



# Saint Joseph Regional School Our Lady of Mercy Academy



October 5, 2023

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

Greetings OLMA Families, Faculty, and Staff:

We had a great picture day today! It's always a challenge as we interrupt classes throughout the day to make sure to get everyone's individual photos as well as class photos, but I think we managed to get everyone. I want to thank our faculty members for their help and patience throughout the day!



We are excited that we are now in the process of starting our chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS)! Our NHS Faculty Council officially met for the first time this week and details are below for the students to begin considering their applications.

I had a great time playing golf (for the first time ever!) at our outing a few weeks ago. It was fun to see everyone at Bretwood, and it was particularly great to visit with Sister Laura Della Santa, our former SJRS principal, who played with us! We're looking forward to continuing to grow this annual event. Thank you again to all of our sponsors, particularly those within our own school community!

At this point, hopefully everyone has their FACTS account set up and understands how our billing is going to operate going forward. Thank you for your attention and patience through this process. This has been a very important transition for us. We are now using FACTS for tuition, Child Care, lunches, field trips, and any other billing that we do. I know that it's a significant adjustment for everyone, but it will make all of our various invoicing and payment tracking considerably clearer. A huge thank you to Kate at SJRS as she has been working hard to get everyone set in FACTS. If you have any questions about your account, please do not hesitate to reach out to Kate.

**A reminder that there is NO SCHOOL on Monday of next week, October 9.** Enjoy the long weekend!

May Your Spirit Be Lifted,

Christopher Smith  
Principal

## 1 JOHN 4:16

We have come to know  
and to believe in the

## IMPORTANT DATES

**Monday 10/9 – NO SCHOOL**

**Wednesday 10/11 – School Mass – 9:30am**

love God has for us.  
God is love, and  
whoever remains in love  
remains in God and God  
in him.

**Wednesday 10/11** – Financial Aid 101 Zoom  
presentation by **NHHEAF** – 6:30-7:30pm  
**Thursday 10/12**– Ashuelot Concerts performance –  
11:00am  
**Wednesday 10/18** – Pumpkin Picnic – 5:30-  
7:30pm  
**Tuesday 10/24** – End of 1st Quarter  
**Wednesday 10/25** – College visit: Saint Michael's  
College  
**Monday 11/6** – College visit: Saint Anselm College  
**Thursday 11/9** – **HALF DAY**  
**Friday 11/10** – **NO SCHOOL**

**CLICK HERE** for the **2023-2024 SCHOOL  
CALENDAR**



**Pumpkin Picnic**  
**Wednesday, October 18**  
**5:30-7:30pm**  
Pumpkin carving, hot dogs, and more!

### **COLLEGE VISITS**

Admissions counselors from the following schools will be visiting OLMA. The visits will take place during lunch/flextime. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Dean of Students, Liberty Ebright ([lebright@mercyacademykeene.org](mailto:lebright@mercyacademykeene.org)).

#### **Wednesday, October 25**

**Saint Michael's College** (St. Mikes or Saint Michael's) is a private Roman Catholic college in Colchester, Vermont. Saint Michael's was founded in 1904 by the Society of Saint Edmund. It grants Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees in more than 40 majors to about 1,200 undergraduate students.



**Monday, November 6**

**Saint Anselm College** is a private Benedictine liberal arts college in Goffstown, New Hampshire. Founded in 1888, it is the third oldest Catholic College in New England. It is ranked as a Top 100 Liberal Arts Colleges by *Forbes* and *Princeton Review* ranks it #24 most engaged in community service.



The sophomores had a fantastic day at the Keene State College Camp for their retreat on Wednesday, led by our Campus Minister Anthony Sully!



### **IMMUNIZATION RECORDS NEEDED**

A copy of the most recent immunization records are needed from **ALL new students** to OLMA. You may have your physician's office fax them to OLMA at 603/358-5465. OR you may email a copy to Allison Murray in the Main Office ([amurray@mercyacademykeene.org](mailto:amurray@mercyacademykeene.org)) or drop off a hard copy to the Main Office. If there is a religious exemption, you may request the form from Allison for your doctor to complete and return back to us. If you have any questions, please reach out to Allison. THANK YOU!

