



Saint Joseph Regional School Our Lady of Mercy Academy



May 8, 2025

Confident in the Truth that all people are made in the image and likeness of God, the mission of Saint Joseph Regional School is to provide an education based upon the Catholic Intellectual Tradition and to instill in students God's greatest commands: to love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind, and to love your neighbor as yourself.

Dear OLMA Parents and Staff,

As we went to press, it was just announced that "Habemus Papam!" We have a new Pope! Our schools have been on a Pope Watch the past few days, learning about the College of Cardinals, the rituals for when a Pope dies, and the process for electing a new Pope.

Imagine the excitement, and maybe surprise when the name of the new Pope was given, Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost, from Chicago. Our students have seen history first hand because Cardinal Prevost is the first American to ever be chosen as Pope.

We pray for our new Pope, Pope Leo XIV, and look forward to learning more about his vision for the Church.

Note: Some classes participated in a contest for who would be the next Pope. Grades 2, 5, and 7 all picked Cardinal Prevost, so congratulations to them and their teachers...they certainly knew how to read the Conclave.

Speaking of teachers, we are in Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week. Thank you to the Student Leadership and generous parents who have organized the treats and kind acts for staff this week. Our staff deserve every bit of it!

And while we are on the topic of our awesome staff, I can tell you that we recently completed a staff compensation study (thanks to the gift of a school parent whose company does this type of research) to look at our salary structure and other employment factors. This is part of an ongoing effort to address the needs of our staff in the areas of equitable pay, professional development, and organizational structure. We will be meeting with teachers in the coming weeks to sign contracts, establish schedules, and have more conversations about extra-curricular opportunities for our students.

In these conversations, we will be making sure that we continue to provide all of the major curriculum components that both SJRS and OLMA need for a rigorous education based on the Catholic intellectual tradition. Even though there will be a transition of some staff members, students will still be receiving classes in math, science, social studies, religion, world languages, art, music, PE, and technology. At OLMA, we will be adding a Composition class to strengthen student writing skills. At SJRS, we will be dividing the ELA classes into separate English and Literature classes to make sure students receive the necessary instructional minutes to master all language skills. We will be updating our class schedules to reflect changes, and the fact that both schools will now share more teachers in common. This restructuring is a way for us to utilize the expertise of our teachers as well as their passion for what they teach with all grade levels. A final part of the conversations with staff is to reimagine our electives courses, based on the ideas and talents of new and returning staff (and yes, we will also be asking for the input of students!) so that our programs not only offer the vital, traditional curriculum that any college-bound student needs, but also fun and interesting selections.

I will continue to update parents as we finalize more decisions and have more specifics to offer.

And to all our SJRS and OLMA mothers and godmothers, have a wonderful Mother's Day!

In His service,
Miss Victoria Farrington

JOHN 10:27-30

Jesus said:
“My sheep hear my voice;
I know them, and they
follow me. I give them
eternal life, and they shall
never perish. No one can
take them out of my hand.
My Father, who has given
them to me, is greater
than all, and no one can
take them out of the
Father’s hand. The Father
and I are one.”



IMPORTANT DATES

Sat 5/10 -- Spring Craft Fair -- 9am-2pm (see details below)
Fri 5/16 -- Scholarships applications due (see details below)
Sat 5/17 -- Prom (see details below)
Wed 5/21 -- Home & School Assoc meeting -- 6-7pm -- Parish Hall
Mon 5/26 -- Memorial Day -- **NO SCHOOL**
Tues 5/27 -- Diocesan Eucharistic Procession -- 9-10:30am
Thurs 5/29 -- Spring Arts Showcase -- 5:30pm
Tues 6/3 -- OLMA Awards -- 6pm
Sun 6/8 -- Baccalaureate Mass, Graduation -- 2pm
Thurs 6/12 -- Last day of school! **HALF DAY**

[CLICK HERE for the UPDATED 2024-2025 SCHOOL CALENDAR](#)

*****PLEASE NOTE:** The calendar has been updated to reflect the change in the date/time for the Baccalaureate Mass and Graduation Ceremony to Sunday, June 8, at 2pm.

2025-2026 School Year

First Day of School: August 25
Thanksgiving Break: November 26-28
Christmas Break: December 22-January 2
Winter Break: February 23-27
Easter Break: April 3 and April 6
Spring Break: April 27-May 1
Closing Day of School: June 17



Our next Home and School Association meeting will be **Wednesday, May 21, 6-7pm** in the St. Bernard's Parish Hall. All parents are welcome!

SJRS Destination Imagination -- Assistance is needed for a few parents to manage our Destination Imagination program for the 2025-26 school year.

If you are interested or would like more details about the above volunteer opportunities at SJRS, please contact Kate in the Main Office (kate@stjosephkeene.org).



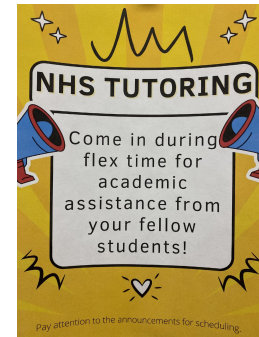
SJRS/OLMA BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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). **Please CLICK HERE for the Business Directory.**



TUTORING AVAILABLE!

