

**Merion Mercy Academy**  
**End-of-Year Academic Awards**  
**2019 – 2020 School Year**



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*. The students representing Merion Mercy Academy this year were:

Nicoleta Arcidiacono, Grace Brazunas, Lindsey Russo

The following student has received recognition as a *National Merit Semi-Finalist*: Grace Brazunas

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

Madeline Arthur and Erin Donaher



The **President's Award for Educational Excellence** for having maintained a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or above at the first semester of senior year and having achieved an 85% in either math or reading on the SATs or ACTs is awarded to:

Nicoleta Arcidiacono	Erin Donaher	Kexin (Coco) Lin
Madeline Arthur	Katharine Donnelly	Madeleine Litka
Olivia Black	Suzanne Dupnock	Grace Lopresti
Grace Brazunas	Ava Ferry	Kara Maddox
Amanda Brown	Sophia Giangiordano	Reilly Magee
Wenshu (Audrey) Cao	Sadie Goane	Katherine McCormick
Sofia Cieri	Ceara Grady	Sarah McGovern
Abrial Cocelli	Margaret Grogan	Emma McIntyre
Breana Cocelli	Olivia Gutt	Madison Ott
Gaelen Coleman	Alexandra Henkels	Annamarie Palermo
Victoria Rose Conroy	Megan Hoban	Clare Quigley
Kelsey Conway	Kymora Howell	Patrice Romano
Audrey Coughlin	Sarah Ix	Lindsey Russo
Erin Daly	Yuxin (Gloria) Kang	Caitlin Spillane
Margaret DeShan	Cara Keller	Olivia Squillante
Isabella DeShayes	Kiersten Krouse	Huiran (Connie) Zhu
Lily Diebold	Briana Lawimore	

The **President's Award for Educational Achievement** is presented to the following seniors for having shown outstanding educational growth, improvement, commitment or intellectual development in their academic subjects. These students were chosen by the faculty for working hard and giving their best effort in school:

Erinn Aylmer	Noelle Chermol	Phoebe DeVlieger
McKenna Byrne	Lily Cinqunto	Kyla Edmonds
Emma Carter	Elise Cost-Brown	Annelise Erb

Jessica Fischer  
Maggie Flannery  
Emily Glynn  
Rose Harbison  
Isabella Iacovelli  
Julia Kawczynski  
Sanai Knight  
Alexandria Lavelle

Gianna Milano  
Kate Moran  
Danielle Nardella  
Victoria Natale  
Elizabeth Norton  
Jessica Paldino  
Cierra Parker  
Mirella Partito

Adriana Petrongolo  
Beatrice Plant  
Madeline Price  
Caroline Riley  
Taylor Robinson  
Maren Spaide  
Lauren Zarro  
Barbara Zsembik



The **Debra Furia Scalpato '74 Award for Math and Science** is awarded this year to:

Mirella Partito '20

This award is given in memory of Mrs. Debra Furia Scalpato '74 who was an MMA alum and taught at Merion in both the math and science departments. The recipient is a member of the senior class who possesses many of the same qualities that made Mrs. Scalpato so dear to us:

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



The **Phi Beta Kappa Association of the Delaware Valley** presents an award to a graduating senior who exhibits “academic achievement, character and a love of wisdom and learning as the guide of life.” This year’s book, *American Moonshot: John F. Kennedy and the Great Space Race*, historian Douglas Brinkley's discussion of the United States' space program from its beginnings to the Apollo 11 mission and walk on the moon. The book is presented to:

Emma McIntyre '20



The **Rensselaer Medal** was first presented in 1916 with two purposes: to recognize the superlative achievement of young men and women and to motivate students toward careers in science, engineering, and technology. Each medalist who is accepted and subsequently enrolls at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute receives a special medalist scholarship worth \$100,000 over 4 years. The medal is presented each year to a junior who has excelled in the areas of math and science. This year the award is presented to the following student; please come forward to receive a certificate and to be recognized for this honor:

Kaitlyn Powel '21



The **ExploraVision** competition engages the next generation in real world problem solving with a strong emphasis on STEM. ExploraVision challenges students to envision and communicate new technology 20 years in the future through collaborative brainstorming and research of current science and technology.

