



October 18th, 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian:

As the first quarter is coming to a close, it is already time to start thinking about financial assistance for the upcoming 2025-2026 school year.

Mount Mercy Academy works with FACTS (Fast Automated Cash Transaction Service) Grant & Aid to evaluate financial need. FACTS Grant & Aid will conduct a financial assistance analysis based on the information you submit to them. *All families need to complete a FACTS application online and submit the necessary supporting documentation directly to FACTS via uploading the documentation onto your application.* This information needs to be submitted directly to FACTS Grant & Aid by **Monday, December 16th, 2024.**

You are required to apply for financial assistance every year you have a student(s) in attendance at Mercy. Please be prompt in applying for financial assistance. Your award is determined based on financial need and applying to FACTS **on time.**

- You can apply for FACTS here: <https://online.factsmtg.com/aid>

If you have any questions, please contact me in the Financial Assistance Office at (716) 825-8796 ext. 303 or email eryan@mtmercy.org.

Sincerely,

Erin Ryan
Financial Assistance Coordinator



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Scholarships and Financial Assistance

1. Academic Scholarships

A. Policy

The amount of money set aside for scholarships and financial assistance is set by the school's Board of Trustees who annually reviews the program through its budgetary process.

Mount Mercy Academy awards a number of academic scholarships each year. These awards are made available through gifts from supporters and alumnae, and allocation of school general funds. Traditionally, a four-year academic scholarship is guaranteed to the member of the incoming class scoring the highest on the Catholic High School Entrance Exam and indicating Mount Mercy Academy as her first-choice school on the admissions application.

- **Alumnae Scholarship:** Full tuition scholarship to the student who scores highest on the Catholic High School Admissions Exam
- **Head of School Scholarship:** Half tuition scholarship to the student who scores the second highest on the Catholic High School Admissions Exam
- **Catherine McAuley Scholarship:** \$5,000 scholarship given to the student who scores the third highest on the Catholic High School Admissions Exam

(Effective for the Class of 2026 and all classes moving forward, the above mentioned academic scholarships are awarded based on the scores of the Catholic High School Entrance Exam. Please note that the 5 academic scholarships that had been previously awarded to the Class of 2025 will be honored until their graduation date.)

B. Academic Scholarship Guidelines

All scholarship recipients must adhere to the following guidelines:

- The scholarship provided for each term requires that the student remain as a full-time Mount Mercy Academy student.
- The student understands and agrees with school policy that should the student be dismissed or withdraws, the amount of the award will be prorated based on attendance and the remainder will be forfeited to the school. Once the scholarship is forfeited, it will not be reinstated.
- The student can expect that the scholarship award per semester will remain effective the entire time they are enrolled in good academic and disciplinary standing at Mount Mercy

Academy. Poor grades, disciplinary action, particularly probation, will jeopardize the student's award.

2. Financial Assistance Policy

Mount Mercy Academy aims to provide consistent information to parents and students regarding financial assistance. The following guidelines are designed to assist the Mount Mercy Academy community in understanding the philosophy and process associated with the awarding of financial assistance to families.

Mount Mercy Academy is committed to preparing students for success in a diverse and changing world. We seek to offer our students a learning environment that is representative of our community: socially, culturally, and economically. Mount Mercy Academy strives to maintain a student population that represents the diverse socio-economic backgrounds of our community. To that end, the purpose of Mount Mercy Academy's financial assistance program is to provide financial assistance to families for whom, without such assistance, a Mount Mercy Academy education would not be an option. A financial assistance award is based on family financial need and does not need to be repaid. Financial assistance is based on financial need as opposed to academic merit. Families receiving assistance will be required to contribute at some level to the cost of tuition. There will be no awards of 100 percent of tuition. Mount Mercy Academy recognizes that many families make significant financial sacrifices to enroll in the school. Our policies and philosophy aim to ensure that each family who requests financial assistance receives full consideration. Financial assistance applicants are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Financial assistance consists of need based grants, discounts, and benefactor scholarships.

