COMPETENCE
CONFIDENCE
COMPASSION

Life Changing

2018-2019 VIEWBOOK
Enhanced academic curriculum creates pioneers of change

Mercy offers a 14:1 student-to-faculty ratio and focuses on continuous curriculum improvement. We moved away from the NYS Regents Program to focus on College/Career Readiness standards and assessments. Our curriculum review and enhancement is led by our Strategic Plan, Board of Trustees, Administration, teacher teams, and our full-time Assistant Principal of Curriculum and Instruction.

Gifted Faculty

We offer state-of-the-art classrooms, but we are reminded daily that it is our people who make this experience worthwhile.

We are extremely proud of our faculty – 96% of whom hold master’s or doctorate degrees. Before receiving an invitation to join us, teachers must be:

- A fully credentialed expert in his/her field
- Passionate about the craft of teaching
- Dedicated to working with students to help them exceed their expectations

Each school day, our teachers make themselves available to help students understand a particularly challenging concept, or meet with one of the many clubs or teams at Mercy.

If it is important to our students, it is important to us.

Diverse Community

Our halls are filled with students who join us from 37 different school districts; home schools; and public, private, and parochial schools; as well as international schools. Our diverse student body prepares Mercy Girls for today’s global society.
Mercy by the Numbers

- **37** local school districts served
- **14:1** student-teacher ratio
- **40+** clubs
- **584** student athletes
- **94** National Honor Society members
- **596** AP exams taken
- **$26 million** in merit-based scholarships awarded to the Class of 2018
- **113** Summa, Magna, and Cum Laude graduates
- **76** colleges and universities attended by 2018 graduates
- **13,000+** Mercy alumnae

To schedule a campus visit, register at www.mercyhs.com/register
Girls take center stage

An all-girls environment changes everything!

Our students are comfortable in class so **learning becomes easy**. When together, our girls display their intelligence, ask more questions, and encourage each other. We adopt instructional strategies tailored to unique female learning styles.

Girls enjoy not just equal opportunity, but **every opportunity**. All student presenters, performers, writers, singers, athletes, and leaders are girls.

In a survey of 4,200 all-girls school graduates, more than 80% reported that they were better prepared to succeed in a co-ed world precisely because they attended an all-girls school.*

Girls who attend an all-girls school also report higher academic confidence in math and science, and in their presentation abilities.*

*Researcher: Linda Sax, ‘Women Graduates of Single-Sex and Coeducational High Schools’
Mercy provides three unique community learning environments on one campus, offering age-appropriate academic, social, emotional, and spiritual experiences.

6th Grade
Our small group setting offers our girls academic support and differentiation, as well as transitional guidance as they adjust from elementary school to middle school. Families are an integral part of this program as they participate in the school day and a variety of events.

7th and 8th Grade
Experience the positive power of peers! Our girls spend their day in a dedicated middle school space, moving through six classes a day while building connections with their talented teachers, counselor, principal, coaches, club moderators, and their many friendly peers. During these transformative years, they master the critically-important academic foundation required for the rigorous collegiate program to follow.

High School
The girls experience challenging collegiate core classes while being offered multiple opportunities in STEM, Visual Arts, Performing Arts, Business, and electives in Social Studies, English, Math, and Science. Our experienced and dedicated counselors assist each student in discovering her passions and path to the college of her choice.

Too long with all girls? Absolutely not!
We focus on the development of the whole child. This includes cognitive skills, non-cognitive skills, enriching activities, and opportunities for parent involvement. The day begins with “Community Sharing” and often includes time outside to play or participate in off-campus community service or events.

**Class size:** Three classes with 18 students per class.

**Differentiated Instruction:** Whole group, small group, and partner work is paired with flexible grouping to challenge students in a supportive environment.

**Standards-Based Report Card:** This was created by Mercy 6th grade teachers and administrators. In addition, the parent-teacher conference discussions are led by the student.

**Team Teaching:** Our 6th grade teachers collaborate with the Theology, PE, Art, Music, and Foreign Language (Spanish, French, Latin) teachers along with our librarians to ensure growth in all subject areas.

**One-to-One Laptop Program:** Each student is issued her own Chromebook to use throughout the school year.

**Student Progress:** In lieu of final exams, each student completes a “Celebration of Learning” which showcases our students’ perspectives and accomplishments. Families join us to celebrate with the students.

**Music Program:** Students may choose a ‘Learn-to-Play’ program or 6th grade Orchestra which includes string, wind, and percussion instruments.
Academics: We do not follow the Common Core but rather a program which provides the required academic building blocks, setting our students up for 9th grade academic success.