Tutoring by NHS scholars and Dr. Regney is available every day except Wednesdays. We meet during flex time in room 37. This is a quiet study/work space and only tutors and tutees may be in the room. Those seeking help please arrive by 11:40am at the latest to receive assistance. We can help you review areas on your midterm that you did not understand. We can help you with assignments (teacher permitting). We can help you study for quizzes and tests. **Come pump up your brain!**





2025 OLMA SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



SEVEN \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE
FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

- ★ Knights of Columbus of the Parish of the Holy Spirit Scholarship
- ★ Deacon Ken Swymer Memorial Scholarship
- ★ Loretta Lariviere Memorial Scholarship
- ★ David B. Morrison Memorial Scholarship

Each scholarship awards \$1,000 to a deserving student. Submit your application to the OLMA School Office by **Thursday, May 16th**

HOW TO APPLY: Applications are available at the school office. Submit completed forms by May 16th to be considered.

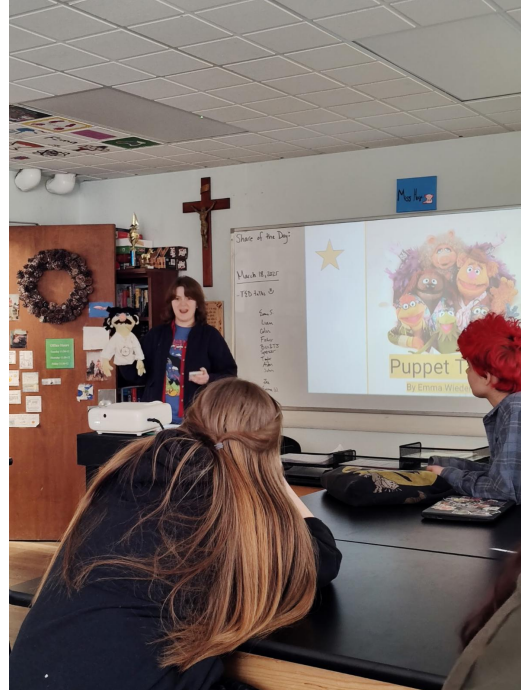


FEATURED STUDENT-ATHLETE

Senior Melkamu Visser is in his fourth year playing on the Keene High School boys varsity tennis team. Mel started playing tennis when he was nine years old, and was inspired to play by some relatives who played often as well as easy access he had to a free court.

GOOD LUCK this season, Melkamu!

Photo credit: The Keene Sentinel

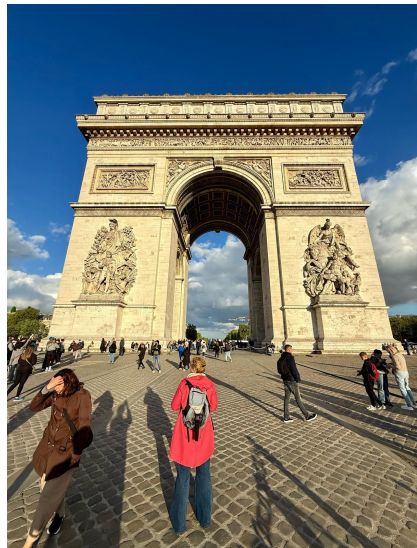


Over the course of quarter three, all of Mrs. Hoye's science classes worked on **Genius Projects**, where they focused solely on developing a new skill or meeting a specific goal. At the end of the quarter, they each presented TED-talks about their in-depth work and the challenges they faced along the way. There were a full range of projects including art forms such as writing, learning guitar, crochet, weaving friendship bracelets, drawing, animation, film studies, cardistry, video editing, creating a new board game, cooking, baking, and even carving a game-ready baseball bat and sewing a hand puppet. Other projects focused on hitting new reading goals, researching WW2 or AI, video game challenges, skiing, automotive work, soccer skills, learning a new language, cricut projects, meeting fitness goals, dog training, creating a business and a non-profit organization, and researching the science behind alien sightings.

SPRING BREAK TRIP TO FRANCE

Over the Spring Break, 16 OLMA students traveled to France with Mr. Sully and SJRS/OLMA parent Mrs. Kangas! The group started out in Paris, then spent a few days in the French countryside in Laval, then were back in Paris to finish their trip. While in Laval, they all spent time staying with host families and making new French friends. They saw many of the major French sites, including the Eiffel Tower, the Arc de Triomphe, the Louvre, Notre-Dame, Sacre-Coeur, and Mont Saint-Michel. They all shared an absolutely spectacular, memorable trip together!







2025-2026 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION

As we continue preparations for the 2025-26 school year, please carefully review all of the financial assistance information below. For those in need of financial assistance, the process includes multiple steps. The following steps, in this order, are required by all those applying for financial assistance:

1. Submit application for NH Education Freedom Accounts (new and renewals).
2. Submit application for NH Education Tax Credit Scholarship (renewals only).
3. Submit application for Diocese of Manchester Scholarships.
4. For Parish of the Holy Spirit families, apply to the Parish tuition assistance fund. Other Catholic families should contact their home parishes.
5. Submit FACTS application to be eligible for the Lamothe Adopt-a-Student Fund, Nielsen Scholarship Fund, and the Winnie Morenz Scholarship.

