



July 2025

To families and students of our Mount Mercy Community:

Welcome to the 2025-2026 school year! Whether you're a returning student or joining us for the first time, we are excited to have you as part of our school community.

To our **returning students**, welcome back! We hope you had a restful and enjoyable summer. We are proud of everything you've accomplished so far and look forward to seeing you continue to grow, learn, and lead this year.

To our **new students**, we're thrilled to welcome you to our Mount Mercy Academy family! Starting a new chapter can be both exciting and a little overwhelming, but know that you are not alone. We are here to support you every step of the way, and we can't wait to see all that you will contribute to our school and community.

This school year brings new opportunities for learning, friendships, and personal growth. Our staff has been working hard to prepare a safe, inclusive, and engaging environment where every student can thrive. We encourage you to take part in school events, join clubs, ask questions, and always strive to do your best.

As we begin this journey together, remember that each day is a fresh start. Stay curious, stay kind, and stay committed to making this your best year yet.

Mount Mercy Academy has set high academic standards while providing support to our students to ensure that together we accomplish goals with confidence in a positive and productive manner. Our mission is to prepare every girl to establish spiritual, personal and educational growth and to become strong, empowered and confident young women. We appreciate your investment in your child and we are committed to providing the highest quality education, with a spiritual foundation that will last a lifetime. With the Critical Concerns of the Sisters of Mercy at the forefront of our curriculum, we have established a mission of teaching kindness and compassion based on the values and integrity of our beloved founder Catherine McAuley.

With a Project Based Learning model, we provide students the opportunity to develop knowledge and skills through hands-on learning and develop problem solving skills applicable to real world experiences. This research based curriculum is an innovative and forward thinking approach to the ever changing world in which we live. We have expanded our "Academies within the Academy" in order to give students opportunities to experience internships, field work and speaker engagements by partnering with alumni, community members, local businesses and other key stakeholders who are passionate in the education of our girls.

Before the school year begins, there are a number of items of importance you should be aware of. Below are several reminders and a list of important dates over the next few weeks:



Mercy Education  
System of the Americas

A Private College Preparatory High School in the Mercy Tradition  
88 Red Jacket Parkway | Buffalo, New York 14220 | [www.mtmercy.org](http://www.mtmercy.org) | T (716) 825-8796 | F (716) 825-0976





This year we will participate in an "all school" read. All students, faculty and staff will be required to read "The Women" by Kristin Hannah in order to build cohesiveness throughout the school as a whole. We will be sharing our reviews and discussing the book as it relates to the Critical Concerns of the Sisters of Mercy. Please be sure to check our website under the quick links tab in the top right corner for details.

**Thursday August 14th 6pm-** Fall Sports meeting in the dining hall.

**Tuesday, September 2nd - ALL-STUDENT ORIENTATION.**

Students will receive their schedule and take their pictures for a photo ID as well as various other activities including receiving their Chromebooks. A detailed schedule of the day is included.

**Tuesday, September 2nd**, at 6pm is New Family Orientation night for incoming students and parents. Please enter through door 3 located on the right when looking at the building on Red Jacket Parkway. This evening will provide a plethora of information and parents and students will have an opportunity to learn more about academics, extracurricular activities and other events at Mercy.

**Wednesday, September 3rd**, - First day of classes for all students!

**Athletics:** Questions regarding upcoming events Contact [ioakley@mtmercy.org](mailto:ioakley@mtmercy.org)

**Main Office:** is open from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and closed on Fridays for the summer. Questions should be directed to Mrs. Julianne Cusack at [jcusak@mtmercy.org](mailto:jcusak@mtmercy.org) phone: 716-825-8796 ext. 109.

**Counseling Office:** Our Counseling Office has limited availability during the summer, however there are days school counselors will be available. All immediate questions and concerns regarding the Counseling Department should be directed to Mrs. Elayna Snyder at [esnyder@mtmercy.org](mailto:esnyder@mtmercy.org) or 716-825-8796 ext. 211.

**Tuition or Financial Aid Information:**

Tuition Office: Mrs. Julie DeCarolis - [jdecarolis@mtmercy.org](mailto:jdecarolis@mtmercy.org) or 716-825-8796 ext. 302

Financial Aid: Ms. Erin Ryan - [eryan@mtmercy.org](mailto:eryan@mtmercy.org) or 716-825-8796 ext. 303.

We look forward to the upcoming school year with you!

In Mercy,

Ms. Michele Melligan '92  
Head of School



# 2025-2026 Mount Mercy Academy Instructional Calendar



**School Day:** 7:45 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.

88 Red Jacket Parkway

Buffalo, NY 14220

(716) 825-8796

**Students must arrive by 7:45 a.m.**

Teacher Days = 175 (incl. 8 PD days)

Student Days = 167

## August

26 New Teacher Orientation  
27 Professional Development - No students  
28 Professional Development - No students  
29 Labor Day Weekend - Building closed

2 PD

## September

1 Labor Day - No School - Building closed  
2 Student Orientation  
3 First day of classes

1 PD + 20 Student Days = 21

## October

8 Testing Day (gr. 9-11) College Visit Day (gr. 12)  
10 Academy day off - No School - Building closed  
13 Indigenous Peoples' Day - No School - Building Closed

21 Student Days

## November

2 Daylight Saving  
7 12:45 Student Dismissal - Faculty meeting to follow  
10 Mental Health Monday - No School - Building closed  
11 Veterans Day - No School - Building closed  
26-28 Thanksgiving Break - No School - Building closed

15 Student days

## December

19 12:45 Student Dismissal  
22-31 Christmas Break - No School - Building closed

15 Student Days

## January 2026

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## February 2026

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

## March 2026

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## April 2026

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

## May 2026

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

## June 2026

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

## January

1-2 Christmas Break - Building closed  
19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day - No School - Building closed  
30 12:45 Student Dismissal - Faculty meeting to follow

19 Student Days

## February

9 Mental Health Monday - Building closed  
16 President's Day - No School - Building closed  
17-20 Winter break - No students