During middle school, our students develop the study skills and academic foundation required to ensure their 9th and 10th grade report cards are reflective of their effort and abilities. All of our teachers work closely to ensure seamless vertical alignment of curriculum from grades 6-12.

A full-time Middle School Principal and Counselor focus on student life in support of our students, parents, teachers, and academic program.

Top-notch, professional athletic coaches offer a competitive environment. Students are encouraged to participate in our multiple-sport Modified, Freshmen, JV, and Varsity programs. Students have full access to a fitness center. Student athletes will benefit from starting at Mercy in middle school to minimize any effects of Section V athletic transfer rules.

All 7th and 8th grade students receive a Chromebook to use throughout the school year.

Our Performing Arts Center includes an auditorium and a 200-seat Black Box Theatre in which the girls participate in Dance, Choir, middle school Orchestra, ‘Learn-to-Play’ programs, and Theatre Arts classes.

The Media Center is staffed by certified librarians from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. It offers the girls a comfortable space to study before and after school.

Building confidence through endless possibilities
Mercy’s college preparatory academic program develops critical thinking, collaboration, and problem-solving skills grounded in values that will help students make a difference in the world.

Each year, **100% of seniors graduate** and **99% to 100%** continue their studies, attending prestigious universities across the country (see back page).

**Mercy’s Class of 2018** merited **$26 million in scholarship offers** (cumulative from all four-year college/university acceptances), averaging **$210,000 per graduate**.

**100% of our 2018 graduates completed at least one college credit or AP course.** We offer 22 AP and college credit courses in Art, Business, English, Math, Science, Social Studies, and three languages.

Average SAT scores for graduates at **Mercy are consistently higher** than the national average.

In 2018, nearly **75%** of students taking Advanced Placement exams **received scores of 3 or better**, which is 9% higher than the NYS average and **12% higher than the national average**.

**The Motto Project** is a senior thesis project offering the opportunity to connect their talents, passions, and interests through service, research, and a final presentation showcasing the Mercy Core Values and Critical Concerns. See [www.mercyhs.com](http://www.mercyhs.com) for more information on our Core Values and Critical Concerns.

**Mercy Service** offers a variety of daily opportunities to volunteer. Groups of Mercy students also take advantage of traveling nationally and internationally to serve others.

**Vibrant Community:** Throughout the school day, Mercy’s halls, classrooms, Media Center, and athletic fields are filled with students receiving support from teachers, counselors, coaches, club moderators, and administrators.

**Expert Collegiate Advice:** Families work closely with our **experienced high school counseling staff** to discover the students’ academic and career interests while discussing and planning for collegiate acceptances and scholarship opportunities.
Spirit Week

Spirit Week is one of the most anticipated annual traditions at Mercy. Held during the first month back to school, Spirit Week culminates in the controlled-chaos that is Spirit Day. The competition among classes is fierce for the coveted (but imaginary) “School Spirit Award,” but the bond of sisterhood and the need to provide for our community wins the day. Last year, over 32,000 cans and boxes of food were donated to food cupboards and area charities by the 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grade classes.
Campus Ministry

Our Lady of Mercy School for Young Women is a Roman Catholic middle and high school sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy. As part of our Campus Ministry, we seek to form our young women and staff in their faith and in their understanding of the ‘charism’ of the Sisters of Mercy.

**Eucharistic Liturgies** are celebrated on all the major feast days when school is in session. Sacred Mercy traditions include May Day, Golden Mass, and Rose Mass among others.

**Communion Services** and **Guided Meditation** are celebrated weekly in our third floor chapel.

**Student Led Prayer** occurs every morning over the PA. In addition, each class begins with prayer.

**Retreats** are offered at every grade level.

**Faculty, Staff, and Board Development:** To assist the faculty, staff, and Board of Trustees in their faith formation and knowledge of the Sisters of Mercy, we host staff retreats and prayer services.

**Pastoral Care:** Our Campus Minister is available as a listening presence to students and staff in times of illness and loss, including hospital visitations.

**Student Leadership:** The Campus Ministry Board is comprised of homeroom representatives and leaders in grades 6-12. This organization oversees all school service projects such as the Hunger Project, Christmas Baskets, and Mission Month.
As part of our five-year Strategic Plan, the Mercy community has identified skills and attributes that will help our girls be World-Class Learners who make a difference around the globe. We want our students to:

- Possess a moral compass
- Be risk-takers
- Demonstrate a growth mindset
- Be globally-ready
- Be resilient problem-solvers
- Be communicators

Opportunities for Mercy Girls to learn these skills and attributes are infused throughout the entire curriculum at all grade levels.

