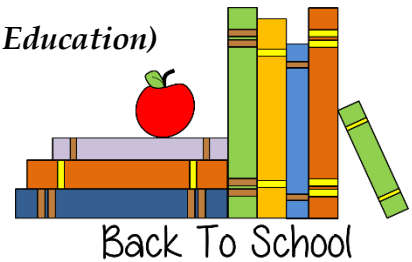


September 2020 **PIE MEMO** (*Partners in Education*)



A Note From Sister Rayleen...

"The tender Mercy of God has given us one another." Catherine McAuley

"School days, school days, good old-fashioned rule days..." These words from the ever-popular song, *School Days*, are playing through my mind as I think of this school year's start. Rule days that include wearing of face-coverings, social distancing, sanitizing, ventilating and practicing good hand hygiene are certainly different days than those to which we and our children are accustomed. Yet, I am confident that these rules are ones that we will follow. As our middle school students remind us in the video they created for our younger students (<https://youtu.be/mFUVpX823F4>), we follow these rules to protect our friends because we care for one another. Undoubtedly, Catherine's words to the sisters ring true for us: "The tender Mercy of God has given us one another." I truly believe that it would be extremely difficult to find a community that compares to Mercymount's. This year, we are blessed to welcome back some students, and welcome for the first time many new members that include students, families, teachers, and staff. Welcome one and all! I trust that you will feel the great spiritual embrace of this amazing community.

As we begin this year together, be most assured of my deep respect, great care, and daily prayer for each one of you.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sr. Rayleen". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Sr. Rayleen

Meet Our 2020-2021 Staff

Principal	Sr. Rayleen Giannotti
Assistant Principal	Mrs. Teri Bement
Administrative Assistant	Mrs. Candace Simas
Director of Development	Ms. Karen Weavill
Director of Admissions	Mrs. Lisa Pare
Maintenance	Mr. Timothy Hayden
Nurses	Mrs. Kellie Bryda & Mrs. Regina Ludovici
Food Service	Mrs. Heather O'Brien and Mrs. Michele Putt
Cafeteria Cashiers	Mrs. Jamie Sims and Mrs. Rebecca Baril

Middle School 6 - 8

Language Arts	Mrs. Melissa Antone
Social Studies	Mrs. Barbara Paquette
Math	Mrs. Teri Bement and Mrs. Cathy Pereira
Religion	Mrs. Antone, Mrs. Paquette, and Sister Rayleen
Science	Mr. William Evans
Literature	Mrs. Melissa Antone and Mrs. Barbara Paquette

Grade 5	Mrs. Kristen Roberto and Brother James Burns
Grade 4	Miss Nicole Werderman
Grade 3	Miss Caitlyn Shea
Grade 3	Miss Arianna Bruno
Grade 2	Mrs. Jessica Burke
Grade 1	Mrs. Christine Corio
Kindergarten	Mrs. Amanda Kimatian
Kindergarten	Miss Julie Lena
Pre-K	Ms. Brenda Dias and Ms. Kathy Gallagher
Pre-K	Miss Ariana Carito

Specials

Art	Corey French	Computer Science	Mrs. Cathy Pereira
Library	Br. Alan / Parent Volunteers	Mercy Ministry	Br. Alan Aubin
Music/Chorus	Mrs. Lisa Pare	PE/Health	Mr. William Evans
			Mr. Cody Houston
Resource	Mrs. Cathy Pereira	Spanish	Mr. Pierre Larivee

Required Forms

Parents will fill out required school forms and verify demographic information online. An email will be sent to parents with a link to the online forms. Please have these forms completed by September 15th. The School Handbooks are in the process of being updated and will be available on our website by September 8th. The online form includes an electronic signature sign-off that will attest to the acceptance of those policies as well as the Electronic Devices Policy and Computer and Internet Acceptable Use Agreement and Policy. Please read the Handbook(s) on or after September 8th thoroughly before signing.

Nurses' Notes

To ensure each child's safety, students will not be allowed to attend school until all required health forms are received by the Nurse. Any students without proper documentation of immunizations will not be admitted on the first day of school. I am attaching the medication release form to be returned by Tuesday, September 8th. Students with allergy concerns must submit a Student Allergy Action Plan, signed by a physician.

