



# Saint Joseph Regional School Our Lady of Mercy Academy



February 20, 2025

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

Dear Parents and Staff,

We had a healthy turnout for our Home and School meeting last night. After hearing from parents at the January meeting, we added babysitting and arranged for virtual participation through Google Meet.

Thank you to our fabulous OLMA students who earned service hours by babysitting and to Mrs. Jen Marshall for handling the virtual set-up.

The next meeting is March 26.

The highlights of the meeting will be sent in the March 5 newsletter.

Parents of PK-Grade 4 students, please try and come to the NHDI show on Friday at 2 pm, in the gym. It promises to be a great show!

From all of us at SJRS and OLMA, we wish your family a wonderful winter break. Three of our community members, Mr. Cardine, Mr. Konopka, and Mr. Markiewicz, all Knights of Columbus, will be traveling to a K of C Convention in New York City and being elevated to the highest level, the Fourth Degree. We recognized these men at our Mass yesterday and thanked them and all the other Knights who support our schools with generous donations and events to benefit our students. We love the Knights!

I will be heading to Ireland to visit some of the nuns that I served with in Florida. They are Religious Sisters of Mercy, the Irish counterparts to the American Mercy Sisters who started St. Joseph School and for whom Our Lady of Mercy Academy is named. They pray daily for our schools and are very happy that we will be having a bagpiper come on St. Patrick's Day to play for our students. It's a month away, but you can never be too Irish!

In His service,

Miss Victoria Farrington  
Principal

## EPHESIANS 1:17-18

...that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation resulting in knowledge of him. May the eyes of [your] hearts be enlightened, that you may know what is the

## IMPORTANT DATES

**Mon-Fri 2/17-21** -- NHDI Residency

**Friday 2/21** -- NHDI Residency Performance --  
Grades PK-4 -- 2pm (PK-4 parents welcome!)

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

**Sunday 3/2** -- Middle School Youth Group -- 4-6pm (see details below)

**Wednesday 3/5** -- Ash Wednesday All-School Mass -- 9:30am

**Tuesday 3/11** -- Chess Club begins -- 3-4pm --

hope that belongs to his call, what are the riches of glory in his inheritance among the holy ones.

Grades 5-8

**Tuesday 3/11** -- Grade 1 Parent Meeting -- 5:30pm (see details below)

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

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

**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)

### **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).

### **ASH WEDNESDAY/LENT INFORMATION**

**Ash Wednesday** is one of the most popular and important holy days in the liturgical calendar. Ash Wednesday opens Lent, a season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Ash Wednesday takes place 46 days before Easter Sunday, and is chiefly observed by Catholics, although many other Christians observe it too. Ash Wednesday comes from the ancient Jewish tradition of penance and fasting. The practice includes the wearing of ashes on the head. The ashes symbolize the dust from which God made us. As the priest applies the ashes to a person's forehead, he says the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Priests administer ashes during Mass and all are invited to accept the ashes as a visible symbol of penance. The ashes are made from blessed palm branches, taken from the previous year's palm Sunday Mass. It is not required that a person wear the ashes for the rest of the day, and they may be washed off after Mass. However, many people keep the ashes as a reminder until the evening.

**On March 5, we observe Ash Wednesday and begin the Lenten Season.** Please note that Ash Wednesday is a day of **fast and abstinence**. The school will only be offering **meatless** sandwiches/hoagies for lunch that day. The following Wednesdays in Lent, the sandwiches/hoagies will be the regular offerings.

### **SPRING CONCERT UPDATE**

We have expanded our Spring Concert since we have so much talent at our school! Here is the updated schedule:

**Monday, May 12: Grades 5-8 Concert, gym, 6 pm**

Grades 5/6 and Grades 7/8 Choruses

Grades 5/6 and Grades 7/8 Bands -- Theme: SJRS Middle School Bands Go to the Movies

**Tuesday, May 13: Grades PK-4 Concert, gym, 6 pm**

PK; Grades 1-3 -- Theme: Patriotic Songs and Music of Americana; Grade 4 Band



Please note the **UPDATED SCHOOL CALENDAR** up above with the Spring Concert adjustment.