The following freshmen won *Honorable Mention* in their grade division:

Catherine McDonald '23  
Patricia McCarthy '23  
Onora Healey '23

Catherine, Patricia, and Onora's invention was:

### **National Park Conservation Phone**

Description: The Smartphone has become a prominent part of our lives, bringing many benefits, but also consequences. Eye strain, disrupted sleep, arthritis, laziness, and excessive carbon release are harming people and their planet. The National Park Conservation Phone (NPC Phone) was designed to solve these problems. The NPC Phone is the future of smartphones and will result in healthier users and a healthier planet.



The **ExploraVision** competition engages the next generation in real world problem solving with a strong emphasis on STEM. ExploraVision challenges students to envision and communicate new technology 20 years in the future through collaborative brainstorming and research of current science and technology.

The following sophomores and junior also won *Honorable Mention*:

Mira Tensuan-Eli '22  
Grace Sheibley '22  
Ava Reich '21  
Naomi Viola '22

Mira, Grace, Ava, and Naomi's invention was:

### **Arc Injection**

Description: The capsids—protein shells—of adeno-associated viruses (AAV) are what serve as the delivery vehicle for a common form of gene therapy. Arc capsids would be engineered with information in a similar way to how traditional viral vectors are treated. The Arc Capsids would then be introduced to an individual's brain in order to fight malignant tumors



**SeaPerch** is an engineering competition sponsored by the United States Department of the Navy. Teams design and build an underwater vehicle that they pilot through an obstacle course to complete a mission. This year's mission centered around ocean cleanup. Merion Mercy Academy's Team "*LegaSEA*" placed 5th in Pool Performance events and 3rd Overall in their class.

We congratulate senior teammates for their innovative thinking, perseverance, and dedication to the project:

Audrey Coughlin '20  
Margaret Grogan '20  
Yuxin (Gloria) Kang '20  
Danielle Nardella '20  
Annamarie Palermo '20

**Merion Mercy Academy**  
**End-of-Year Academic Awards**  
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Certificates are presented to students in each academic course. The Academic Excellence Award is presented to the student who has performed the best in the course for this academic school year. The Honorable Mention award is presented to the student with the next highest average. The Excellent Effort Award is presented to the student who has demonstrated outstanding effort throughout the course.

<u>Course</u>	<u>Academic Excellence</u>	<u>Honorable Mention</u>	<u>Excellent Effort</u>
<b>Theology</b>			
Religious Experience	Kerry McCormick '23	Jade Kirby '23	Minh Tran '21
The Hebrew Scriptures	Kerry McCormick '23	Hannah Saraceno '23	Kamani Kegler '23
Church History	Almira Tensuan-Eli '22	Monica Paschos '22	Damyia Walton '22
Sacraments	Kaylah McGuiffe '22	Almira Tensuan-Eli '22	Kiera Songhurst '22
Church Ethics/Morality	Kimberly Pham '21	Kaitlyn Powel '21	Hanna Scott '21
Social Justice/Leadership	Julia LaRosa '21	Kimberly Pham '21	Olivia Borgesi '21
Christian Spirituality	Madeleine Litka '20	Erin Daly '20	Cierra Parker '20
Spirituality in Praxis	Grace Brazunas '20	Nicoleta Arcidiacono '20	Emma McIntyre '20
<b>English</b>			
Literature and Writing	Charanpeet Kaur '23	Kylie Rex '23	Kathryn Knapp '23
Literature and Writing A	Kerry McCormick '23	Mary Katherine Gray '23	Olivia Graveley '23
American Literature	Alana Petrongolo '22	Sofia Folgja '22	Kristen Williams '22
American Literature A	Almira Tensuan-Eli '22	Juliana Brueckner '22	Grace Donnelly '22
British Literature	Kimberly Pham '21	Victoria Arra '21	Elizabeth Haas '22
British Literature A	Isabelle Millan '21	Mairead O'Hara '22	Elaina Stuhlman '21
Contemporary Literature	Ava Benatti '20	Olivia Black '20	Noelle Chermol '20
Contemporary Literature A	Nicoleta Arcidiacono '20	Lindsey Russo '20	
Gothic Literature	Danielle Nardella '20	Mirella Partito '20	Micheline Denn '21
Jane Austen's World A	Cara Keller '20	Margaret Grogan '20	Alexandra Henkels '20
Speech & Contemporary Issues	Phoebe DeVliieger '20	Victoria Rose Conroy '20	
World Mythology	Marissa Finney '20	Danielle Nardella '20	Kyla Edmonds '20
AP English Literature	Grace Brazunas '20	Breana Cocelli '20	Madeleine Litka '20
Foundations in Writing	Layoni Baldwin '23	Olivia DeLucca '23	Sara Maloney '23
Effective Writing	Grace Sheibley '22	Olivia Tingley-Kelley '22	Alana Petrongolo '22
<b>Mathematics</b>			
Algebra 1A	Kylie Rex '23	Tessa Purcell '23	Layoni Baldwin '23
Algebra 1	Diana Vu '23	Joi Lewis '23	Zipporah Sills '23
Geometry A	Maeve Hegarty '22	Emma Whitman '22	Liseth Mejia '22
Geometry	Catherine Garvey '21	Nora Burns '21	Serina Durante '21
PSAG A	Grace Sheibley '22	Maeve McMahon '22	Megan Elguicze '22
PSAG	Moira Byrne '21	Julianna Steinmetz '21	Jennifer Popper '21
Pre-Calculus A	Briana Lawimore '20	Hannah Facenda '21	Suzanne Dupnock '21
Advanced Pre-Calculus A	Bianca Davis '21	Julia LaRosa '21	Isabelle Millan '21
Algebra 2A	Kerry McCormick '23	Mary Katherine Gray '23	Jessica Link '22

