



November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians,

My name is Erin Ryan and I am the Financial Aid Coordinator at Mount Mercy Academy. Included in this packet is information regarding how to apply for financial aid and some of the scholarships that are available for the 2017-2018 school year.

Mount Mercy Academy works with FACTS (Fast Automated Cash Transaction Service) Grant & Aid to evaluate financial needs. FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment will conduct a financial aid analysis based on the information that you submit to them. *All families need to complete a FACTS application online and submit the necessary supporting tax documentation in order to be eligible for financial aid and financial need-based scholarships.* This is information that needs to be submitted directly to FACTS Grant & Aid by **Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017** via uploading it on to the application or faxing it directly to FACTS at 1-866-315-9264.

**You are required to apply for financial aid every year that your daughter(s) is in attendance at Mount Mercy.** Your award is determined based on financial need and applying to FACTS **on time**.

- You can click here to apply: <https://online.factsmtg.com/signin/3FQRV>

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Erin Ryan'.

Erin Ryan  
Financial Aid Coordinator

# Mount Mercy Academy

## Tuition Assistance and Scholarship Information

- **8<sup>th</sup> grade students taking the Entrance Exam at Mt. Mercy**

*Test Date: **Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017***

- **Academic Scholarships**

**Academic Excellence Scholarship:** Any eighth grade girl who scores a 690 or higher on the Catholic School Admissions exam will be eligible for this full four-year scholarship to Mount Mercy Academy. Students are not required to list Mount Mercy Academy as their top choice, nor must they attend a Catholic grammar school. If a student takes the exam at Mercy and scores below the 690 she will be eligible for other scholarship funding available only to those taking the exam at Mount Mercy Academy.

An academic scholarship is awarded for four years to the girls who score the highest on the entrance exam and select Mount Mercy Academy as their **first choice school** on the admissions application.

-One Full scholarship; One Half scholarship; Two \$2,000 scholarships; One \$1,000 Scholarship

- **Need Based Financial Aid**

*Due to FACTS: **Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017***

Financial need analysis conducted by FACTS Grant and Aid

Application fee of \$30 payable directly to FACTS Grant and Aid

Applicants must apply online at: <https://online.factsmgmt.com/signin/3FQRV>

All supporting documents must be submitted directly **to FACTS by December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017.**

Parents responsible for separate portions of tuition must apply for financial aid separately.

- **Benefactor Scholarship Applications**

*Due to MMA: **Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017***

General Benefactor Scholarship Application

Alumnae Legacy Scholarship Application (**by noon**)

Alice & William Walz Memorial Award Scholarship Application

- **Discounts**

*Due to MMA: **Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017***

Mercy Hospital Employee Discount – \$500.00 with submission of required verification

Sibling Discount - \$1,000 discount for second student

Notre Dame Student - \$500 for current 8<sup>th</sup> graders of Notre Dame Academy

Notre Dame Student- \$150 for current 8<sup>th</sup> graders of Notre Dame Academy in Mount Mercy's Math Program

- **Announcement of Academic Scholarships and Financial Aid Awards**

*Mailed out to student home on: **Friday, January 19, 2018***

Included with acceptance letter and registration packets





a Catholic College Preparatory High School for Young Women

Dear Parent, Guardian and future Mercy Girl,

As future family members, guardians and students of Mount Mercy Academy I look forward to having you join our Mercy family. You will quickly learn that there are many benefits to becoming a Mercy student. However, one that is particularly helpful is the numerous scholarships and financial aid supports available. This is thanks to the generosity of our dedicated alumnae, friends and community partners.

The next three documents are the applications for a few of these scholarship opportunities. Please read over the applications and complete them, **along with your FACTS application by December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017.**

While every student may not qualify for financial aid or a scholarship, there are benefactors and alumnae who continue to provide financial support which you may qualify for in the future. By providing the information in the applications, your information will be reviewed and referenced in the event funding becomes available. **I would encourage all future Mercy Girls to apply for a scholarship.**

Please review these documents and complete them as best you can. I look forward to meeting all of you next year!

Sincerely,

Julie (Schwab) Marzolf, '92  
Director of Institutional Advancement



# Benefactor's 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 (*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:

1. Was a FACTS TUITION ASSISTANCE 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? .  
(*please detail*)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

ACTIVITY

POSITION

YEAR OF PARTICIPATION

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE COMPLETE OTHER SIDE

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?

