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## School Profile 2020-2021

### At A Glance

- Independent Catholic all-girls high school
- Founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1884
- College prep curriculum
- Enrollment in Grades 9-12 is 437 students
- Students represent more than 79 ZIP Codes
- Diversity: 26% non-Caucasian
- 100% of graduates attend a 4-year college/university
- One mile from Philadelphia
- 45% of students receive financial aid

### Mission

Merion Mercy Academy, an independent, Catholic, college preparatory school sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, offers a holistic education which encourages academic and personal excellence. Its curriculum stresses mercy spirituality, global awareness, and social responsibility. Within a nurturing community, Merion Mercy Academy educates leaders: young women who live mercy and seek justice.

### School Motto

Live Mercy. Seek Justice.

### Accreditation and Affiliations

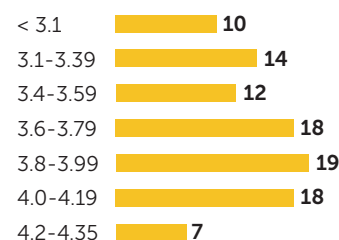
- Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools (PAIS)
- National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS)
- National Coalition of Girls' Schools (NCGS)
- Association of Delaware Valley Independent Schools (ADVIS)
- Mercy Education System of the Americas
- National Association of College Admission Counseling (NACAC)
- Pennsylvania Association of College Admission Counseling (PACAC)

### Class of 2021:

#### 98 Students

- Cum GPA (mid-50%): **3.51- 4.06**
- Cum GPA (Average): **3.66**
- Weighted 4.3 scale, Highest GPA: **4.35** (weighted)

#### GPA:



### Class of 2020:

**SAT Scores (mid-50%):** EBRW: 570-670 | Math: 520-670

**ACT Scores (mid-50%):** 23-28

### Grading System (Merion Mercy does not rank its students.)

Report cards are issued twice each year in January and in June. Letter grades are assigned according to the scale below. A grade of D or better is passing.

Grade	Range	Grade Points (GP)
A+	97-100	4.3
A	93-96	4.0
A-	91-92	3.75
B+	88-90	3.5
B	83-87	3.0
B-	81-82	2.75
C+	78-80	2.5
C	73-77	2.0
D	70-72	1.0
F	69 & below	0.0

Increment

+ 0.2 to each GP for A-level courses | + 0.4 to each GP for AP courses

### Mobile Merion Mercy

Mobile Merion Mercy was launched in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In March 2020, we moved to remote learning with a full schedule of virtual classes.

Students continued their education with a normal workload, and traditional grading continued throughout the rest of the school year. Classes were not Pass/Fail. For the 2020-2021 school year, we have developed plans for a hybrid model of instruction.

### CONTACTS

**Mrs. Theresa Yerger**  
*College Counselor*  
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**Mrs. Sally McGovern**  
*Assistant to Counseling*  
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## Graduation Requirements

Theology	4	Social Studies	3	Science	3	Effective Writing	.5	Electives	3.5
English	4	Mathematics	3	Foreign Language	2	Health/Phys. Ed	1		

The academic year is divided into two semesters, with 1.0 credit granted for successful completion of year-long courses and .5 credit granted for semester courses. 24 credits are required with a minimum of 6 per year.

## Merion Mercy Program Highlights

### Diocesan Scholars Program

Merion Mercy allows 3 seniors to take up to two classes each semester at local universities, such as Villanova University and Saint Joseph’s University.

### Community Service

While Merion Mercy does not have a service requirement, our students are always active in finding ways to help underserved communities. Each year, every junior participates in a planned day of service at one of several sites across Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Our rising seniors, along with many faculty/staff, volunteer at Mercy Volunteer Program (MVP) sites throughout the area for a week each summer. For the last 27 years, MVP has committed to working with diverse cultures, allowing our participants to bring the values of Mercy to underserved communities.

### Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Merion Mercy strives to strengthen our community and broaden our vision and understanding of living mercy and seeking justice to build a truly authentic and inclusive community. Guided by our Mercy mission, we deepen our understanding and appreciation of a diverse community and recognize the ongoing opportunities in listening to and learning from one another.

### Praxis Project

During the junior year Social Justice class, Merion Mercy students participate in a Praxis Project, where they learn how to apply the "see-judge-act" method of social action to a current social problem in our greater community, construct a case study based on the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, and engage in an intentional action response.

### Technology

All students at Merion Mercy benefit from one-to-one learning, allowing our faculty to create a more personalized, student-centered curriculum that encourages technological literacy and makes it possible for everyone to engage in blended learning throughout the school year.

### Holistic Education

Merion Mercy provides many opportunities for our students to shine both in and outside the classroom. Our promise of a holistic education offers more than 70 clubs, activities, and sports—everything from A Cappella to the STEAM Club. Our students are further empowered to discover and develop their unique talents through our roster of co-curricular activities, from the award-winning Mock Trial team to the state champion Field Hockey team to our Rowing team, which was a national champion last year. Adding to our opportunities for enrichment and collaboration is our newly formed Advisory Program, where students work together in small groups with designated faculty to craft their learning and development journey throughout the school year.

### STEAM Learning

We understand the importance of hands-on STEAM learning in helping our students thrive in today’s world, and we value the work our faculty does to provide opportunities for students of every level to thrive beyond the classroom. By fusing disciplines and encouraging students to apply their knowledge in innovative ways, they can take greater ownership over their work, learn how to think critically, and discover new passions that will last a lifetime. Honors range from Science Week accolades to our physiology students’ group dissertation at Lankenau Hospital to awards from the Philadelphia Area National Center for Women & Information Technology.

### Travel Abroad Programs

Merion Mercy offers many opportunities to immerse in cultures around the world through our travel abroad program. Recent excursions have included trips to Italy, Ireland, London, Costa Rica, Peru, Portugal, and Spain.

### Excellence in Writing

The art of communication is integral to our Merion Mercy curriculum. We provide all our students with opportunities to perfect their skills as critical thinkers and writers, by requiring everyone to take an Effective Writing class sophomore year in addition to their literature classes. Because the art of communicating well is essential in any career and throughout life, communication skills are also taught through required oral and written presentations in all academic disciplines throughout the year. With a Merion education, our girls gain the tools and the confidence to express themselves in whatever they do.

## Program of Study

For entering freshmen, placement in some courses is dependent upon testing and previous achievements. For students entering grades 10-12, placement in all Honors level classes and in all AP courses, requires teacher recommendation and/or department approval.

### **THEOLOGY (semester courses)**

Hebrew Scriptures (9)  
 Christian Scriptures (9)  
 Church History (10)  
 Sacraments (10)  
 Christian Ethics and Morality (11)  
 Social Justice Leadership (11)  
 Christian Spirituality (12)  
 Spirituality in Praxis (12)

### **ENGLISH**

Foundations in Writing (S)  
 Literature and Writing (9)  
 American Literature (10)  
 Effective Writing (10)  
 British Literature (11)  
 Contemporary Literature (S)  
 Dramatic Literature and the Theatre (S)  
 Fiction and Poetry Writing (S)  
 Gothic Literature (S)  
 Speech and Contemporary Issues (S)  
 World Mythology (S)

### **HONORS**

Literature and Writing  
 American Literature  
 British Literature  
 Contemporary Literature (S)  
 Jane Austen (S)

### **AP**

AP English Literature and Composition (12)  
 AP English Language and Composition (new 2020-2021)

### **MATHEMATICS**

Algebra 1, 2  
 Geometry (S)  
 Probability, Stats, Analytical Geometry (S)  
 Pre-Calculus (S/Y) †  
 Statistics  
 Personal Finance (S)