Counseling Services

The Counseling Department at Our Lady of Mercy School for Young Women strives to provide every student with the support she needs throughout her academic career with us. Our team of dedicated professionals works to promote mental and physical health, overall emotional wellness, and a sense of belonging. In addition, counselors provide academic support services, help with course selection, career exploration, college applications, and post-secondary options. We endeavor to create a safe and accepting space where students receive compassionate and individualized guidance.
The Mercy Service program educates young women in the Mercy tradition of service instilled in us through the work of Catherine McAuley. The program provides compassionate service opportunities for interested high school students to learn about and help serve the needs of others in our Rochester community, as well as provide weeklong service trips nationally and internationally. Mercy Service is voluntary; the school does not require mandatory service hours for graduation. Even though it is not a requirement, students happily contribute their time to helping others.

It is not uncommon for Mercy Girls to volunteer at Cameron Community Ministries and provide homework assistance to children who live in poverty. The girls also play games and help seniors at The Legacy and Fairport Baptist Homes, cook meals for families who stay at the Ronald McDonald House, cook and clean for women and children at Bethany House, and bake cookies and learn about end-of-life care at The Hildebrandt Hospice Care Center.
Mercy Traditions

Mercy opened its doors in 1928. Over the years, we have built traditions that are integral to the Circle of Mercy, which includes over 13,000 Mercy alumnae – truly women whose lives were changed at Mercy!

- **September**: Spirit Week
- **September**: Mercy Day Liturgy
- **December**: Golden Mass and Christmas Baskets Project
- **February**: Arts Fest
- **March**: Mission Month
- **March**: Father-Daughter Dinner Dance
- **April**: Accepted Student Picnic
- **May**: Junior Ring Ceremony
- **May**: May Day
- **June**: Moving Up Ceremony
- **June**: Eighth Grade Commencement
- **June**: Rose Mass
- **June**: High School Commencement
Sports are a big part of the Mercy experience for 584 student athletes (70% of student population). Year after year, our teams and individual players receive local, state, and national recognition. Several players are accepted to play in prestigious Division I and Division II colleges and universities. Mercy is a member of Section V of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association as well as the Private-Parochial League.

Outside of their practices and competitions, many of the Monarch teams participate in the Athletic Department’s Call to Service Challenge, where teams take a day out of their busy sports schedules to give back to the community. Mercy athletes also participate in the Sports Medicine for the Soul program during the winter and spring seasons. Coaches and athletes take time between practices and games to discuss spiritual growth, character development, and sportsmanship by applying the principles of the Catholic faith to athletic competition.

• Alpine Skiing
• Basketball
• Bowling
• Cheerleading
• Crew
• Cross Country
• Golf
• Lacrosse
• Sailing

• Soccer
• Softball
• Swimming
• Tennis
• Track and Field (Indoor and Outdoor)
• Volleyball

Plus many more club sports!
With over 40 clubs offered, our students have endless opportunities in the classroom as well as within the community. Participants have been invited to compete regionally, nationally, and internationally – bringing home Top 10 placements and recognition to our Mercy community!

- Writers, editors, photographers, and artists can share their creative talents through the school’s newspaper, literary magazine, and yearbook.
- Mercy’s Robotics team competes in two major events each year.
- Academic groups include Math League, Mock Trial, Youth and Government, and Masterminds.
- For our 6-12 grade performers, Mercy offers Dance classes, Drama Club, Improv Club, and Jazz Ensemble. Our actresses also participate in a fall musical and spring drama. Our entire community supports the arts via our annual Arts Fest, a full day dedicated to celebrating creativity and talent.
Helping families through scholarships and aid

Mercy recognizes that our families make sacrifices and changes in their lifestyle so they may invest in their daughter. At Our Lady of Mercy School for Young Women, we work diligently to make the Mercy experience affordable and accessible to families while providing a world-class academic experience. In 2017-18, Mercy awarded over $1.5 million in scholarships and financial aid to our families.

**Multiple Daughter Incentive**
Mercy provides an incentive to families who have more than one daughter enrolled at our school. Every family with more than one student enrolled that applies for financial aid will receive the incentive; it is applied to the tuition of the second, third, and fourth daughter. It can range from $500 to $2,000 per student, based on the family’s financial need and the total number of families with multiple daughters that apply each year.

**Academic Scholarships**
Incoming 6th-8th grade academic scholarships are based on academic review of students’ GPA and placement test.
- **McAuley Scholarship**: up to $500 per year while in middle school.

