



Our Lady of Mercy School for Young Women

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Administration

Pamela Fennell Baker, J.D.
'74 P'12
President

Martin Kilbridge, Ed.D.
Principal

Sherylanne Diodato, Ph.D. '93
*Dean of Middle School
Acting Director of Counseling*

Dana Whipple, MS Ed.
Dean of Student Life

Elizabeth Guzzetta, MS Ed.
Dean of Academics

Peggy Kenrick
Vice President of Finance

David Carro
*Vice President for
External Affairs*

Stephanie Buchbinder
*Acting Vice President
of Advancement*

Anthony Yandek
Athletic Director

Counseling

Lori Purcell
*Director, College and Career
Advisement/School Counselor
Grades 10-12*

Sara Thomas
*School Counselor
Grades 10-12*

Caitlin Schmalstich
*Grade 9 and
Transition Counselor*

Jane Searl
*Middle School Counselor
Grades 6-8*

LOCATION, DESCRIPTION, AND ACCREDITATION

Our Lady of Mercy School for Young Women is a Catholic secondary school for grades 6 to 12. Mercy is a sponsored ministry of the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas and a member of Mercy Education. It is nationally accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. The school is located in the Rochester, New York suburb of Brighton, within the Penfield School District. The student body is drawn from 40 local area school districts and several countries. The school educates 721 students and has a 13:1 student to faculty ratio.



ADMINISTRATION AND FACULTY

The Mercy administration consists of a President, a Principal, three Vice Presidents, two High School Deans, and a Middle School Dean. The faculty consists of 65 teachers and four full-time Counselors, virtually all of whom have earned Doctorate or Master's degrees in their disciplines.

CURRICULUM

Mercy's academic program is college preparatory following both national and college and career readiness standards.

- Honors courses are offered in English, Languages Other Than English (LOTE), Mathematics, and Social Studies.
- Advanced Placement courses are offered in Biology, Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Chemistry, Computer Science Principles, English Language, English Literature, European History, French Language, Latin, Physics, Physics 2, Psychology, Spanish Language, Statistics, 3D Studio Arts, US Government and Politics, US History, and World History. If a student has an interest in an AP course not offered at Mercy, she may have the opportunity to take the course online.
- Dual credit courses are offered in Accounting, Advanced Microsoft Applications, Calculus, Global Environment, Personal Finance, Principles of Business, and Virtual Enterprise.

COVID RESPONSE

Mercy carried on remote synchronous, real-time instruction throughout the spring of 2020 when former New York Governor Andrew Cuomo ordered schools to close and cease in-person instruction. Furthermore, we continued our grading policy with no changes. Our students were held to the same high standards for which we are known and respected. Mercy students demonstrated resilience, flexibility, and perseverance as they responded to the academic expectations placed upon them during the spring of 2020.

COVID and New York State physical distancing guidance forced Mercy to provide a hybrid instructional program in 2020-2021 which we called HyFlex. In this model, high school students attended class in-person two days per week and joined their classes remotely for synchronous instruction two days per week; Wednesdays were devoted to sustaining school culture through grade-level bonding activities. While we are proud that our students were able to receive direct instruction four days per week, the experience of the 2020-2021 school year was challenging for our entire community in a variety of ways. Prioritizing student wellbeing and engagement continues to be our focus for Mercy both inside and outside of the classroom.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

- Students are required to earn seven-and-a-half credits in Grades 9 and 10, and a minimum of seven credits in Grades 11 and 12.
- Grade 12 students enrolled in three or more Advanced Placement courses have the option of taking a minimum of six credits.
- All students are required to take at least one dual credit or Advanced Placement course.
- Students must earn credit for four years of English, four years of Social Studies, four years of Mathematics, three years of LOTE, three years of Science, four years of Theology, and four years (two credits) of Physical Education.
- All Grade 9 students are enrolled in a year-long Leadership Studies course.
- Additional elective credits may be used to obtain a minimum of 29 credits.
- All Mercy graduates complete the *Motto*, a Capstone project that allows students to connect their talents, passions, and interests through a coordinated effort developing and executing research, service, and presentation.

STUDENT ACADEMIC PROFILE

Each year, between 99% and 100% of Mercy graduates go on to higher education. In 2021, our graduates earned \$42 million in cumulative college scholarship offers.

Advanced Placement

560 exams administered in May 2021
65% received a score of 3 or higher

International AP Scholar: 1
National AP Scholar: 4
Scholar w/ Distinction: 40
Scholar w/ Honor: 22
Scholar: 48

Average SAT and ACT scores for graduating classes at Mercy are consistently above the national averages. The average of the mean scores for the Class of 2021 are:

SAT

(based on 113 student scores)
Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (EBRW): **595**
Math: **557**

ACT Composite

(based on 87 student scores)
24.9

TRANSCRIPTS AND GRADE REPORTING

Rank is not assigned. Advanced Placement and dual credit course grades are weighted by 1.04, and honors courses by 1.02. A 4.5 grading scale is used at Mercy. Following are alpha to 4.5 scale equivalents:

ALPHA	4.5 SCALE	ALPHA	4.5 SCALE
A+	4.5	C+	2.75
A	4.25	C	2.25
B+	3.75	D	1.75
B	3.25	F	1.0

POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Number in graduating class	106	124	127	152	142
Higher education	104	122	126	148	140
Four-year college	99	111	122	146	135
Two-year college	5	10	4	2	5
Gap year experience	0	1	0	4	1
Other education/work	2	2	1	0	1

College and University Attendance

Colleges and universities Mercy graduates attend include:

- Allegheny College
- Bard College
- Boston College
- Boston University
- Brown University
- Bucknell University
- Carnegie Mellon University
- Case Western Reserve University
- Cleveland Institute of Art
- Colgate University
- College of the Holy Cross
- Cornell University
- Dartmouth College
- Duke University
- Elon University
- Emory University
- Fordham University
- George Washington University
- Georgetown University
- Hamilton College
- Harvard University
- Hobart & William Smith Colleges
- Howard University
- Indiana University
- Ithaca College
- John Carroll University
- Johns Hopkins University
- LeMoyne College
- Loyola University Maryland
- Manhattan College
- McGill University
- Mercyhurst University
- Michigan State University
- Mount Holyoke College
- New York University
- Northeastern University
- Ohio Wesleyan University
- Pennsylvania State University
- Princeton University
- Providence College
- Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
- Rochester Institute of Technology
- St. Bonaventure University
- St. John Fisher College
- St. Joseph's University
- SUNY Binghamton
- SUNY Buffalo
- SUNY Geneseo
- Syracuse University
- The Ohio State University
- Union College
- University of Dayton
- University of Delaware
- University of Maryland
- University of Notre Dame
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Pittsburgh
- University of Rochester
- University of Vermont
- University of Virginia
- Vassar College
- Villanova University
- Wellesley College
- Worcester Polytechnic Institute
- Xavier University
- Yale University



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