



# Saint Joseph Regional School Our Lady of Mercy Academy



March 13, 2025

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

Dear Parents and Staff,

Some exciting news for parents is that we have been discussing the possibility of having a summer program here at SJRS this year.

It would be a LEGO and STEM program, and here are the details:

1. it would run either June 16-20 and June 23-27 **OR** August 4-8 and August 11-15
2. it would need at least 30 students overall to run, with a maximum of 40 students
3. it would have a section for 6-8 year-olds (incoming Grades 1-3) and 9-13 year-olds (incoming Grades 4-8)
4. it would have positions for 14 and 15 year-olds (incoming Grades 9-10) as counselors-in-training who could get service hours
5. it would have paid positions for those 16 years old and up as Junior Counselors, at \$15 an hour
6. it would include the use of iPads and Bluetooth (all child-safe) and learning animation, coding, and engineering skills
7. it would run from 9:00 am-3:00 pm daily
8. it would offer before care, at 8:30 am and after care, until 4:00 pm, for an additional fee
9. it would all take place at SJRS, using our cafeteria, playground, and classrooms

Please visit the website <https://www.letgoyourmind.com/>, or contact our own SJRS parent, Mrs. Ida Daley, at [ida@letgoyourmind.com](mailto:ida@letgoyourmind.com), for further information. Rates would be between \$350-\$425 a week, and we would need a commitment from families to make this happen. Mrs. Daley will be at our March 26 Home and School meeting to share more information and answer questions. We have been back and forth amongst the SJRS staff, and since teachers really enjoy their summer break, we were thrilled to hear about this option from Mrs. Daley!

Next week for St. Patrick's Day, we will have a bagpiper here on Monday from 2:00 pm-3:00 pm to entertain staff and students alike at both SJRS and OLMA. Feel free to come early for pick-up to listen and maybe do some Irish step dancing. Students may also dress down in green on Monday (no dress down fee.)

We also celebrate the **Feast Day of our school's Patron Saint, St. Joseph, on Wednesday, March 19**. Please join us for the weekly school Mass. There will be school benefactors and the School Advisory Board members in attendance. Our SJRS Leadership Council President, Brynn Bezio, will introduce the Mass, and our OLMA Student Council President, Francis Cardine, will give a short reflection after communion on his Catholic school experience.

In His service,

Miss Victoria Farrington  
Principal

## JOEL 2:12-13

Yet even now—oracle of  
the LORD—return to me

## IMPORTANT DATES

**Friday 3/14** -- Stations of the Cross -- 10:25am

**Monday 3/17** -- Dress Down Day for St. Patrick's

with your whole heart,  
with fasting, weeping, and  
mourning. Rend your  
hearts, not your garments,  
and return to the LORD,  
your God, For he is  
gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, abounding  
in steadfast love, and  
relenting in punishment.



**Day! WEAR GREEN!**

**Wednesday 3/19** -- All-School Mass -- 9:30am --  
Saint Joseph's Day -- Benefactor Mass

**Thursday 3/20** -- **Faculty In-service** -- **NO SCHOOL**

**Friday 3/21** -- **NO SCHOOL**

**Sunday 3/23** -- Middle School Youth Group -- 4-6pm (see details below)

**Tuesday 3/25** -- All-School Mass -- 9:30am --  
Feast of the Annunciation

**Wednesday 3/26** -- No All-School Mass

**Wednesday 3/26** -- Home and School Association meeting -- 6-7pm -- St. Bernard's Parish Hall

**Thursday 3/27** -- International Night -- 5:30-7:30pm (see details below)

**Friday 3/28** -- Stations of the Cross, Confessions, Rosary -- 9am

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

**\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE\*\*\*** The calendar has been updated to reflect that there will be **NO SCHOOL** on Thursday, March 20, AND Friday, March 21. Also, the Spring Concert will be two nights: May 12 (Grades 5-8) and May 13 (Grades PK-4).

## HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION NEWS

### Highlights from the February 19 Meeting:

1. We need a chairperson for the International Night (March 27) and the Craft Fair (May 10.) Update is that Mrs. Divya Janakiram volunteered to chair International Night.
2. We have a task list for International Night and need volunteers; please contact the principal, the school office, Jen Marshall or Mrs. Janakiram.
3. Some fundraising ideas that have been discussed include restaurant nights and other fun events.
4. Input from parents about our Mission Statement is needed, as per the accreditation agency to review it; a method for sharing ideas will be in the Parent Satisfaction Survey, which will be emailed to all families on March 10.
5. The Chess Club starts on March 11.
6. SJRS and OLMA follow SAU29 with regard to snow days, and every effort is made to decide in a timely manner.
7. We collected \$650 for Corpus Christi School during Catholic Schools Week. This school was severely damaged during the recent LA fires.
8. i-Ready test scores will be sent out tomorrow. Update is that there was a tech glitch, so the scores went out the week of March 3.
9. Lent begins on March 5 with Ash Wednesday. No meat on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays during Lent.
10. The NHDI show is Friday, February 21 at 2 pm in the gym. PK-Grade 4.
11. We do not currently have sufficient staff to run a summer camp, but will revisit this topic.
12. Grade 1 parents are invited to a class meeting on Tuesday, March 11 from 5:30-6:30 pm.
13. The two tech teachers for our middle grades are surveying parents about safety concerns and will prepare a presentation for the March 26 meeting.
14. We do not currently have a staff member interested in overseeing the Destination Imagination club. If a parent is interested in doing this, please contact the school office.
15. Parents requested that students go out for play and recess whenever possible.
16. Parents would like to see some improvements in Extended Day: more outdoor play, no videos, and better communication from the staff.
17. Forming a Dad's Club is another idea, and the Club could do school repairs and organize events to beautify the schools.



18. Mrs. Ryka Kelley is overseeing the gently used uniform project, and the clothing will be housed in the SJRS nurse's room; more detail as this project develops.

### ST. PATRICK'S DAY DRESS DOWN

Next **Monday, March 17**, we will celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a special Dress Down Day for all. **WEAR GREEN!!!**



### 2025 SJRS/OLMA PARENT SATISFACTION SURVEY

Below is a link to our 2025 SJRS/OLMA Parent Satisfaction Survey. The survey is a way for the schools to gather parent ideas and input through a formal process. Once the survey is closed, general results will be shared in the spirit of transparency, keeping all of our stakeholders informed of issues, concerns, successes, and other school matters. Going forward, this survey will be done on an annual basis, as we want to have consistent communication with our families about their experiences of SJRS/OLMA.

**CLICK HERE for the 2025 SJRS/OLMA Parent Satisfaction Survey**

The survey will be open **Monday, March 10 - Friday, March 21**. Everyone is encouraged to please take the time to complete it in order to help us serve you better.

### 2025-2026 ADMISSIONS NOW OPEN FOR ALL GRADES

The 2025-2026 re-enrollment deadline was last Friday, March 7. **If you have not re-enrolled your child yet, please do so ASAP.**

Admissions for next school year are now open for all grades. Please feel free to share this with friends and family in the community. In the past, we have always found that word of mouth is the most important way that new families discover our schools. We also have flyers available in the front office. Parents are welcome to pick up copies if you would like to distribute/hang them locally in places you frequent. Thank you!

### SJRS/OLMA BUSINESS DIRECTORY

We have compiled all information sent by parents for our new SJRS/OLMA Business Directory. We encourage the support of the businesses within our school communities! If you have questions or would like your business to be added to the directory, please email Jen Marshall ([jmarshall@stjosephkeene.org](mailto:jmarshall@stjosephkeene.org)). **Please CLICK HERE for the Business Directory.**



### CHESS CLUB

**Chess Club has begun and meets on Tuesdays immediately after school.** All students in grades 5-8 are welcome to participate. The club will meet 3:00-4:00pm in the elementary cafeteria. Participation is free of charge, and there is no need to bring any supplies. Students who are new to chess are welcome to attend! No previous experience is necessary; just a genuine interest in learning the game.

On Monday, SJRS had three 8th grade students participate at the **NH Band Directors Association (NHBDA) Middle Level Honor Band Festival!** After auditioning back in the fall, Keagan Sweeney (trumpet) was accepted

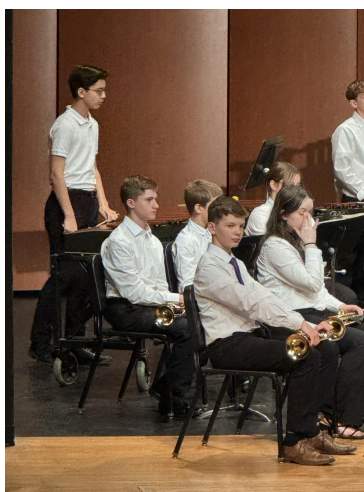




into the Band; Solé Vicente-DiGiovanni (alto sax) was accepted into the Sax Ensemble; and Anna Rafail (flute) was accepted into the Flute Ensemble. BRAVO to all!!!

The NHBDA Middle Level Honor Festival is an annual event for New Hampshire middle school band students that offers them an opportunity to play with some of the best middle school musicians in the state of New Hampshire, as well as working with renowned conductors from across the country.

The festival took place yesterday at Pinkerton Academy, in Derry, and was a day filled with rehearsals, culminating in an evening performance. 228 students from 46 schools auditioned; 106 students from 38 schools were accepted.