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

SIGNATURE OF PARENT/GUARDIAN \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE RETURN: Mount Mercy Academy  
FINANCIAL AID AWARD COMMITTEE  
88 Red Jacket Parkway  
Buffalo, New York 14220-2011  
or fax to (716) 825-0976 Attention: Financial Aid Award Committee  
or email to [eryan@mtmercy.org](mailto:eryan@mtmercy.org)

*FOR OFFICE USE ONLY*



# Alumnae Legacy Scholarship Application

Mount Mercy Academy Alumnae Association

*ALUMNA Mercy Girl for a Lifetime.*

The Alumnae Association awards the Alumnae Legacy Scholarship, \$1,000 per year to an incoming freshman who is continuing the family tradition of a Mercy education. The name of each student who meets the requirements enumerated below should return the application and essay by noon on **December 13, 2017.**

## ALUMNAE LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP REQUIREMENTS

- Applicant for the scholarship must be the daughter, granddaughter, sister or niece of a member in good standing of the Mount Mercy Academy Alumnae Association.
- Applicant must be registered as an incoming freshman at Mount Mercy Academy.
- Applicant must return the completed application & essay by 12:00 pm on December 13, 2017.

**The \$1,000 award will continue to be given to the winner for each of her three subsequent years at MMA, provided she works to the best of her ability, upholds the values of the Academy and is actively involved in Academy activities.**

## THE APPLICATION

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

If MMA Alumna, Year of Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_ Father's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Please provide name (s) of family members (mother, grandmother, sister, aunt) who are active members of the MMA Alumnae Association. To be an active member in good standing of the Mount Mercy Alumnae Association, a member is expected to support the Annual Fund. For purposes of this scholarship, alumnae are to have made their donation to the 2017-2018 Annual Fund by December 13, 2017.

Please complete the chart below on the MMA Alumnae in your family. Use back of application if necessary.

Full Name	Maiden Name	Grad Year	Address	Relationship

2. Please attach a 500 word essay. The topic of the essay is "Why you believe it is important to continue the tradition of a Mount Mercy Academy education and what contributions you plan to make to the Mount Mercy Academy community."

3. Place application and essay in a sealed envelope and deliver or/ or mail to the Mount Mercy Academy Office of Institutional Advancement, 88 Red Jacket Parkway, Buffalo, NY 14220.

The names of all applicants who satisfactorily completed the essay, the requirements on this application form and returned these items to Mount Mercy by Noon on December 13, 2017 will be eligible for the scholarship. Please note that no consideration can be given to late applications.

Please feel free to contact Erin Ryan, Financial Aid Coordinator at 825-8796 ext.303, if you have any questions regarding the Alumnae Scholarship Award.

# The Alice and William Walz Memorial Award Scholarship Application

## Mount Mercy Academy

88 Red Jacket Parkway, Buffalo, NY | (716) 825-8796 | [www.mtmercy.org](http://www.mtmercy.org)

### STUDENT INFORMATION:

Student Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone Number ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Current Academic Average (*if applicable*) \_\_\_\_\_ Class of \_\_\_\_\_

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

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 attach your typed essay to this application and return it to the address listed below by December 13th, 2017.**

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: Mount Mercy Academy  
FINANCIAL AWARD COMMITTEE  
88 Red Jacket Parkway  
Buffalo, NY 14220-2011  
or fax to (716) 825-0976 Attention: Financial Award Committee  
or email to [eryan@mtmercy.org](mailto:eryan@mtmercy.org)



DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED BY MMA





November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**Mercy Hospital Discount**

Dear Parent/Guardian:

There is a tuition discount offered by Mount Mercy Academy to parents who work at Mercy Hospital. If you qualify, the following information must be provided for verification of your current employment:

- A copy of your latest paystub from Mercy Hospital
- A letter from your supervisor on Mercy Hospital letterhead stating that you are a current employee and for how long.

This information should be sent to Erin Ryan in the Financial Aid Office no later than December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017. If you have any questions pertaining to this matter, please call me at 825-8796 ext. 303.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Erin Ryan'.

Erin Ryan  
Financial Aid Coordinator

## Scholarships and Financial Aid

### 1. Academic Scholarships

#### A. Policy

The amount of money set aside for scholarships and financial aid 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.

- **Academic Excellence Scholarship:** Any eighth grade girl who scores a 690 or higher on the Catholic School Admissions exam will be eligible for this full four-year scholarship to Mount Mercy Academy. Students are not required to list Mount Mercy Academy as their top choice, nor must they attend a Catholic grammar school. If a student takes the exam at Mercy and scores below the 690 she will be eligible for other scholarship funding available only to those taking the exam at Mount Mercy Academy.
- **Alumnae Scholarship:** Full tuition scholarship to the student who scores highest on the Catholic High School Admissions Exam.
- **President's Scholarship:** 1/2 tuition scholarship to the student who scores the second highest on the Catholic High School Admissions Exam
- **Principal's Scholarship:** \$2,000 scholarship given to the students who score 3rd and 4th on the Catholic High School Admissions Exam.
- **Catherine McAuley Scholarship:** \$1,000 scholarship given to the student who scores 5th highest on the Catholic High School Admissions Exam.