### **TECHNOLOGY SURVEY**

All parents are asked to complete this technology survey in preparation for a presentation on internet and social media security by the SJRS Tech teachers at the March Home and School meeting. The survey should be completed **by Monday, March 10**, so that the teachers can prepare their presentation for parents. **Please CLICK HERE for the survey.**

### **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.



### **GRADE 1 PARENT MEETING**

There will be a meeting of the parents of Grade 1 students on Tuesday, March 11, 5:30-6:30pm with Miss Farrington, Mrs. Amundson, and Miss Howerton to review/discuss i-Ready standardized testing. Location TBA.



Yesterday after our all-school Mass, Miss Farrington and Fr. Alan recognized the winners of the annual Knights of Columbus "Keep Christ in Christmas" poster contest. The winners are: Rosalie Daugherty (Grade 2), Gus Houston (Grade 4), Helena Morrison (Grade 6), Nola Raynor (Grade 7), Samara Stoutzenberger (Grade 3), and Karter Young (Grade 5).

Also, Knights of Columbus members Jim Konopka, Andy Cardine, and Gary Markiewicz were thanked for their service and congratulated for being elevated this coming weekend to the Knights highest level, the Fourth Degree!





## CHESS CLUB

**Chess Club will meet on Tuesdays immediately after school starting on Tuesday, March 11.** 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.



After our all-school Mass recently, Miss Farrington and Fr. Alan presented the **Good Samaritan Awards** for the second quarter to Mackenzie Clark (Grade 7), Jack Wheeler (Grade 4), Daniel Colby (Kindergarten), and Aislinn White (Grade 8). This award recognizes students who consistently show kindness, respect, compassion, empathy and helpfulness to their fellow classmates and throughout the school community. CONGRATULATIONS to all!



Loads of Valentine's Day fun was had last Friday with celebrations in the elementary classrooms and the Secret Valentine Express deliveries from the middle school French Club!





**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).**







## NHDI Residency Program with St. Joseph's School Present "Just Write!" February 17-21, 2025

We are thrilled to bring our week-long dance residency program back to the students at St. Joseph's School!

NHDI is an arts-in-education program and each day students in grades **PreK-4** will attend an NHDI experience class to learn and create a specialized movement/dance portion of our school-wide theme, "Just Write!" Incorporating high-energy dance, playfulness, social-emotional learning, and a growth mindset we explore the writing process, and the challenges students might encounter as they tackle words, sentences, paragraphs, journaling and self-discovery through written expression.

**FRIENDS AND FAMILIES ARE INVITED TO A FREE PERFORMANCE in the School Gymnasium  
Friday, February 21, 2:00 p.m.**

To keep them dancing all year please find our music on our website: <https://www.nhdi.org/residency-music>



Souvenir T-shirts are available for purchase during the residency week and at the performance.

**\*\*\*Please note this is an optional purchase\*\*\***

*Students will borrow a colorful NHDI T-shirt for the performance.*

**\$10 Cash, Check (payable to NHDI),  
Debit/credit and Venmo (@nhdi1)**

**To purchase in advance, please print and fill out the form below,  
include/indicate payment, and send it in with your student to their  
classroom teacher**

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Student name: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Size:    ☐ Youth Small        ☐ Youth Medium        ☐ Youth Large        ☐ Youth X-Large

☐ Adult Small    ☐ Adult Medium    ☐ Adult Large    ☐ Adult XL    ☐ Adult XXL

Payment:    ☐ cash        ☐ check        ☐ Venmo @nhdi1 **(please note SJRS & child's name)**

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NOW OPEN!

2025-2026

OUR LADY OF MERCY ACADEMY

Admissions

GRADES 9-12

Schedule a  
tour today!