EDUCATION FREEDOM ACCOUNTS (EFA)

The application is open for 2025-2026 for NH Education Freedom Accounts. **The deadline is July 15.**

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 350% of the federal poverty level. (See income chart below.)

[CLICK HERE for details and to apply for the EFA program.](#)

EDUCATION TAX CREDIT (ETC) SCHOLARSHIPS

The application is open for RENEWALS for 2025-2026 for NH Education Tax Credit Scholarships. **[CLICK HERE for details.](#)**

The EFA and ETC programs are administered by the **Children's Scholarship Fund New Hampshire**. The applications for both programs are simple and online. We strongly encourage everyone who is eligible to apply ASAP. Many of our families receive funding from these great programs. There is a combined application for the programs so that you may apply/renew for both at the same time, if you qualify for both. You may receive funding from BOTH programs, if eligible.

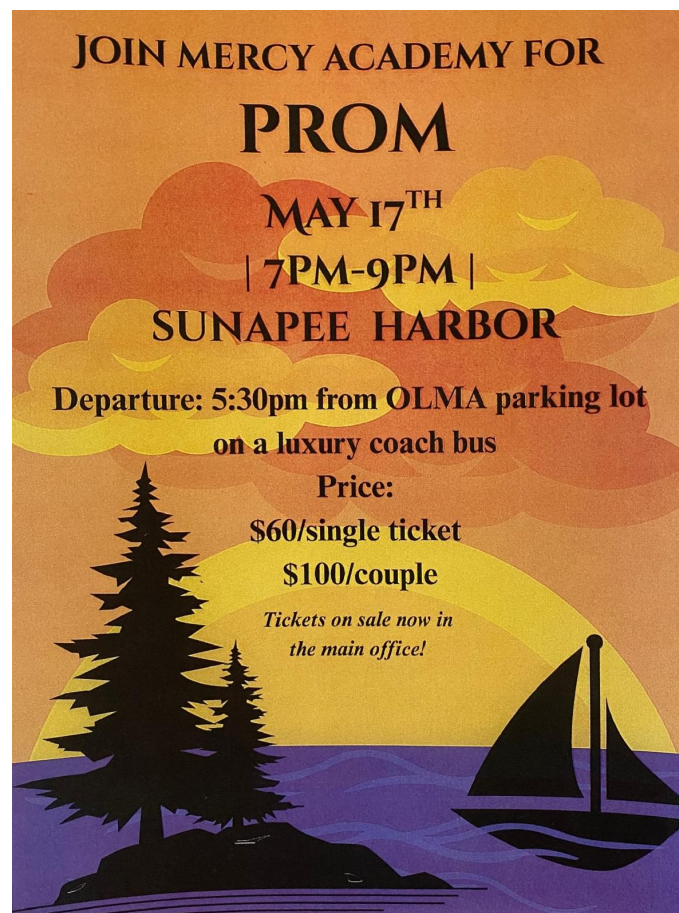
350% 2025 Federal Poverty Level Guidelines	
Family Size	Annual income limit based on total annual 2024 income
2	\$74,025
3	\$93,275
4	\$112,525
5	\$131,775
6	\$151,025
7	\$170,275
8	\$189,525
For each additional person, add \$19,250	

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR CATHOLIC FAMILIES

Parish of the Holy Spirit families may apply for tuition assistance from the Parish. [CLICK HERE for the letter with details and application.](#) If you have questions, please contact the Parish Office directly at 603-352-3525 or holyspirit.peace@gmail.com. The deadline is May 15. For Catholic families who are members of other local parishes, you are encouraged to contact your parish directly to discuss possible financial assistance.

SCHOOL-BASED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

After submitting the above applications, you may seek additional help through our school-based financial assistance (Lamothe Adopt-a-Student Fund, Nielsen Scholarship Fund, Winnie Morenz Scholarship). You must complete the FACTS application, and your eligibility will be reviewed. The deadline is May 15. [CLICK HERE to complete the FACTS application.](#)



ST. JOSEPH REGIONAL SCHOOL
2025-2026
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ALL GRADES

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603/352-2720

Learn more: www.stjosephkeene.org
Contact us: admissions@stjosephkeene.org

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2025-2026
OUR LADY OF MERCY ACADEMY
Admissions
GRADES 9-12

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SCHOLARSHIP | SERVICE | FAITH | FAMILY

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Order by 5/9 for free shipping to school

CREATE 2 CUSTOM PAGES FOR FREE!
Your pages only print in your book.

Add pictures, memories & more! Want more custom pages? Each additional 2 pages costs \$1.99.
Custom Page Deadline: 5/7

Questions? Contact Mrs. Moylan, Yearbook Advisor, dmoylan@mercycademykeene.org

Raising funds for a brighter future.

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To learn more, scan the QR code or visit hannafordhelpschools.com.

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



Our Lady of Mercy Academy | 161 Main Street | Keene, NH 03431 US

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