



Saint Joseph Regional School Our Lady of Mercy Academy



April 11, 2024

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

Greetings OLMA Families, Faculty, and Staff:

Happy Easter to all! I hope that everyone had a blessed and beautiful time with family.

We are now beginning to enter into an exciting time of year with lots going on. There are many field trips and academic projects on the calendar, and graduation planning is underway for BOTH schools. I strongly urge you to be sure to **please promptly read all communications** that you receive from me or any of the faculty members or administrators so you stay informed about everything that is happening.

Our **Spring Craft Fair** is coming up exactly one month from today -- May 11. We are really thrilled to see the growth of the craft fair each year. But this also means that we need lots of help to manage the event. If you can help out, even for just an hour or two, it would be appreciated. Please see below for details.

A reminder that TOMORROW (Friday, April 12) will be a HALF DAY. Dismissal will begin at 11:45am, and there will be no Child Care available.

May Your Spirit Be Lifted,

Christopher Smith
Principal

1 PETER 1:3-5

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy gave us a new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you who by the power of God are safeguarded through faith, to a salvation that is ready to be revealed in the final time.

IMPORTANT DATES

Fri 4/12 -- Faculty In-Service -- HALF DAY

Wed 4/17 -- Retreat (seniors), community service (juniors), PSAT10 (sophomores)

Sat-Wed 4/20-24 -- Puerto Rico Trip

Mon-Fri 4/22-26 -- Spring Break -- **NO SCHOOL**

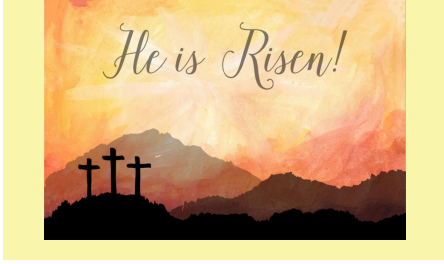
Tues 4/30 -- Awards and Recognition Ceremony -
- 6pm -- Heberton Hall

Wed 5/1 -- Come and See: Vocations Day (see details below)

Sat 5/4 -- Drama Club production -- 1pm/7pm -- Heberton Hall

Sat 5/11 -- Spring Craft Fair (see details below)

Sat 5/11 -- Prom (see details below)



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



Prom tickets are on sale in the Main Office! Tickets are \$45 for one and \$80 for two.

STUDENT-ATHLETE FEATURE

Senior James Crisman

James started participating in Track & Field during his sophomore year. He originally got interested from hearing a family friend talk about it. He has now competed for three years for the KHS Track & Field Team. This year his events are the 110 meter hurdles, the 300m hurdles, the javelin, and the 4X400 meter relay. **GOOD LUCK this season James!**



PLANNING FOR OUR SPRING CRAFT FAIR

We need your help for our Spring Craft Fair on May 11! Our craft fair is growing each year with more than 80 vendors joining us this year! We're looking forward to a great day!

VOLUNTEERS are needed to work the bake sale and food booths on the day of

the event. You do not need to work for the entire day -- just a few hours would be a huge help!

BAKED GOODS are needed for our bake sale booth. Baked goods can be brought to school the day before (Friday, May 10) or on the morning of the craft fair (Saturday, May 11).

If you can help with any of the above, please email Jen Marshall (jmarshall@stjosephkeene.org). If you can volunteer, please indicate the time of day when you are available. **THANK YOU!**

PEER TUTORING

We have a new Mercy resource: Peer Tutoring! Offered by your friends in the National Honor Society. Available during lunch/flex, in room 37. All subjects. Assignments, Projects, studying for quizzes and tests. If it's anything other than general studying, *please make sure to bring the assignment directions/requirements with you.*

Collaborative learning is deep learning. And fun!



Scenes from the Red Cross First Aid/CPR/AED (adult and pediatric) course in late March!



Our **Good Samaritan Award** honorees for the third quarter are Allie Burgess (Grade 11) and Caden Nicholas (Grade 12)!

Our Good Samaritan Award recognizes creativity, honesty, helpfulness, perseverance, kindness, respect, courtesy, altruism, and empathy.

CONGRATULATIONS Allie and Caden!

CONGRATULATIONS to all students who made the Honor Roll for the 3rd quarter! Unweighted grades are used for determining Honor Roll for each quarter report card.



FIRST HONORS

Students with 95 (A) average or better and no grades lower than 92 (A-).

GRADE 9

Jillian Boulay
Madyson Brown
Colleen Nelligan
Shannon Nelligan
Belen Vicente-DiGiovanni

GRADE 10

Liam Crisman
Dean Kangas
Andreea Rusu
Elio Saba
Ethan Young

GRADE 11

Morgan Murray
Francis Cardine

GRADE 12

James Crisman
Caden Nicholas
Tessa Pearson

SECOND HONORS

Students with 92 (A-) average or better and no grades lower than 89 (B+).

