



# Saint Joseph Regional School Our Lady of Mercy Academy

August 5, 2021 SUMMER NEWSLETTER



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

Dear OLMA Families,

I hope that you are all having a great summer! As August has arrived, it is time to begin to turn our attention to the start of the school year.

Along with this newsletter, please pay close attention to the updated **school calendar**. It is also available on the homepage of our website (<https://www.mercyacademykeene.org>) under Quick Links for Current Families.

Included within this newsletter is some information for this fall, but not quite everything yet. I will be sending along our specific COVID plans in a few weeks. The overall situation seems to be changing day-to-day, so we will hold off a little bit longer. Right now, our plan continues to be that **masks will be optional**, and we will socially distance students as much as possible. We will continue to follow the advisories from the Diocese of Manchester as well as any guidelines or mandates from the State of New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services and/or the City of Keene. More details to come.

Information regarding our school arrival and departure plans will also be coming to you soon. I will send those along when we get closer to the first day of school. Those plans will be different from last year.

NWEA standardized test results from our testing period in May are available at this time for you to obtain if you wish by contacting Allison ([amurray@mercyacademykeene.org](mailto:amurray@mercyacademykeene.org)).

**I want to cordially invite everyone to join us on Thursday, August 26, 5:30-7:30pm for the Grand Opening Celebration and Blessing at Our Lady of Mercy Academy. Although our school opened last fall, we did not get a chance at that time to have a formal grand opening. We hope that you can join us for the official ribbon cutting, refreshments, and tours of the school building!**

We have been hard at work with lots of renovations happening, and some staffing adjustments as well. We are excited for the changes and are really looking forward to the year getting off to a strong start.

Have a safe and healthy remainder of the summer! I will see you on August 30!

May Your Spirit Be Lifted,

Christopher Smith  
Principal



### OLMA Summer Hours until August 20

Tuesdays – Wednesdays – Thursdays  
10:00am-2:00pm

### IMPORTANT DATES

- Mon 8/23 - Fri 8/27 – Faculty in-service days
- Thursday 8/26 – Mercy Academy Grand Opening  
5:30-7:30pm
- Friday 8/27 – New Student Orientation – 8:00am- 12:00pm
- Monday 8/30 – FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**
- Monday 9/6 – Labor Day **NO SCHOOL**
- Friday 9/10 – Back-to-School Picnic (5:30-7:30pm)
- Thursday 9/16 – Back-to-School Night
- Monday 10/11 – Columbus Day **NO SCHOOL**
- Friday 10/15 – Golf Tournament at Bretwood
- Wednesday 10/20 – Fall Carnival

### Psalm 27:1

*The Lord is my light and my salvation— whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life— of whom shall I be afraid?*



**OUR LADY OF MERCY ACADEMY  
GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION AND BLESSING  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 26, 5:30-7:30PM**

Join us as we officially celebrate the opening of Our Lady of Mercy Academy. **All are invited!** We will recognize the individuals who were instrumental in founding our new high school, and share a joyous blessing for our students, faculty, and facility. Light refreshments will be served, and the school will be open for the first time for public tours. Although we opened our doors in the fall of 2020, we have been unable to properly mark the special occasion - until now!

**BINGO UPDATE**

We held bingo on Thursday, July 15, and had a huge, excited crowd join us! All of the regular bingo players were happy to see one another again. Because of COVID, we closed bingo back in February 2020, and had not hosted it at all since then. **A huge THANK YOU to Luke LaPlume and Mary Lynch for all of their work on bingo through the years!** Although we will continue not having bingo during the school year because of the logistical challenges, we are considering having summer bingo in the future for 8-10 weeks over the summer months only. We could even have it on two nights per week. This plan is only in the early stages of discussion right now. If we do decide to have summer bingo, we will need a small group of parents (10-12) who would be willing to help out on those nights. More to come!



**50/50 RAFFLE COMING SOON**

This fall we will be having a 50/50 raffle for which each student will receive an allotment of 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 this fall!

**ORIENTATION INFORMATION**

Date: Friday, August 27

Time – 8:00am -12:00noon

All **NEW** students are required to attend Orientation. When you arrive, please enter at the main front door of the school building (facing Main Street). Please bring with you an electronic device (Chromebook or laptop) to utilize while setting up school email accounts, Google classrooms, etc. Lunch will be provided!



**REMINDER:** The following is the Summer reading required of all students for the start of the school year:

*A Lesson Before Dying* by Ernest J. Gaines

**FACULTY UPDATE**

As is normal for this time of year, we have a few updates of our faculty for this coming school year.

**Señora Perez** and **Madame Glover** will not be returning this fall as they have both moved away from Keene with their families.

**Mr. Anthony Sully** has joined our staff, teaching French and Theology. Mr. Sully has moved to the area recently from California with his wife, who is working with Fr. Alan as the bookkeeper for the Parish of the Holy Spirit.