14 Student Days

## March

8 Daylight Saving  
13 12:45 Student Dismissal - Faculty meeting to follow  
16 Mental Health Monday - No School - Building closed

21 Student Days

## April

2-6 Easter Break - No School - Building closed  
7-10 Easter Break - No school  
24 Professional Development/Retreat - No students

1 PD + 14 Student Days = 15

## May

22-25 Memorial Day Weekend - Building closed

19 Student Days

## June

11 Last day for students  
12-17 Professional Development - No students  
19 Juneteenth - Building closed

4 PD + 9 Student Days = 13

Teacher Days = 175 (incl. 8 PD days)

Student Days = 167

Last Edit = 6/5/2025





## **Mount Mercy Academy Student Orientation**

### **Tuesday, September 2, 2025**

#### **Grade 10: 8:30 AM – 9:30 AM**

- 8:30** Report to the Dining Hall
- Prayer and Welcome – Mrs. Melligan
  - Schedules/ Chromebooks/Technology Presentation
- 9:00** Photographs in the Gym
- 9:30** Dismissal

#### **Grade 11: 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM**

- 9:30** Report to the Dining Hall
- Prayer and Welcome – Mrs. Melligan
  - Schedules/Chromebooks/Technology Presentation
- 10:00** Photographs in the Gym
- 10:30** Dismissal

#### **Grade 12: 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM**

- 10:30** Report to the Dining Hall
- Prayer and Welcome – Mrs. Melligan
  - Schedules/Chromebooks/Technology Presentation
- 11:00** Photographs in the Gym
- 11:15** Meet with Freshmen in the Dining Hall – help freshmen log into email and chromebooks, take freshmen around the building with their schedules, help find lockers, homeroom and classrooms

#### **Grade 9: 11:00 AM –12:30 PM**

- 11:00** Report to the Dining Hall – Prayer and Welcome – Mrs. Melligan
- 11:15** Chromebooks/Technology Presentation – Seniors to help
- 11:45** Schedule Walk-through with Tour Guide/ Photographs in the Gym
- 12:30** Dismissal



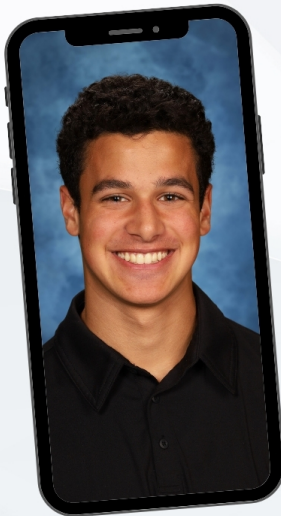
**Picture Date(s):** Tuesday, September 2, 2025 (Original Date)  
Wednesday, October 15, 2025 (Retake Date)

**Mount Mercy Academy**



**Mount Mercy  
Academy**

**Keyword  
MtMercy25**



**855-773-3321 | upstate-images.com**



# Mount Mercy Academy

Online Code:  
MtMercy25

Picture date is 9/2/2025. The retake date is 10/15/2025.

SCAN HERE TO  
PRE-ORDER

Escanea aqui  
para preordenar



## ORDERING OPTIONS

### Pre-Ordering Before the Picture Day:

If ordering before the picture day, or within 48 hours after the picture day, please order from the QR code to the left or from our website. Pre-order packages can be shipped to the school at no cost.

Si ordena antes de la fecha de la foto, o dentro de las 48 horas despues de la fecha de la foto, porfavor ordene usando el codigo QR o desde nuestra pagina de internet. Los paquetes pre-ordenados pueden ser entregados en la escuela sin costo.

[www.Upstate-Images.com](http://www.Upstate-Images.com)

### If You Miss the Pre-Order Date:

You can still place a late order but the pre-order code will be inactive. You will need an individual online code for your student. In most cases this will be the school issued Student ID# with the first letter of the school. Late orders will be mailed to your home with a \$6 shipping fee.

Example: J10032020

Usted puede solicitar ordenes atrasadas pero el codigo de pre-orden estara desactivado. Usted necesitara un codigo en linea individual para su estudiante. Este sera el numero de identificacion de su estudiante con la primera letra de la escuela. Las ordenes atrasadas seran enviadas a su hogar con un costo de envio de \$6

## Select Your Package | Elige tu Paquete

MOST  
POPULAR

Pkg A: \$44.75

1-8x10, 2-5x7's,  
2-3.5x5's, 8-2x3's  
Plus a  
Digital Download

Pkg B: \$38.75

1-8x10,  
2-5x7's,  
2-3.5x5's,  
8-2x3's

Pkg C: \$51.75

2-8x10's, 3-5x7's,  
2-3.5x5's, 12-2x3's,  
Plus a  
Digital Download

Pkg D: \$32.75 2-5x7s, 2-3.5x5s, 8-2x3's

Pkg E: \$23.75 4-3.5x5s, 8-2x3's

Pkg F: \$21.75 2-3.5x5's, 4-2x3's

## Add On and Enhance Your Package | Agregue y mejore su paquete

	Without Package	Only With Package
8-2x3s .....	\$18	\$14
2-5x7s .....	\$18	\$14
4-3.5x5s .....	\$18	\$14
1-8x10 .....	\$18	\$14
Digital Download. \$30 .....		\$22

**\$9 Basic Retouching:**  
reduce facial blemishes  
Retoque Basico

**\$19 Braces Removal**  
Remover Frenos Bucales



EXCLUSIVELY  
ONLINE ONLY

**Name On Wallets  
or  
Name, Grade, Year**  
can be ordered  
online only

## Background Styles | There are more background choices available online. | Existen mas fondos para escoger en linea.



#1



#2



#3



#4



#5



#6

Free Backgrounds -Traditional Gray or Blue

Background Upgrades are \$3 each

If you order online you do not need to submit this form. If filling out the paper order form please make sure you select the package, background, and enhancement before submitting this form and payment with your student on the school picture day.

