



# Saint Joseph Regional School Our Lady of Mercy Academy



## SUMMER EDITION

August 9, 2023

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

Greetings OLMA Families, Faculty, and Staff:

I pray that you are all enjoying a wonderful summer!

Our faculty and staff have been at school working hard to prepare for the start of the new year. We are currently fully staffed, which is truly a blessing! See below for a full listing. I want to extend a warm welcome to Mercy to our new full-time faculty members -- Danielle Moylan (Computers/Technology), Sara Mann (Mathematics), Bob Thies (Jazz Ensemble), and Danielle Heeran (Chorus)! Also, Anthony Sully has taken over as our Campus Minister!

We have lots of exciting news as we continue to make progress as a new high school.

- Dr. Regney has navigated the approval process for Mercy to now have a chapter of the **National Honor Society** beginning this year.
- Ms. Hoye's Chemistry classes will be doing lab work this year utilizing the **Keene State College chem labs**.
- The Culinary classes will take place at the **Keene State College lab kitchen** in Joslin.
- Our U.S. History Honors class and Calculus Honors class will be preparing for and taking the **AP U.S. History and AP Calculus AB** exams for the first time this year.
- Dr. Regney and Ms. Fletcher both have classes that are now approved for **Running Start**, a concurrent enrollment program available through the Community College System of NH that provides high school students with the opportunity to take college courses while also completing the requirements for high school graduation.

Another programmatic change that we are making for this year is to our music offerings. Next week, you will receive an email from me specifically outlining those changes and expectations. This is an exciting opportunity that I look forward to sharing!

We have had a few room changes and general improvements throughout the building over the summer. One significant change that we have made is with our custodial work. Taking good care of our building is of course a priority. It's important for the health and safety of our students and staff as well as for our facility sustainability for the future. For this reason, Mrs. Smith and Mr. Cardine have taken over the management of the cleaning and upkeep of our buildings. They have already done an incredible job over the summer, and I know will continue this into the school year! We also have plans for our students to start assisting in this important endeavor. More details on this to come.

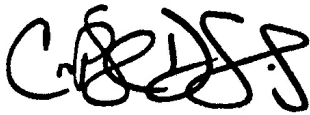
An issue that will impact our school community over the next few months is within our neighborhood. You may be aware or have seen that Keene State College (KSC) is in the process of demolishing three dorm buildings that are adjacent to our property. They have done a great job of keeping me informed of their demolition plans. One of the buildings closest to us is down, and the other buildings will be coming down in phases within the next few months. This work will continue to be loud with the demo, and the dump trucks coming and going. There is also a good bit of dust, depending on the direction of the wind. They have assured me that they are going to be making every effort to minimize the disruption. They have installed a fire hydrant in order to continuously spray down the debris to keep dust down. Also, all of

our classrooms are equipped with air purifiers, and those will be running always. Our parking lot will be tight for a while because we can not use the parking along the fence line at all. I will continue to keep everyone updated as things progress. We ask for your patience and understanding as we navigate this situation in partnership with KSC.

There is a lot of important information included below to help with your preparations for the coming school year. Please pay close attention to this and additional communications to come in the next few weeks as we get closer to Monday, August 28.

Enjoy these last weeks of the summer!

May Your Spirit Be Lifted,



Christopher Smith  
Principal

### **PSLAM 95:1-5**

Come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord; cry out to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with a song of praise, joyfully sing out our psalms. For the Lord is the great God, the great king over all gods, Whose hand holds the depths of the earth; who owns the tops of mountains. The sea and dry land belong to God, who made them, formed by his hands.

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

**Mon-Fri 8/21-8/25** – Faculty In-Service Days  
**Friday 8/25** – New Student Orientation – 8:45am-12noon  
**Monday 8/28** – **FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!**  
**Monday 9/4** – Labor Day – **NO SCHOOL**  
**Friday 9/8** – Back-to-School Picnic – 5:30-7:30pm  
**Thursday 9/14** – Back-to-School Night  
**Wednesday 9/20** – Advisory Board meeting – 6pm  
**Saturday 9/23** – Golf Tournament at Bretwood  
**Thursday 10/5** – Picture Day  
**Monday 10/9** – Columbus Day – **NO SCHOOL**

**[CLICK HERE for the 2023-2024 SCHOOL CALENDAR](#)**

### **SUMMER HOURS**

Continuing through August 18, our Summer Hours will be **Monday-Thursday, 9:00am-2:00pm at the SJRS Main Office**. During the week of August 21, the faculty/staff will be in special meetings, planning sessions, a spiritual retreat, and professional development. Everyone will be in the building (except for Monday, August 21, when we will all be in Concord for Diocesan meetings), but we will have very limited availability as final preparations are being made for school to begin.

