



Saint Joseph Regional School Our Lady of Mercy Academy



September 19, 2024

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

Dear Parents, Students, and Staff,

It was wonderful that we had so many families attend our Back to School Picnic last Friday. The weather cooperated, Mr. Konopka grilled the hot dogs to perfection, and students had a great time on the playground. Thanks also go to Mrs. Bezio (and middle grade students) for making sure we had the tables and chairs set up, Mrs. Marshall and Mrs. Nelligan for setting out all the food, and Fr. Peter for joining us and blessing the food with his presence.

We did not have as large a turn-out for our Back to School Nights (as of this writing), but that's probably because of the trust parents have in the teachers at St. Joe and Mercy Academy. You know the rules, routines, and how we operate and that the staff are committed to teaching your children well and supporting them to realize their many talents. Thank you for that trust; it is well placed.

Don't forget that next Tuesday will be the inaugural Home and School Association meeting. If you cannot attend, the topics covered will be in the next newsletter. It will be good getting parents involved in school events and giving their input about our programs. **September 24 at 6 pm in the cafeteria.**

And just a reminder that the active shooter training from the Diocese is available from 3:30-4:30 pm today. The link is: <https://form.jotform.com/RCBM/training-091924>

This information will become part of our community conversation on keeping our students and staff safe every day while on campus, and I know our parents will contribute much to the discussion.

In His service,

Miss Victoria Farrington
Principal

1 CORINTHIANS 12:4-8

Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, [love] is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things,

IMPORTANT DATES

Mon-Fri 9/16-27 -- i-Ready testing
Friday 9/20 -- Leadership Council speeches and elections -- 1:30pm
Sunday 9/22 -- Middle School Youth Group -- 4-6pm (see details below)
Tuesday 9/24 -- Home and School Association meeting -- 6pm in the cafeteria
Wednesday 9/25 -- All-school Mass -- 9:30am
Thursday 9/26 -- Kindergarten Apple Party -- 9-10am (see details below)
Saturday 9/28 -- **Golf Tournament at Bretwood (see details below)**
Sunday 9/29 -- Blessing of the Animals -- 1pm (see details below)

hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

Thursday 10/3 -- Vision screenings
Thursday 10/10 -- Pumpkin carving
Monday 10/14 -- Columbus Day -- **NO SCHOOL**
Tuesday 10/15 -- Picture Day (see details below)

CLICK HERE for the UPDATED 2024-2025 SCHOOL CALENDAR

50/50 RAFFLE

We began distributing the 50/50 raffle tickets at the Back-to-School Nights this week. If you did not attend, please keep an eye out at dismissal time in the next few days as we give the tickets directly to parents. Remaining tickets to be distributed will come home with students, so please be sure check their backpacks.



If you have any questions or would like additional tickets, please contact Jen Marshall (jmarshall@stjosephkeene.org).



REGARDING SCHOLASTIC BOOKS

The Diocese of Manchester has asked that all schools choose only from Catholic publishers when organizing book fairs during this school year. For this year, we will use Ignatius Press for ours. It offers the same profit rate as former book fairs that we have had. More details to come on the date of our book fair. The Diocese has also asked that we not distribute materials from Scholastic Books. For those grades who have already distributed materials and orders were sent in, these will be the last orders to be processed.



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>



Local writer Al Struthers stopped by to visit with Mrs. Bezio's the 7th and 8th grade English/Literature classes to discuss his books that the students read recently as part of their summer reading assignment. **Grade 7 read *The Case of Secrets* and Grade 8 read *The Phantom Vale*.** It was a rare opportunity for the students to get to hear directly from a local published author!

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.** We had a great sample class this past Tuesday (9/17). If you missed it, you may still participate. All interested students in grades 4-8 are still invited to join!



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)

GIRL SCOUT TROOP 59010

All girls in grades 5-8 are invited to join our Girl Scout troop. Our Troop is unique for a Girl Scout Troop in that we gear all of our meetings on career development and community outreach. Our girls have met with some amazing women from falconry and working with birds of prey hands on, veterinarians, attorneys, therapy dog breeders, also hands on, geologist and volcanologists who have landed the Rover 1, 2, 3, 4 on Mars! And so many more.



At this time the meeting day is still to be determined based on student majority availability.

For questions and more information, please contact Serena Shomody (sshomody@yahoo.com).

KINDERGARTEN APPLE PARTY

Kindergarten will be hosting an apple party for their families on September 26th, 9-10:00am. All Kindergarten families are invited to attend! Please reach out to Mrs. Dubois (cdubois@stjosephkeene.org) with any questions.



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).

OCTOBER SAVES

SJRS alum/OLMA freshman Raffi Podnieszinski 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!

2024-25 MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCCER GAME SCHEDULE

Thursday, September 19 -- Mountain Shadows @ 4:00 pm at Home

Thursday, September 26 -- St. Michael's School @ 4:00 – 5:00 pm at TBD St. Michael's School in Brattleboro, VT

Thursday, October 3 -- St. Michael's School @ 4:00 – 5:00 pm at Home

Tuesday, October 8 -- Trinity @ 4:00 pm at Trinity School

Thursday, October 10 -- Mountain Shadows @ 4:00 pm at Mountain Shadows in Dublin

Tuesday, October 15 (rain date Thursday, October 17) -- Soccer Team vs Faculty/Parent game at SJRS soccer field (all parents welcome to play) -- Pizza party for kids after the game.

BRING WATER BOTTLES, SHIN GUARDS, TEAM SHIRT AND CLEATS (if you have them).**All practices are Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:00-5:00 PM. The season is from Sept 3 through Oct 17 with games and the final faculty/parent game included.**



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





PICTURE DAY IS ALMOST HERE!

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