GRADE 9

Leo McClarnon
TJ Nagle

GRADE 10

Atticus Eden
Sully Murray
Kyle Paolino
Torin Regney
Alyvia Singleton

GRADE 11

Allie Burgess
Gracein Jasmin
Elice Sodders

GRADE 12

Ethan Lewis
Brooke Muchmore
Christian Swingle



**Come and See
Vocations Day!**

May 1st~ Feast of St Joseph

We have invited Religious priests and sisters from 4 different orders to

come share with us about their communities and their vocation stories. It will be a day for all our students and faculty to experience the "Fullness of life in Christ". Families are invited to join us for Mass at 9:30 and presentations at 1:00 followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at 2:00.

The **Mercy Project** classes at Mercy Academy have some great activities and projects planned for this semester! The Mercy Project is our interpretation of a community service-based course in which students play active roles in both our immediate and extended neighborhoods. The course puts Mercy



Academy's mission into action. It calls on students to be informed of the world immediately around them and beyond, and the needs of the greater community. The goal is for students to be motivated and inspired to share their gifts and knowledge to have an impact on others, and to grow as compassionate, active citizens.

Providing connections to food, housing, and job aid to those who need it in the City of Keene.

The **Keene Connect Hub** will be a kiosk available at 4 different locales and will provide connections to housing, food, and job aid to those in the community who are housing or food insecure. The way the kiosk works is by accessing a website with no other access to the internet. It allows people to gain access to information on services such as food and housing assistance as well as job aid. And it provides information on the locations of those services in the region.

To donate:

<https://www.mercyacademykeene.org/keene-connect-hub>



The Parish of the Holy Spirit joyfully welcomed Amanda Alvarez Cruz, Anthony Baker (OLMA '24), Justin Wright (SJRS parent), Marisol Zilske (SJRS preschool assistant/OLMA '23), and Rebecca Bezio (SJRS Dean of Students/faculty/SJRS parent) who became full members of the Catholic Church by the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist during last weekend's Easter Vigil celebration. William Baker (SJRS/OLMA parent) and Ashley Brown (SJRS admin assistant, SJRS/OLMA parent), who were previously baptized Catholics, completed their sacraments of initiation. **CONGRATULATIONS to all!**



At our **Holy Thursday service**, Father Alan washed the feet of students, just as Jesus washed the feet of his disciples.





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Questions? Reach out to Mrs. Moylan, Yearbook Advisor: dmoylan@mercyacademykeene.org

2024-2025 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION

As we continue preparations for the 2024-25 school year, please carefully review all of the financial assistance information below. For those interested in any 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.
2. Submit application for NH Education Tax Credit Scholarship (for students entering Kindergarten or Grade 1, or new students in grades 2-12 transferring from a public school).
3. For all Catholic families, contact the Parish of the Holy Spirit for support from the parish tuition assistance fund.
4. Submit FACTS application to be eligible for the Lamothe Adopt-a-Student Fund, Nielsen Scholarship Fund, and the Winnie Morenz Scholarship.

EDUCATION FREEDOM ACCOUNTS

The application is open for 2024-2025 for NH Education Freedom Accounts. You can direct all or part of your child's state education funding to pay for tuition at SJRS/OLMA .

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.

***PLEASE NOTE: The NH State legislature is currently considering a bill that would expand the eligibility for EFAs to families at or below **500% of the federal poverty level** . They will vote on that in May. For example, 500% for a family of four is \$156,000/year. You are strongly encouraged to apply for the EFA program NOW if your family would be at or below 500%. For questions about this, please contact Jen Marshall (jmarshall@stjosephkeene.org).

CLICK HERE for details and to apply for the EFA program.

For those families who currently receive EFA funds for this school year, you have been notified that you must annually submit a Record of Educational Attainment for your child. **Please see THIS DOCUMENT that shows the acceptable forms of educational attainment records.**

***PLEASE NOTE: New this year is that you may now simply submit your child's REPORT CARD, but you must use the report card that includes the 3rd quarter or later.

EDUCATION TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS

The application is open for 2024-2025 for NH Education Tax Credit Scholarships.

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

CLICK HERE for details and to apply for the ETC scholarships.

Both of the EFA and ETC 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.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM PARISH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

For all Catholic families, Father Alan has created a scholarship fund for parishioners of the Parish of the Holy Spirit. **CLICK HERE for the letter with details and an application.** If you have questions, please contact the Parish Office directly at 603-352-3525 or holyspirit.peace@gmail.com. **The deadline to submit the application is May 1.**

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, and the Winnie Morenz Scholarship). You must complete the FACTS application, and your eligibility will be reviewed. **CLICK HERE to complete the FACTS application.**

350% of 2023 Federal Poverty Level Guidelines	
Family Size	Annual Income Limit
2	\$69,020
3	\$87,010
4	\$105,000
5	\$122,990
6	\$140,980
7	\$158,970
8	\$176,960
<i>For each additional person, add \$17,990</i>	



RAISING FUNDS FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE.



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Look for the shelf tag on more than 1,500 participating products that will help earn money for your school.



CHECK OUT

Get 3 School Dollars for every 4 participating products you purchase.



DONATE TO YOUR SCHOOL

Deposit your School Dollars in the collection tower at your store, or donate online to any participating school of your choice.

Newsletters from previous weeks can be found on our website here:

<https://www.mercyacademykeene.org/news>



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