



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 -- Back-to-School Picnic – 5:30-7:30pm (see details below)
Sunday 9/15 -- Parish of the Holy Spirit Faith Formation Family Picnic -- after 11:15am Mass (see details below)
Tuesday 9/17 -- NHDI sample class -- 7:30am (see details below)
Tuesday 9/17 -- Middle School Back-to-School Night -- 6pm (see details below)
Wednesday 9/18 -- All-school Mass -- 9:30am
Wednesday 9/18 -- Elementary School Back-to-School Night -- 6pm (see details below)
Friday 9/20 -- Leadership 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)
Thursday 10/3 -- Vision screenings
Thursday 10/10 -- Pumpkin carving
Monday 10/14 -- Columbus Day -- **NO SCHOOL**
Tuesday 10/15 -- Picture Day

[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.





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 swnh Catholics.com. Feel free to contact Carol at 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 if you are interested, and look for our table at coffee and donuts in the next weeks!

BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHTS

Our Back-to-School Nights are great opportunities to meet our new administration, find out what your child's classes will be like, and get to know our teachers. It is not a required event, but we always encourage it for everyone to learn more about what their child's day is like.

Each Back-to-School Night will begin promptly at 6:00 in the gym at SJRS. The evening will begin with about 15 minutes of speakers, and then at 6:20 the classroom portion of the evening will commence.

For the **Middle School (grades 5-8) Back-to-School Night (Tuesday, 9/17)**, parents will visit each of the middle school teachers. The evening will run approximately 6:00-7:30.

For the **Elementary School (grades 1-4) Back-to-School Night (Wednesday, 9/18)**, each elementary teacher will deliver two presentations (for those parents who have multiple children in grades 1-4). The Elementary School Night will run approximately 6:00-7:00.

Please note that there is no Back-to-School Night for Preschool or Kindergarten. There will be no childcare available on either night. Also, please refrain from bringing your students or young children to the Back-to-School Nights. It is a parents-only event. We look forward to seeing you!



The Middle School has been buzzing about our annual solar car races all this week. Today we had the grand championship with the top three teams from grades 5-8 competing! The top three grand championship teams were:

1st Place -- Francesca Crisman, Joel Robertson, Aislinn White (8th grade)

2nd Place -- Gracie Heeran, Simon John, Leah LaPlume (7th grade)

3rd Place -- Brynn Bezio, Addison Chaput, Axel Kangas, Gabe Swingle (8th grade)



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 COMPLETED THEM, PLEASE DO SO ASAP.

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

NHDI YEAR-LONG PROGRAM

We have once again partnered with New Hampshire Dance Institute (NHDI) to bring the NHDI Year-Long Program to our students for this school year. The program is open to all students in grades 4-8. **Classes will be held in the gym every Tuesday morning, 7:30-8:20am.**



Next **Tuesday, September 17, will be a SAMPLE class**. All interested students in grades 4-8 are invited to attend. Students may try this first class to see what it is like prior to officially registering for the program for the year. Kristen Leach and Tracy Croteau from NHDI will be teaching the sample class.

In this program, students participate in weekly classes throughout the school year with NHDI teaching artists accompanied by live musicians. The year culminates over Memorial Day weekend with the Event of the Year production at Redfern Arts Center at KSC, which includes over 300 students from schools throughout the region accompanied by the NHDI orchestra.

The registration fee is \$230 per student for the entire school year and can be paid to NHDI in four monthly installments. **Please CLICK HERE for all of the details about the NHDI Year-Long Program.** If you have questions, please contact our NHDI School Coordinator (SJRS parent) Andrea Wright (wrightortizfamily@gmail.com)

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





OCTOBER SAVES

SJRS alum/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!



ATHLETICS FORM

For any students playing sports outside of SJRS, 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).

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

Tuesday -- Chicken nuggets with mac & cheese -- \$5.00

Wednesday -- Ham/turkey/bologna/veggie sandwich with chips -- \$5.00

Friday -- Cheese pizza -- \$2.75/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 office (kate@stjosephkeene.org) if you need any help with lunch ordering.

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



NEW ATTENDANCE EMAIL

If your student is going to be absent or tardy, please send an email to attendance@stjosephkeene.org or place a phone call to the Main Office (603-352-2720) with a valid reason by 8:30am. Parents may call or email anytime. Please leave a message if you get the voicemail. Voicemails/emails are checked promptly throughout the school day.

SJRS EXTENDED DAY

SJRS offers the Extended Day program (formerly called Child Care) each day in the morning and afternoon for all students in all grades. **All families utilizing the program this school year must enroll.**

Please **CLICK HERE** for all of the details and the Enrollment Form.



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 Nights! If you have questions, please contact Jen Marshall (jmarshall@stjosephkeene.org).

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



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>



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