



Our Lady of Mercy School for Young Women

1437 Blossom Road
Rochester, NY 14610-2298

Ph. 585-288-7120

Fx. 585-288-7966
www.mercyhs.com

CEEb and ACT code: 334845

Administration

Christina M. Lacagnina
President and CEO

Sherylanne Diodato, Ph.D. '93
Principal

Dana Whipple, MS Ed.
Dean of Student Life

Elizabeth Guzzetta, MS Ed.
Dean of Academics

Donna Horn
Interim Dean of the
Middle School

Peggy Kenrick
Vice President of Finance

Stephanie Buchbinder
Vice President
of Advancement

Susan Penepent Ed.D
Athletic Director

Counseling

Jane Searl
Middle School Counselor

Sara Thomas
High School Counselor

Caitlin Schmalstich
High School Counselor

Amanda Vershay
High School Counselor

Dr. Edie Steele
College Counselor

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 601 students.



ADMINISTRATION AND FACULTY

The Mercy administration consists of a President, a Principal, two Vice Presidents, two High School Deans, and a Middle School Dean. The faculty consists of 59 teachers and five 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 and/or Pre-AP courses are offered in English, Science, Mathematics, Social Studies, and World Languages.
- Advanced Placement courses are offered in 2D Art and Design, 3D Art and Design, Drawing, English Language and Composition, English Literature and Composition, Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Statistics, Environmental Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Psychology, World History: Modern, United States History, African American Studies, United States Government and Politics, European History, Computer Science, French Language and Culture, Latin, Spanish Language and Culture. If a student has an interest in an AP course not offered at Mercy, she may either request an independent study then challenge the AP exam.
- Dual credit courses are offered through Rochester Institute of Technology, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, and Monroe Community College in the following courses: Introduction to Business, Personal Money Management, Accounting, Business Law, Seminar in Leadership Development, Introduction to Engineering Design, Calculus, and US History and Environmental Health.

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 2023, our graduates earned \$28 million in cumulative college scholarship offers.

Advanced Placement

457 exams administered in May 2023
67% received a score of 3 or higher

Scholar w/ Distinction: 22
Scholar w/ Honor: 25
Scholar: 41
AP International: 1

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 2023 are:

SAT

(based on student scores)
Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (EBRW): **602**
Math: **576**

ACT Composite

(based on student scores)
25.8

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

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Number in graduating class	127	152	142	131	110
Higher education	126	148	140	128	110
Four-year college	122	146	135	125	107
Two-year college	4	2	5	3	3
Gap year experience	0	4	1	3	0
Other education/work	1	0	1	0	0

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

