



# Saint Joseph Regional School Our Lady of Mercy Academy



October 17, 2024

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

Dear Parents, Students, and Staff,

The cooler weather is definitely here, and parents may hear their students talking about the 'extra efficient' heat that is now working at both of our schools. To fill in some details: in July, we were looking at the prospect of a new heating system, a very large expense. But thanks to the professional abilities of Mr. Bill Baker, who is also one of our school parents, the old boiler is now back working and putting out heat and keeping our classrooms at SJRS toasty warm. The system at OLMA has also been serviced and some minor repairs done, and is already being used daily. Mr. Baker is still working on some thermostats and valves, but it's great to know that we will have good heat all winter.

He has been assisted in this by Rick Cavallero who is overseeing the Facilities Committee of our new School Advisory Board. To bring families up to date about the Board, we have been meeting since August, and the members are Fr. Alan Tremblay, Ann Szot, Cheryl Mihaly, Annie Pearson, Jon Farina, and myself. Another member, taken from our incipient Home and School Association, will also be added. The Board has begun to look at the Mission Statement for both schools which was one of the directives from the NEASC Accreditation Committee. The Committee said that we should revise the Mission to more reflect our Catholic values.

Any revision of a Mission Statement includes input from all stakeholders. While the Board is doing its part, and the school staff did some reviewing of the Mission, the process will necessarily take longer as we seek to authentically reflect what SJRS and OLMA are and what we do together as a faith and school community. Parents will be asked in a more formal way, in a later newsletter, to give ideas about the Mission.

Parents and families-please start thinking about what you'd change, add, or keep the same about our mission.

*The mission of Saint Joseph Regional School/Our Lady of Mercy Academy is to empower students to grow as informed, inspired, compassionate souls.*

In His service,

Miss Victoria Farrington  
Principal

## **PSALM 1:1-3**

Blessed is the man who  
does not walk in the  
counsel of the wicked,  
Nor stand in the way of  
sinners, nor sit in  
company with scoffers.  
Rather, the law of the

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

**Friday 10/18** -- College visit: Saint Anselm College  
(see details below)  
**Wednesday 10/23** -- All-school Mass -- 9:30am  
**Thursday 10/24** -- End of the 1st Quarter  
**Thursday 10/24** -- Visit to Cedarcrest -- 3:30pm  
(see details below)  
**Friday 10/25** -- NHS application deadline (see  
details below)

LORD is his joy; and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted near streams of water, that yields its fruit in season; Its leaves never wither; whatever he does prospers.

**Thursday 10/31** -- Halloween fun (details to come soon!)

**Friday 11/1** -- All-school Mass -- All Saints' Day -- 9:30am

**Wednesday 11/6** -- College visit: Keene State College (see details below)

**Friday 11/8** -- Parent-Teacher Conferences -- **HALF DAY**

**Friday 11/8** -- Homecoming events (details to come soon!)

**Monday 11/11** -- Veterans Day -- **NO SCHOOL**

**Wed-Fri 11/27-29** -- Thanksgiving Break -- **NO SCHOOL**

**CLICK HERE for the UPDATED 2024-2025 SCHOOL CALENDAR**

Please note: The date of our Winter Arts Showcase has recently changed. It will take place on Thursday, January 16.

### **NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY**

All sophomores, juniors, and seniors with a cumulative unweighted GPA of 3.70 or higher and who have attended Mercy Academy for at least one semester are invited to apply for membership in the National Honor Society (NHS). Email invitations have been extended to eligible students.

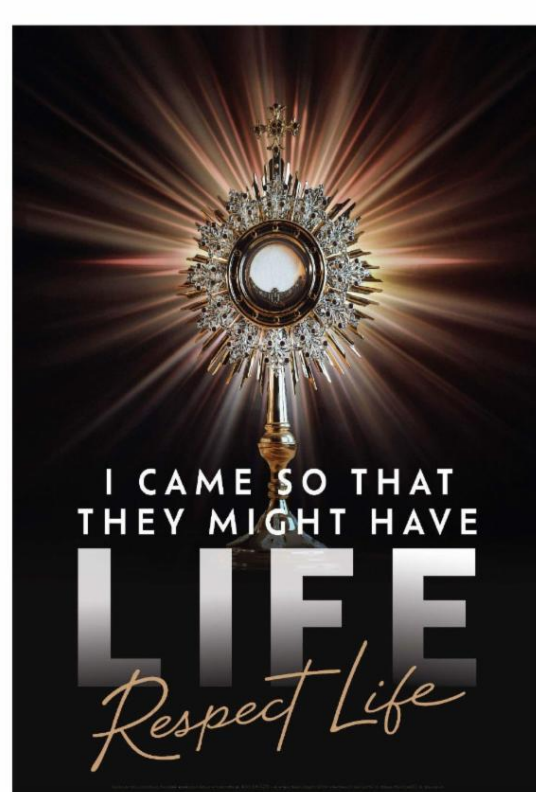


Applications may be picked up in the Main Office. They must be completed and turned in to the Main Office no later than Friday, October 25, at 2:45pm. Late applications will not be accepted.

Applicants will be reviewed by our NHS Faculty Council and evaluated on the four pillars of NHS -- Character, Leadership, Scholarship, and Service. Please direct any questions to our NHS advisor, Dr. Regney ([gregney@mercyacademykeene.org](mailto:gregney@mercyacademykeene.org)).

October is **RESPECT LIFE MONTH!** This year's theme is **"I came so that they might have life!"** To actively show respect for life, both schools are raising funds for individual Christmas gifts for the residents at **Cedarcrest**. OLMA had a very successful **CAR WASH!** SJRS will have a **DRESS DOWN DAY** on **Friday, Oct 18th** for a suggested donation of \$1.00.

On **Thursday, Oct 24th**, we will bring all our collected donations to Cedarcrest. We will be singing songs & reading picture books to the children. All students from both schools are invited and encouraged to attend. Please meet at Cedarcrest~91 Maple Ave in Keene~ from 3:30-4:30. Parents must bring and stay with their students during the visit. Any questions please reach out to Mary Grace Nelligan ([mnelligan@stjosephkeene.org](mailto:mnelligan@stjosephkeene.org))



### 50/50 RAFFLE

Once your tickets are sold, you may send the stubs/money back into school at any time. They can be given to your student's homeroom teacher or directly to Ashley Brown in the Main Office.

THANK YOU to all those who have already turned in their tickets! **If you have any questions or would like additional tickets, please contact Jen Marshall ([jmarshall@stjosephkeene.org](mailto:jmarshall@stjosephkeene.org)).**



The first Gaming Club gathering of the year took place last week with Mrs. Hoyer, and they played Werewolf!

### COLLEGE VISITS

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

**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.



**Wednesday, November 6**

**Keene State College** (KSC) is a public liberal arts college as part of the University System of New Hampshire and offers over 40 programs of study and individualized majors. Founded in 1909, KSC has a total undergraduate enrollment of 2,735 and the campus size is 150 acres.



THANK YOU to all of the students and families who joined us for our fun pumpkin carving event last Thursday evening!



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

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