

Dear Parents and Guardians,

6/16/2026

In an effort to assist in the monumental mission of protecting children, Mount Mercy Academy is partnering with you to present a safe environment lesson to your child. It is our cherished role as adults to fully protect children. In addition, we must also teach children/youth about their safety rights and boundaries, so that they have tools to protect themselves. What follows is information about the program itself and the resources available to you. **PLEASE NOTE: There are required action items on page 2 with content you may need to return.**

Empowering God's Children Program Information:

A program for children, each lesson includes a grade-appropriate video component along with learning activities. The material is designed to better equip your child to know their safety rights, recognize their boundaries, and to empower them to protect themselves when safe adults are not immediately available—and ultimately be safer from people who might want to harm them.

As we partner together in delivering this content to youth, there are two especially helpful resources to assist in delivering the lessons. These resources are provided to our Lesson Leaders (which include you as parents, along with the persons delivering the content per the organization). First, the *Teaching Boundaries and Safety Guide*, which equips safe adults to facilitate an ongoing safety dialogue, and the *Lesson Leader Orientation and Certification Module*, give you better insight about conducting the lessons. Please communicate directly with your local or diocesan coordinator to gain access to each of these specific resources. Following the lesson, we encourage you to continue reinforcing the message at home whenever possible.

- I. TRAINING DATE INFORMATION:** The children/youth will be taught the age-appropriate safe environment lesson directly by the organization. The material will be delivered in person during school.

Date(s) of organization-led training: ____ To be completed in school by 10/31/2026 ____

As parents, you are the primary educators of your children/youth, and you have the ability to “opt” your child/youth out of the formal in-program safety lesson. This means that the child will *only* receive safe-environment lesson information from your own commitment to deliver them at home, and will not have any additional learning opportunities from the location. Please complete and submit the following form only if you DO NOT want your child to receive safe environment information delivered through Mount Mercy Academy about ways to protect themselves and get help when needed. *However, if you wish for your child/youth attending the session listed above, no additional action is needed, and you may disregard the next page.*



Empowering God's Children® Safe Environment Program

Youth session conducted by Lesson Leaders
Parent Information & Optional Opt-Out Form

TO **OPT-OUT** THE CHILD FROM THE SAFETY LESSON

*Complete this portion **ONLY** if you **DO NOT** want your child/youth to participate in the Empowering God's Children Program*

I, (name of parent or guardian) _____, have reviewed the safety lessons and DO NOT give my permission for this location to present the *Empowering God's Children* Safety Lesson to my child (printed name of child) _____ Grade _____.

Parent Signature* _____ Date _____

I, (name of parent/guardian) _____, certify that (select one below):

I have presented my child/youth (name) _____ in grade _____, the *Empowering God's Children* Lesson: _____ (title) on (date) _____.

OR

I am choosing to "opt-out" my child/youth (name) _____ in grade _____ so they will not receive any safe environment training for this year.

Parent Signature* _____ Date _____

**If you are unable to print, sign and scan, typing in your full name above will be considered your signature.*

RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO

(Name / Location): _____ Main Office – Attn: Joyce Fruth

Email: _____ jfruth@mtmercy.org

BY: Friday, September 11th, 2026

Thank you for your partnership with us to protect children and youth.