### **2023-2024 OLMA HANDBOOK**

Please make certain to review the updated OLMA Handbook prior to the start of the school year. The handbook can be found on our website here:

**[https://www.mercyacademykeene.org/\\_files/ugd/60eb28\\_9db6d3e171e043459276ef6aec03750.pdf](https://www.mercyacademykeene.org/_files/ugd/60eb28_9db6d3e171e043459276ef6aec03750.pdf)**

## HOUSE SORTING QUESTIONNAIRE FOR NEW STUDENTS

NEW STUDENTS should please be sure to complete the below Google Form as soon as possible to help sort you into your House at the start of the school year!

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScbmIQTDWtr-G5QCTIKsWIEEgOQmNDNI3Vp7V7v7hcFwYn\\_Iw/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScbmIQTDWtr-G5QCTIKsWIEEgOQmNDNI3Vp7V7v7hcFwYn_Iw/viewform?usp=sf_link)

### NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

will take place on **Friday, August 25**, and is mandatory for all freshmen and new students. Students should arrive promptly by **8:45am** and enter through the main front door facing Main Street. We will be touring the building, reviewing policies, setting up school email accounts, rotating through schedules, choosing cubbies to be used throughout the year, and having some fun getting to know one another. Lunch will be provided. Students will be finished at **12:00noon**. Students are not required to be following the dress code for New Student Orientation.



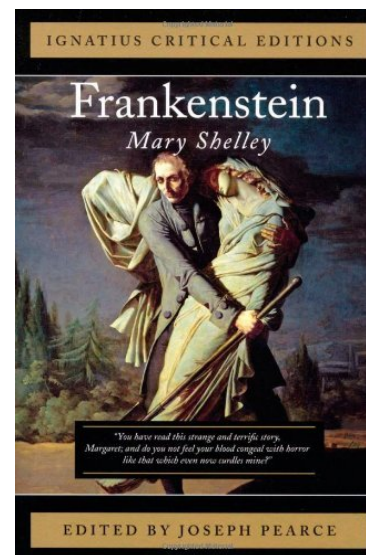
**\*\*\* Please note that students must bring their Chromebooks/laptops with them to New Student Orientation (to be used in setting up school email accounts).**

We are looking forward to a great morning!

### SUMMER READING

Our all-school read for this summer is *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley. The Ignatius Critical Editions edited by Joseph Pearce is the recommended edition. But this is only recommended and not a necessity. It is the same text in every edition. Reading must be completed by students in all grades by the first day of school

You may purchase the book locally at The Toadstool Bookshop or **CLICK HERE to purchase online from Amazon.**



### PARKING PERMITS

Students who hold a valid New Hampshire driver's license may apply for a parking permit. Students who are granted parking privileges will be charged a \$25 annual fee to help defer the cost of parking lot maintenance. Passes are not prorated. They must be purchased at the Main Office at full price at any point during the school year. **The Parking Permit Application can be found on our website HERE.**

### CELL PHONE POLICY

OLMA's cell phone policy is guided by the principle of being present. Students are

expected to actively engage with their teachers and other students. The school recognizes the convenience, educational, logistical and safety advantages of cell phones, iPods, smart watches, etc. A student may have these electronic devices at school, but use will be limited to before school, after school, passing periods and during lunch. **Use of such devices during class time is prohibited**, unless directed by a teacher for legitimate educational purposes. **Students will be directed to turn off/silence cell phones/smart watches at the beginning of class and store them in the provided storage compartments located in each classroom.** Students may retrieve their phones/smart watches at the end of the class period. Continued violation of this rule may result in confiscation of the device and/or other corrective action. The school reserves the right to examine any such confiscated device, and when appropriate, a student may be held accountable for violations of this behavior policy. If a student's cell phone/smart watch is confiscated, a parent must pick up the device from the office. Students are responsible for notifying their parents if their device has been taken. In general, we encourage parents/guardians to try to limit contact with their student directly on his/her cell phone or other communication device during the school day.

