

# Saint Joseph Regional School Our Lady of Mercy Academy February 17, 2022



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

Dear OLMA Families,

By now everyone should have received my email about moving to the **mask-optional policy** starting after the break. If you have not read that email in its entirety, I encourage you to do so. It is important that we all continue to work together as we move into this new phase. If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to me. Thus far, the feedback that I have received has been entirely positive, so I am hopeful that this new policy will bring renewed hope and energy to our entire school community, especially for our all of our students.

And **re-enrollment** is in full swing! Ali has been working on distributing the re-enrollment gifts (OLMA water bottle and winter hat) to all those who have completed the process. The deadline to re-enroll is March 1. On March 2, the re-enrollment fee increases and I will start to look at filling open spaces with new students.

Have a wonderful, relaxing Winter Break next week!

May Your Spirit Be Lifted,

Christopher Smith  
Principal

### FROM SCHOOL COUNSELING

Juniors will be taking the SAT at OLMA on March 23. SAT prep is taking place currently during the school day. [Barron's](#) offers a great study guide as does Khan Academy! [Official SAT® Practice | Khan Academy](#)

The PSAT 10 will be offered at KHS on March 23 and at MRHS on March 24.

### YOUTH GROUP

The St. Bernard's Youth Group, led by our Campus Minister Chelsea Herman, will meet next on Sunday, February 27, at 4:00pm in the Parish Hall. They will be honoring St. Raymond Nonnatus! For details or questions, please contact Chelsea at [cherman@mercyacademykeene.org](mailto:cherman@mercyacademykeene.org). All high school students are welcome!

### 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

*Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.*

### IMPORTANT DATES

Friday 2/18 – Alpine Club at Crotched Mountain  
**Mon-Fri 2/21-2/25 – Winter Break – NO SCHOOL**  
Wednesday 3/2 – School Mass – 9:30am–Ash Wednesday  
Tuesday 3/1 – Sophomore/Junior Retreat Day  
Friday 3/18 – Faculty in-service – **NO SCHOOL**  
Wednesday 3/23 – SAT (Juniors)



Several of our 9<sup>th</sup> grade students have been recognized for their poetry writing by receiving **Scholastic Art & Writing Awards** through the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers. **CONGRATULATIONS** to (left to right above) Morgan Murray (Honorable Mention), Elice Soddors (Honorable Mention), Allie Burgess (Silver Key), Gracein Demers (Silver Key), and Francis Cardine (Honorable Mention—not pictured). Students' entries are blindly adjudicated by some of the foremost leaders in the literary arts. Jurors look for works that exemplify the Awards' core values: originality, technical skill, and the emergence of personal voice or vision.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL STUDENTS WHO MADE THE HONOR ROLL FOR THE 2nd QUARTER!**



**FIRST HONORS  
9th Grade**

Ethan Amundson  
Allison Burgess  
Francis Cardine  
Gracein Demers  
Morgan Murray  
Rosey Nelligan  
Elice Soddors  
Melkamu Visser

**SECOND HONORS  
9th Grade**

Taylor Johnson  
Beatrise Newborn

**10th Grade  
Sophia Fisher**

**10th Grade**

James Crisman  
Greta Fenn  
Brooke Muchmore  
Caden Nicholas  
Tessa Pearson  
Owen Sanderson  
Alexander Shield

**11th Grade**

Angel Mercado  
Sean Nelligan  
Fitsum Visser



**FROM CAMPUS MINISTRY**

January 30-February 4 brought loads of fun in our celebration of **Catholic Schools Week**! Each day we celebrated a blessing of our Catholic school from you, the families, to the students themselves as well as our faculty and staff. After briefly turning the building into a miniature golf course, the House of St. Josephine won our first ever miniature golf tournament in the school. As a school community, we came together in prayer, reflecting on the gift of the call that each of us has from God. Various teachers provided entertainment through an intense game of musical chairs. We thank you again, parents, for entrusting your children to us at Our Lady of Mercy Academy!

March 1 is the Sophomore/Junior Retreat day. This will occur all day during the school day. Sophomores and Juniors will not have regular classes so as to participate fully in their retreat.



### CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

February is **Black History Month**. Black History Month aims to amplify black voices. The words of leaders and visionaries who dedicated their lives to black empowerment and the fight for equality are worth repeating. These messages empower the oppressed, inspire future generations, and call on every member of society to treat all humans with fairness and dignity.

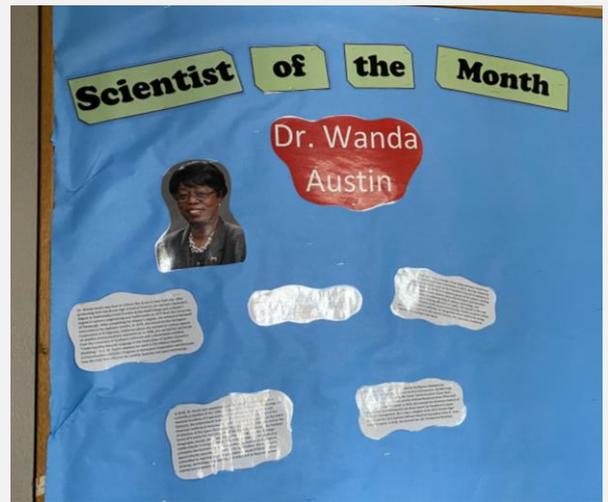
There are many ways that we are recognizing Black History Month within our school community. Each day during morning announcements, we share a quote from a prominent black leader, writer, philosopher, activist or public figure and a short biography.