If you have questions please go online to our FAQ's found at [Upstate-Images.com/FAQ](http://Upstate-Images.com/FAQ). You may also contact us Monday-Friday 9am-5pm at 855-773-3321.



## Standard Uniform Components

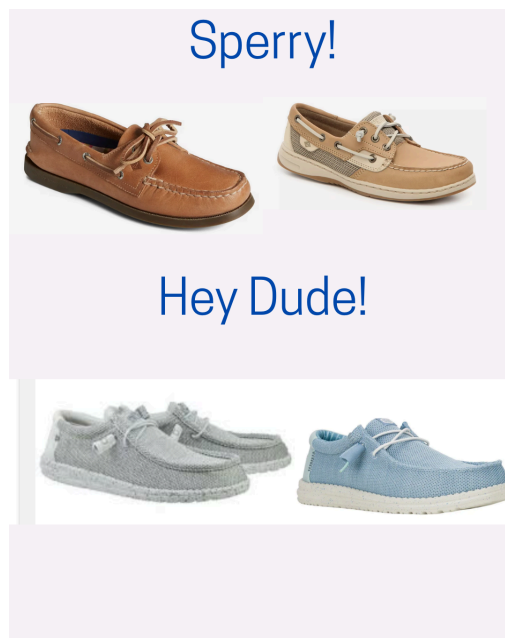
- Skirt: navy blue or gray
- Pants: navy blue or gray
- Shirts: short or long sleeve polos with Mercy logo.
- Colors: navy blue, white, pink, yellow, light blue
- Jacket: **Navy blue casual blazer** with **two buttons in the front** and side pockets. For reference and purchase [click here](#)

- Socks: Navy, grey, or white knee socks, crew socks, or tights
- Shoes: Brand: Sperry's or Hey dudes

\*Colors: navy blue, tan, white, gray or light pink.

No flip-flops, slides, boots, slippers. Sneakers, crocs or trainers, unless medical documentation is provided.

Please see a reference picture of what is allowed.



- Students may also wear
  - Sweater: Cardigan with logo | Color: navy blue
  - Fleece: Full or half zip with Mercy logo | Color: navy blue
  - ¼ zip Nylon pullover with Mercy logo | Color: navy blue
- Mercy crewneck ONLY if purchased through our school Wizard Wear Shop!



★ Mount Mercy Academy school uniforms can be ordered through Land's End or purchased at McKay's Clothing on Abbott Road.

● **HOW TO ORDER THE MERCY UNIFORM**

**UNIFORM PROVIDER: LAND'S END**

Preferred School Number: 900155763

Order online : Mount Mercy Academy Website - [www.mtmercy.org](http://www.mtmercy.org)

- Click on Admissions
- Click on School Uniform
- Click on the Land's End Icon
- Enter your First Name
- Gender
- Grade
- Click on SAVE SCHOOL - This will then prompt you to set up an account.

Order by Phone:

- Call 1-800-469-2222 and reference your student's Preferred School Number (at top of page), grade level and gender. A Land's End Consultant will be available 24/7 to assist you.

● **Appearance**

- Uniforms should be clean and pressed
- Skirts should be hemmed and of an appropriate length
- Hair should be a "natural" color
- No visible tattoos or facial piercings
- Moderate make-up, hair, and jewelry as deemed appropriate by Mount Mercy Administration

● **Physical Education / Dance Attire**

- Gym shorts, Yoga pants or sweatpants
- T-shirt: long or short sleeve
- Sneakers
- Sweatshirt

● **Mercy Wear Fridays**

- Sports sweatshirts/shirts (but no hoodies) may only be worn on Fridays. Bills wear (in season) may be worn on Friday.

● **Dress Up Days**

- TBD by Administration.
- Must be professional and school appropriate.
- Dresses, skorts, skirts and rompers must be fingertip length.

● **Dress Down Days**

- TBD by Administration.
- No ripped jeans, spaghetti strap tank tops, crocs, slippers or flip flops.



★ Mount Mercy Academy school uniforms can be ordered through Land's End or purchased at McKay's Clothing on Abbott Road. Skirts can also be purchased at Kohl's, Amazon, etc.

● HOW TO ORDER THE MERCY UNIFORM

UNIFORM PROVIDER: LAND'S END

Preferred School Number: 900155763

Order online : Mount Mercy Academy Website - [www.mtmercy.org](http://www.mtmercy.org)

- Click on Admissions
- Click on School Uniform
- Click on the Land's End Icon
- Enter your First Name
- Gender
- Grade
- Click on SAVE SCHOOL - This will then prompt you to set up an account.

Order by Phone:

- Call 1-800-469-2222 and reference your student's Preferred School Number (at top of page), grade level and gender. A Land's End Consultant will be available 24/7 to assist you.





# Mount Mercy Academy

## 2025-2026 School Supply List

### Supplies needed for all classes:

- ☐ Loose leaf paper
- ☐ Pens, pencils, colored pencils, and markers
- ☐ Highlighters and colored pens
- ☐ 3x5 Index Cards

### Art Department

#### Supplies needed for all Art Classes:

- ☐ 9" x 12" or larger sketchbook (small enough to carry on field trips)
- ☐ Composition Notebook
- ☐ 2 Pocket Folder

#### Digital Photography/Advanced Digital Media

- ☐ Pack of 25-50 clear protective sheets
- ☐ SD Memory Card

### English Department

#### English 9

- ☐ Journal
- ☐ Post-it notes

#### English 10

- ☐ 3 ring binder (1 inch)
- ☐ 5 tab dividers

#### English 10 Honors

- ☐ 3 ring binder (1 inch)
- ☐ 5 tab dividers

#### English 11 and AP Language and Composition

- ☐ 3 ring binder (1 inch)
- ☐ 5 tab dividers with pockets

#### English 12

- ☐ Journal
- ☐ Post-it notes

#### AP Literature and Composition

- ☐ 3 ring binder (1 inch)
- ☐ 5 tab dividers

#### Modern Creative Expression

- ☐ Durable folder



## **Math Department**

### **Supplies needed for all Math Classes:**

- ☐ TI-84 Plus family of calculators
- ☐ Binder with dividers

## **Physical Education Department**

- ☐ Sneakers
- ☐ Shorts or sweatpants
- ☐ T-shirt or sweatshirt

## **Science Department**

### **Supplies needed for all Science Classes:**

- ☐ 1 subject spiral notebook
- ☐ 2 pocket folder with center prongs

### **Living Environment**

- ☐ 4-pack Expo markers

### **College Biology**

- ☐ 3 ring binder (2 inch)