**Mr. John Rafail** has shifted to Mercy Academy from SJRS, where he has taught 3<sup>rd</sup> grade for the past six years. He will be teaching our Social Studies and Physical Education courses.

**Mrs. Kristen Blais** has also joined the Mercy Academy faculty. In the past, she has taught both Math and English at SJRS. She will be teaching English at Mercy this fall.

**Mr. Anthony Toscano** will be teaching the Mercy Project Leadership class for sophomores and juniors. **Mr. Christian Raabe** will be teaching our Technology course, the Mercy Project Service class for freshmen, and Intro to Film in addition to continuing to teach music, including our new jazz ensemble.

## LUNCHES

Pizza (Mondays/Fridays) and sandwiches/chips (Wednesdays) will begin the week of September 6. You may order via Renweb. Our hope is to offer hot lunch options on Tuesday and Thursday as well. More information to come.

## FALL SPORTS

**For any student-athletes playing sports with their local public school, please be sure to coordinate schedules with your teachers as soon as possible.**

### Mountain Biking Club

Start date: Thursday 9/9

Coaches: Deacon Ken Swymer, Matt Murray

Time: 3:00-4:00pm

Day: Every Thursday for approximately 8 weeks

Location: Meeting after school in the Masiello Room, then traveling off-campus to local trails via school van.

Students should have a bike and helmet.



### Soccer Skills and Drills

Start date: Tuesday 9/7

Coaches: Anthony Toscano

Time: 3:00-4:30pm

Day: Every Tuesday and Thursday for approximately 8 weeks

Location: Meeting after school in the Masiello Room, then walking to Carpenter Field

Students should bring comfortable clothing (weather appropriate), a water bottle, and shin guards. Cleats are optional.



### Tennis

Start date: TBD

Coach: Anna Domyancic Fox

Time: 3:00-4:15pm

Day: Mondays and Fridays for approximately 6 weeks

Location: TBD (KSC or alternative)

Students should bring comfortable clothing (weather appropriate), a water bottle, and sneakers. Racquets and balls will be provided.



## 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 2-3 weeks for delivery so order soon! These stores serve as fundraisers for SJRS and OLMA, so a portion of the sales come back to our schools.



<https://sjrsapparel.itemorder.com/sale>

<https://mercyacademy.itemorder.com/>



Knights of Columbus Council #819

St. Joseph Regional School

Our Lady of Mercy Academy

present **Tee It Up for Technology Golf Tournament**

Supporting technology in the classrooms at St. Joseph Regional School and Our Lady of Mercy Academy!

**Friday, October 15**

**Bretwood Golf Course**

Join us to hit the fairways of Bretwood's North course! Play will be Scramble format with great prizes. The field will be limited to the first 96 golfers (24 foursomes), so gather your family, friends, and colleagues! Special Hole-in-One Contest Prize: Vacation for two to Hawaii, including airfare and 6 nights/7 days at the Fairmont Kea Lani, Maui. Also prizes for men's/women's closest to the pin and top finishing teams. \$125/player -- \$500/foursome

**EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT** -- \$100/player --

\$400/foursome by registering by Wednesday, September 8.

**FOR DETAILS AND REGISTRATION:**

<https://www.stjosephkeene.org/golf>

**Would your business like to be a sponsor of our golf tournament? Sponsorship information can be found here:**

<https://www.stjosephkeene.org/golf-sponsorships>

*The Main Office has gotten a fresh coat of paint (thank you Miss Hoye!) and has been rearranged!*

## DRESS CODE CHANGES

**\*\*\*Please note that we have made some adjustments to our dress code policy from last year. Please read carefully!\*\*\*** If you have any questions, please contact Liberty Ebright ([lebright@mercyacademykeene.org](mailto:lebright@mercyacademykeene.org))

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, reasonable modesty, 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.** Students may choose from a button down, collared shirt with tie and dress pants, dress pants and a blouse, a dress, or blouse and skirt that reaches the top of the knee. 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.

For the remainder of the week, students may wear casual pants, jeans (with minimal distressing), or athletic wear. Track pants or soccer pants and yoga pants are permissible, however traditional sweat pants and leggings are not acceptable. No offensive language or messaging on clothing will be permitted. No exposed midriffs or spaghetti straps. 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. Shoes must have a back; no flip flops or slides.

The dress code is open to administrative interpretation.

## SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Please note that students will be given information from teachers about all supplies needed for classes during Orientation as well as on the first day of school.

## HOUSE SYSTEM

Because of the influx of students this year, we will now have a total of four Houses! The House Advisors are:

St. Thomas Aquinas - Molly Fletcher  
St. Ursula - Chelsea Herman  
St. Drogo - Christian Raabe  
St. Josephine - Andy Cardine

New students will receive a Google form soon with a questionnaire that will assist with House assignments.



*Mr. Cardine's classroom has new flooring along with the hallway outside his room, and the LGIA (now the Masiello Room) has been remodeled with new furniture and a new kitchen area!*

