



Saint Joseph Regional School Our Lady of Mercy Academy



March 31, 2022

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

Greetings OLMA Families and Faculty,

As a growing and thriving school community, we have more going on and more news to share. So going forward, this means you will be getting newsletters from us a little more often, probably every other week!

Since we have not used all of the snow days that I had included in this year's calendar, I have added two additional days off around Spring Break and Memorial Day. Please see the Important Dates below and plan accordingly. The **school calendar has also been updated** to reflect these additional days off.

A quick update about our New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) **accreditation process**. We had three evaluators that comprise our committee (one from NEASC, and two school administrators from Catholic schools in Massachusetts and Connecticut) with us throughout the day on Tuesday of this week, touring our buildings and holding a series meetings with our staff. The focus of these meetings was Foundation Standards, reviewing our financial and operational procedures primarily. We have not received an official response yet, but all of the meetings went well and we received very positive feedback at the end of the day. We will now be moving forward into the Program Standards phase, which encompasses curriculum and the student experience. We will be spending lots of time in the next six months holding many meetings and preparing documentation for our next series of meetings that will take place over three days in mid-October. NEASC accreditation is both an exciting and challenging process. I will continue to keep everyone informed as we proceed.

As I shared a few weeks ago, many families are struggling with the issue of managing cell phones and other electronics. At the same time, many families also have some great ideas that they implement. **We have created a [Google Form](#) where I would love to have families share their ideas, tips, suggestions, recommendations, etc. for how you manage technology usage (especially cell phones) with your own children.** I believe that hearing some ideas from our very own families within our own school community might be helpful to everyone. Once we get everyone's ideas, we will compile those and share. This will of course be completely anonymous. No one will know who has contributed the ideas. The goal is to put together our own "best practices" that can maybe be helpful. My feeling is that just about everyone is challenged with this issue in some way. So here is **[the link to the Cell Phone/Electronics Management Google Form](#)**. I hope everyone will take a few minutes to share their thoughts of what works for them and even what has not worked. It could go a long way towards helping another family. We are all in this together.

May Your Spirit Be Lifted,

Christopher Smith
Principal

IMPORTANT DATES

Friday 4/1 – Stations of the Cross – 12:30pm
(Grades 2-3, 5-11)

Wednesday 4/6 – School Mass – 9:30am

Wednesday 4/6 – End of the 3rd Quarter

Friday 4/8 – Reconciliation (morning)

Thursday 4/14 – Holy Thursday Prayer Service –
9:30am

Thursday 4/14 – Holy Thursday (1/2 day)

Friday 4/15 – Good Friday **NO SCHOOL**

Monday 4/18 – Easter Monday **NO SCHOOL**

Fri 4/22, Mon-Fri 4/25-29 – Spring Break **NO SCHOOL**

Saturday 5/7 – Spring Craft Fair/Art Day

Friday 5/27 – Memorial Day weekend **NO SCHOOL**

Monday 5/30 – Memorial Day weekend **NO SCHOOL**



ISAIAH 1:18

Come now, let us set things right, says the Lord: Though your sins be like scarlet, they may become white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they may become white as wool.



Spring Craft Fair

Saturday, May 7 -- 9am-2pm

Outdoors at St. Joseph Regional School
92 Wilson Street, Keene, NH

SPRING CRAFT FAIR/ART DAY PLANNING

We need your help on Saturday, May 7, for our Spring Craft Fair/Art Day! We have 80 vendors (twice as many as last year!) joining us. We are looking forward to a great day!

VOLUNTEERS are needed to work at the raffle and bake sale booths on the day of the event and also a few days afterwards to help with contacting raffle winners.

BAKED GOODS are needed for our bake sale booth. Baked goods can be brought to school the day before (May 6) or on the morning of the craft fair (May 7).

If you can help with either/both of the above, **please email Jen Marshall at jmarshall@stjosephkeene.org**. If you can volunteer, please indicate what time of the day you are available.

THANK YOU!!

CONSECRATION OF UKRAINE AND RUSSIA, CANDLE LIT ROSARY

Last Friday, the Catholic Church around the world united in prayer. At 12noon, our school communities attended a prayer service for the consecration of Ukraine and Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary during which Fr. Alan read a special prayer from Pope Francis. Consecration services were held all over the globe simultaneously with the same prayer read. After our service, the bells of St. Bernard's Church rang for several minutes, and we followed this by saying a special candle lit rosary together.

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/250756/vatican-pope-francis-text-for-march-25-consecration-prayer>



SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

It was a beautiful, crisp morning last Wednesday for some community service! Our 9th graders headed over to the Goose Pond trails to help the City of Keene with clean up of garbage and debris in preparation for Spring hiking. Look at all of that garbage!

Meanwhile, at the same time, the sophomores and juniors took care of some important standardized testing business with the PSAT10 and SAT.





