



# Saint Joseph Regional School Our Lady of Mercy Academy

August 4, 2021 SUMMER NEWSLETTER



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

Dear SJRS 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 **school supply list**, updated **school calendar**, and **child care enrollment form**. They are also available on the homepage of our website (<https://www.stjosephkeene.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 Kate ([kate@stjosephkeene.org](mailto:kate@stjosephkeene.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 high 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



### SJRS 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
- 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)
- Tuesday 9/14 – Middle School Back-to-School Night
- Wednesday 9/15 – Elementary School 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 as we mentioned in everyone's tuition letters. This is part of our overall restructuring of tuition and eliminating the fundraising buyout obligation (\$1,700). 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!



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

- Grade 5** – Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell
- Grade 6** – The Call of the Wild by Jack London
- Grade 7** – A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle
- Grade 8** – The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway

**FACULTY UPDATE**

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

**Mrs. Pritchard** has retired from teaching Middle School Religion. This year, **Ms. Foder** will take over teaching Middle School Religion, and she will continue to teach the Social Studies classes as well.

**Mrs. Lundin** will be moving from 4<sup>th</sup> grade to the Middle School, where she will be teaching 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade Math, English, and Literature.

In the Elementary School, **Mr. Rafail** will be moving over to Our Lady of Mercy Academy to teach Social Studies and Physical Education courses. Our new 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher will be **Miss Isacco**, a recent graduate of McGill University in Montreal. Miss Isacco is certified and has great experience teaching in Montreal, Dominican Republic, and Mexico City.



*New carpet in the Main Office!*

## LUNCHES

Pizza (Mondays/Fridays) and sandwiches/chips (Wednesdays) will begin the week of September 6. You may order via Renweb. We are looking for assistance from parents to help with lunches on Tuesdays and Thursdays. If you are available 10:30-12:30 on one or both of those days, please let us know.

## FALL SPORTS

### Elementary School Soccer Skills and Drills

Start date: Wednesday 9/8

Coach: Erica Lake

Grades: 1-4

Time: 3:00-4:00pm

Day: Every Wednesday for approximately 8 weeks

Location: Meeting after school in the gym, then moving to the SJRS field

Students should bring comfortable clothing to change into (weather appropriate), sneakers, and a water bottle. Shin guards would be very helpful, but not required.



### Middle School Soccer

Start date: Tuesday 9/7

Coaches: Keegan Park, Wendy Petschik

Grades: 5-8

Time: 3:00-4:30pm

Day: Every Tuesday and Thursday for approximately 8 weeks

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

Students should bring comfortable clothing (weather appropriate), a water bottle, and shin guards. Cleats are optional. We are hoping to have a few games this fall, but they are TBD at this time.

### Middle School Cross Country

Start date: Tuesday 9/7

Coaches: Miranda Tarnowski, Dan Lang

Grades: 5-8

Time: 3:00-4:15pm

Day: Every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday for approximately 8 weeks

Location: Meeting after school in the gym, then outdoors to run locally

Students should bring comfortable clothing (weather appropriate), a water bottle, and sneakers.

We are hoping to have a few meets this fall, but they are TBD at this time.



### Middle School/High School Tennis

Start date: TBD

Coach: Anna Domyancic Fox

Grades: 5-8 (plus grades 9-11 from Mercy)

Time: 3:00-4:15pm

Day: TBD (Monday or Friday for approximately 6 weeks)

Location: TBD (KSC or Robin Hood Park)

Students should bring comfortable clothing (weather appropriate), a water bottle, and sneakers.



## 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>

## DRESS CODE REVIEW

Included here is the section of the Handbook regarding our dress code. We just wanted to provide this as a general reminder for all as the school year gets going.

At SJRS, emphasis is placed on education in the academic, spiritual and emotional domains. The uniform for students in grades K-8 was established to support a commitment to simplicity, neatness and lack of competition in the area of dress. Uniforms fit properly and are worn appropriately each day. Students who are not in proper uniform will be asked to contact parents to acquire proper uniform clothing or borrow available clothing from the office. Please mark all clothing, sneakers, mittens, and coats with students' names.

### KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE FOUR

- Pants - Navy or khaki (Dockers style for boys)
- No Leggings, Yoga Pants, or spandex without a skirt over it (girls).
- Shirt - Oxford in white, navy, or light blue
- Polo shirts - Long/short sleeve with collar in white, navy, or light blue
- Turtlenecks - White or navy blue
- Sweater - V-neck cardigan/pullover in solid navy blue only
- Walking Shorts - Navy only
- Navy blue fleece vests w/ or without school letters/logo
- Plaid jumper (Girls Kindergarten through grade 2 only)
- Plaid jumper, skort, skirt – Plaid or Navy only (Girls grade 3 & 4 only)
- Blouse - Peter Pan collar in white or light blue (Girls grade 3 & 4 only)

### GRADES FIVE THROUGH GRADE EIGHT

- Pants - Navy or khaki (Dockers style)
- No leggings, yoga pants, or spandex without a skirt over it (girls).
- Skirts/Kilt – Khaki, navy or plaid (All girls) – Knee Length
- Shirts - Oxford in white, navy, or light blue
- Polo's - Long/short sleeve, with collar in white, navy, or light blue
- Turtlenecks - White or Navy
- Sweater - V-neck cardigan/pullover in solid Navy blue only
- Walking Shorts - Navy or khaki – Knee Length
- Navy blue fleece vests w/ or without school letters/logo

### ALL GRADES

- Shoes and sneakers in good condition.
- Belts are to be worn with uniform pants and walking shorts in grades 3-8. Walking shorts are permitted for approximately the first eight weeks of school and in the spring when announced due to the change in weather.

### PHYSICAL EDUCATION CLOTHING

- Navy sweatshirt and sweatpants
- Navy t-shirt
- Navy mesh shorts



*New flooring in Kindergarten!*



*New flooring in Preschool and Mrs. Smith brightening up the paint color too!*

