



Saint Joseph Regional School Our Lady of Mercy Academy



March 17, 2022

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

Greetings SJRS Families and Faculty,

We have made some changes recently with the **grading of the Specials classes** (Art, Music, and Physical Education) for Grades 3-8. As we continually seek to improve our evaluation processes, students will now have participation/effort grades entered into RenWeb for their Specials. Our goal is to foster student accountability, so that students are fully engaged and getting the most out of all of their classes. Starting this week, you will see grades for the Specials classes in RenWeb just like all other grading. Each of the Specials teachers have explained this new process to all of the students, so they are aware of this change.

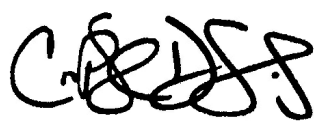
A final reminder that **we do not have school tomorrow (Friday, March 18)** and Childcare will be closed also. The faculty will be in Diocesan professional development meetings in Concord for the entire day.

I know that it is not always my place to make suggestions concerning **internet, phone, and social media usage** at home, but I just want to offer a healthy reminder to be consistently aware of what your children are accessing and looking at online when they are left unsupervised to do so. Maybe today is a good day to take a fresh look at what they are viewing or posting. Having had a lot of meaningful conversations with parents and students concerning technology and online presence, I think it is important to remember that the phones your children have, if you've chosen to allow them to have one, are owned by you. You have every right to monitor and limit their usage, as well as keep a watchful eye on what they are doing with them.

In the seminars I have attended, and researched articles I've read, I have also found that phone/touchscreen usage tends to increase loneliness and depression among students (and adults). It might seem that your student is using their phone to lose themselves temporarily in scrolling and swiping, and to combat feelings of loneliness and depression, however it can actually make them feel even worse. Teens tend to compare and contrast their own personalities with those they encounter online – and it is usually in an unfavorable way. One study I read also suggested that a teen's anxiety increased just by having the phone with them, encountering either a great deal of notifications or a considerable absence of them. The constant stream of notifications also seems to negatively enhance those with even mild attention deficit disorders and contributes to a general inability to focus overall, including reducing a student's ability to think creatively or deeply. I have also heard some students claim they love "technology" and thus need their phones, however most of the creative technological aspect of the touchscreen is all in the creation of the device and really not in the usage.

I also know that I want to continue to offer my support to all of you as you navigate the future with your students and their devices. It is truly a difficult time for parents. Please reach out to me with any questions, concerns, or comments. I would be happy to meet with any of you about any help I can offer.

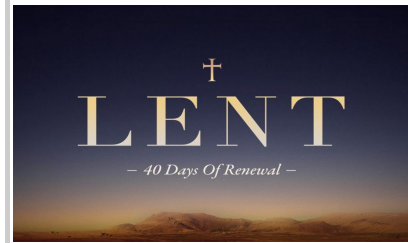
May Your Spirit Be Lifted,



Christopher Smith
Principal

IMPORTANT DATES

Friday 3/18 – Faculty In-Service – NO SCHOOL
 Friday 3/18 – Confirmation – St. Bernard's – 6:00pm
 Tuesday 3/22 – Drama Club – Grades 5-7 – 3-4:00pm in the gym
 Wednesday 3/23 – School Mass – 9:30am
 Friday 3/25 – Stations of the Cross – 1:40-2:25pm
 Wednesday 4/6 – End of the 3rd Quarter
Thursday 4/14 – Holy Thursday (1/2 day)
Friday 4/15 – Good Friday – NO SCHOOL
Monday 4/18 – Easter Monday – NO SCHOOL
 Thurs-Fri 4/21-22 – Talent Show (afternoons)
Mon-Fri 4/25-29 – Spring Break – NO SCHOOL
 Saturday 5/7 – Spring Craft Fair/Art Day
 Monday 5/16 – Spring Concert
Monday 5/30 – Memorial Day – NO SCHOOL



PSALM 33: 20-22

We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. May your unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in you.



ADVANCED BAND SECTIONALS SCHEDULE FROM MR. THIES

Week of March 21

Monday -- 8:30am trombones; 1:30pm percussion
 Tuesday -- 8:30am flutes
 Wednesday -- 8:30am basses; 11:00am clarinets
 Thursday -- 8:30am saxes
 Friday -- 8:30am trumpets

Please make sure that your child has their instrument in school on all band and sectional days. **THANK YOU!**

MERCY ACADEMY FUNDRAISER FOR UKRAINE

Mercy Academy students are still selling **stickers** (4" x 4"). They are **\$5.00** and can be purchased anytime during the school day at the Main Office at Mercy. All proceeds will be donated to the Red Cross in support of Ukraine. They will also be selling them this Saturday (3/19) after the 4:00pm Mass at St. Margaret Mary Church in Keene.



Drama Club

DRAMA CLUB -- GRADES 5-6-7

The Drama Club will meet next Tuesday, March 22, immediately after school (3-4:00pm) in the gym. Mrs. Hockensmith (parent of Ben, Grade 7) will be working with the students on a one-act play this Spring. All students in Grades 5, 6 and 7 are welcome!



helps schools

Together, we're greater than groceries.

HANNAFORD HELPS

Earn money for SJRS while you shop at Hannaford! **Now through May 28, 2022**, choose from over 1,500 participating products.

Shopping In-Store

SHOP – Look for shelf tags on over 1,500 participating products .

CHECK OUT – Collect your School Dollars from an associate at checkout.

DEPOSIT – Drop your School Dollars in the SJRS Hannaford Helps Schools collection tower in-store.

Hannaford To Go

SHOP – Look for the apple icon on over 1,500 products online.

CHECK OUT – Receive your School Dollars with your receipt .

DEPOSIT – Drop your School Dollars in the SJRS Hannaford Helps Schools collection tower in-store, or send them in to the SJRS Main Office with your child.



Fun on the playground with the Preschool and Kindergarten!

2ND/3RD GRADE BLACK HISTORY MONTH PROJECTS

Last Friday, the students in Grades 2 and 3 finished off their Black History Month projects with their wax museum presentations. Everyone did a GREAT job! Congratulations to all! And it was also very nice to welcome parents and family members into the building to get to see the presentations!





FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE CHILDREN'S SCHOLARSHIP FUND NEW HAMPSHIRE



EDUCATION TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS

The application is open for 2022-2023 for NH Education Tax Credit Scholarships. The eligibility is:

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 300% of the federal poverty level. See income chart below.

EDUCATION FREEDOM ACCOUNTS

The application is open for 2022-2023 for NH Education Freedom Accounts. You can direct part of your child's state education funding to pay for tuition at SJRS/OLMA . The eligibility is:

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 300% of the federal poverty level. See income chart below.

Both of the above 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. [CLICK HERE for the application for families NEW to these programs.](#) [CLICK HERE for the portal login for families REAPPLYING to these programs.](#)** If you have questions about the above programs, please contact Jen Marshall (jmarshall@stjosephkeene.org).

300% of 2021 Federal Poverty Level Guidelines

Family Size	Income Limit/ Annual	Income Limit/ Monthly	Income Limit/ Weekly
2	\$52,260	\$4,355	\$1,005
3	\$65,880	\$5,490	\$1,267
4	\$79,500	\$6,625	\$1,529
5	\$93,120	\$7,760	\$1,791
6	\$106,740	\$8,895	\$2,053
7	\$120,360	\$10,030	\$2,315
8	\$133,980	\$11,165	\$2,577

add \$13,620 for each additional person



READING WITH RIBBY is in full swing! Ribby from the SwampBats stopped by to visit with the Elementary School students!



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