL | OUR LADY OF MERCY ACADEMY PRESENT

**4th Annual  
SJRS/OLMA  
Golf Tournament**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28  
8:30AM SHOTGUN START  
BRETWOOD GOLF COURSE

[WWW.MERCYACADEMYKEENE.ORG/GOLF](http://WWW.MERCYACADEMYKEENE.ORG/GOLF)



### **Our annual GOLF TOURNAMENT is coming up!**

Join us to hit the beautiful fairways of Bretwood Golf Course. Play is Scramble format with great prizes. The field will be limited to the first 100 golfers (25 foursomes) to register, so gather your family, friends, and colleagues! **[CLICK HERE for details and to register!](#)**

**Highlight your business** with us as one of our **sponsors!** Personal/individual sponsorships are welcome also. Lots of different sponsor levels are available.

**<https://www.mercyacademykeene.org/golf-sponsorships>**



## 50/50 RAFFLE COMING SOON

This fall we will once again be having our annual 50/50 raffle! Each student will receive an allotment of 12 tickets. All families will be responsible for either selling their allotted tickets OR they may purchase the tickets themselves. Keep an eye out for more details and your tickets coming to you on the Back-to-School Night! If you have questions, please contact Jen Marshall ([jmarshall@stjosephkeene.org](mailto:jmarshall@stjosephkeene.org)).



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

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