## **DRESS CODE**

Since the educational process is a formal endeavor, OLMA has a student dress code. This dress code supports the attitude of respect we have for one another. Cleanliness, neatness, sensibility, and safety (in the case of shoes), while maintaining comfort, guide the choices of the dress code.

**On Wednesdays, Our Lady of Mercy Academy attends Mass; these days will be “dress up” days.** The expectation on Wednesdays is that students should be dressed significantly nicer and be more “put together” than on other school days. Students may choose from a buttoned down, collared shirt (tucked in) with tie, dress pants, and a belt; dress pants (with a belt as needed) and a blouse, a dress, or blouse and skirt that reaches the tips of fingers when hands are held naturally at the side of the body. Shoes must be clean and in good condition.

For the remainder of the week, students may wear casual pants, jeans (with minimal distressing, but no holes), or athletic wear. Track/soccer pants and yoga pants (with pockets and thicker material) are permissible. No offensive, inflammatory or political language/messaging on clothing will be permitted. No plunging necklines. No exposed midriffs or spaghetti straps. Tank tops may be worn for PE classes, but straps must be a minimum of two inches wide. Midriffs must remain covered when arms are lifted above the head. All dresses, skirts, and shorts must reach the tips of fingers when hands are held naturally at the side of the body. Hoods on hoodies must be worn down during class time. No hats or beanies are to be worn during class time. Hair must be worn out of the student's face. No flip flops or slides.

Students arriving to school not appropriately attired will be given the option of borrowing clothing from our lending closet or calling home for their parents/guardians to deliver appropriate clothing. The dress code is open to administrative interpretation.

## **ATTENDANCE/TARDY POLICY**

Students are expected to arrive at Our Lady of Mercy Academy **by 8:00am**, which is the warning bell for the start of homeroom. A student is considered tardy when they are not in their homeroom (first block) by 8:05am. If your student is going to be late for school, please send an email to **attendance@mercyacademykeene.org** or place a phone call to the Main Office, with a valid reason by 8:30am. Excused absence/tardy include illness, medical/dental appointments, and death in the family. All other reasons are unexcused. Determinations of excused/unexcused absence/tardy will be made by the administration. Habitual tardiness will be dealt with on an individual basis.

For blocks 2, 3, and 4 during the school day, students are expected to be in their classrooms when the bell rings to mark the start of the class period. If they are not present when the bell rings, tardy slips will be given. The third tardy slip will result in a lunchtime detention.

OLMA requires all students enrolled at the school, including students eighteen (18) years or older, to attend classes each day that school is in session.

**Regular ON TIME attendance is essential to the academic process, to achieving the maximum benefit from Mercy Academy's education programs, and to preparing students for success beyond high school.**

## **GET YOUR GEAR FOR BACK TO SCHOOL!**

Our online stores through Bulldog Design in Keene are open to help you get ready for back-to-school! All orders are produced on demand as they come in. Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery, so order soon! These stores also serve as fundraisers for SJRS and OLMA, so a portion of the sales come back to our schools.

<https://sjrsapparel.itemorder.com/shop/home/>  
<https://mercyacademy.itemorder.com/shop/sale/>



## **HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS OPPORTUNITIES**

Many Mercy Academy students are active participants on public school sports teams throughout the Monadnock Region. Tryouts for fall sports are happening now! If you are interested in participating in NHIAA public school athletics (which all private school students are permitted to do), please contact the SAU associated with the town in which you reside. **More information can be found on our website [HERE](#).**

## **OUR COMMUNICATIONS PROCESS**

As we get started for the year, we thought it would be helpful to clarify who to go to when various issues arise, as they oftentimes will. The very best way of initiating communication with any faculty or staff member is via email. On our websites, there are complete lists of all email addresses. You will receive a response within 24 hours. You may then set up a phone call or a meeting.

If you have an issue or concern about your child (academic or social), you should communicate, in this order, with:

- 1. Your child's teacher** -- After speaking with your child's teacher, if you feel that you would like to have additional discussions, you should then go to...
- 2. Dean of Students** -- The Dean of Students for OLMA is Liberty Ebright. After speaking with the Dean of Students, if you feel that you would like to have a further conversation, you should then go to...
- 3. Principal**

To be clear, Mr. Smith's door is absolutely always open, and he is happy to meet with parents on any issue whatsoever anytime. By laying out the above plan, the hope is simply to help everyone get the information that they need and resolve issues in as timely a manner as possible.