Screenings for vision, dental, hearing, and scoliosis might be held throughout the school year as required by the RI Department of Health. Parents will be notified prior to the scheduled dates. Please refer to the School Handbook or the web site for complete health information, including immunization requirements, guidelines regarding sick students and requirements for medication.

Busing

Beginning on Monday, September 14th, school buses will pick up Cumberland students as listed in the local newspapers. Attached you will find "Bus Tickets". Students will need to present one to the bus driver every day. If there are any questions or issues regarding busing, please call the company directly:

Durham Bus Company (Cumberland students) 334-3745

School Schedule

School hours are 8:35 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Please consult the **September calendar** for the opening schedule. **Children should arrive every day by 8:35 a.m.**, in order to begin each day morning prayer. Students in Grades 2 – 8 will receive classroom assignments on their first day of school.

PreK and Kindergarten students will report directly to their classrooms upon arrival in the morning (prior to 8:35). This gives students the opportunity to be welcomed by their teachers and to connect with their peers within the comfort and security of the classroom. PreK and Kindergarten students will continue to be dismissed at the outside classroom door (via sidewalk) at 2:55 p.m.

Early Bird Pick Up

We have extended early bird pick up to include students in grades 4 and 5. Students in Gr. 4 – 8 who do not ride the bus and have no siblings in the lower grades may be picked up in the front of the school at 2:50p.m.

Before/After Care

Grades K-8

On Wednesday, September 2nd and Thursday September 3rd, there will be no BeforeCare. There will be AfterCare on both days until 6:00 p.m. AfterCare on those two days will be provided by Mercymount faculty in staff. The cost is \$4 per half hour and to be paid daily by either cash or check. Starting Tuesday, September 8th, Mercymount will be partnering with AlphaBest <https://www.alphabest.org/> for our BeforeCare and AfterCare programs. AlphaBest is a company that provides before and after care services to many schools in the state, including the Cumberland Public Schools. All of the details regarding this program and the pricing will be sent out within the next couple of days. It is important to note that Before and AfterCare will still be on the premises and the times will remain the same. Drop off will be as early as 7:00a.m. and children can be picked up as late as 6:00p.m.

Pre-K

Ms. Gallagher and Miss Carito will be running the Before and AfterCare program for children in Pre-K. There will be no BeforeCare Thursday, September 3rd. There will be AfterCare until 6:00p.m. Starting Tuesday September 8th, BeforeCare will start at 7:45a.m. and AfterCare will go until 6:00pm at the cost of \$4 per half hour. Please pick your child up promptly at 6:00. Parents must inform teachers with a note or a message to the office if their child will be staying for AfterCare. Whomever is picking up your child must be listed on your child's release form. An picture I.D. must be shown at the door before your child is released. Please provide a healthy nut free snack and a drink for your child. If you know that your child will be in AfterCare until 6:00, please pack an additional snack.

Parking Lot

For safety reasons, all drivers should BACK into parking spaces for dismissal. Also, small children in tow are not allowed on the playground at dismissal time nor on the grass near the Kindergarten windows. Please respect all assigned "**Reserved**" spaces for faculty, Handicapped and Auction. Drive SLOWLY at all times and be aware of children while entering and exiting parking lot and school property. Remember that *Roald Dahl Road* is a one-way drive; you must enter from Fisher Road and exit past the school. **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD YOU EXIT ONTO FISHER ROAD!** Anyone found exiting onto Fisher Road will be reported to the Cumberland Police Department. When exiting the building, please use the designated crosswalks. Also, we are working on a few different solutions to increase parking lot safety. Thank you for your cooperation.

Uniforms

Please refer to the School Handbook and/or school web site for uniform requirements. There are some new and "gently used" uniforms for the taking. Blouses, pants, skirts, jumpers, sweatshirts, etc.all free! They are kept in the Copy Room off the Cafeteria.

Lunch Program

Mercymount provides a nutritional lunch for the children every day as well as providing a la carte beverages and snacks. Prices will range from \$1.00 snacks to \$5.00 for the main meal. The attached lunch menu lists what is offered each day. Each meal includes either a milk or orange juice. Other drinks are available for purchase. The kitchen staff will be delivering lunches directly to the classrooms. It is VERY important that if your child is purchasing lunch that they let their teacher know at the start of the day. Hot lunch will not be served September 2nd and 3rd. Children will need to bring a lunch on those days. Please do not send your child in with "fast food" lunches. Hot lunch will be served beginning September 8th.