The financial assistance process requires families to provide information of an inherently personal nature and Mount Mercy Academy adheres to the highest standards of confidentiality. Students and families are not identified as financial assistance recipients by the school. In the case of single, separated and/or divorced parents, no information will be given by the school to either parent regarding the other parent's financial disclosures. Applicants are considered for admission on a need-blind basis. Students will receive a tuition assistance notification letter which will outline all financial assistance to be given. All discussions and decisions about financial assistance applicants for new and returning students are kept strictly confidential.

Students who are awarded financial assistance must stay in good academic standing or their award may be revoked. The Financial Assistance Coordinator will meet with the Head of School every semester to ensure that students remain in good academic and disciplinary standing.

Financial assistance awards are at the discretion of the Financial Assistance Committee.

A. Benefactor Scholarships

The Financial Assistance Committee will determine the students that receive benefactor scholarships, which are based on financial need and any other criteria set by the benefactor.

Students agree to abide by the terms of the scholarship which may require a typewritten letter of appreciation or meeting with the donor for the scholarship. ***Please see the 3 scholarship applications that are included in the financial aid packet for information on how to apply.***

Financial Assistance Award Guidelines

Financial assistance is awarded on the basis of a family's financial need. A variety of criteria are considered, including income (taxable and nontaxable), assets, number of dependents, number of children attending tuition-based schools, number of parents who are working, etc. Parents are obligated to disclose if they receive any outside financial help for education from relatives, friends, or other sources. This information is balanced with data about living expenses, medical costs, indebtedness, and other factors such as child support and legal expenses. A standardized approach is used to determine a family's discretionary income. A portion of this discretionary income is considered available for educational costs.

To gather information and objectively evaluate it, Mount Mercy Academy works with FACTS Grant & Aid to evaluate financial need. FACTS independently assess a family's ability to pay school costs and forward that information to the schools requested by the family. This information is then evaluated in the context of each family's individual circumstances. All interested families may complete a confidential online application for financial assistance. FACTS will forward their recommendations to the Financial Assistance team. The deadline for financial assistance applications is **December 16th**. You are required to apply for financial assistance every year that you are in attendance at Mount Mercy Academy. Late applications will be considered, however, there is no guarantee that funds will be available. It is expected that families will apply for financial assistance for all children in tuition charging institutions, including secondary schools and colleges. The school seeks an equitable distribution of financial assistance resources from all institutions.

A Financial Assistance Committee reviews the applicant's tax return, and the FACTS forms in order to make award decisions. Anonymous award information (i.e., the number of families receiving assistance, award ranges, etc.) is reviewed by the Board of Trustees to ensure that the school is meeting its strategic goals.

The amount of assistance provided to each family depends upon established need, the amount of assistance dollars available, and the number of applicants for this assistance. Financial assistance awards are made in accordance with all other policies of the school.

Returning Students Receiving Financial Assistance

Families who have already received assistance will be notified in October and must apply by **December 16th**. The size of awards will continue to depend upon demonstrated need, the number of financial assistance applicants, and dollars available. Financial assistance applications will not be considered if there is a past due balance on the current year's tuition.

Accepted Applicants

Admissions decisions are made without consideration of a family's application for financial assistance. Financial assistance decisions are based on a family's financial need, resources available to the family and the school's ability to support that family. Families of applicants to Mount Mercy Academy should submit all required information by the financial assistance deadline published in the application materials. The amount of the financial assistance award will be sent along with the student's acceptance letter. Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee that we can meet the needs of all applicants.

Late and Mid-Year Applicants for Financial Assistance

Families who are interested in financial assistance may inquire at any time; however, most awards are made in the winter following the financial assistance deadline. We encourage families to meet the deadlines for the application if they want to be considered. Late or mid-year applicants will be considered when they apply. However, all financial assistance dollars may have been distributed and assistance may not be available to late applicants even if qualified.