## **Social Studies Department**

### **Supplies needed for all Social Studies Classes:**

- ☐ 2 pocket folder
- ☐ Notebook

## **Theology Department**

### **Theology I**

- ☐ Composition notebook

### **Theology II**

- ☐ May use composition notebook from last year

### **Theology III and Theology IV**

- ☐ Notebook/Journal
- ☐ Folder
- ☐ Pack of 300 5 x 8 colored index cards





# Student Technology Information



Mount Mercy Academy instituted the Technology Fee as part of a comprehensive plan to build and maintain fundamental equipment and services in order to offer our students the highest quality learning environment. We are committed to ensuring students have access to the latest instructional technology resources available, enhancing the quality of the academic experience, and increasing integration of technology into the curriculum.

The fee is earmarked for instructional technologies to keep Mount Mercy up to date with the technology needed for today's teaching and learning methodologies. The technology fee supports the distribution and upkeep of Chromebooks given to all students as well as digital services such as internet access, e-mail, security, help desk services, software, classroom equipment and library resources. If chromebooks and chargers are not returned or returned with damage, you are responsible for the replacement of the device.

The following must be completed by ALL Mercy families, every year.

- **Technology Fee - \$150**
- **Parent Chromebook Contract Acknowledgement**

Your payment of the technology fee using the FACTS SIS system will automatically charge your account on **October 10, 2025**.

The Parent Chromebook Contract Acknowledgement is an online form acknowledging that you have read the Student Chromebook contract. This is a contract that ALL students will sign at school when they receive their chromebooks. You are acknowledging the following fees will be charged if required:

**Families will be financially responsible for the repair or replacement of lost, abused hardware or cases.**

**Charger - \$25**

**Case - \$35**

**Chromebook - \$350**

A copy of the Student Chromebook Contract is attached in this packet for your reference. Families **must go online and submit the acknowledgment**. The acknowledgement form can be found on our website under Quick Links, or by scanning this QR code.



Thank you for your continued support! Please let us know if you have questions.



# Student Chromebook Contract

\*\*\* Students will sign this when they receive their Chromebooks and chargers. This is for reference only. \*\*\*

The use of school-supplied Chromebooks at Mount Mercy Academy is a privilege that comes with responsibility. Remember, the device is at all times property of Mount Mercy Academy, not a student's personal device. If you notice something is wrong with the device, you are expected to report it to a teacher immediately. Your technology equipment is an important learning tool and is to be used for educational purposes only. In order to use Mount Mercy's technology equipment, you must be willing to accept the following responsibilities.

1. Personal devices are not to be used in the building for security reasons. All State testing must be done on Mt Mercy devices.
2. Students must bring their Chromebook to school every day and be fully charged.
3. Students must treat their device with care and never leave it in an unsecured location.
4. NO stickers are to be put on the device or case. A cleaning charge will be assessed to remove them.
5. Students must keep their device clean and should only touch the screen with a finger or stylus pen. No food or drinks allowed around the devices.
6. Do not color or write on the Chromebook.
7. Do not place books or other items on top of the device.
8. Make sure nothing is between the screen and keyboard when the Chromebook is shut.
9. Students should not personalize their devices in any way. This includes backgrounds, name icons, decals, screensavers, and downloading any software or applications.
10. Students must keep their Chromebook in their possession or in their backpack when not in use.
11. Students may not allow other students to borrow or use their Chromebook at any time.
12. Students should never share their account passwords with others, unless requested by an IT administrator.
13. Students will not take photos or record video of any persons unless they have the specific consent of a teacher and all persons in the photo or video.
14. Only use the device for school work. You must sign into your school issued Google education account. No other accounts (Google or otherwise) may be accessed on the school-issued Chromebooks.
15. NO Loaners will be given out for forgetting your Chromebook or forgetting to charge it. Only for completely broken Chromebooks.



16. Families will be financially responsible for the repair or replacement of lost, abused hardware or cases.

- a. Charger - \$25
- b. Case - \$35
- c. Chromebook - \$350

### **Internet Policies**

1. Student email is provided by the school and Mount Mercy Academy reserves the right to monitor, and/or review all use of its email system, and users should not have any expectation of privacy in any electronic message created, sent, or received on the "mtmercy.org" email system. School email is for school purposes only and should not be used to sign up for subscriptions or any social media sites. Email accounts will be valid for 1 year after graduation.
2. At school, students are to use the school email accounts provided. All communication using email and comments on another's work is expected to be business professional. Students should maintain high integrity with regard to e-mail content such as using appropriate language that is not abusive, offensive, or profane.
3. Do not send mass emails, chain letters, or spam.
4. Mount Mercy Academy reserves the right to do periodic checks and/or review of Internet site visits.
5. Students are required to follow all copyright laws around all media including text, images, programs, music, and video. Downloading, sharing, and posting online illegally obtained media is against Mount Mercy Academy's Use of Technology policy.
6. Use of VPNs is prohibited.

Chronic misbehavior and violation of the terms and conditions outlined above could lead to a student losing technology privileges, including possession of their school-issued Chromebook. A student's Chromebook may be "suspended" or "revoked" at any time for violation of this contract.

By signing below I acknowledge that I have read and fully understand the expectations outlined in this contract and I agree to all terms and conditions associated with the issuance of the school owned Chromebook.

\*\*\* Students will sign this when they receive their Chromebooks and chargers. This is for reference only.





