



Saint Joseph Regional School Our Lady of Mercy Academy



January 23, 2025

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

Dear Parents and Staff,

Next week will be a fun one for all of our staff and students because it's Catholic Schools Week, CSW, and we encourage parents to join us with some of the activities:

1. come join any of the weekend Parish Masses and hear SJRS and OLMA parents talk about the value of a Catholic Christian education;
2. attend our weekly Wednesday Mass at 9:30 am (families who come sit together with their children) and hear our OLMA Student Council President Francis Cardine talk about his time at both schools. (For more on this outstanding student, [check out the Keene Sentinel article here](#).)
3. watch the SJRS Spelling Bee at 9 am in the gym. Grades 4-8 compete. All parents welcome.
4. sign up for the OLMA Granite Gorge trip of January 31 and enjoy skiing or tubing (see communication from OLMA) or the SJRS Alpine Club on the same day.

Note 1: we are showing 'appreciation' to all our hardworking staff by having an early release day on the 31st. The SJRS dismissal is at 11:45 and no Extended Day! The OLMA dismissal is at 11:30.

Note 2: We have 4 dress downs during CSW. Wednesday is the exception when SJRS students are in uniform for Mass, and OLMA students dress up for Mass. All monies collected will be sent to Corpus Christi Catholic School which was destroyed by the recent LA fires.

Note 3: A small but energetic group of parents attended the Home and School meeting last night. Next meeting is February 19 at 6 pm in the Parish hall. It's clear that parents want to become more involved and start planning some additional fundraisers to help our schools with expenses and past debt. Next week's newsletter will include the minutes from this meeting and the start of a few subcommittees to get things rolling. All parents are asked to send me ideas for fundraisers, and actually, any topics that need more details or clarification.

Note 4: The diocesan safety training company, Blue U, is offering its basic course, online, for FREE to all school stakeholders. [Click here for the link to register for the February 5 webinar](#) . For parents especially interested in seeing the training that staff received in September, which was also the basis for the Blue U visit to all classes on January 13, this webinar is informative.

BIG Note 5: Tune in to WKBK on Monday, January 27 at 8:10 am when the featured guests will be Mr Sully and myself, as we share the origin of CSW, its purpose, our school activities for the week, and everything we can think of about what makes our schools so great. Students, parents, staff come to mind!

In His service,

Miss Victoria Farrington
Principal

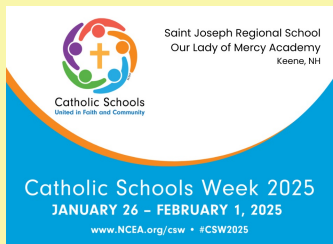
LUKE 6:35-37

...(L)ove your enemies and do good to them, and lend

IMPORTANT DATES

Friday 1/24 -- Winter Fire Dance -- 7-9pm -- SJRS gym (see details below)

expecting nothing back; then your reward will be great and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as [also] your Father is merciful. Stop judging and you will not be judged. Stop condemning and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven.



Mon-Fri 1/27-31 -- Catholic Schools Week (see details below)

Wednesday 1/29 -- All-school Mass -- 9:30am

Friday 1/31 -- HALF DAY. 11:30am dismissal

Friday 1/31 -- Skiing/Tubing Trip to Granite Gorge! (see details below)

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

CLICK HERE for the UPDATED 2024-2025 SCHOOL CALENDAR

***Please note that the calendar has been updated to reflect the **half day on Friday, January 31**. Dismissal at 11:30am.



As we celebrate Catholic Schools Week, join us for **Many Gifts, One Nation** -- a special Day of Giving for Catholic Schools across the United States! Your support on this day will help Saint Joseph Regional School and Our Lady of Mercy Academy continue to grow and fulfill our mission of providing quality Catholic education that shapes the minds and hearts of our students. More details to come!

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2025

Friday 1/24: CSW Kickoff Winter Fire Dance. SJRS Gym, 7-9pm

Sunday 1/26: Catholic Schools Week Kickoff with the Parish of the Holy Spirit
Students at mass, families give talks, etc.

Monday 1/27: School Community Day -- Dress in School Swag/Colors Day (\$1 donation)

Tuesday 1/28: Family Appreciation Day -- Dress Like Your Favorite Teacher Day (\$1 donation)

Wednesday 1/29: Teacher Appreciation Day -- Dress Up for Mass (normal)
Mass will have a reception afterwards for board and benefactors

Thursday 1/30: Student Appreciation Day -- Hat Day (\$1 donation)
End of Day Activity (1:40-2:45pm): Nationball Game with 8th graders. 11th graders, plus anyone who wants to join! Teachers invited to play as well.