## **50/50 RAFFLE COMING SOON**

This fall we will once again be having our annual 50/50 raffle! Each student will receive an allotment of 10 tickets. All families will be

responsible for either selling their allotted tickets OR they may purchase the tickets themselves. Keep an eye out for more details and your tickets coming to you on the Back-to-School Nights! If you have questions, please contact Jen Marshall ([jmarshall@stjosephkeene.org](mailto:jmarshall@stjosephkeene.org)).



## OUR 2023-2024 FACULTY/STAFF

Below are the faculty/staff listings for SJRS and OLMA for the 2023-2024 school year!

### SJRS

Preschool -- Michelle Smith, Tracy Young; Preschool Aide -- Marisol Zilske  
Kindergarten -- Rachel Reekie  
Grade 1 -- Nicole Ouellette  
Grade 2 -- Stephanie Johnson  
Grade 3 -- Justina McGuire  
Grade 4 -- Bridget Lundin  
Grades K-5 Religion -- Mary Grace Nelligan  
Elementary French -- Julia Dutton  
Elementary Art and Library -- Katrina Daugherty  
Elementary Aides -- Mikayla Bruce, Katrina Daugherty, Natalie Davidson, Jillian McDonnell, Marianne Mederos, Eve Smith  
Elementary Reading Specialist -- Ann Skidds  
Elementary Physical Education/Grades 5-7 Math -- Ali Wilson  
Grades 7-8 Math -- Bernadette Kuhn  
Grades 5 English/Literature -- Sue Foder  
Grade 6 English/Literature -- Megan Amundson  
Grade 7 English/Literature -- Rebecca Bezio  
Grade 8 English/Literature -- Rebecca Bezio, Christopher Smith  
Grades 5-8 Social Studies -- Sue Foder  
Grades 5-8 Science -- Wendy Petschik  
Grades 6, 8 Religion -- Cathy Hart  
Grade 7 Religion -- Megan Amundson  
Grades 5-8 French -- Emily Winterbottom  
Grades 7-8 Spanish -- Isabel Hernando Cabrera  
Middle School Art -- Molly Fletcher  
Physical Education/Health -- Cathy Hart  
Elementary Music/Middle School Band -- Bob Thies  
Middle School Chorus -- Danielle Heeran  
**Faculty Leads**  
Middle School/Specials Lead -- Sue Foder  
Preschool-Grade 3 Lead -- Rachel Reekie

### OLMA

Art -- Molly Fletcher  
Campus Ministry, Theology, Psychology -- Anthony Sully  
Chorus -- Danielle Heeran  
Computers/Technology -- Danielle Moylan  
Culinary Arts/French/English -- Avril Miller  
English -- Kristin Blais, Gabrielle Regney  
Ethics -- Anthony Sully, Christopher Smith  
French -- Sharon Wilson  
Health -- Cathy Hart  
Jazz Ensemble -- Bob Thies  
Mathematics -- Andy Cardine, Sara Mann  
Mercy Project/Community Service/Theology/Social Studies -- Anthony Toscano  
Instrumental Music -- Christian Raabe  
Science/Mathematics -- Abbey Hoye  
Social Studies -- John Rafail  
Spanish -- Isabel Hernando Cabrera

**Faculty Lead**  
Andy Cardine

**SJRS/OLMA Administration**

Principal -- Christopher Smith

OLMA Dean of Students -- Liberty Ebright

SJRS Dean of Students -- Rebecca Bezio

Project Manager/OLMA Founder -- Anthony Toscano

Director of Admissions -- Megan Amundson

Director of Advancement -- Jen Marshall

SJRS Executive Assistant/Financial Aid & Tuition Manager -- Kate Pratt

SJRS Office Assistant -- Ashley Brown

OLMA Office Assistant/Bookkeeper -- Allison Murray

Athletics Coordinator -- Ali Wilson

Special Education Case Manager -- Danielle Sanderson

Child Care Director -- Rachel Reekie

School Nurse -- Troy Chaput

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Join us to hit the beautiful fairways of Bretwood's North 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!