# Mount Mercy Academy Athletics Information



- Mount Mercy will host the Fall Sports Meeting on **Thursday, August 14th at 6pm** in the school dining hall. All students who are interested in playing a fall sport and a parent should attend this meeting. Coaches will be attending to give the opportunity for students to sign up to participate. Try out information, season information, practices and games schedules will all be distributed. As well as general information on athletic regulations.
- Students are **REQUIRED** to have an up-to-date physical on file with the school health office in order to participate in practices and games. A copy of the physical should be turned into the main office by the first week of school.
- Mount Mercy requires an athletic fee of \$150 per sport be paid at the start of each season in order for the student to participate.
- ALL REGISTRATIONS MUST go through SportsEngine, and parents must be the ones that fill out the registration, not students. Parents can download the SportsEngine app and see all of their student's practice/game information once registered.
- Any questions or concerns can be directed to Ms. Belle Oakley, Athletic Director at [ioakley@mtmercy.org](mailto:ioakley@mtmercy.org) or 716-825-8796 ext. 306.

## Sports offered at Mount Mercy per season:

### Fall

Cheerleading (for the Bishop Timon football team)  
Cross Country  
Golf  
Rowing (through the BSRA - Buffalo Scholastic Rowing Association)  
JV/Varsity Soccer  
Swim  
Tennis  
JV/Varsity Volleyball

### Winter

JV/Varsity Basketball  
Bowling  
Cheerleading (for the Bishop Timon basketball team)  
Ice Hockey (Monsignor Martin team)  
Indoor Track and Field

### Spring

Flag Football  
Lacrosse  
Rowing (through the BSRA)  
Softball  
Track & Field





# Mount Mercy Academy

## Summer Reading 2025

### SUMMER READING

Students in all grade levels (9-12) will be required to participate in a school-wide read of a chosen text. Unlike previous years, this year, all students and faculty will be reading the same book, with the goal of fostering a greater sense of community within Mount Mercy Academy. Reading collectively allows us to connect with one another through our thoughts, feelings, and experiences.

*"How do we diminish the distance between us? Reading is one way to close that distance. It gives us a quiet universe that we can share together, that we can share equally." - Author Michelle Kuo*

As always, the chosen book will apply to the Critical Concerns of Mercy.

#### These Critical Concerns include:

**Earth:** We believe in the need for sustainability of life, supporting both a lifestyle and legislation that acknowledges everyone's right to water and the need to address climate change.

**Women:** Through our schools, colleges, health-care institutions and spirituality centers, and through our legislative advocacy, we give special attention to women's education, health and spirituality.

**Non-Violence:** We work for peace through prayer, education, personal and communal practices of nonviolence, and legislative advocacy to reduce armed conflicts, gun violence and human rights abuses.

**Immigration:** Believing firmly in the dignity of every person, we work for just and humane immigration laws in the U.S., address policies that push people to flee their countries, and examine the global impact of immigration.

**Racism:** We believe racism is an evil affecting us all. We work to recognize and dismantle institutional racism in order to become an anti-racist multicultural community.

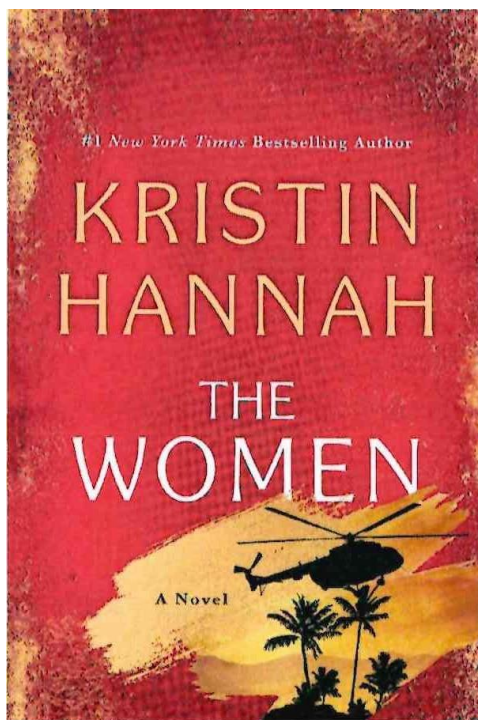
#### Assignments:

1. While you are reading, carefully and thoughtfully annotate the text. A specific list of tips to help you with annotations is included on page 4 of this packet. You will receive a grade for your annotations during the first week of school. The rubric for the annotations assignment is included on page 5 of this packet.  
 --+ **PLEASE NOTE:** If you borrow your book from the library and annotate with post-it notes, you **MUST** make arrangements to keep the book until after the first week of school so your annotations can be graded. Notes on a separate sheet of paper will not be accepted, and no exceptions will be made.
2. Your English teacher may also choose to give you **additional** readings, writing assignments, and/or assessments based on your careful analysis of your summer reading. Please find the course you will be enrolled in for the 2025-2026 school year beginning on page 3 of this packet to see if there are any additional requirements.



For our school-wide selection, please read

## *The Women*, by Kristin Hannah



### *Summary*

*Women can be heroes.* When twenty- year- old nursing student Frances "Frankie" McGrath hears these words, it is a revelation. Raised in the sun-drenched, idyllic world of Southern California and sheltered by her conservative parents, she has always prided herself on doing the right thing. But in 1965, the world is changing, and she suddenly dares to imagine a different future for herself. When her brother ships out to serve in Vietnam, she joins the Army Nurse Corps and follows his path.

As green and inexperienced as the men sent to Vietnam to fight, Frankie is over-whelmed by the chaos and destruction of war. Each day is a gamble of life and death, hope and betrayal; friendships run deep and can be shattered in an instant. In war, she meets- and becomes one of- the lucky, the brave, the broken, and the lost.

But war is just the beginning for Frankie and her veteran friends. The real battle lies **in** coming home to a changed and divided America, to angry protesters, and to a country that wants to forget Vietnam.