Single, Separated and Divorced Parents

Financial assistance for single, divorced or separated parents is awarded based on the income of the individual(s) who are responsible for paying the tuition.

If both parents are paying a portion of the tuition, both parents must apply for financial assistance separately. The amount awarded to each parent will be based on their individual income and the portion of the tuition they are responsible for paying. If either parent is remarried, we will consider the assets of the stepparent, always bearing in mind the obligation of that stepparent to his or her own natural children.

Multiple Student Tuition Discount Policy

We understand that the cost of private school tuition is very expensive and sometimes appears to be unaffordable for families with multiple children who choose to come to Mount Mercy Academy. Therefore, the school has developed the following Tuition Policy for families with multiple students enrolled at Mount Mercy Academy simultaneously.

1. **General Sibling Discount, No Other Financial Assistance Needed** - If a second student is enrolled, the youngest student automatically will receive a \$1,000 sibling discount. The family does not need to apply for financial assistance in order to receive this discount.
2. **2nd Student, Additional Financial Assistance Needed** - If a family needs additional financial assistance the family must apply for financial assistance online via the FACTS Grant & Aid application. If the family's net income is less than \$100,000/year the family will receive a half tuition sibling discount for both students attending Mount Mercy Academy. Other scholarships may be awarded based on financial need reported by FACTS.

3. **3rd Student, Additional Financial Assistance Needed** - If a family needs additional financial assistance the family must apply for financial assistance online via FACTS Grant & Aid Application. If the family net income is less than \$100,000/year the family will receive a half tuition sibling discount for all three students attending Mount Mercy Academy. Other scholarships may be awarded based on financial need reported by FACTS.

If there are four siblings attending Mount Mercy Academy at the same time, an appropriate sibling discount will be awarded based on family need and discussion with the Financial Assistance Coordinator.



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Mount Mercy Academy

Benefactor's Scholarship Application



STUDENT INFORMATION:

Student Full Name: _____ Date of Birth _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Home Telephone Number _____

Current Academic Average (if applicable) _____ Class of _____

_____ I am an incoming freshman and the school I attended 8th grade is (school name) _____

_____ I am a high school transfer student from (school name) _____

_____ I am a current Mercy student.

FULL NAME AND ADDRESS OF PARENTS OR GUARDIANS (please check custodial parent, if applicable)

Father: _____

Mother: _____

Phone: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Email: _____

PLEASE ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS ON THIS APPLICATION TO BE CONSIDERED FOR ANY BENEFACTOR SCHOLARSHIPS. **MUST BE COMPLETED BY DECEMBER 16, 2024:**

1. Was a FACTS GRANT & AID APPLICATION completed? (Please check one) _____ YES _____ NO

2. Are there any additional financial or personal circumstances we should consider when rewarding financial need-based scholarships?

3. Please list all extracurricular activities you have participated in. Please list activity, year, position, etc.

ACTIVITY

POSITION

YEAR OF PARTICIPATION

4. Please list all service projects and/or volunteer activities you have participated in. Please list activity, year, position, etc.

ACTIVITY	POSITION	YEAR OF PARTICIPATION

5. Please list all honors, awards or accomplishments and grade/year received.

HONOR/AWARD	GRADE/YEAR

6. How will you make an impact at Mount Mercy Academy or in your community?

7. To be considered for a Benefactor Scholarship at Mount Mercy Academy, students must submit one letter of recommendation and an essay detailing how you exemplify the "Portrait of a Mercy Graduate" as detailed below.

