



# ST. JOSEPH REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

40 Main Street, Salem, NH 03079 • 603-893-6811 • [www.stjosepheagles.org](http://www.stjosepheagles.org)

*Inspired by faith and guided by wisdom, our children soar!*

## Spring 2022 Update

Dear St. Joseph Regional Catholic School Community,

Now that we are into Term 3 with re-enrollment and new registrations well underway, and the very successful Auction/Gala event completed (*The final numbers are not in, but the projection is that the event will bring in over \$70,000. This included nearly tripling our fund a need goal!*), I'd like to thank the community for its continued support of our school. In addition, a great big thank you to this year's co-chairs, Erin Gregg and Jacqueline Quinlan. Not only is this support reflected in the retention of current students, but also in the fact that the word is spreading to the point that we again have waitlists in many of our grades for the coming year.

Part of the mission of Catholic schools is that "one of our guiding principles is to make Catholic education accessible, attainable, and affordable to all those who desire it." (As stated on the NH Catholic Schools Website) With this in mind, we do not want to turn those families, who truly seek a Catholic education for their children, away from our doors. The challenge is finding the balance of meeting the needs of students with the proper supports in place so that all students have the opportunity to succeed. These supports include things that we already have in place this year such as our part-time educational coach and Title I/reading specialist. However, in order to welcome more students into our classrooms, it would be necessary to bring on additional staff to work with the teachers in their classrooms as added support. By increasing class sizes by a few students (adding two students per class at the elementary level and slightly more at the jr. high), it would be feasible to hire additional support personnel.

I am aware that there have been many questions regarding the hiring of teachers this year. Staffing shortages are ubiquitous throughout education, public, private and Catholic. Many teachers left during the pandemic and never returned. All industries are experiencing these shortages. St. Joe's has been blessed to retain and hire qualified individuals to fill the majority of our positions. Close to 90% percent of our staff (including some of our long-term substitutes) are fully certified, many with multiple certifications and degrees, with the remainder working towards their certification.

In closing, I am looking forward to next year. I am blessed to be working with a wonderful group of professionals. I have already received inquiries about possible staff openings for the coming year. The students are the reason we are here. As is our mission, we will continue to challenge them to meet their full potential in mind, spirit, heart and body.

Should you have questions at any time, regarding the school, please contact me directly. We will also be reintroducing coffee with the principal on a monthly basis. Watch for more details in future Eagle Updates.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mrs. Croteau". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mrs. Mary Croteau  
Principal