*The Women* is the story of one woman gone to war, but it shines a light on all women who put themselves in harm's way and whose sacrifice and commitment to their country has too often been forgotten. A novel about deep friendships and bold patriotism, *The Women* is a richly drawn story with a memorable heroine whose idealism and courage under fire will come to define an era.

***These works explore the many dimensions of human nature, the power of choice and chance, family, the human experience, social justice and injustice, as well as the belief in oneself and the good in others.***



## Additional Course Requirements

### English I

***Please complete the summer reading assignment ONLY.*** In addition to the assignment listed above, you will also receive a grade based on your participation in activities related to the book that will take place during the first week of school.

### English I Honors

***Please complete the summer reading assignment ONLY.*** In addition to the assignment listed above, you will also receive a grade based on your participation in activities related to the book that will take place during the first week of school.

### English II

***Please complete the summer reading assignment ONLY.*** In addition to the assignment listed above, you will also receive a grade based on your participation in activities related to the book that will take place during the first week of school.

### English II Honors

***In addition to the school-wide summer reading assignment,*** please also read and annotate *Persuasion*, by Jane Austen. You will also receive a grade based on your participation in activities related to the book that will take place during the first week of school. Further, please be prepared to write an essay on *Persuasion*.

### English III

***Please complete the summer reading assignment ONLY.*** In addition to the assignment listed above, you will also receive a grade based on your participation in activities related to the book that will take place during the first week of school.

### AP English Language

***In addition to the school-wide summer reading assignment,*** please also read and annotate *The Art of the Personal Essay*, by Phillip Lopate. Over the summer, be sure to look out for emails from Mr. Brown with specific information pertaining to summer reading.

### English IV

***Please complete the summer reading assignment ONLY.*** In addition to the assignment listed above, you will also receive a grade based on your participation in activities related to the book that will take place during the first week of school.

### AP English Literature

***In addition to the school-wide summer reading assignment,*** please also read and annotate *Jane Eyre*, by Charlotte Bronte. During the first weeks of school, you will demonstrate your careful reading and thoughtful analysis of the required reading through your annotations of the selections, your composition of an AP-style essay, and analytical activities and discussions that will require you to use your annotations and notes.



# Annotation Tips

The goal of annotating is to create a conversation between yourself and the text you are reading in order to develop a deeper meaning of the material. When you are reading, have a pencil and a highlighter (or multiple highlighters) close by and follow the strategies listed below. Keep in mind that you do not necessarily need to use every strategy on every page of the text.

1. Record keywords, or topics, in the margins whenever you encounter the topic in the text.
2. Make brief notes at the top of the page, or on sticky notes, to mark important plot events. At the end of a section or chapter, write yourself a brief summary of what happened.
3. If you are having difficulty understanding, stop and read again. Sometimes it is helpful to break a difficult passage, or sentence, down into parts, and try to understand it a little at a time. It is okay to do this. Good readers do it all the time. You may want to use a sticky note or the margin to write down your interpretation of the difficult text.
4. Use check marks, asterisks, arrows, stars, etc. to mark important items or details. If you highlight, you could use different colors for different literary elements and create a key for your color codes.
5. Circle or highlight words that are unfamiliar or unusual. Try to figure out what the words mean through the way they are used; supplement your guesses by consulting a dictionary.
6. Highlight phrases that describe important characters and places (characterization and setting).
7. Highlight words, images, and details that seem to form a pattern, or motif, throughout the text. These patterns usually will lead the close reader to discover a thematic idea.
8. Mark passages that you think might be symbolic.
9. Highlight the use of figurative language and other literary devices. Look specifically for the common ones (simile, metaphor, allusion) and consider the author's purpose for using that element in the story. It would be a good idea to take some notes in the margin so you will remember what you were thinking.
10. If you get an idea, write it down! It may never occur to you again. If a question pops into your head, write it down in the margin and continue reading to see if you discover the answer.
11. Write notes when you formulate an opinion about a character, setting, or event. Document any inferences you make while reading. Make connections to previous sections of the text. Record your feelings, reactions, and comments with words and /or symbols.
12. Don't highlight/underline/mark everything! If you mark too much, nothing will stand out and you will have defeated the purpose of annotating.



# Annotation Rubric

## **Excellent:** *30 points*

Text has been thoroughly annotated with questions, observations, and reflections of the content as well as the author's writing; variety of topics marked for discussion; variety of literary devices marked. Comments demonstrate analysis and interpretation - thinking goes beyond the surface level of the text. Thoughtful connections are made to other texts, and life experiences. Marginal comments accomplish a great variety of purposes. Consistent markings appear throughout text.

## **Proficient:** *20-25 points*

Text has been annotated reasonably well with questions, observations, and/or reflections of the content, as well as the writing. Comments demonstrate some analysis and interpretation - thinking somewhat beyond the surface level of the text. Attempts at making connections are evident. Marginal comments accomplish a variety of purposes. Some lapses in entries exist; may be sporadic.

## **Adequate:** *10-15 points*

Text has been briefly annotated. Commentary remains mostly at the surface level. The commentary suggests thought in specific sections of the text rather than throughout. There is little or no attempt to make connections.

## **Inadequate:** *0- 5 points*

Text has little to no annotations. The notes do not reveal a close reading of the text.





# Mount Mercy Academy

## Attendance Policy

The administration of Mount Mercy Academy is responsible for all policies regarding pupil attendance, standards, records of attendance, and regulations and is guided by New York State Education Law and the Commissioner of Education.

Regular school attendance is necessary for scholastic progress. A poor attendance record may jeopardize opportunities for employment and college entrance. Parents are asked not to permit absence from school for trivial reasons. Absence from school without parental consent constitutes truancy. The school day begins at 7:45 a.m. and runs through 2:45 p.m. Students should be in school no later than 7:45 a.m. to ensure timely arrival to homeroom. Attendance is recorded at the start of the school day. In addition, teachers are required to keep a record of attendance for each class throughout the school day since regular class attendance is crucial to academic success.