I VERIFY THAT ALL OF THE INFORMATION PROVIDED ON THIS FORM IS TRUTHFUL TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

SIGNATURE OF PARENT/GUARDIAN: _____ DATE: _____

Portrait of the Mercy Graduate

- A woman of Mercy is ...**
- A woman of compassionate service.**
- A woman who is respectful toward herself and others.**
- A woman who is articulate.**
- A woman who strives for excellence in all that she does.**
- A woman who is empowered to influence the world.**

PLEASE RETURN BY DECEMBER 16, 2024:

Mount Mercy Academy
 SCHOLARSHIPS
 88 Red Jacket Parkway
 Buffalo, New York 14220
 or fax to (716) 825-0976 Attention: Scholarships
 or email to scholarships@mtmercy.org





Mount Mercy Academy

The Walz Family Award

STUDENT INFORMATION:

Student Full Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Telephone Number: _____

Current Academic Average: _____ Class of: _____

FULL NAME AND ADDRESS OF PARENTS OR GUARDIANS:

Father: _____ Mother: _____

Phone: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____ Email: _____

CRITERIA: The applicant must have an excellent academic record, displays continued motivation for academic success at Mount Mercy Academy and demonstrates financial need. The applicant must also complete the essay requirement as detailed below.

ESSAY REQUIREMENT: Write an essay describing your participation in service projects in your parish, church, school, or in the community. Your essay should be between 250-500 words. **Please submit your typed essay with this application and return it to Mount Mercy Academy by December 16, 2024.**

I VERIFY THAT ALL OF THE INFORMATION PROVIDED ON THIS FORM IS TRUTHFUL TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE

SIGNATURE OF STUDENT: _____ DATE: _____

SIGNATURE OF PARENT/GUARDIAN: _____ DATE: _____

PLEASE RETURN BY DECEMBER 16, 2024:

Mount Mercy Academy

SCHOLARSHIPS

88 Red Jacket Parkway

Buffalo, NY 14220

or fax to (716) 825-0976 Attention: Scholarships

or email to scholarships@mtmercy.org



Mission of Mercy Scholarship Application

STUDENT INFORMATION:

Student Full Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Telephone Number (_____) _____

Current Academic Average (*if applicable*) _____ Class of _____

- I am an incoming freshman and the school I attended 8th grade is (*school name*) _____
- I am a high school transfer student from (*school name*) _____
- I am a current Mercy student.

FULL NAME AND ADDRESS OF PARENTS OR GUARDIANS

Father _____

Mother _____

Phone (_____) _____

Phone (_____) _____

Email _____

Email _____

PLEASE ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS ON THIS APPLICATION TO BE CONSIDERED FOR A MISSION OF MERCY SCHOLARSHIP. MUST BE COMPLETED BY DECEMBER 16, 2024.

1. Was a FACTS GRANT & AID APPLICATION completed? (*Please check one*) ___ YES ___ NO

2. Are there any additional financial or personal circumstances we should consider when awarding financial need-based scholarships?
(*Please detail*)

3. Please list all extracurricular activities you have participated in.

ACTIVITY	POSITION	YEAR OF PARTICIPATION
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

4. Please list all service projects and/or volunteer activities you have participated in.

ACTIVITY	POSITION	YEAR OF PARTICIPATION

5. Please list all honors, awards or accomplishments and grade/year received.

HONOR/AWARD	GRADE/YEAR

6. The Mission of Mercy Scholarships will be given out to students for service, character and/or academic achievement. To be considered for one of these scholarships, students must submit one or more Letters of Recommendation and an essay detailing how you exemplify the "Portrait of a Mercy Graduate" as detailed below.

I VERIFY THAT ALL OF THE INFORMATION PROVIDED ON THIS FORM IS TRUTHFUL TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

SIGNATURE OF PARENT/GUARDIAN _____ DATE _____

PLEASE RETURN: Mount Mercy Academy
SCHOLARSHIPS
88 Red Jacket Parkway
Buffalo, New York 14220-2011
or fax to (716) 825-0976 Attention: Scholarships or
email to scholarships@mtmercy.org

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY



The Portrait of a Mercy Graduate

A woman of Mercy is...

- A woman of compassionate service...
- A woman who is respectful toward herself and others...
- A woman who is articulate...
- A woman who strives for excellence in all that she does...
- A woman who is empowered to influence the world.



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