#### 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 student.
- The students understand and agree with school policy that should the student be dismissed or withdraw, 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.
- Students 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. Poor grades, disciplinary action, particularly probation, will jeopardize the student's award.

### 2. Financial Aid Policy

Mount Mercy Academy aims to provide consistent information to parents and students regarding financial aid. The following guidelines are designed to assist the Mount Mercy community in understanding the philosophy and process associated with the awarding of financial aid 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. MMA strives to maintain a student population that represents the diverse socio-economic backgrounds of our community. Toward that end, the purpose of Mount Mercy's financial aid program is to provide financial assistance to families for whom, without such assistance, a Mount Mercy education would not be an option. A financial aid award is based on family financial need, and does not need to be repaid. Tuition assistance is based on financial need as opposed to academic merit. Families receiving aid will be required to contribute at some level to the cost of tuition. There will be no awards of 100 percent of tuition. MMA 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 aid receives full consideration. Financial aid applicants are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Financial aid consists of need based grants, work-study, discounts and benefactor scholarships.

The financial aid process requires families to provide information of an inherently personal nature and MMA adheres to the highest standards of confidentiality. Students and families are not identified as financial aid 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 aid to be given. All discussions and decisions about financial aid applicants for new and returning students are kept strictly confidential.

Students who are awarded financial aid must stay in good academic standing or their award may be revoked. The Financial Aid Coordinator will meet with the Principal every semester to insure that students remain in good academic and disciplinary standing.

Financial aid awards are at the discretion of the President.

## **A. Discounts**

Mount Mercy Academy offers the following discounts.

- **Mercy Hospital Discount:** Mount Mercy Academy offers a \$500.00 tuition discount given to all parents who are employed by Mercy Hospital. The parent must provide, by December 13<sup>th</sup>, a current paystub as well as a letter verifying their employment and the length of time they have been employed. Verification of employment is needed each year your daughter(s) remains in attendance at Mount Mercy.

- **Sibling Discount:** Mount Mercy offers a sibling discount of \$1,000 for those families who have more than one daughter at Mercy. We credit the youngest sister with this discount.
- **Notre Dame Academy Discount:** Mount Mercy offers a \$500 discount to a student who has graduated from Notre Dame Academy. A transcript must be provided to establish attendance. This discount will be applied for each year that your daughter(s) remains in attendance at Mount Mercy.
- **Math Discount:** Mount Mercy offers a \$150 Math discount for those students from Notre Dame Academy that participated in Mount Mercy Academy's Math program. This discount is only applied the first year that your daughter(s) are in attendance at Mount Mercy Academy.

## **B. Work Study**

Work study positions are assigned only to students whose families have qualified for financial aid. Work study provides an opportunity for students to reduce their tuition at Mount Mercy. It is a mature responsibility, but one we think, as a school community, is an important education piece. Second, the Work Study Program provides the necessary people to do the many necessary tasks at our school. Therefore, we rely on the **commitment** of students as work study requires the same responsibilities as any other job.

If a family qualifies for financial assistance, and is awarded work-study, an award letter is mailed from the Financial Aid Office with an option to accept the work study portion of the grant award. If the work study option is chosen the student must follow the detailed information provided in the work-study letter. If the family declines the Work Study offer, the financial aid award is reduced by the amount the work study position covered.

## **C. Benefactor Scholarships**

The financial aid committee will determine which students 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 applications included in this packet for information on how to apply for these scholarships.\***

## **Financial Aid Award Guidelines**

Financial aid 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 students may complete a confidential online application for financial aid. FACTS will forward their recommendations to the Financial Aid team. The deadline for financial aid applications is December 13<sup>th</sup>. You are required to apply for financial aid every year that you are in attendance at Mercy. Late applications will be considered, however, there is no guarantee that funds will be available. It is expected that families will apply for financial aid for all children in tuition charging institutions, including secondary schools and colleges. The school seeks an equitable distribution of financial aid resources from all institutions.

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

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

### **Returning Students Receiving Financial Aid**

Families who already receive aid will be notified in November and must apply by December 13<sup>th</sup>. The size of awards will continue to depend upon demonstrated need, the number of financial aid applicants, and dollars available. Financial aid 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 aid. Financial aid 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 should submit all required information by the financial aid deadline published in the application materials. The amount of the financial aid award will be sent shortly after 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 Aid**

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

## **Single, Separated and Divorced Parents**

Financial aid 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 aid 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.