Friday 1/31: Half Day...then Ski, Snowboarding and Tubing Day! Dismissal at 11:30am.
Skiing and Tubing at Granite Gorge from 11:30am-4pm (students may stay later at Granite Gorge with parental permission).



***All donations this week will be going to Corpus Christi Catholic School that was

SKIING/SNOWBOARDING AND TUBING!

We are very excited to celebrate Catholic Schools Week next week, and we are keeping our OLMA tradition of crowning the week with our annual ski trip. This year, we will be staying local, heading to **Granite Gorge Mountain Park**. We are hoping the location will make transportation easier. What's more, Granite Gorge has agreed to open the park early for us, and open both the ski/snowboard slopes as well as the tubing hills. We are excited about tubing options for students who do not ski; we have not had this before. There is also a package option available for both skiing and tubing, with unlimited ability to go back and forth between the two.



Next Friday at OLMA will be a **half day, with dismissal at 11:30**. At 11:30, all students who wish may join us at Granite Gorge from 11:30am-4pm. Students who need a ride can request a ride to Granite Gorge from OLMA staff; however, note that there is no "return bus" to OLMA at 4pm--students needing pickups must be picked up at Granite Gorge, which is just a few minutes outside of downtown Keene. Students who drive themselves to school may drive themselves to Granite Gorge. At 4pm, our day officially ends, but students may stay at the park with parental permission, as the park is open late into the evening. There is a grill in the park which opens at noon, and students may purchase food if they wish. We cordially invite all families to come join us on the slopes as well.

Where: Granite Gorge Mountain Park

When: Friday, 1/31

Time: 11:30am-4pm (or later with parent permission)

Ski/snowboard: \$45

Tubing: \$35

Combined unlimited use of both ski and tubing: \$60

Ski/Snowboard Rental: \$35

How do I pay? Students pay individually upon entry to the park

Parents, please take a moment to [CLICK HERE](#) to complete this Google Form by Wednesday 1/29, which will serve as a permission slip for your child. Thank you again and we are looking forward to a fantastic Catholic Schools Week.

OUR FAMILY TREE

For Catholic Schools Week, we want to celebrate all our families who make up our OLMA community! We are creating a large family tree display inside the school. We invite every family to send into school photos of your family. Please make sure the photo is no larger than 4X6. **The tree will be complete by TOMORROW, Friday, January 24th, so please send the photos in ASAP.** This is a wonderful way to bring us all together to show what makes OLMA so special, our families! Let's grow together!



You may send in a hard copy family photo with your student or email a photo to Mrs. Moylan at: dmoylan@mercyacademykeene.org.

SUPER BOWL SQUARES

Super Bowl Squares are back! It's a fun, popular game of chance that makes watching the Super Bowl a little more interesting. This is a traditional squares fundraiser with a 50/50 split -- half to SJRS/OLMA and half to

the winners.

Get your squares before they're gone! **And please share this with your family and friends. All are welcome to play!**

\$25 per square

PRIZES

1st quarter - \$150
Halftime - \$325
3rd quarter - \$150
Final score - \$625



Go here for all of the details and to pay for your squares...

<https://www.stjosephkeene.org/squares>

Choose your squares here...