Credit for any course is contingent upon:

- Meeting the course requirements, including reporting for the final exam or submitting the final assessment and receiving a passing average of 65%.
- Meeting attendance requirements.

In order to receive course credit a student is expected to be in attendance for a minimum of 85% of all scheduled class meetings or equivalent time. There will be no differentiation made between excused and unexcused absences.

Students who fail to meet the minimum attendance requirement for a course may receive an audit for that course. They may not be allowed to take any final examinations in that course. They may have to make up missed time, especially if work has not been turned in.

The classroom teachers, guidance counselors, and administration will notify students and parents when specified benchmarks in absences have been reached. Students who have excessive absences in class and have been scheduled to audit may be required to make up time equivalent to the number of classes absent beyond the maximum number in both full year and semester courses. Students who fail to make up time may have their attendance reviewed by an attendance committee consisting of the Head of School, School Counselors, and the Dean of Academic and Student Life to determine the course of action to be taken. Students will be notified in writing of the determination of the committee.



# Attendance Procedures

Mount Mercy Academy's attendance policies and procedures are located in the Student-Parent Handbook, which will be posted to "QuickLinks" on the school website and to the "Resources" section of the family portal.

School doors open at 7:00 a.m. for student arrival. **Students should arrive no later than 7:45 a.m.**

Homeroom begins promptly at 7:50 a.m. Dismissal is at 2:45 p.m. Free breakfast is served in the dining hall for all students arriving before 7:35 a.m. **At dismissal time, the bus lane in front of school must remain clear until the buses leave at 2:55 p.m. Parents/Guardians who drive their daughter are asked to wait until the buses have cleared before pulling in front of school for pick up.**

## ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES:

### **1) ALL ABSENCES, EARLY DISMISSALS AND TARDINESS MUST BE REPORTED BY A PARENT/GUARDIAN!**

- a) Parents/Guardians must call the **Attendance Hotline** by 8:30 a.m. every day that their daughter will be absent, has to leave early, or will arrive later than 7:45 a.m.: (716) 825-8796 Ext.2.
  - b) **Do not call the Main Office** to report attendance.
  - c) If the situation requires you to speak with someone regarding the absence, please call the Health Office: (716) 825-8796, Ext.104 or your daughter's school counselor.
  - d) A **doctor's note is required** any time a student misses class time for any kind of medical appointment between 7:50 a.m. – 2:45 p.m. If the doctor's office does not automatically give you a school excuse, please ask for one. Your daughter should bring it to the Health Office upon return to school or you can fax it: (716) 825-0976.
- 2) Automatic Demerits will be issued for "unexcused" tardiness. See the student handbook for rules and lists of "excused" and "unexcused" reasons.**
- 3) If School District Transportation (yellow school bus) runs late due to health & safety procedures, inclement weather, etc., students will be issued an "excused" pass to class. Absences/tardiness due to District Transportation are not counted against the student.**
- 4) A student may sign herself in when arriving late. For safety and security reasons, parents must sign out a student who is leaving early.**
- 5) Early dismissals** must be pre-arranged by calling the Attendance Hotline **by 8:30 a.m.** with the details of the dismissal (716) 825-8796, Ext. 2. Last-minute emergency dismissals should be kept to a minimum and should be reported to the school nurse: (716) 825-8796, Ext. 104. **When picking up your daughter early from school, enter through Door #4, go up to the Health Office and sign out your daughter. Please bring ID.** When calling, please indicate if your daughter drove herself; if someone other than yourself is picking up your daughter; or if special arrangements need to be made.
- 6) Students participating in any club/activity/sport must be on time and in class all day (7:50-2:45). The exceptions are Bereavement, School Business, or a routine doctor's appointment. A doctor's excuse must be submitted for any medical appointments where class time is missed.**
- 7) If a student becomes ill during the school day,** she is to report to the Health Office for assessment. Students **should not** call a parent on her own to say she wants to be picked up. **Only the nurse can make such arrangements.**
- a) The school nurse will assess the illness/injury, as required by NYS and contact a parent/guardian if necessary. A parent/guardian may contact the Health Office at [healthoffice@mtmercy.org](mailto:healthoffice@mtmercy.org) or (716) 825-8796 x104.
  - b) If a student goes home ill or spends more than 15 minutes in the health office, she becomes ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities for that day, including sports.





## ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

### **Students must:**

1. Respect and protect the privacy of others.
  - a. Use only assigned accounts.
  - b. Not view, use, or copy passwords, data, or networks to which they are not authorized.
  - c. Not distribute private information about others or themselves.
2. Respect and protect the integrity, availability, and security of all electronic resources.
  - a. Observe all network security practices, as posted.
  - b. Report security risks or violations to a teacher or network administrator.
  - c. Not destroy or damage any school device, data, networks, or other resources that do not belong to them.
  - d. Conserve, protect, and share these resources with other students and Internet users.
  - e. Save all data and documents to her Google Drive.
3. Respect and protect the intellectual property of others.
  - a. Not infringe copyrights (no making illegal copies of music, games, or movies).
  - b. Not plagiarize.
4. Respect and practice the principles of community.
  - a. Communicate only in ways that are kind and respectful.
  - b. Report threatening or discomfoting materials to a teacher or member of the staff.
  - c. Not intentionally access, transmit, copy, or create material that violates the school's code of conduct (such as message that are obscene, sexually oriented, threatening, rude, discriminatory, or meant to harass).
  - d. Not intentionally access, transmit, copy, or create material that is illegal (such as obscenity, stolen materials, or illegal copies of copyrighted works).
  - e. Not use the resources to further other acts that are criminal or violate the school's code of conduct.
  - f. Not send spam, chain letters, or other mass unsolicited mailings.
  - g. Not buy, sell, advertise, or otherwise conduct business, unless approved as a school project.

### **Students may, if in accord with the policy above:**

5. Design and post web pages and other material from school resources.
6. Use direct communications such as online chat or instant messaging with a teacher's permission.
7. Install or download software, if also in conformity with laws and licenses, and under the supervision of a teacher.
8. Use the resources for any educational purpose.

