

Merion Mercy Academy
Graduation and Final Assembly Awards, Class of 2017

The following students have achieved a *general average of 4.0 or higher* in each of *four consecutive years*:

Olivia Anderson	Xinyi Fan	Thérèse Mills
Hannah Bacso	Kelsey Farkas	Julia Moore
Kristen Beckett	Lara Garrity	Gianna Penezic
Shannon Bedrossian	Avery Kirk	Daniela Sciulli
Caroline DeVoto	Chiara Mancuso	Katherine Troy
Nicole DiAntonio	Josephine Messina	Margaret Wilson

In recognition of their academic excellence, students in the top 3% of the class at the end of the first semester were recognized at the *Honors Convocation of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia at the Cathedral of Sts. Peter and Paul* in May. The students representing Merion Mercy Academy this year were:

Kristen Beckett, Nicole DiAntonio, Thérèse Mills, Daniela Sciulli

The following student has received recognition as a *National Merit Scholarship Finalist*: Thérèse Mills

The following students have received recognition as *National Merit Commended Students*:

Kristen Beckett and Katherine Troy

The *Excellence Medal for Highest Cumulative Achievement* is awarded to:

Thérèse Mills

The *Excellence Medal for the Highest Achievement in the study of Art* is presented to:

Xinyi Fan

The *Excellence Medal for the Highest Achievement in the study of English* is presented to:

Emma Paolini

Honorable Mention: Josephine Messina

The *Sister Elizabeth Carroll Award for the Highest Achievement in the study of French* is presented to:

Alessandra Di Benedetto

Honorable Mention: Kelsey Farkas

The *Excellence Medal for the Highest Achievement in the study of Latin* is presented to:

Nicole DiAntonio

Honorable Mention: Avery Kirk

The *Excellence Medal for the Highest Achievement in the study of Mathematics* is presented to:

Thérèse Mills

Honorable Mention: Kristen Beckett

The *Excellence Medal for the Highest Achievement in the study of Music* is presented to:

Alessandra Di Benedetto

The *Excellence Medal for the Highest Achievement in the study of Science* is presented to:

Kristen Beckett

Honorable Mention: Hannah Bacso

The *Excellence Medal for the Highest Achievement in the study of Social Studies* is presented to:

Mary Kolbe Keating

The *Excellence Medal for the Highest Achievement in the study of Spanish* is presented to:

Julia Moore

Honorable Mention: Thérèse Mills

The *Excellence Medal for the Highest Achievement in the study of Theology* is presented to:

Daniela Sciulli

Honorable Mention: Nicole DiAntonio

The *Outstanding Scholar-Athlete Award* has been presented to:

Avery Kirk

For generously sharing her many talents and for the unfailing dedication that she demonstrated as editor-in-chief of the 2017 Image Explosion, an award has been presented to:

Emma Paolini

Honorable Mention: Josephine Messina and Rosemarie McKnight

In recognition of and appreciation for her dedicated service to Meriannal as editor-in-chief, an award has been presented to:

Jennifer Ramirez

Honorable Mention: Sahara Caldwell

For outstanding commitment and faithful service to Ricordia as editor-in-chief, an award has been presented to:

Maeve Eels

The *Irish claddagh* is a symbol befitting the cultural heritage, corporal works, and spiritual legacy of Catherine McAuley, foundress of the Sisters of Mercy. Often as an adornment to a ring, the claddagh depicts a pair of hands holding a heart topped by a regal crown. These three elements form a kind of trinity: the heart, it can be said, represents hospitality and compassion; the hands: service and care; the crown: leadership and fidelity to one's cause. Here at Merion Mercy Academy we celebrate the ways in which these symbols similarly embody our students' exceptional character and achievement. Today we honor three graduating seniors, in particular, who have been recognized by their peers and their teachers as demonstrating personal qualities in keeping with one of each of the claddagh's special features.

The *Heart of Mercy Award* is presented to a graduating senior who exemplifies the essence of Mercy. It is an honor bestowed upon the person who has shown continuously that she lives in the spirit of Catherine McAuley, offering time, effort, talent and compassion to ensure a better life for her peers. Mercy is doing and acting out of love, believing in it and living it. The person receiving this award is recognized for her commitment to the values of the Gospel and her example of acting with Mercy in the name of God.