### **HONORS**

Algebra 1, 2  
 Geometry  
 Pre-Calculus  
 Advanced Pre-Calculus  
 Calculus  
 Probability, Stats, Analytical Geometry (S)

### **AP**

AP Calculus AB  
 AP Calculus BC  
 AP Statistics

### **SCIENCE**

Scientific Methods, Applications, Reasoning, and Theory (S)  
 Biology  
 Chemistry  
 Biotechnology & Bioethics (S/Y) † §  
 Earth Science (Y) §  
 Environmental Science (Y) §  
 Physics

### **HONORS**

Biology  
 Chemistry  
 Physics  
 Physiology (S/Y) †

### **AP**

AP Biology §  
 AP Chemistry  
 AP Environmental Science §

### **SOCIAL STUDIES**

Cultures in World History (9)  
 Modern United States History (11)  
 U.S. Government (12) (S)  
 Economics (S)  
 Introduction to Law (S)  
 Psychology (S)  
 Sociology (S)  
 Themes in U.S. History (S)  
 World Geography (S)

### **HONORS**

U.S. Government (S)  
 Themes in U.S. History (S)

### **AP**

AP U.S. History (11)  
 AP U.S. Government and Politics (12)  
 AP Human Geography  
 AP Psychology (new 2020-2021)

### **WORLD LANGUAGES**

Spanish 1, 2, 3, 4  
 French 1, 2

### **HONORS**

French 1, 2, 3, 4  
 Latin 1, 2, 3, 4  
 Spanish 1, 2, 3, 4

### **AP**

AP Latin  
 AP Spanish Language

### **ART**

#### **COLLEGE PREP ELECTIVE**

Foundations of Digital Design 1 (S)  
 Principles of Design 1, 2 (S)  
 Make Art History (S)  
 Drawing (S)

### **HONORS**

Art Major 1, 2, 3

### **MUSIC**

#### **COLLEGE PREP ELECTIVE**

Choral Music  
 Acting  
 Musical Theatre  
 Orchestra  
 Acting 1,2 (S)  
 Renaissance Revels (S)  
 Opera Theatre (S)

### **HONORS**

Music Major 1

### **AP**

AP Music Theory

### **TECHNOLOGY, COMMUNICATION, AND MEDIA**

Introduction to Coding (S)  
 Introduction to Computer Science (S)  
 Innovation and Information in our Digital World (S)  
 Media Production (S)

### **AP**

AP Computer Science Principles

(S) = Semester; (Y) = Year; (S/Y) † = may be taken as a semester or a full-year course; § = offered in alternate years

## Advanced Placement

Honors and Advanced Placement (AP) are not open enrollment. Students must be recommended by their prior year teacher based on their success in the preceding course along with factors such as work ethic, maturity, class participation, and critical thinking skills. Freshmen are placed in Honors courses based on their middle school transcript curriculum. Students are strongly encouraged to limit the number of AP classes they take in an academic year. Students who enroll in an AP course are required to take the corresponding AP exam. During the 2019-2020 school year, 132 students took 240 exams.

## Online Courses

Students with academic interests not specifically offered within our regular curriculum can enroll in online courses through Laurel Springs or other approved online providers. These courses are scheduled into their roster.

## University and College Acceptances Class of 2020

(Bolded names represent matriculation.)