Payments for lunch are made using a *cashless* lunch payment program through [PaySchoolsCentral.com](https://www.payschoolscentral.com). All students are automatically enrolled in the system and charges will begin on the first day of school. **Parents are required to go online and fund your child's account prior to the start of school.** Any family not previously enrolled will receive an email by the end of the week with directions to enable your account and enter payment information. **Please remember to set up your account with low-balance alerts!**

Peanut/Tree Nut Allergy

Since one or more individuals in the school have an allergy to peanuts/tree nuts, the sale of peanuts/tree nuts, peanut butter and other nut-based products is prohibited by the cafeteria. All lunches and snacks should be nut-free for all students, as all classrooms are designated as "allergy-free".

Northern Rhode Island Food Pantry

Mercymount will once again team up with the Northern Rhode Island Food Pantry to help feed the hungry. Under the direction of Mrs. Lisa Paré, flyers will be sent out weekly per grade asking for your help to fill the containers. Collections will begin with our faculty and staff and then move to Grade 8 in the beginning of September. Be on the lookout for those flyers and emails! A little goes a long way and we thank you in advance for your generosity!

Volunteers

Volunteer Opportunities for 2020-2021

Here are three different ways you can volunteer when school is in session. You can volunteer for 1 shift a week, 1 shift every two weeks or 1 shift every month! There are shifts as short as 20 minutes.

Morning Shift 8:15am-8:35am (20 minutes)

Volunteers will go in through the main entrance (mask required), sign in and wait in the foyer. There will be a school employee directing you to a spot or classroom. A parent volunteer will be needed to assist with morning drop off in the front circle and a parent volunteer will be needed for the parking lot. Also, volunteers will be needed to make copies or cover classrooms if teachers need to complete tasks. You will not have to sign up for the morning shift. If you can assist in the morning, then report to the foyer and you will be given an assignment.

Recess Shift 11:25am-12:50pm (1 hr 25 minutes)

Three volunteers will be needed each day for a recess shift. Volunteers will be assigned to one area of an outside space with 1 classroom pod. Volunteers would stay in the designated spot until the recess shifts were complete. These shifts are essential. Without coverage for these recess shifts, teachers will not have any breaks during the day!

Afternoon Shift 2:40-3:02 (22 minutes)

Two volunteers needed. Volunteers will go in through the main entrance (mask required) and sign in. One volunteer will assist dismissal procedures in the front circle starting with early bird dismissal at 2:45. The other volunteer will assist with dismissal procedures in the parking lot.

***All parents, grandparents or caregivers must go through Safe Schools in order to volunteer. With Safe Schools training being virtual, it is now easier than ever to get it done. 😊 Email Mrs. Simas at csimas@mercymount.org, and she will send you instructions. Feel free to reach out to Lisa Albert, if you have any questions. Email, text, or call her at 401-474-7627 mcdsvolunteering@gmail.com

Friday Morning Help!ers

Beginning on September 11th, on Friday mornings parents are welcome to help teachers with “chores” from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. Our Friday Help!ers work in the Copy Room cutting, copying, laminating, collating, etc. for teachers and staff. It’s a much-needed and much-appreciated service; just drop in any or every Friday. Friday Help!ers will also be responsible for organizing the supply of gently used uniforms. All Volunteers must be Safe School certified.

Show Your Mercymount Spirit!

Again this year we offer our own line of **Spirit Wear** through Donnelly’s Clothing. The link to order is available on the school website. Sweatshirts, fleece jackets, t-shirts and more are available for ordering anytime; delivery options for home, school or store pick-up are available. Each item can be customized.

https://www.donnelysclothing.com/FamilyDetail.aspx?School_Code=mercycumbri&SubCatID=MERCYCUMBRI_SPW&frmflg=C

Math Olympiad

The popular Math Olympiad program will continue to offer two teams this year, Grades 4 – 6 and Grades 7 – 8. Both teams will meet each Tuesday morning (7:45 – 8:25), beginning on October 1st through mid-March. We are currently looking for parent volunteers to run the program for this year. Please see the attached flyer and email Mrs. Simas, csimas@mercymount.org, if you are interested.