CLUB ACTIVITIES

A few club activities that have started or will be starting soon this Spring:

- **Anglers Club** -- Mr. Rafail will be fishing with students every Tuesday beginning April 5. For details: jrafail@mercyacademykeene.org
- **Drama Club** -- Jaynah Johnson is currently working with students on Thursday afternoons.
- **Disc Golf Club** -- Miss Hoye will be running the Disc Golf Club. They will tentatively be playing on Wednesdays after school. Start date TBD. For details: ahoye@mercyacademykeene.org
- **Mountain Biking Club** -- Matt Murray will be managing the Mountain Biking Club on the last four Fridays of the school year. For details: lebright@mercyacademykeene.org

FUNDRAISER FOR UKRAINE

The Student Council has raised **a total of \$1,401** for the Red Cross for assistance in Ukraine!

Stickers are still available for purchase in the Main Office anytime during the school day. They are \$5.00.



HOUSE CHALLENGE

The House challenge last week was a crazy relay race where students had to eat saltines, drink soda, make and fly paper airplanes, and stack dice. In the end, the House of DROGO came out on top, winning the points for the challenge!



DIRECTED PHYSICAL EDUCATION CREDIT

For students who participate in organized team sports, dance, or other physical activities, always keep in mind that students may receive 0.5 credit toward the Physical Education credit requirement for participation in an approved physical activity or sport. Students are strongly encouraged to take care of their PE credit during 9th, 10th or 11th grade. For questions or to get details about how Directed PE Credit works, **please contact Miss Wilson (awilson1@mercyacademykeene.org)** . The forms needed for Directed PE Credit can be found **on our website in the Resources section** .

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE CHILDREN'S SCHOLARSHIP FUND NEW HAMPSHIRE



EDUCATION TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS

The application is open for 2022-2023 for NH Education Tax Credit Scholarships. **The DEADLINE to apply is MAY 6.** The eligibility is:

1. You must be a New Hampshire resident.
2. You must have a child/children between the ages of 5 and 20 who is entering **Kindergarten** or **1st grade** for the first time **OR** entering 2nd-12th grades and coming from a public school.
3. Your household income must not exceed 300% of the federal poverty level. See income chart below.

EDUCATION FREEDOM ACCOUNTS

The application is open for 2022-2023 for NH Education Freedom Accounts. You can direct part of your child's state education funding to pay for tuition at SJRS/OLMA . **The DEADLINE to apply is JULY 15.**

The eligibility is:

1. You must be a New Hampshire resident.
2. Your child must be at least 5 years old and no older than 20 years old and **entering Kindergarten – 12th grade.**
3. Your household income must not exceed 300% of the federal poverty level. See income chart below.

Both of the above programs are administered by the **Children's Scholarship Fund New Hampshire**, and applications are currently being accepted for new and returning families . The applications for both programs are simple and entirely online. We strongly encourage everyone who is eligible to apply as soon as possible. Many of our families receive funding from these great programs. There is a combined application for the programs so that you may apply for both at the same time, if you qualify for both. **You may receive funding from BOTH programs if eligible.** **CLICK HERE for the application for families NEW to these programs.** **CLICK HERE for the portal login for families REAPPLYING to these programs.** If you have questions about the above programs, please contact Jen Marshall (jmarshall@stjosephkeene.org).

300% of 2021 Federal Poverty Level Guidelines			
Family Size	Income Limit/ Annual	Income Limit/ Monthly	Income Limit/ Weekly
2	\$52,260	\$4,355	\$1,005
3	\$65,880	\$5,490	\$1,267
4	\$79,500	\$6,625	\$1,529
5	\$93,120	\$7,760	\$1,791
6	\$106,740	\$8,895	\$2,053
7	\$120,360	\$10,030	\$2,315
8	\$133,980	\$11,165	\$2,577
add \$13,620 for each additional person			

Paper Shredding Event



A Knights of Columbus
fundraising event
to support their charitable efforts
throughout Keene and the surrounding
communities

*Are your confidential personal or business papers piling
up with no time to shred them?*

Protect yourself, your family and your customers from loss
and identity theft by properly destroying your confidential
documents.

SecurShred will shred your documents on-site while you
monitor the process through a video surveillance system. All
shredded materials will be taken away and recycled.

Individuals and businesses welcome!

Shredding will be:

- Done on-site**
- While you wait**
- By a professional shredding
truck!**

Date: Saturday April 23rd rain or shine
9am - 12 Noon

Location: St. Bernard Catholic Church
Parking Lot
185 Main Street, Keene, NH 03431

Cost: \$10 per box (standard paper box)

Payment: Cash or check payable to:
Knights of Columbus Council 819

SAVE THE DATE
Saturday
April 23rd

**Paper Materials
May Include:**

- Office paper
- NCR paper
- Invoice paper
- Colored paper
- Window envelopes
- Glossy paper
- File folders
- Computer papers
- Brochures
- Fax paper
- Ledger paper
- Letterhead
- Laser printouts
- Product Sheets
- Envelopes
- Other office paper

No need to remove staples or
paper clips

No appointment necessary!



Our Lady of Mercy Academy | 161 Main Street, Keene, NH 03431 603/352-2720

[Unsubscribe jmarshall@stjosephkeene.org](mailto:jmarshall@stjosephkeene.org)

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Sent by bcsmith@stjosephkeene.org