<u>Course</u>	<u>Academic Excellence</u>	<u>Honorable Mention</u>	<u>Excellent Effort</u>
Algebra 2	Maxine Rich '22	Molly Scullin '22	Justine Medveckus '23
AP Calculus AB	Kymora Howell '20	Nicoleta Arcidiacono '20	Lindsey Russo '20
Calculus A	Kiersten Krouse '20	Margaret Grogan '20	Alyane Wollery '20
Pre-Calculus	Kyla Edmonds '20	Alexandria Lavelle '20	Catherine Paschos '20
AP Statistics	Abrial Cocelli '20	Breana Cocelli '20	Almira Tensuan-Eli '20
Statistics	Ava Benatti '20	Madeleine Litka '20	Claudia Melocchi '20
AP Calculus BC	Erin Donaher '20	Xin Su '21	Grace Brazunas '20
AP Computer Science Principles	Micheline Denn '21	Mary Eileen McDermott '21	
Intro to Computer Programming	Hanna Scott '21	Kiley Hopkins '22	Caroline Szlachta '23

### Science

Sci. Methods, Appl, Reas & Theory	Jade Kirby '23	Olivia Currier '23	Annelise Fresta '23
Biology A	Mary Katherine Gray '23	Almira Tensuan-Eli '22	Grace Sheibley '22
Biology	Caroline Szlachta '23	Kylie Rex '23	Autumn Drake '23
AP Chemistry	Grace Sheibley '22	Kimberly Pham '21	Susanna Merkins '22
Chemistry A	Kiera Songhurst '22	Bianca Davis '22	Ashley Hackney '22
Chemistry	Claudia Campisciano '22	Monica Paschos '22	Sydney Parson '22
AP Biology	Julia LaRosa '21	Khanh-Chuc Nguyen '21	Mirella Partito '20
Physics A	Xin Su '21		Danielle Nardella '20
Physics	Eliana Judge '21	Marissa Finney '20	Jessica Fischer '20
Physiology A	Catherine Montgomery '21	Sydney Kaiser '21	Monica Merenda '22
Earth Science	Olivia Black '20	Kate Moran '20	Patrice Romano '20

