



Saint Joseph Regional School Our Lady of Mercy Academy

September 24, 2020 Newsletter



Dear SJRS and OLMA Parents,

First, I want to thank all of you for your support and concern as we addressed in grades 7-10 the very serious and destructive sin of racism to start the school year. Over the summer, I had received a bounty of emails asking me how we would be teaching the topic of racism in our school and what we, as stewards of our Catholic faith, would do to help inform our students. As our faculty researched different avenues for how we would present this topic to our students, we kept coming back to the idea that "we must create opportunities to hear, with open hearts, the tragic stories that are deeply imprinted on the lives of our brothers and sisters, if we are moved with empathy to promote justice" from "Open Wide Our Hearts" the pastoral letter against racism from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

With COVID-19 restrictions and generating a reopening plan, as well as working hard to open up a brand new Catholic high school, we developed a brief curriculum for our older students for the beginning of our school year, and we created opportunities for them to read, learn, discuss, debate, and think. As this unit is coming to a close this week, I wanted to thank all of you that reached out to me to thank us for generating the curriculum and for providing a safe environment for discussion and guidance. Thank you very much for coming to me to discuss your concerns, and ask me questions and challenge me and my staff. As always, please feel free to continue to reach out to me with any questions, comments, and concerns. My door and phone lines (and email) are always open.

Second, I wanted to provide a bit of information on a specific topic that is starting to be on everyone's minds...

We will celebrate Halloween in school on **Friday, October 30**, with a full day of activities. I want our students to have an opportunity to enjoy this fun holiday, despite other normal trick-or-treating perhaps being limited this year. We will not be doing a parade, nor will we be doing M&M bingo or the other large group activities in the gym that we typically have done in past years. We WILL give each of the classes separately an opportunity to come to the gym, and participate in fun activities that will be organized and managed by the SJRS Student Council and our high school students. All students will be permitted to come to school in costume for the entire day. BUT they must still wear their face masks that we have been wearing each day. Perhaps they can somehow incorporate their face masks into their costumes? And, just to be clear, parents may not attend our Halloween day. It's extremely important that we continue to limit the number of people within our building as much as we possibly can so that we can maintain a clean, healthy environment. More details to come on our Halloween fun!

May Your Spirit Be Lifted,

Christopher Smith,
Principal

1 Corinthians 12:12-14

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

IMPORTANT DATES

- 9/24 – Flu shots (1:30pm)
- 9/25 – School Mass (grades 3-10) – 9:30am
- 9/25 – SJRS Student Council speeches/elections
- 9/28 – First MATHCOUNTS meeting
- 10/6 – Picture Day
- 10/12 – Columbus Day – NO SCHOOL
- 10/30 – All-Day Halloween Extravaganza!
- 11/3 – End of first quarter

Reminder: International Night will be rescheduled for the Spring. We will not be having the following events this Fall:

- Back-to-School Picnic
- Middle School Back-to-School Night
- Elementary School Back-School Night
- Scarecrow Night
- Pumpkin carving

RENWEB

RenWeb is our online system for grades and attendance as well as to maintain all contact information for our families. It is also the easiest way to order and pay for lunches. It is VERY important that everyone have an account and keep their information updated. It is also the best way to keep track of your student's academic progress throughout the year. **For all families (new and existing at both SJRS and OLMA) who need to create RenWeb accounts, please follow the below directions.**

1. Go to: <https://www.renweb.com>
2. Click on Log In in the upper right corner. You'll get a drop down menu.
3. Click on Parents Web Login. You'll be taken to a new screen.
4. Click on Create New Parents Web Account. You'll be taken to a new screen.
5. For District Code, enter: **SJO-NH**
6. For email, type in the main email you use for the school. Click create an account.
7. An email will be sent to the email address you provided (assuming it matches with the one we have on file) and you can click on the link in the email to create a sign on and password.
8. After you have created your new sign on and password, you can go back to the original Parents Web Login screen, use your new credentials, and you're good to go.

Also, RenWeb has a very good app for your smartphone. On it, you can easily check your child's grades or order/pay for lunches. [CLICK HERE for more information on getting the app.](#) The cost for the app is \$4.99.

All of this might seem a little confusing, but it takes only a few minutes of your time. If you need any assistance, please contact Kate in the office at kate@stjosephkeene.org. We'll get you up and running! THANK YOU!

SJRS FUNDRAISING BUYOUT JOBS UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who has completed the form indicating their interests for the fundraising buyout options for this school year. We are in the process of contacting everyone about their job assignments. This process will take some time, so don't fret if you have not heard from us yet. We will be in touch. If you have any questions, you may contact Jennifer Marshall at jmarshall@stjosephkeene.org



Mrs. Konopka's 1st grade class celebrating National Talk Like a Pirate Day!