Incoming 9th grade academic scholarships are based on the results of an invitation-only scholarship test given in March. Invitations are based on a student’s academic achievement, placement test results, and in some cases, specific scholarship criteria. The award is $500/year for four years.
- **William J. Stoltz Scholarship**
- **Presidential Scholarship**
- **Sister Mary Francesca Alumnae Scholarship**
- **Circle of Mercy Scholarship**

Emerging Leaders Scholarships $1,000 (one year only) to any incoming 6-12 grader.
- **Service Scholarship**
- **Character Scholarship**
- **Commitment to the Arts Scholarship**

**Leadership Scholarships**
A variety of leadership scholarships are granted annually to current students based on teacher nominations and a panel review.
- **Colleen Harrington Scholarship**: for students in grades 8-12 ($500 each for one year only)
- **Sue Clifford-Alvut Scholarship**: for students in grades 7-9 (up to $2,500 for one year only)

**Need-Based Aid**
Tuition assistance is available based on the individual family’s calculated financial need.
Begin the process by reviewing a summary of events designed to introduce the Mercy experience at www.mercyhs.com/admissions.

**These events require registration and include:**
- **Open House** on Thursday, October 25, 2018 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. (presentation begins at 6:30 p.m.)
- **Information Sessions** and **Student Visits**
  Starting in November on most Tuesday mornings (see on-line calendar for dates).
- **Entrance Exams** on:
  - Saturday, November 3, 2018 – 8 a.m.
  - Saturday, December 1, 2018 – 8 a.m.
  - Saturday, February 2, 2019 – 8 a.m.
  - Friday, February 15, 2019 – 8 a.m.
  - Friday, March 8, 2019 – 8 a.m.
  - Wednesday, April 3, 2019 – 8 a.m.
  - Tuesday, April 30, 2019 – 12 p.m.
  - Friday, May 17, 2019 – 8 a.m.
  - Tuesday, June 25, 2019 – 10 a.m.
- **Personalized Tours** as requested

Please feel free to join us for any athletic events or musical performances held throughout the year.

**The Mercy calendar can be found at www.mercyhs.com**

**Application Process**
After families have visited our school, we require all interested students to complete an entrance exam. This exam assists in the acceptance decision and academic placement within our program offerings. Please note that this exam is one of the considerations used for acceptance, along with review of past school records, and conversations with our prospective families and staff. Acceptance to Mercy is celebrated on a rolling basis.

**For more information:**
Admissions Department
585-288-7120
admissions@mercyhs.com
Mercy’s Class of 2018 merited $26 million in scholarship offers (cumulative from all four-year college/university acceptances), averaging $210,000 per graduate.

Your daughter is worth the commitment – and the results prove it. Each year, Mercy graduates are accepted into some of the finest colleges and universities across the nation with scholarships.

- Four full-time high school counselors with a combined 40 years of experience are available to facilitate and support the college placement process.

- Nearly 100 college admissions representatives visited the Mercy campus last fall to recruit our students.

The many outstanding colleges to which the Mercy Class of 2018 were accepted include:

- Allegheny College
- American University
- Auburn University
- Bentley University
- Boston College
- Brown University
- Bucknell University
- Case Western Reserve University
- Catholic University
- Clemson University
- Cleveland Institute of Art
- Coastal Carolina University
- Colgate University
- Continental School of Beauty
- Cornell University
- Daemen College
- Dartmouth College
- Fashion Institute of Technology
- Fordham University
- George Mason University
- Harding University
- Isabella Graham Hart School of Nursing
- John Carroll University
- Le Moyne College
- Loyola University - Maryland
- Manhattan College
- Marist College
- Mercyhurst University
- Miami University-Oxford
- Michigan State University
- Monroe Community College
- Nazareth College
- Northeastern University
- Pennsylvania State University
- Providence College
- Roberts Wesleyan College
- Rochester Institute of Technology
- Saint Joseph’s University
- Salve Regina University
- St. Bonaventure University
- St. John Fisher College
- SUNY Albany
- SUNY Binghamton
- SUNY Brockport
- SUNY Buffalo
- SUNY Fredonia
- SUNY Geneseo
- Syracuse University
- Temple University
- Union College
- University of California - San Diego
- University of Colorado - Boulder
- University of Dayton
- University of Delaware
- University of Maryland
- University of Massachusetts - Lowell
- University of Notre Dame
- University of Pittsburgh
- University of Rochester
- University of San Diego
- University of Tampa
- University of Toronto
- University of Vermont
- University of Wisconsin - Madison
- Villanova University
- Wellesley College
- West Virginia University
- Xavier University