**7:00-8:30am** Registration, Driving Range, Putting Green, Breakfast. Raffle Tickets and Mulligans sales!  
**8:30am** Shotgun Start **Approx 1:00pm** BBQ Lunch and Awards

**Special Hole-in-One Contest with an AWESOME prize -- a trip to legendary Pebble Beach!** The trip includes two nights, three days at the Inn at Spanish Bay with rounds of golf for two at Pebble Beach, the Links at Spanish Bay and Spyglass, along with a \$1,000 airfare credit. PLUS three additional hole-in-one contests with great prizes, PLUS prizes for men's/women's closest to the pin and top finishing teams. AND a putting contest!

**\$125/player--\$500/foursome** **Early Bird discount -- \$100/player--\$400/foursome by registering by Friday, Aug 25!**  
**DEADLINE TO REGISTER -- SEPTEMBER 13!** **Online registration at [www.mercyacademykeene.org/golf](http://www.mercyacademykeene.org/golf)**

### INDIVIDUAL PLAYER/TEAM REGISTRATION

Participants are invited to register as a foursome or as individuals seeking to be assigned to a foursome. Please complete both pages of this form.

<b>Team 1 – Team Name or Business Name:</b>			
Player 1 Name:		Player 3 Name:	
Email:		Email:	
Player 2 Name:		Player 4 Name:	
Email:		Email:	

<b>Team 2 – Team Name or Business Name:</b>			
Player 1 Name:		Player 3 Name:	
Email:		Email:	
Player 2 Name:		Player 4 Name:	
Email:		Email:	

**Mail completed form/payment to:**  
**St. Joseph Regional School, ATTN: Golf, 92 Wilson St, Keene, NH 03431**  
 Questions? Jen Marshall: 603/352-2720 x504 or [jmarshall@stjosephkeene.org](mailto:jmarshall@stjosephkeene.org)



## SPONSOR/INDIVIDUAL PLAYER REGISTRATION

I will play in and/or sponsor the golf tournament as a (please check all that apply):			
<b>Gold Sponsors</b> Complimentary foursome, signage at registration, beverage cart, and BBQ; recognition during awards ceremony, on website and social media	\$1,000 <input type="checkbox"/>	Tee Box Sponsors (18 available) With signage on the tee	\$100 <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Silver Sponsors</b> Signage at registration, recognition during awards ceremony, on website and social media	\$750 <input type="checkbox"/>	Tee Box Sponsors with Foursome With signage on the tee (Discount of \$25)	\$575 <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Bronze Sponsors</b> Signage on beverage cart, recognition during awards ceremony, on website and social media	\$500 <input type="checkbox"/>	EARLY BIRD Individual Player (on/before Aug 25; discount of \$25)	\$100 <input type="checkbox"/>
Hole-In-One Sponsors (4 available)	\$300 <input type="checkbox"/>	REGULAR Individual Player (after Aug 25)	\$125 <input type="checkbox"/>
Driving Range Sponsors	\$200 <input type="checkbox"/>	Putting Contest Sponsors	\$250 <input type="checkbox"/>
Men's Closest to the Pin Sponsors	\$250 <input type="checkbox"/>	Women's Closest to the Pin Sponsors	\$250 <input type="checkbox"/>

## SPONSOR/INDIVIDUAL PLAYER PAYMENT

Company Name (as it should appear on signage, if applicable):			
Contact Name:		Mailing Address:	
Phone:		City:	
Email:		State:	
		Zip Code:	
Total Sponsor Fee:	\$ _____ (from above)	Payment Method:	<input type="checkbox"/> Check-payable to Our Lady of Mercy Academy <input type="checkbox"/> Visa/MasterCard/AMEX
EARLY BIRD (on/before Aug 25) Individual Player Fee(s):	\$100 each Quantity: _____	Name on Credit Card:	
REGULAR (after Aug 25) Individual Player Fee(s):	\$125 each Quantity: _____	Credit Card Number:	
		Expiration Date:	
<b>TOTAL PAYMENT AMOUNT:</b>	\$ _____	CVV/CVC (from back of card):	
		Signature:	

Mail completed form/payment to:  
 St. Joseph Regional School, ATTN: Golf, 92 Wilson St, Keene, NH 03431  
 Questions? Jen Marshall: 603/352-2720 x504 or jmarshall@stjosephkeene.org



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

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

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Sent by csmith@stjosephkeene.org