<https://www.superbowlsquares.org/sjrsolma2025/enter-picks>



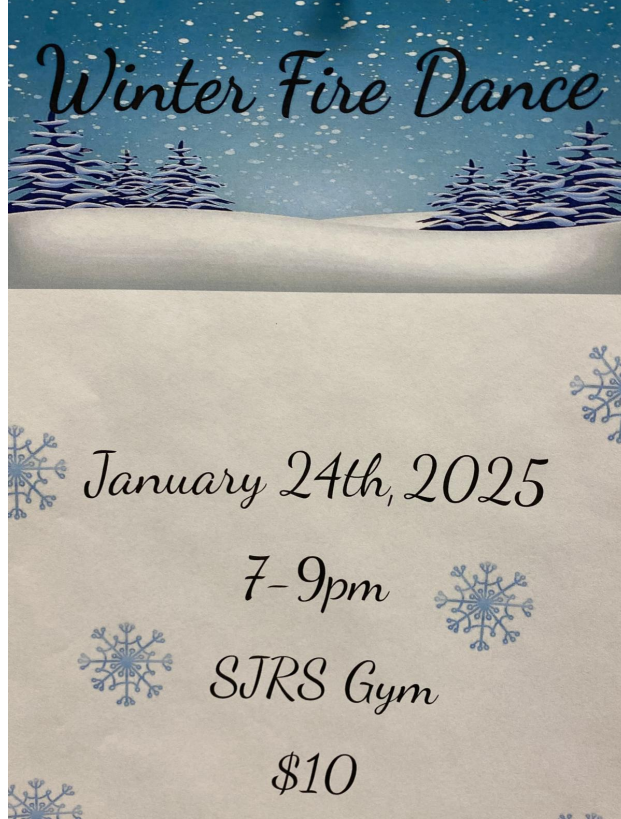
Huge **CONGRATULATIONS** to our **Scholastic Art & Writing Awards** (New Hampshire Region) winners who are in Ms. Fletcher's art classes. Gracein Jasmin (senior) and Emma Wiederspahn (senior) both won Silver Keys. Lucy Fisher (junior) and Shannon Nelligan (sophomore) were recognized with Honorable Mentions. Beautiful artwork!

AFTERNOON OF APPRECIATION

The SJRS/OLMA Advisory Board and Home & School Association will be hosting an Afternoon of Appreciation for our SJRS/OLMA Faculty and Staff on Thursday, February 6th, from 3:30-5:30pm. We would like to ask for your help in making this a special event to honor and thank them for everything they do for our schools. **If you would like to contribute or help, please [CLICK HERE for the sign-up genius.](#)**

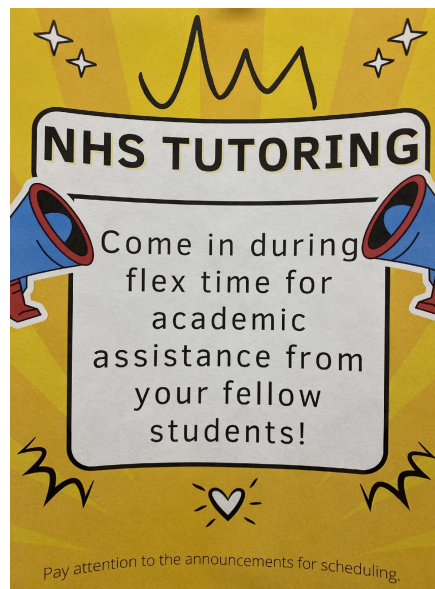
For more information, please contact Annie Pearson at anniep1979@gmail.com.





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 your midterm that you did not understand. We can help you with assignments (teacher permitting). We can help you study for quizzes and tests. **Come pump up your brain!**



SJRS/OLMA FAMILY BUSINESS DIRECTORY

We are in the process of putting together a directory of all of the businesses owned by SJRS and OLMA families, so that we can share that information to encourage the support of those businesses within our school communities. If you own a business, please send along to Jen Marshall (jmarshall@stjosephkeene.org) your business name and contact information that you would like to share. We will only include those businesses whose owners let us know that it is OK to do so. THANK YOU!



HOUSE MERCHANDISE

Beeze Tees has put together a great House merchandise

store for us!

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



BLUE-U TRAINING

If you are responsible for, or have an interest in, keeping our teachers and kids secure while they are in school - this is a must attend, “training session of enlightenment”.

The title says it all - SCHOOL SECURITY HAS COMPLETELY FAILED!

Think about this: 27 years after Columbine (the incident that triggered a national effort to secure our nations schools) incidents of violence continue and, the results are, in many cases, worse than Columbine. This means that although schools today have done everything that “the experts” and “research” have told them that they should do to prevent and survive incidents-of-violence, the incidents persist and the results are many times as bad, and even worse, than Columbine - even though Columbine had none of the benefits of results of “the experts” and “research”.

So...we clearly have a significant problem that needs to be corrected!

BUT FIRST - we need to understand that we have a problem and why we have a problem.

And that's what this session is about.

Blue-U Defense is the national “thought-leader” in what it takes to truly secure people and organizations. Blue-U Defense is a NH-based organization serves (nationally) some of the biggest companies, organizations, and agencies in the world to create cultures that support individual responsibility for true security, practically enhance physical sites; and develop and deliver highly effective training programs, for normal, "non-warrior-type people that

enhance prevention efforts and the ability to survive when prevention efforts fail.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

WINTER ARTS SHOWCASE





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

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)