



Saint Joseph Regional School Our Lady of Mercy Academy



May 22, 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,

At the final Home and School meeting, Shalimar Encarnacion, the Outreach Coordinator for the New Hampshire Children's Scholarship Fund, gave a presentation to parents about the EFA program. Many of our families participate already, and Shalimar encouraged all parents to look into the possibility of accessing state funds to assist with school fees and expenses. In the next few days, we will upload the presentation onto our websites so that parents may review this information and have the necessary information in order to apply.

Results from the parent survey for March were shared as well. We had about 77 responses, with some of the open-ended questions receiving slightly fewer answers.

In the Academic Program, parents asked for:

- clearer expectations for student work
- more communication from teachers

In School Communications, parents asked for:

- more communication from teachers
- improved personal communication with the principal

In Student Programs, parents asked for:

- sufficient extracurricular offerings
- more sports and athletic offerings
- appropriate before and after school programs
- sufficient arts programming

Sample responses of support and for recommending our schools were:

- it's a great community
- students feel that they belong
- the level of student preparedness is excellent
- the schools impart traditional education and values
- the focus on religion is good

Samples of concerns for not recommending our schools were:

- administrative and staff changes
- poor communication of staff changes
- the need for more community building between the 2 schools
- the need for more arts and 21st century skills learning
- the focus on religion is too great

When asked what our schools do well, parents said:

- the academic program
- the personal responsibility that students are taught
- the good student-to-student friendships
- the feeling of safety students among students
- how the schools incorporate faith into all subjects and into everyday life

When asked what our schools could do better, parents said:

- more communication
- more community building between the 2 schools, including more night time activities for them
- better outdoor facilities
- regarding financial issues, less information but more assurances that the schools are fine

When asked to name single improvement the schools should do immediately, parents said:

- more extracurricular programs
- more writing and project-based assessments
- improvement of grass, playground, outdoor areas
- additional security measures

This is just a start for hearing in the survey format from parents. As we discussed at the meeting, the next time, we should have a separate survey per school in order to delineate the responses more clearly. The Home and School meetings will continue to be a way for parents to both voice their support and their concerns as we all work together as a team to provide the best possible education and programs for our students. It was also mentioned that parents having an interest in running or assisting with any after school activity should let me know so that we can utilize the special skills of the adults in our community. (Note: Rick Cavallero, from our School Advisory Board, will be sharing some Dads Club news in the newsletter soon.)

Thank you to all the parents who participated in the survey. You are helping us to make SJRS and OLMA responsive to your needs and better schools in the end.

A big logistics reminder: As part of the Diocesan Eucharistic Pilgrimage that arrives at SJRS and OLMA and the Parish of the Holy Spirit on Tuesday, May 27 at 9:00 am, we will need to have a different drop-off traffic pattern. Cars will need to enter the parking lot from Wilson Street and exit onto Main Street, using the route nearest to the dumpster. All other entry ways will be blocked off. Parents will receive a text alert on Tuesday morning to remind them of this. Thank you in advance for your cooperation as our schools participate in the Pilgrimage and receive the blessing of this visit from Christ, our Risen Lord. All families are most welcome to join us for this wonderful event.

In His service,
Miss Victoria Farrington

JOHN 15:4-5

Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me.

I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing.

IMPORTANT DATES

Mon 5/26 -- Memorial Day -- NO SCHOOL

Tues 5/27 -- Diocesan Eucharistic Procession -- 9-10:30am (details below)

Wed 5/28 -- No All-school Mass

Thurs 5/29 -- All-school Mass -- 9:30am -- Ascension

Thurs 5/29 -- Spring Arts Showcase -- 5:30pm -- (Thorne-Sagendorph Art Gallery at KSC)

Tues 6/3 -- OLMA Awards and Recognition Night -- 6pm (SJRS Gymnasium)

Wed 6/4 -- No All-school Mass

Thurs 6/5 -- SJRS grade Baccalaureate Mass -- 9:30am

Fri 6/6 -- HALF DAY for 9th-11th graders (11am dismissal) Full day for 12th graders (mini-retreat, lunch, baccalaureate/graduation rehearsals)

Sun 6/8 -- OLMA Baccalaureate Mass 2pm (St. Bernard's Church), Graduation 3:30pm (Alumni Recital Hall at KSC Redfern Arts Center)

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

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.



GOT OLMA STUFF?

Students and parents, please take a look around at home for anything school related -- for example...books, textbooks, Chromebooks, laptops, calculators, neckties/belts from the lending closet, or other types of equipment -- that may have been borrowed over the course of this school year (or even during a prior year!). No questions asked, please just bring the items in so we can restock our supplies. Thank you for your help!



**BISHOP LIBASCI INVITES ALL THE CATHOLIC FAITHFUL
TO PARTICIPATE IN A SPECIAL
JUBILEE YEAR 2025 NEW HAMPSHIRE
EUCCHARISTIC PILGRIMAGE!**

**Tuesday, May 27
9:00AM - 10:30AM**

- 9AM Diocesan Pilgrims of Hope will pass the Blessed Sacrament to Fr. Peter in the Mary Garden
- Opening prayer with parishioners
- Procession of the Blessed Sacrament
- Attendees process entering the front of the Church
- Adoration with music from a special choir of parishioners, teachers and students
- Confessions available with Franciscan Friars
- Short talk by the Daughters of Mary Mother of Healing Love
- Eucharistic blessing on all present
- Fr. Peter will pass the Blessed Sacrament back to the Pilgrims of Hope
- Dismissal at 10:30AM

All Parish of the Holy Spirit, Our Lady of Mercy & SJRS faculty, staff, students, and families are invited to attend!

The Knights of Columbus will help guide people to parking areas and procession routes.

There will be a temporary traffic pattern for the Church and Schools that morning. Davis Street will be blocked off to traffic. Please enter from Wilson Street and exit onto Main Street to the right of the Church.

Please pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit to bring hope and unity to our Parish and School community.

We entrust this event to Blessed Carlo Acutis to intercede for us. We hope that you will join us as we celebrate the gift of Christ's presence among us!



SCENES FROM PROM 2025 -- SAIL INTO THE SUNSET





On Tuesday, **OLMA junior and Eagle Scout Kyle Paolino** assisted the Knights of Columbus in the SJRS flag retirement ceremony as we replaced our school flag!

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	



There was a special celebration this week in Mrs. Hoye's Chemistry class with all things mole related! Celebrated annually, **Mole Day** commemorates Avogadro's Number (6.02×10^{23}), which is a basic measuring unit in chemistry. Schools around the world celebrate Mole Day with activities related to chemistry and/or moles to foster interest in science!





ST. JOSEPH REGIONAL SCHOOL

2025-2026

ADMISSIONS

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603/352-2720

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Contact us: admissions@stjosephkeene.org

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NOW OPEN!

2025-2026

OUR LADY OF MERCY ACADEMY

Admissions

GRADES 9-12

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OUR LADY OF MERCY ACADEMY

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

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Schools

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.mercyacademykeene.org/news>



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

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