**Thursday , March 27 -- 5:30-7:30pm**

**Would you and your family like to be a part of our annual International Night?  
Would you like to share some of your family's heritage?**

**FOOD/DRINKS** Is there a special recipe that you make at home with your family that is unique to your heritage? We would love to have as many different cuisines from around the world as possible for everyone to try!

**CULTURE** Is there an aspect of your family's culture that you can share with everyone? In the past, we have had families wear traditional apparel, display special family items that have cultural or historical significance, and share recipes and customs.

Contact Jen Marshall at [jmarshall@stjosephkeene.org](mailto:jmarshall@stjosephkeene.org).

**CLICK HERE to purchase tickets!**



## Track and Field Pre-Season Practice Schedule



The following dates will be our indoor preseason practice times. Each practice will be held from 3-4:00 in the SJRS gym until it is warm enough to practice outside in the soccer field.  
We are currently working on a meet schedule which I will give out as soon as it is complete.

### March

- Thursday, 3/13
- Tuesday, 3/18
- Thursday, 3/20- NO PRACTICE
- Tuesday, 3/25
- Thursday, 3/27

### April

- Tuesday, 4/1
- Thursday, 4/3
- Tuesday, 4/8
- Thursday, 4/10- NO PRACTICE
- Tuesday, 4/15
- Thursday, 4/17

### What does my athlete need in order to participate?

Your athlete needs sneakers and athletic clothes to participate in Track.

### Attendance

If your athlete misses the practice directly before a meet, they will likely be ineligible to compete.

If an athlete is not in school the same day as a meet, they are **not** eligible to compete.

### Track Meets

We are currently working with both Keene and Monadnock to get signed up for meets. We will send a separate schedule with those dates when the season begins.

I will have access to the school van. There are a limited number of seats and it will be a first come, first served basis as the meets get closer.

You **MUST** pick your child up from the meet; I can **NOT** transport them back to SJRS.

### Events

At the middle school level, athletes are able to sign up and compete in the following events:

#### Running

- 100-meter sprint
- 200-meter sprint
- 400-meter dash
- 800-meter dash
- 1200 meter
- 1600 meter
- 4X1 relay
- 4X4 relay

#### Throwing

- \* Discus
- \* Shot Put

#### Other

- \* Long Jump
- \* Triple Jump
- \* 100-meter hurdle
- \* 200-meter hurdle





We had a spirited **Rock, Paper, Scissors Tournament** last Friday with Reid Pearson (Grade 8) coming away with the win!



Yesterday after our all-school Mass, Miss Farrington, Mrs. Amundson, and Fr. Peter officially welcomed some of our 8th graders who will be attending Mercy Academy next year!

## Middle School Youth Group

Sunday, March 23, 4:00pm-6:00pm

Prepare and eat dinner, Prayer, Activity

St. Bernard's Parish Hall

Questions? [dheeran@stjosephkeene.org](mailto:dheeran@stjosephkeene.org)

ST. JOSEPH REGIONAL SCHOOL  
**2025-2026**  
**ADMISSIONS**  
**NOW OPEN**  
**ALL GRADES**

Schedule a tour today!

603/352-2720

Learn more: [www.stjosephkeene.org](http://www.stjosephkeene.org)  
Contact us: [admissions@stjosephkeene.org](mailto:admissions@stjosephkeene.org)

Scholarship | Service | Faith | Family

**NOW OPEN!**  
**2025-2026**  
OUR LADY OF MERCY ACADEMY  
**Admissions**  
GRADES 9-12

Schedule a tour today!

OUR LADY OF MERCY ACADEMY  
161 Main Street | Keene NH | 603-352-2720  
[www.mercyacademykeene.org/admissions](http://www.mercyacademykeene.org/admissions)

SCHOLARSHIP | SERVICE | FAITH | FAMILY

## A Journey to the Jubilee Year Parish Mission

*"The Holy Door will be flung open to invite everyone to an intense experience of the love of God" - Pope Francis*

Join us in opening the door and letting the King of Glory enter in!

Mission presented by  
Msgr. Marc Montminy

March 17th - 19th  
Mon - Wed

Confessions 6PM

Rosary 6:30PM

Mission 7-8:15PM

St. Bernard Church  
185 Main St.  
Keene, NH 03431

### Mission Topics

Mon. March 17th  
**Recover the Joy of Living**  
*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me" (Luke 4:18)*

Tues. March 18th  
**Dreams Can Come True**  
*"He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor" (Luke 4:18)*

Wed. March 19th  
**Abounding in Hope**  
*"To announce a year of favor from the Lord" (Luke 4:19)*

For your reference, all newsletters from previous weeks can be found on our website here:  
<https://www.stjosephkeene.org/newsletters>