## 2023-2024 SCHOOL LEADERSHIP



On Tuesday, everyone listened to the Student Council officer candidates' speeches, and then voted. Our officers for this year are:

**President:** Caden Nicholas

**Vice President:** Francis Cardine

**Secretary:** Emma Schriver

**Treasurer:** Ethan Young



Today each of the Houses voted for their House leadership for this school year. The House leadership for 2023-2024 is:

### **Aquinas**

Head of House: Gracein Jasmin

Assistant to the Head of House: Andreea Rusu

### **Drogo**

Head of House: Tessa Pearson

Lord of the Ug's: Morgan Murray

### **Josephine**

Head of House: Greta Fenn

Assistant Head of House: Isaac Swingle

### **Ursula**

Head of House: James Crisman

Assistant Head of House: Ana Maria Swingle

**NHHEAF PRESENTATION**

**Wednesday, October 11, 6:30pm**

**Financial Aid 101** for high school seniors and parents/guardians

Zoom presentation by Moira Valenti with **New Hampshire Higher Education Foundation** (NHHEAF)

This presentation helps families navigate through the federal financial aid process (FAFSA), explores what type of additional aid is available, reviews scholarship searches, and highlights the importance of meeting deadlines. Attendees will receive a digital copy of NHHEAF's Financial Aid Insider. Contact Liberty Ebright for more information.

### **NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY**

We are excited to be starting our chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS) this fall. **An invitation to apply to NHS will go out to all 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students who are academically eligible (currently have an unweighted GPA of 3.70 or higher) on Wednesday, October 18th.** Applications will be available on the school website and will be evaluated by the NHS faculty council using the four pillars of the National Honor Society: Character, Leadership, Scholarship and Service.



### **STUDENT-ATHLETE FEATURE FRESHMAN SOREN WIEDERSPAHN**

Soren has been a cross-country runner for several years, and was a top runner in the New England Thetford - Woods-trail Vermont run in 2022 coming in 10th overall in his division. This year he has been invited to run on the Keene High School Varsity Team, and as a Freshman is already ranked 5th on the team. He recently came in 2nd at the Amherst Cross Country Invitational of New England for Freshmen with a time of 17.54 minutes for the 5K. He looks forward to running more for KHS, and being an OLMA student-athlete represented on the team! **GOOD LUCK SOREN!**



### **DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER CATHOLIC SCHOOLS STATEMENT ON PARENTAL PARTNERSHIP IN EDUCATION**

Parents are the primary educators of their children; this is an essential tenet of the Catholic faith.

We, the teachers and administrators of the Diocese of Manchester, consider it our privilege to work alongside you in the education and formation of our Catholic school students.

When you choose to partner with our Catholic schools, we both commit to a collaboration of effort and good will, opening the door to a world of goodness, truth and beauty. Your child will experience the transformative effect of God's love in his or her life and you will be amazed at the ways it touches others, both in and outside of school

**[CLICK HERE](#) to continue reading the full statement on the OLMA website...**





The freshmen and the seniors participated in community service projects yesterday, led by Anthony Toscano. The seniors helped out at the Monadnock Humane Society by cleaning out a garage (and later got to visit with a few kittens!). The freshmen helped to clean up garbage at Ashuelot River Park.





### 50/50 RAFFLE TICKET UPDATE

Once your tickets are sold, you may send the stubs/money back into school at any time. They can be given to your student's homeroom teacher or directly to Kate or Ashley in the Main Office. THANK YOU to all those who have turned their tickets in already!

If you have any questions or need additional tickets, please contact Jen Marshall ([jmarshall@stjosephkeene.org](mailto:jmarshall@stjosephkeene.org)).







Everyone has a great time at our golf outing on September 23 at Bretwood. Mercy students James and Liam Crisman, and Brady Willbarger were included among the golfers!

Newsletters from previous weeks can be found on our website here:  
<https://www.mercyacademykeene.org/news>



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