

SCHOOL PROFILE 2019-2020

CEEB Code: **391600**

**Gwynedd Mercy Academy
High School**
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Gwynedd

Mercy Academy
High School

Established 1861

Recognized as a School of Excellence
by the U.S. Department of Education

MISSION STATEMENT

Gwynedd Mercy Academy, a Catholic college-preparatory school, encourages young women to live and act justly in the spirit of Jesus Christ and to follow in the tradition of mercy and service inherited from Catherine McAuley, foundress of the Sisters of Mercy. Gwynedd Mercy Academy respects individual differences and challenges each student to achieve academic excellence. Gwynedd Mercy Academy empowers each student to develop her unique talents and abilities and to become a competent and compassionate Christian woman.

TRADITION

Catherine McAuley envisioned the education of women as a means to spread Christian values and effect social change. Inspired by her vision, the Sisters of Mercy established a Catholic, independent, college-preparatory, secondary school for young women in 1861. Committed to the academic, spiritual, and social development of young women, Gwynedd Mercy Academy offers a challenging curriculum, various co-curricular and extra-curricular activities, individual attention, and encouragement towards personal growth.

COMMUNITY

Gwynedd Mercy Academy High School is located in suburban Montgomery County, 20 miles northwest of center city, Philadelphia, and shares a campus with Gwynedd Mercy University.

ACCREDITATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP

Gwynedd Mercy Academy High School is a recipient of the Presidential Blue Ribbon Award for excellence in education and is fully accredited by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Middle States Association. Gwynedd Mercy Academy High School is a member of the Independent School Teachers' Association, Association of Delaware Valley Independent Schools and Mercy Secondary Education Association.

The present student body of **400 students** comes from over **20 school districts** throughout Bucks, Montgomery, and Philadelphia counties.

- The faculty and staff: **77**
- **4** of the faculty and staff members are Sisters of Mercy
- Teacher/student ratio **1:10**
- Average class size: **18 students**

Educate. Inspire. Empower.



ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Each student is required to take a minimum of 24 credits, while additional credits may be earned according to students' needs and future plans. Required courses are: Theology (4 years), English (4 years), Mathematics (3 years), Science (3 years), Social Studies (3 years), and Foreign Language (2 years). The core curriculum is enhanced with varied electives suited to the interest and abilities of students. AP Courses are generally offered to junior and senior students. While there are no limitations to the number of AP courses a student may take, students are encouraged to carefully consider the number of AP courses they take in a given academic year. Students enrolled in an AP course are required to take the AP exam in May. Not every AP course is offered on a yearly basis, and the size of our student population dictates a limited number of sections for each AP course. Of the students eligible for AP courses, on average, our students take 3 AP courses throughout high school.

SCHEDULE

Gwynedd Mercy Academy High School works diligently to maximize the effectiveness of daily classes, to promote even greater results in scholastic achievement and to graduate students prepared for the increasingly challenging rigors of college. The Gwynedd Mercy Academy High School community uses a schedule that reflects a school climate that promotes 21st century learning. The school schedule allows for increased opportunities for interaction with the material introduced in class, and for the integration of hands-on, experiential projects. The cycle is ten working days, eight days of which are regular classes (40 minutes), while the remaining two days are extended-time classes (80 minutes). The school day begins at 8:15 A.M.

2019 ADVANCED PLACEMENT TEST RESULTS

- 142 students took 279 exams
- 71% of the 279 exams had scores of 3 and above

SAT AVERAGES

	GMAHS Class of 2019	National SAT Avg. 2018	PA Avg. 2018
Evidence Based Reading and Writing (EBRW)	625	536	547
Math	596	531	539
Total	1221	1068	1086

AVERAGE ACT COMPOSITE SCORE FOR 2019 GRADUATES: 24

GRADING SYSTEM/ CLASS RANK

Gwynedd Mercy Academy High School's marking system is numerical, with a grade of 70 considered passing. Courses are weighted according to the degree of challenge they present and GPAs are calculated based on this weighted system. A student's grade point average is based only on major subjects.

Because of the small and selective nature of the student body, along with a rigorous college-preparatory curriculum, Gwynedd Mercy Academy High School does not assign rank to its students.

NEW GRADING SCALE

(began with the 2019-20 school year)

Grade	Num. Equiv.	GPA Points Standard
A	100-94	4
A-	93-91	3.7
B+	90-88	3.3
B	87-85	3
B-	84-82	2.7
C+	81-80	2.3
C	79-77	2
C-	76-75	1.7
D+	74-73	1.3
D	72-70	1
F	69-0	0

GRADING SYSTEM

(through June 2019)

A	93-100
B	85-92
C	77-84
D	70-76
F	60-69
Level 0 – Minor course	
Level 1 – AP course	
Level 2 – Honors Course	
Level 3 – College Prep Course	

COURSES OF STUDY

For incoming freshmen, placement in some courses is dependent upon standardized testing and previous academic achievement. For students entering grades 10-12, placement in all Honors and AP courses requires teacher and/or department approval, and often is dependent upon a prerequisite grade in a prior course. Courses with an (*) are not running in the 2019-2020 school year.