OUR LADY OF MERCY ACADEMY

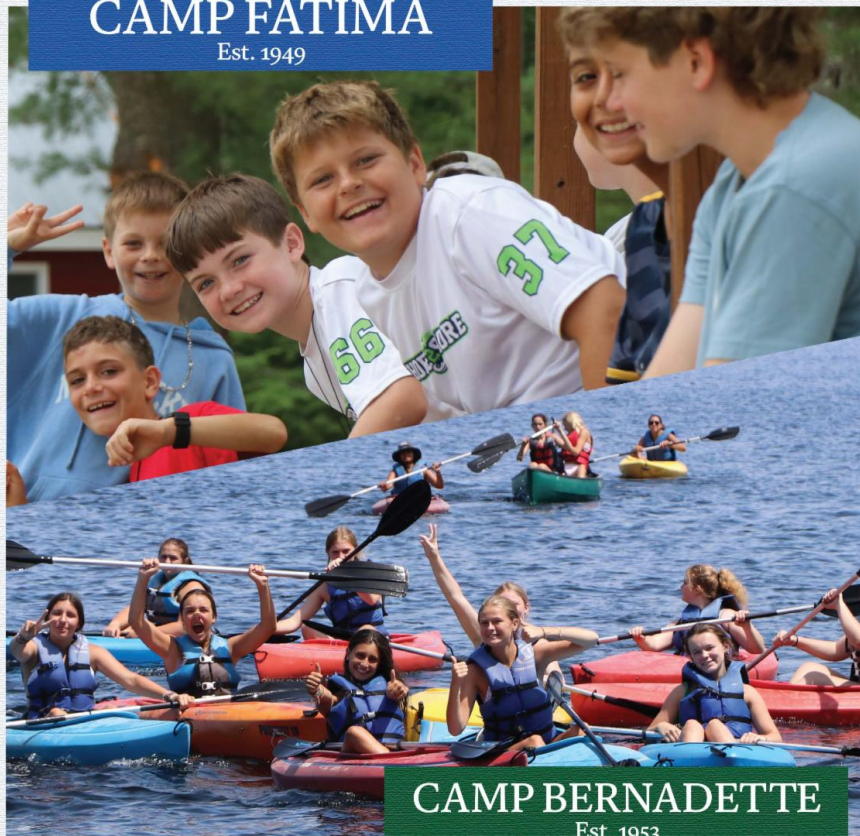
161 Main Street | Keene NH | 603-352-2720

[www.mercyacademykeene.org/admissions](http://www.mercyacademykeene.org/admissions)

SCHOLARSHIP | SERVICE | FAITH | FAMILY

## CAMP FATIMA

Est. 1949



## CAMP BERNADETTE

Est. 1953

### A Traditional, All-American Summer!

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CAMP FATIMA & CAMP BERNADETTE

32 Fatima Road, Gilmanton Ironworks, New Hampshire, 03837

1-603-931-5500

[info@bfcamp.com](mailto:info@bfcamp.com)







## For Girls

Ages Six to Fifteen

Camp Bernadette, located on the beautiful shores of Lake Wentworth in Wolfeboro, NH, provides girls with a place to grow in faith, friendship, and confidence. With activities like swimming, arts & crafts, and tennis, campers embrace new experiences in a close-knit sisterhood. Daily life is shaped by Catholic traditions, fostering a supportive and uplifting environment.

## For Boys

Ages Six to Fifteen

Camp Fatima, set along Upper Suncook Lake in Gilmanton Iron Works, NH, offers boys the freedom to explore, compete, and connect. From rock climbing and tubing to soccer and campfires, campers develop resilience and leadership while strengthening bonds of brotherhood. Faith is woven into the experience, creating a foundation for personal and spiritual growth in the heart of the outdoors.



## Summer 2025 Dates



Starter Week: June 22 – June 28  
 Session 1: June 22 – July 5  
 Session 2: July 6 – July 19  
 Session 3: July 20 – August 2  
 Session 4 at Bernadette: August 3 – August 16  
 Session 4 at Fatima: August 3 – August 9  
 Special Needs Week at Fatima (Co-Ed): June 8 – June 13



[www.bfcamp.com](http://www.bfcamp.com)

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



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