SJRS CHILDCARE NEWS

Please register for Childcare at least 10 days in advance.

[CLICK HERE](#) to register for the week of **September 28**.

[CLICK HERE](#) to register for the week of **October 5**.

[CLICK HERE](#) to register for the week of **October 12**.

Childcare **invoices** go home in your oldest child's backpack on Fridays.

Reminder: please pack one or two small toys/activities for your children to do while at Childcare.



Don't forget about the BoxTops for Education program! No more clipping. Scan your grocery receipts. [CLICK HERE for all of the boxtops details.](#)

AMAZONSMILE

AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support SJRS every time you shop, at no cost to you. AmazonSmile is available at smile.amazon.com on your web browser and can be

activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones. When you shop at AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same prices, selection and shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to SJRS. [CLICK HERE for all of the details and to activate AmazonSmile.](#) THANK YOU!





MATHCOUNTS

We are pleased to announce that SJRS will be running a MATHCOUNTS chapter again this year for students of all skill levels in mathematics in grades 6-8. The group will meet on Mondays beginning 9/28 after school in the math room with Mr. Cardine (our high school math teacher) and Mrs. Stanish (KSC math professor and SJRS alum parent).

MATHCOUNTS is an extracurricular math program for students in grades 6-8 with practice sessions held throughout the school year culminating this year in a virtual competition with students at other schools in early February. The program builds problem solving skills and positive attitudes about math, so students embrace challenges and expand their academic and career opportunities in the future. As MATHCOUNTS coaches we believe that there are many paths to success in math and we are here to help all students discover theirs. Students can sign up by filling out the sign up sheet in Mrs. Kuhn's room. If you have questions, please contact Mr. Cardine acardine@stjosephkeene.org.

LOST AND FOUND CLEAN OUT TOMORROW!

Tomorrow, Friday, September 25, we will be doing a fall clean out. All lost and found items that we have will be laid out on tables outside during rides line. We have lots of items from all the way back to last March. Please be sure to check closely to see if any of the items belong to your children!



Several of our 4th grade students received the sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation last Friday evening at Saint Bernard's during a special Mass with Fr. Alan. Congratulations to all!



The first Chemistry lab of the year at OLMA in Miss Hoye's class.



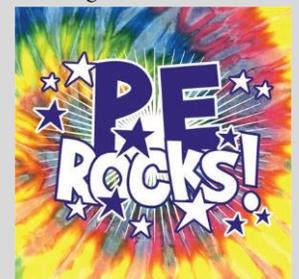
DESTINATION IMAGINATION

We are beginning to build teams for the 2020-2021 Destination Imagination season! If you or your child would like more information, please visit <https://nh-di.org/2020/08/update-on-the-2020-21-season/>. We would love to continue the long tradition of having SJRS students participate in this STEAM-driven activity. Please contact Mrs. Kuhn at bkuhn@stjosephkeene.org or Ms. Reekie at rreekie@stjosephkeene.org for more information or for student sign-up.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION CORNER

from Mrs. Hart

In the gym is a bulletin board entitled "PE is a Family Affair." Please have your student bring to school a picture of how your family likes to "move" during leisure or organized physical activities. Be creative! Let's plaster *your* gym with *your* pictures!



Please make sure that students are dressed in proper PE attire on their PE days. This includes navy blue T-shirt and shorts. Sweat-shirts and sweatpants may also be worn if appropriate, as we will go outside as long as possible, along with laced or Velcro sneakers. (see Handbook on the SJRS website) Preparation for PE is very important to keep our students safe. THANK YOU!



OLMA – HOUSE MEETINGS

Shown above is the Saint Ursula House meeting in the Theology Room with their House Advisor, Chelsea Herman, and the Saint Thomas Aquinas House in the School Counseling Office with their House Advisor, Liberty Ebright. During this week's meetings, the students were establishing school governance structure and leadership for the year. They elected a House Leader and started brainstorming ideas for House sponsored activities, competitions, mottos, and mascots for the Houses based on what they are learning about the patron saints of their Houses.



The 5th graders enjoying the swings at recess!



Grades 3-10 attended school Mass last Friday with Fr. Alan and Deacon Ken.

MORNING ARRIVAL -- IT'S GETTING COLDER!

As outdoor temperatures start to get colder, please be aware that we will be just inside the doorways in the morning during the arrival time period. Doors will not be propped open as we have done over the past few weeks when it has been warmer. It's important for us to be indoors as we take the students' temperatures in order to get an accurate reading from our thermometers.

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