



### 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.  
*Dean of Middle School*

Dana Whipple  
*Dean of Student Life*

Donna Horn  
*Dean of Academics*

Peggy Kenrick  
*Vice President of Finance*

Tish Ciaccio '79  
*Vice President of Advancement*

David Carro  
*Vice President for  
External Affairs*

Anthony Yandek  
*Athletic Director*

#### Counseling

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

Emily Cady  
*Director of Wellness  
Programs/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, a Catholic secondary school for grades 6 to 12, is sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy and 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 38 local area school districts and several countries. The school educates approximately 800 students.

### 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 64 certified teachers and five full-time counselors, virtually all of whom have earned Doctorates or Masters 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.

*Mercy carried on remote synchronous, real-time instruction throughout the spring of 2020 when 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.*

### 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.
- All students are required to take at least one dual credit or Advanced Placement course.
- Grade 12 students enrolled in three or more Advanced Placement courses have the option of taking a minimum of six credits.
- 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 2020, our graduates earned \$40 million in cumulative college scholarship offers.

**Advanced Placement**

611 exams administered in May 2020  
 84.7% received a score of 3 or higher  
 9% over national percentage scoring 3+

National AP Scholar: 4  
 Scholar w/ Distinction: 28  
 Scholar w/ Honor: 31  
 Scholar: 59

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 2020 are:

**SAT**

(based on 141 student scores)  
 Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (EBRW): **596**  
 Math: **566**

**ACT Composite**

(based on 87 student scores)  
**24.3**

**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

**National Merit Scholarship Program**

In the Class of 2020, two students received a Letter of Commendation in recognition of their outstanding potential.

**POST SECONDARY EDUCATION**

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Number in graduating class	133	106	124	127	152
Higher education	133	104	122	126	148
Four-year college	124	99	111	122	146
Two-year college	9	5	10	4	2
Gap year experience	0	0	1	0	4
Other education/work	0	2	2	1	0

**College and University Attendance**

Colleges and universities Mercy graduates attend include:

- Allegheny College
- Boston College
- Brown University
- Bucknell University
- Carnegie Mellon University
- Case Western Reserve
- Cleveland Art Institute
- Colgate University
- 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
- Holy Cross
- Indiana University
- Ithaca College
- John Carroll University
- Johns Hopkins University
- LeMoyne College
- Loyola College in Maryland
- Manhattan College
- McGill University
- Mercyhurst University
- Michigan State University
- Mount Holyoke College
- New York University
- Northeastern University
- Ohio State
- Pennsylvania State 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 Genesee
- Syracuse 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
- Villanova University
- Wellesley College
- Worcester Polytechnic Institute
- Xavier University
- Yale University



**OUR LADY OF MERCY**  
 SCHOOL FOR YOUNG WOMEN