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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

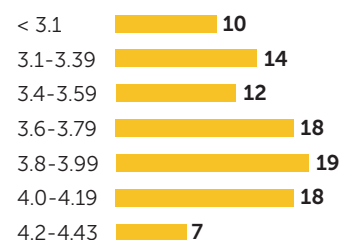
- Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools (PAIS)
- National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS)
- National Coalition of Girls' Schools (NCGS)
- Association of Delaware Valley Independent Schools (ADVIS)
- Mercy Education System of the Americas
- National Association of College Admission 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 4.4 scale, Highest GPA: **4.43** (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
 610.664.6655, Ext. 114 • tyerger@merion-mercy.com

Ms. Mary Jane Greene, College Counselor
 610.664.6655, Ext. 136 • mjgreene@merion-mercy.com

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