By nomination from the faculty and seniors, the Heart of Mercy Award is presented this year to:

Anne Hughes and Elise Parker

The *Service Award* is presented to a graduating senior in acknowledgment of her demonstrated spirit of servant leadership. While meeting her academic requirements, this student has also responded generously to the Gospel call to action. Dedicating herself to easing the burdens of those in need, this young woman has shown exceptional commitment to the core value of living mercy and seeking justice through her volunteer efforts with MMA-sponsored projects and/or community-based programs.

By nomination from the faculty and seniors, the Service Award is presented this year to:

Morgan Sherman

The *Loyalty Award* is presented to a graduating senior who has demonstrated extraordinary loyalty and pride in being a member of the Merion Mercy school community over the past four years. She embodies the Academy's mission to educate the whole person through her own academic and personal excellence. Beyond the moment, she always sees the bigger picture of what it is to represent the ideals of Merion Mercy, demonstrated through her courage to speak and work on behalf of her school community. She acts with conviction and integrity in all she does, and she understands the importance of being a woman of Mercy.

By nomination from the faculty and seniors, the Loyalty Award is presented this year to:

Maida Pannepacker

The *Head of School's Award for Leadership* is presented to:

Alay'na DiSanto

Last year, the Catholic Relief Services Global High School program was launched nationally, and Merion Mercy has led the way as a platinum school in our hunger for justice and passion for transforming the world in the light of Christ. Each Global High School has the opportunity to choose two graduating seniors to receive the *CRS Global Advocate Award*.

With the overwhelming support of fellow seniors who nominated her, our first recipient encourages her Merion sisters to live their faith. Locally, she has advocated for those imprisoned re-entering society and has given of her time and talents through various honor societies. Globally, annual mission trips to Guatemala with her family serve as an example of her global vision and solidarity with the poor and vulnerable. As a leader of Ministry, in the words of one teacher, “her compassion is inspiring and uplifting.”

Our second recipient, in the words of a nominating teacher, “has a knack for anticipating the needs of others.” In organizing committees, communicating with peers and administration, and preparing educational materials for this year’s Mission week, her leadership in Student Council raised our awareness about the young women of Nigeria internally displaced by violence. Building peace closer to home, her efforts have sought to create an anti-bullying climate at MMA. Through it all, as her teachers observe, she maintains a humble attitude and shares accomplishments with her peers.

For outstanding commitment to the poor and vulnerable overseas, having served as examples to the Merion community of Missionary Discipleship, Servant Leadership, and Passion for Global Solidarity, the CRS 2017 Global Advocate Award is presented to:

Mary Elise Bastian and Alay’na DiSanto

Moody’s Mega Math Challenge spotlights applied mathematics as a powerful problem-solving tool and as a viable and exciting profession. Participating students are encouraged to explore and bolster their mathematical modeling skills to position themselves for success. The following students participated in this 14-hour competition:

Kristen Beckett
Sarah Castor
Hannah Crilley
Caroline DeVoto

Xinyi Fan
Avery Kirk
Thérèse Mills
Katherine Troy

The following award is given in memory of Mrs. Debra Furia Scalpato (’74) who was a Merion Mercy Academy alum and taught at Merion in both the math and science departments. The recipient of this award is a member of the senior class who possesses a talent and passion for math and science, an insightful intellect and a strong curiosity, a determined will, a strong sense of family, a great sense of humor, and a love of the arts and traveling. This year’s recipient is:

Xinyi Fan

The following students receive recognition for *Perfect Attendance* for the 2016-2017 school year:

Nadia Carlino, Hannah Crilley, Caitlin Melo

The following student receives recognition for *Perfect Attendance* for two (2) consecutive school years.

Shannon Bedrossian

The following students receive recognition for *Perfect Attendance* for all four (4) years.

Sarah Castor, Nicole DiAntonio, Alay’na DiSanto, Elizabeth Gallagher, Kelsey McMenamin, Jennifer Ramirez