### **Students must:**

9. Read and discuss these policy rules and regulations with parent/guardian.
10. Sign and date the AUP policy form which indicates acknowledgement and understanding of student obligations.
11. Obtain parent/guardian dated signature on the AUP policy form.

### **Parent(s) Guardian(s) must:**

1. Read and discuss these policy rules and regulations with their daughter.
2. Sign and date the AUP policy form which indicates their acknowledgement and understanding of daughter's obligations.

### **Administration:**

1. Will file the signed AUP policy form of each student and her parent/guardian.
2. Will, through school and network administrators and their authorized employees, monitor





## ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

the use of information technology resources to help ensure that uses are secure and in conformity with this policy.

3. Will reserve the right to examine, use, and disclose any data found on the school's information networks in order to further the health, safety, discipline, or security of any student or other person, or to protect property.
4. May use this information (in #4 above) in disciplinary actions and will furnish evidence of crime to law enforcement.
5. Will investigate violations of these rules and determine disciplinary action, including the loss of a student's privileges to use the school's information technology resources.

**Student's Last Name (Please Print):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student's First name(Please Print):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Grade Level:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return to The Mount Mercy Academy Main Office Friday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025.**

### **Disclaimer:**

Mount Mercy Academy makes no warranties of any kind for computer services. Mount Mercy Academy will not be responsible for the interruption or the loss of data. All work should be saved to the student's Google Drive. Use of information obtained on the internet is at your own risk.

### **Disclaimer of Responsibility:**

Mount Mercy Academy offers internet access to support teaching and learning. Transmission of any material in violation of any U.S. or state regulation is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to copyrighted material, threatening or obscene material, or material protected by trade secret. The use of the internet as part of an educational program is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of those privileges. Use of any information obtained via this school's access to the internet is at the user's own risk. Mount Mercy Academy exercises no control over the content of the information residing on or passing through it. Some systems may contain inappropriate or objectionable material for a minor, such as defamatory, inaccurate, abusive, obscene, profane, sexually oriented, threatening, racially offensive, or illegal material. Parents of minors having access to the internet should be aware of the existence of such material and the ability of a student to access this material through the internet (either at home or school). As a result, Mount Mercy Academy disclaims any responsibility for inappropriate or objectionable materials that a student may obtain through school use of the internet. Students who knowingly bring such material into the school environment will be subject to the discipline policies of the school, and such activities may result in termination of her access.



## Contact List for Parents and Students: (716) 825-8796 + Ext

QUESTIONS ABOUT:	NAME	TITLE	EXTENSION/VOICEMAIL and EMAIL
To reach the Head of School	Michele Melligan	Head of School	Ext. 113: mmelligan@mtmercy.org
To reach the Counseling Department	Elayna Snyder: Grades 9-10 Erin Witek: Grades 11-12	Counseling Department	Ext. 211: esnyder@mtmercy.org Ext. 212: ewitek@mtmercy.org
To reach the Athletic Director	Isabella Oakley	Athletic Director	Ext. 306: ioakley@mtmercy.org
To reach the Health Office/School Nurse	School Nurse	School Nurse	Ext. 104: healthoffice@mtmercy.org
To reach the Main Office	Julianne Cusack	Main Office Coordinator	Ext. 109: jcusack@mtmercy.org
To reach the Attendance Hotline	Attendance Hotline	Attendance Hotline	Ext. 2
You have a question regarding the Portal	Joyce Fruth	Executive Asst. to the Head of School	jfruth@mtmercy.org
You have a Chromebook question or need help with technology	Julianne Cusack	Main Office Coordinator	Ext. 109: jcusack@mtmercy.org
You have a question regarding student discipline	Lina Smith	Assistant Head of School	Ext. 414: lsmith@mtmercy.org
To reach the Financial Aid Office	Erin Ryan	Financial Aid Office	Ext. 303: eryan@mtmercy.org
To reach the Tuition Office	Julie DeCarolis	Director of Operations	Ext. 302: jdecarolis@mtmercy.org
To reach the Admissions Office	Anna Rybcynski	Admission Coordinator	Ext. 311: arybczynski@mtmercy.org
You have a question about Mercy events or alumnae	Isabelle Oakley	Events Coordinator	Ext. 306: ioakley@mtmercy.org
You have a question about Scholarships & Advancement	Erin Renowden	Advancement & Donor Relations Manager	Ext. 324: erenowden@mtmercy.org



Dear Parents and Guardians,

7/7/2025

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 10/31/2025 \_\_\_\_*

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 5th, 2025**

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





# MOUNT MERCY ACADEMY MEET THE TEACHER NIGHT SEPTEMBER 25, 2025

## Welcome!

We are so excited for the 2025-2026 school year. Our Meet the Teacher Night is the first chance for parents to meet their daughter's new teachers. It's a fantastic opportunity for parents, students and teachers to begin building that all-important strong relationship for a successful school year. We strongly encourage all families to attend. If you are unable to attend, please contact your student's individual teachers with any specific questions.

## Agenda

- Meet your daughter's teachers
- Follow her daily schedule
- Learn about classroom procedures and expectations
- Ask questions

## Schedule

**Date:** Thursday, September 25th, 2025

**Time:** 5:50 pm arrival - please be in your daughter's homeroom by **6pm.**

**Format:** You will be given a schedule to follow as you move to each classroom. There will be students to help guide you through the halls.







# Mount Mercy Academy



# MAGIC MONEY

As part of our mandatory fundraising requirements, each family is responsible for selling 30 tickets. If a family does not sell all 30 tickets, the remaining unsold tickets will be charged to their FACTS account on October 24, 2025.

Families who choose not to participate will have the full value of 30 tickets charged to their account.

## TICKETS ARE ONLY \$10 EACH!

## Three drawings on October 17, 2025

## Prizes = \$5,000 \$2,500, and \$1,000

Contact [events@mtmercy.org](mailto:events@mtmercy.org) with any questions.