Sports

Mercymount offers both competitive and instructional sports for students during the school year. Fall/Winter competitive sports include Tennis (Gr. 6-8), Cross Country (Gr. 6-8) and Basketball (Gr. 4-8), and instructional programs offered are Soccer (Gr. K-3), Volleyball (Gr. 6-8) and Bidyball (basketball Gr. K-3). The flyer for instructional soccer is attached and sign-ups will begin soon. Ski Club for Middle School students is held for six weeks in January and February on Tuesdays after school. The Chair of the Sports Program for 2020-2021 is Eric Amaral. You may contact him regarding sports at eric.j.amaral@gmail.com

We are pleased to announce that we have an easy and convenient way to sign up your child and make payments for sports through go.teamsnap.com. The links to do so will be the flyers that are with the PIE Memo and/or emailed. If you have any questions about using the link, or about any of the sports programs, the flyers contain a contact email for the coaches.

As always, the Sports Committee is looking for any volunteers to help as coaches. If you are interested, please send an email to Eric Amaral. Both moms and dads are encouraged to get

involved with coaching; you do not need to have been a star athlete to have an impact on a child's life and be an effective coach!

Opening Liturgy - September 15

We will celebrate our Opening Mass with all students and parents on Tuesday, September 15th at 9:00 a.m. Children will be celebrating in their classrooms and all parents are welcome to attend via Zoom. We are excited to invite Father Charlie Galligan, the pastor at St. Joseph's Church, to celebrate Mass with us.

Back-to-School Night- September 21

The annual Parent Association *Back-to-School Night* will be held via Zoom on Monday, September 21st beginning at 6:00 p.m. ending at 7:00 p.m.
More information to follow.

Morning Prayer

Every morning the school joins together in prayer at 8:45a.m. You are all welcome to join us via Zoom.

Advancement Update

Ready to Hit the Links?

Our 23rd Annual Golf Tournament will be held on Thursday, September 24 at Crestwood Country Club in Rehoboth, MA. Proceeds from this event fund the upgrading of technology in our classrooms to enhance the learning experience for our Students. Please know that Crestwood Country Club is working with their local department of health, and we are working closely with the club, to assure that we are maintaining the most current practices for health and safety. Not a golfer? We also offer the option of a "dinner only" ticket. See the attached flyer or go to <https://mercymount.ejoinme.org/golf2020> for more information.

There's Still Time to Rise to the Challenge!

Thank you to all who helped with our past Fund-A-Need. With the ever-changing technology, we need more updates. **Accept our challenge - for every iMac donated a match from a board member will double it (up to 12 computers matched)!** To date, we have raised \$3,225 towards this effort, and we are so appreciative of your support.

In March of this year, Mercymount Country Day School and our entire community made a sudden but necessary shift to remote learning. Through the remaining school year and feedback from our families, we learned much, including the need to continually bolster our technology curriculum to ensure the success of our students in a remote learning environment.

Our board is not only committed to the success of Mercymount, they are prepared to invest in that success. For every dollar raised to replace student and classroom computers at MCDS, a board member will match that support. You can help us ensure the success of our students in the digital world. You can make sure that our students are prepared if we need to ensure the community's safety by implementing distance learning. Our goal is to add 24 new iMacs to our school!

Your gift to the Mercymount Technology Fund in any amount will help us to replace older computers and focus on the digital learning that has become so important. And if, like many of our families and friends, making a gift isn't something you're comfortable considering, we welcome

your prayers for our continued work. And we hope that you know that you are in our prayers as well.

Donations can be made by going online to <https://mercymount.ejoinme.org/technology> or mailing a check to Technology Challenge, Mercymount Country Day School, 35 Wrentham Road, Cumberland RI 02864.