Department	College Prep Level 3	College Prep Elective Level 3	Honors Level 2	Advanced Placement Level 1
Theology	Theology (9) Theology (10) Theology (11) Vocational Life Theology (12)			
English	English (9) English (10) English (11) English (12)	Communications (11,12) Public Speaking (9)	English (9)	AP Language & Composition (11) AP Literature & Composition (12)
Mathematics	Algebra 1 Intermediate Algebra Geometry Algebra 2 Precalculus Statistics		Geometry Algebra 2 Precalculus Calculus Statistics	AP Calculus AB AP Statistics
Science	Fundamentals of Chemistry/Physics * Biology Chemistry Anatomy & Physiology Zoology	Scientific Research* Physics Consumer Chemistry* Forensics	Biology Chemistry Physics Anatomy & Physiology Genetic Biotechnology*	AP Biology AP Chemistry AP Environmental Science*
Social Studies	World Culture Topics in U.S. History U.S. Government & Politics	Modern World History	World Cultures Topics in U.S. History U.S. Government & Politics Comparative Government & Politics* Modern World History	AP U.S. History AP U.S. Government & Politics AP Human Geography AP Comparative Government* AP European History
Languages	Latin 1 Spanish 1 Spanish 2 French 1 French 2	Spanish 3 Spanish 4 French 3	Latin 2 Latin 3 Spanish 2 Spanish 3 Spanish 4 Spanish 5 French 2 French 3 French 4 French 5	AP Latin – Vergil and Caesar AP Spanish
Art		Graphics 1* Graphics 2* Graphics 3* Art Studio 1* Art Studio 2* Mixed Media* Ceramics Digital Media Drawing/ Painting	Art Studio	AP Art Studio
Music		Fundamentals of Music 1* Music Technology Music Theory/History Instrumental Music Vocal Music	Music 2* Music 3*	AP Music Theory
Other		Accounting* Developmental Psych. Economics/Business Law CLP Academic Support	Accounting* Developmental Psych.	AP Computer Principles AP Psychology AP Computer Science

Required minor courses (not included in GPA): Intro to Art (9) .5 credits, Intro to Music (9) .5 credits, Technology Resources (9) 1 credit, Health (10) .5 credits, Physical Education (10) .5 credits

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

100% of the students in the graduating class of 2019 at Gwynedd Mercy Academy High School chose to further their education at institutions of higher learning.

Gwynedd's Counseling Center provides support and information to students and their parents as they sort through an array of options to make an informed choice regarding college education.

A GRADUATE OF GWYNEDD MERCY ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL IS:

A competent and compassionate woman of Faith, who chooses to live her life rooted in Gospel values. A woman of Mercy, who in the tradition of Catherine McAuley, responds generously to the needs of the poor and alienated persons of society. A woman who is well prepared for the challenges of a college experience. A woman who actively engages in the learning process and is committed to the continual development of her unique gifts, talents and abilities. A woman of integrity who fosters right relationships and justice for all persons.

A woman who communicates effectively and uses her influence to bring about social change. A woman who demonstrates critical thinking and problem-solving skills, technological competence, flexibility, and an appreciation of diversity — ingredients for success in her future endeavors.

A woman who demonstrates respect for herself and others; makes wise choices and accepts responsibility for her actions. A woman who appreciates creativity and beauty in their myriad forms of expression. A woman who is empowered to become an authentic witness of Mercy in the global community of the 21st Century.

*She is
the
Future.*

MERCY MILESTONES CLASS OF 2019

- Scholarships/Grants in excess of **\$19 million**
- Archdiocesan Scholars: **4**
- National Merit Commended Students: **3**



SAMPLING OF COLLEGES WHO OFFERED ADMISSION TO OUR STUDENTS IN THE LAST 3 YEARS

American University	Lafayette College
Auburn University	Lehigh University
Boston College	Loyola University Maryland
Boston University	Marist College
Bryn Mawr College	University of Miami
Bucknell University	University of Michigan
University of California, Berkeley	Muhlenberg College
University of California, Davis	Northeastern University
Carnegie Mellon University	Occidental College
Clemson University	University of Oregon
Colgate University	Pennsylvania State University
Columbia University	University of Pennsylvania
Cornell University	Pepperdine University
University of Delaware	University of Pittsburgh
University of Denver	Purdue University
Dickinson College	University of Richmond
Drexel University	University of Rochester
Duquesne University	Rutgers University-New Brunswick
Elon University	Saint Joseph's University
Fordham University	Swarthmore College
Franklin & Marshall College	Syracuse University
Gettysburg College	Tulane University
Gonzaga University	Villanova University
Hamilton College - NY	Virginia Tech
Haverford College	University of Virginia
Ithaca College	Wake Forest University
Johns Hopkins University	College of William & Mary