### Social Studies

Cultures in World History	Marianne Cheely '23	Autumn Drake '23	Olivia Graveley '23
Modern U.S. History	Catherine Garvey '21	Grace Andrews '21	Ashley Marmer '21
AP U.S. History	Julia LaRosa '21	Kimberly Pham '21	Micheline Denn '21
AP U.S. Gov. & Politics	Nicoleta Arcidiacono '20	Grace Brazunas '20	Cara Keller '20
U.S. Government A	Erin Daly '20	Emma McIntyre '20	Cierra Parker '20
U.S. Government	Wenshu Cao '20	Lauren Zarro '20	Kexin Lin '20
AP Human Geography	Ryleigh Lord '21	Breana Cocelli '20	Abrial Cocelli '20
Economics	Violet Lorei '22	Juliette Schmidt '22	Barbara Zsembik '20
Psychology	Kymora Howell '20	Kelly O'Connor '22	Jessica Paldino '20
Sociology	Clare Quigley '20	Madeleine Litka '20	Gianna Milano '20
Themes in U.S. History	Bridget Friend '22	Amy Werner '22	Madison McCormick '23
Themes in U.S. History A	Kelly O'Connor '22	Olivia Opiela '22	Julianna Steinmetz '22
World Geography	Justine Medveckus '22	Megan Mallon '22	Jessica Paldino '20
Intro to Law	Emma McIntyre '20	Julianna Brueckner '22	Kymora Howell '20

### Language

Latin 1A	Kylie Rex '23	Audrey Ferdinand '23	Mary Katherine Gray '23
French 1	Autumn Drake '23	Xaria Burgess '22	Ella Donnelly '23
Spanish 1A	Sara Wimmer '23	Olivia DeLucca '23	Hannah Saraceno '23
Spanish 1	Joi Lewis '23	Layoni Baldwin '23	Olivia Foran '23
Latin 2A	Kaylah McGuffie '22	Abrial Cocelli '20	Maeve McMahan '22
French 2	Juliana Brueckner '22	Julianna Steinmetz '22	Nina Gilbert '22
Spanish 2A	Alana Petrongolo '22	Monica Merenda '22	Moirra Vaughan '22
Spanish 2	Monica Paschos '22	Francesca Scarpone '22	Kristen Wharton '22
Latin 3A	Micheline Denn '21	Khanh-Chuc Nguyen '21	Grace Andrews '21

<u>Course</u>	<u>Academic Excellence</u>	<u>Honorable Mention</u>	<u>Excellent Effort</u>
French 3A	Vicky Liu '21	Bianca Davis '21	Morgan Butler '21
Spanish 3A	Julia LaRosa '21	Nancy Lam '21	Ashleigh Marmer '21
Spanish 3	Elaina Stuhlman '21	Victoria Arra '21	Julia Flatley '21
AP Latin	Grace Brazunas '20	Clare Quigley '20	Ceara Grady '20
AP French	Margaret Grogan '20	Beatrice Plant '20	Gaelen Coleman '20
French 4A	Alyane Wollery '20	Julia Kawczynski '20	Jessica Fischer '20
AP Spanish Language	Nicoleta Arcidiacono '20	Hannah Facenda '21	Ryleigh Lord '21
Spanish 4A	Cara Keller '20	Suzanne Dupnock '20	Catherine O'Connell '21
Spanish 4	Phoebe DeVlieger '20	Katie Hughes '20	Alexandria Lavelle '20

### **Art/Music**

Art Major 1A	Monica Paschos '22	Zoe Gusikoff '22	Natalie Coughlin '22
Art Major 2A	Caileigh Grimes '21	Yiru Zhou '20	Ava Reich '21
Art Major 3A	Kara Maddox '20	Lauren Zarro '20	
Principles of Design 1	Francesca Scarpone '22	Isabella DeShayes '20	Sydney Purcaro '22
Principles of Design 2	Ashley Hackney '22	Patrice Romano '20	Emily Glynn '20
Foundations in Digital Design	Olivia Squillante '20	Grace Del Pizzo '21	Olivia Opiela '22
Foundation in Media Arts	Barbara Zsembik '20	Amelie Aguilar '21	Grace Owens '23
Acting	Olivia Currier '23	Erin Corbett '22	Madeleine Litka '20
Music Major 1A	Juliana Brueckner '22	Sofia Folgia '22	Kristen Williams '22
AP Music Theory	Katharine Donnelly '20	Alexandra Henkels '20	Maria Dierkes '21