



MERION MERCY ACADEMY

Educating young women to live mercy and seek justice

August 3, 2018

Dear Parents,

While New York City has often been called “the city that never sleeps,” Merion Mercy might easily be known as the school that never sleeps! Summer academy, trips, sports camps, and the continuing activities in a variety of offices have kept the school humming all summer. That hum will grow louder as we welcome students in just a few weeks. We look forward to seeing them. Important dates are listed below:

August 27, 2018	Freshman/New Student Orientation	(see separate memos)
August 28, 2018	Freshman Orientation cont'd	
August 29, 2018	All students report to Homeroom	Full Class Day
August 30, 2018	All students report to Homeroom	Full Class Day
(The warning bell rings at 8:18 and Homeroom bell rings at 8:23.)		
August 31, 2018	No school	Labor Day weekend
September 3, 2018	No school	Labor Day
September 4, 2018	All students report to First Period	Full Class Day
(The warning bell rings at 8:18 and the First Period Bell at 8:23.)		

Enclosed with this mailing is a letter and course listing for each student and separate memos relating to freshman and new student orientation. Eileen Killeen, Director of Admissions, has also included a reminder for new students and parents.

Recently I met with the student leaders who shared with me their plans and theme for the year - *AdventuroUS in Mercy – there is no us and them, only us*. This theme speaks broadly to diversity, inclusion and acceptance both here in school and in our local and broader community.

Our school community will continue our efforts in this area guided by the following statement.

Merion Mercy will strengthen our community and broaden our vision and understanding of “living mercy and seeking justice.” As a community we are committed to:

- *growing in our awareness and our understanding of diversity and inclusion issues.*
- *expanding our appreciation for the rich diversity in our school community and in our world.*
- *fostering a school culture of inclusion that is open, respectful and appreciative of the diversity among us and that enables all to participate and contribute within our Mercy community.*
- *creating opportunities for dialogue that deepen our understanding of realities and perceptions which may inhibit a culture of inclusion so that we can intentionally promote a more inclusive culture.*
- *ensuring that policies, procedures, practices and behavior are consistent with our Mission and Core Values and reflect the inclusive community we desire to be.*
- *taking action to break down barriers.*

Some initial steps taken last year were the establishment of a Board Equity and Justice Committee and the establishment of a school Diversity and Inclusion Committee. The Board Equity and Justice Committee was charged with a review of policies and procedures to ensure the school’s compliance with federal and state mandates and to ensure that fair and just processes are in place to address any breaches of policy. As a first step, the committee reviewed and proposed to the Board a revision of the school’s non-discrimination policy. The Board approved the revision in June and you will soon see the restatement in our school publications and on our web site.

A school Diversity and Inclusion Committee was also established last year and charged with developing programs and processes to enable members of the school community to broaden our understanding and embrace the diverse community we are, and to assist in breaking down barriers so that all find their place within the “circle of mercy” we strive to be. Plans are being finalized for the upcoming school year.

Since coming to Merion Mercy in the spring, pride in the “sisterhood” of MMA and school spirit became evident to me immediately. Pride in oneself and the school each student represents are important qualities that contribute to school spirit and the sense of “sisterhood.” Our school uniform is one of the ways students demonstrate that pride. With that in mind, I ask your help and cooperation with ensuring that your daughter observes the school uniform code from the first day of school. While listed in our handbook, I have included them here as a reminder:

Fall/Spring Uniform

- Uniform khaki skirt with a uniform yellow or white golf shirt. The skirt should be no more than 4 inches above the knee.
- If a tee shirt is worn under the school shirt, it must be white. Sleeves of the tee shirt may not hang below the sleeve of the school shirt.
- Tights are worn when the weather is cool (as determined by the administration)
- The school sweater or blazer may also be worn.
- A brown leather oxford, a brown Sperry, or brown buck style shoe is the required shoe. It must have laces and ties, a full back and a heel no higher than 1 inch. It may not have a patterned design and it may not be a boot, moccasin or sneaker type shoe.
- Plain white socks with a cuff of at least one inch are worn. No logos of any type may be on the socks.

As all students are expected to be in uniform on the first day, any student who arrives not in uniform will not be admitted to class. If uniforms have not arrived yet from Flynn & O’Hara, I ask that the student bring a note and she will be given a uniform pass.

As you know, the Board of Trustees has initiated the search process to identify a new Head of School for the 2019 – 2020 school year. Bill O’Shea, Chair of the Board, will provide updates regularly as the process proceeds.

Having said that, I am truly delighted to be here this year as together we continue the important task of supporting your daughters – our students – to become confident, competent and compassionate young women.

I look forward to the year ahead.

In Mercy,



Sister Christine McCann
Head of School

PS – Our Back to School Night will be held on September 11. Please plan to attend. Further information will be sent at the end of August.