Albright College  
 Allegheny College  
 American University  
**Arcadia University**  
**Arizona State University**  
 Art Center College and Design  
 Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania  
**Boston College**  
**Boston University**  
**Bucknell University**  
**Cabrini University**  
 California College of the Arts  
 Chestnut Hill College  
 Cheyney University of Pennsylvania  
 Citadel Military College of South Carolina  
 Clark Atlanta University  
 Clark University  
 Clemson University  
 Coastal Carolina University  
 College of Charleston  
 College of the Holy Cross  
 Connecticut College  
 Cornell College  
 DePaul University  
 DeSales University  
 Delaware Valley University  
 Dickinson College  
 Drew University  
**Drexel University**  
 Duquesne University  
 Eastern University  
 Eckerd College  
**Elizabethtown College**  
 Elon University  
**Endicott University**  
**Fairfield University**  
 Fashion Institute of Technology  
 Florida Atlantic University  
**Florida Institute of Technology**  
 Florida International University  
 Florida State University  
**Fordham University**  
 Franklin & Marshall College  
 George Mason University  
**George Washington University**  
 Georgetown University  
 Georgia State University  
**Gettysburg College**  
 Gwynedd Mercy University  
**High Point University**  
**Hillsdale College**  
 Hofstra University  
 Holy Family University  
**Howard University**  
**Immaculata University**  
 Indiana University Bloomington  
 Indiana University of Pennsylvania  
 Ithaca College  
 James Madison University  
**Jefferson**

**King's College**  
**La Salle University**  
 Lafayette College  
**Lehigh University**  
 Lincoln University  
 Loyola Marymount University  
**Loyola University Chicago**  
**Loyola University Maryland**  
 Loyola University New Orleans  
 Manhattanville College  
 Marist College  
 Marquette University  
 Maryland Institute College of Art  
 Marymount Manhattan College  
 Marymount University  
 Marywood University  
 Merrimack College  
 Michigan State University  
 Millersville University of Pennsylvania  
 Misericordia University  
 Monmouth University  
 Morgan State University  
**Mount Holyoke College**  
**Mount St. Mary's University**  
 Muhlenberg College  
 Neumann University  
 New Jersey Institute of Technology  
 New York University  
**Norfolk State University**  
**Northeastern University**  
**Nova Southeastern University**  
**Oberlin College**  
 Old Dominion University  
**Otis College of Art and Design**  
**Pennsylvania State University**  
**Pratt Institute**  
**Princeton University**  
 Providence College  
 Purdue University  
 Quinnipiac University  
 Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
 Ringling College of Art and Design  
 Rochester Institute of Technology  
 Roger Williams University  
 Rosemont College  
 Rowan University  
 Rutgers University  
 Sacred Heart University  
**Saint Joseph's University**  
 Savannah College of Art and Design  
 School of the Art Institute of Chicago  
 Seattle University  
 Seton Hall University  
 Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania  
 Smith College  
**Spelman College**  
 St. John's University New York  
 St. Thomas University  
 Stockton University  
 Stonehill College

Stony Brook University  
**Syracuse University**  
**Temple University**  
**Catholic University of America**  
 The College of Saint Rose  
**The Ohio State University**  
**The University of Alabama**  
 The University of Tampa  
 The University of Tennessee  
 Towson University  
 University of Arizona  
 University of California, Berkeley  
 University of California, Davis  
 University of California, Irvine  
 University of California, Los Angeles  
**University of California, San Diego**  
**University of Colorado, Boulder**  
 University of Connecticut  
 University of Dayton  
 University of Delaware  
 University of Denver  
 University of Florida  
 University of Hartford  
 University of Iowa  
 University of Lynchburg  
 University of Maine  
 University of Maryland, College Park  
**University of Mississippi**  
 University of New Haven  
 University of North Carolina Wilmington  
 University of North Carolina at Greensboro  
**University of Notre Dame**  
**University of Pennsylvania**  
**University of Pittsburgh**  
**University of Puget Sound**  
 University of Rhode Island  
**University of Richmond**  
**University of San Diego**  
 University of San Francisco  
**University of Scranton**  
**University of South Carolina**  
 University of Southern California  
 University of Vermont  
 University of Virginia  
**University of Washington**  
 University of the Sciences  
 Ursinus College  
**Villanova University**  
 Virginia Commonwealth University  
 Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University  
 Virginia State University  
**West Chester University of Pennsylvania**  
 Wheaton College  
**Widener University**  
 Wilkes University  
 Xavier University of Louisiana