Miss Fletcher's Art I students are learning about the art of Kara Walker, a contemporary visual artist who deals with black stereotypes and the oppression faced during slavery in the south. Because she tells a story with cut paper silhouettes, Art I students are making narrative cut paper pieces that all students of OLMA will be able to try to guess through a Google form at the end of the project. The winner for guessing the most historical events will get a prize!

In Catholicism classes with Mrs. Herman and Mr. Sully, they are highlighting the lives of some African saints, including Venerable Fr. Augustus Tolton, who was born into slavery, escaped to freedom, and later became a well-known Catholic priest.

In Mr. Rafail's Civics and Economics class, they have discussed Elizabeth Freeman, a slave whose lawsuit against her owner made her the first enslaved African American to be freed under the Massachusetts constitution of 1780. This ultimately led to the complete abolition of slavery in all of Massachusetts.

In Ms. Regney's Intro. to Literature class, they have recognized the poet Maya Angelou and the heroism of Harriett Tubman. They also dove into the setting and themes of the play *The Crucible* and the power structures of the time, including subjugation of, and demonization of slaves. In Honors U.S. Literature, they have discussed in depth the different versions and revisions/edits of the Declaration of Independence and how its writers and editors grappled with race, especially regarding the practice of slavery and regarding prejudices against, and genocide of, Native Americans. They discussed the differences between the founders' conceptions of "all men" and "Men" [capital "M"] and the editing out of ideals for the sake of political practicality. They have also read poems by several authors of color, including Claude McKay, Audre Lorde, Maya Angelou, Langston Hughes, Joy Harjo, and Amanda Gorman.



*The bulletin board outside Miss Hoye's classroom highlights a notable black scientist this month.*

Our first-ever **Winter Arts Showcase** in January at The Hive at the Hannah Grimes Center was a huge success! The students put a lot of work during the first semester into preparing their music performances and visual arts exhibit, and it showed. Great job everyone! This is a new tradition for us now. We will have a showcase like this at the end of each semester. In the Spring, we hope to have it outdoors at OLMA!



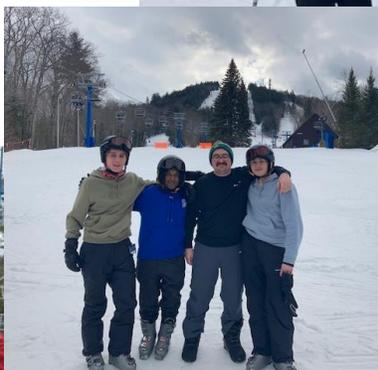
*Everyone had a great time at Pat's Peak to finish out Catholic Schools Week!*



Catholic Schools  
Faith. Excellence. Service.

**Catholic Schools  
Week 2022**  
January 30-February 5

[www.NCEA.org/csw](http://www.NCEA.org/csw) #CSW22





Collaborative, hands-on learning in science, technology, engineering and mathematics

## All day and residential programs will take place in-person on the UNH Durham campus!

UNH Tech Camp was founded more than a decade ago to inspire middle and high school students (grades 5 – 12) through collaborative, hands-on activities that bring science, technology, engineering and mathematics to life. Tech Camp is open to all levels of experience — an inquisitive mind and sense of adventure are all that are required to enroll!

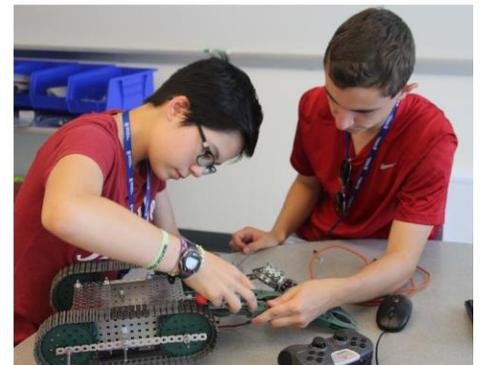
Offered through the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences, Tech Camp provides students with access to state-of-the-art facilities, advanced technology and award-winning faculty. Since its beginning, UNH Tech Camp has fostered a diverse and inclusive community, making STEM education available to all curious learners. Several programs this summer will be offered at no cost to participants; scholarship funding is available for all programs that require tuition.

During Tech Camp, a wide range of STEM subject areas are explored — from robotics and virtual reality to environmental science and mechanical engineering — through a dynamic, project-based learning format that emphasizes creative thinking and problem solving. This year's camp will also feature special projects focused on regenerative medicine and biotechnology.

### All required COVID-19 protocols will be followed.

Please visit [ceps.unh.edu/outreach/tech-camp](https://ceps.unh.edu/outreach/tech-camp) for more information.

Contact Dr. Carmela Amato-Wierda, Director of Tech Camp, at [ccaw@unh.edu](mailto:ccaw@unh.edu) with questions.



## Tech Camp Summer 2022 July 11 – 29

- One-week programs for TechSplorers (grades 5-8), TechVenturers (grades 7-10) and TechLeaders (grades 10-12); multiple sessions of each
- Special programs focused on regenerative medicine, biotechnology and transportation-related careers
- The Dinah Whipple STEAM Academy focused on pre-engineering and the Black experience