Other Advancement news:

Over the summer, we have been working to plan our fundraising efforts for the year, while continuing to build our database for better record keeping. In an effort to help our families plan their involvement in the year's activities, we have created a calendar detailing many of the efforts being planned for this year, which is attached. If you would like more information, are interested in volunteering to help plan fundraising events, or would like to help with data entry, please contact Karen Weavill at kweavill@mercymount.org or 401-333-5919 x14.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW FOR DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP

There will be someone at each entrance to take each child's temperature. If your child has a temperature of 100 or higher, you will be immediately contacted. There will also be volunteers outside to help direct parents and children to the correct entrance. PLEASE avoid crowding.

Morning

7:00 – 8:15

Before-Care children must wait in cars until the cafeteria sidewalk door opens at 7:00.

If a student is being escorted to the door by a parent, the car must be parked in the parking lot in a parking space. All Before Care students go to cafeteria for supervision (or to teachers for pre-arranged help, meetings, etc.)

7:45 – 8:35

PreK students go directly to their classroom's door (via sidewalk). Anyone dropped off before 8:15 will pay the before care fees.

Note: Any student arriving after the 8:35 bell will have to enter the building at the front door and be checked in by the Office.

8:15 – 8:35

DROP AND GO

- Gr. 1 – 8 students entering with no help needed, may enter through the front door (pull into semi-circle). There is **NO PARKING** in front of the school at this time. If your child has a temperature of 100 or higher, you will be immediately contacted.

PARK AND DROP

- Parents are to park in lot in a parking space to unload and to walk younger students to their assigned door. Kindergarten students will go directly to their classroom door.
 - Grades 1-3 will enter through the side door. (Door between the Cafeteria and the PK/K wing)
 - Grades 4-5 will enter through the Cafeteria door. (Same way that they would enter last year/ Before care entrance)
 - Grades 6-8 will enter through the cafeteria door closest to the playground. (After care door)
- Once in the building, students will go directly to their classrooms.
- **Students arriving by car must be in the building by 8:35 a.m.**

8:15-8:35

Bus students enter through the front door. Students go directly to their classrooms.

8:35

All doors are locked. All late students enter the FRONT door and will be marked Tardy.

Afternoon

Please Note: There will be NO PARKING along the front of the school after 2:00 p.m.

2:50

Only students in Gr. 4-8 can be picked up by car at the front door. Drivers for "Early Bird" dismissal park on RIGHT side (sidewalk side) of *Roald Dahl Road*; the line begins near the north door behind teacher cars. Avoid blocking the semi-circle and bus driveways.

Students in PK and Kindergarten will be picked up at their classroom door.

2:55

Bus students will be dismissed out the front door. Grades 1-3 will be dismissed from the same door that they enter through in the morning. (Between the cafeteria and PK/wing)

3:00

Children in Grades 4-5 will be dismissed through the Cafeteria door. The same entrance that they used in the morning. Children in Grades 6-8 will be dismissed through the Cafeteria door closest to the playground. (Aftercare door)

1. **DRIVERS: PLEASE BACK INTO PARKING SPACES FOR SAFETY REASONS.**
2. **PLEASE DO NOT USE HANDICAP SPACE UNLESS REQUIRED.**
3. **RESERVED PARKING SPACES ARE ALSO NOT AVAILABLE FOR GENERAL USE.**
4. **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD YOU EXIT ONTO FISHER RD! ANYONE FOUND EXITING ONTO FISHER ROAD WILL BE REPORTED TO CUMBERLAND POLICE.**



“It is a special favor of God to be teachers destined to teach little ones in God’s knowledge and love.”

Venerable Catherine McAuley

MERCYMOUNT COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL PARENTS ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

MISSION

The Parents Association accepts and promotes the mission of Mercymount Country Day School,

- To be faithful to the mission of the Religious Sisters of Mercy and to Catholic educational traditions and to the spirit and charism of Venerable Catherine McAuley
- To strive to ensure the development of strong academic skills, creative abilities, a sense of community and of social responsibility.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Parents Association Committee shall be to serve as a consultative body to the principal of Mercymount Country Day School. The Association shall pursue the following objectives:

- To create a bond of unity among parents, faculty and students,
- To assist the faculty and the principal of the Mercymount community in fulfilling its mission,
- To support all programs (spiritual, academic and extracurricular) and to encourage participation by the members of the student body,
- To create and maintain sound public opinion of Mercymount and promote cooperation in and good will toward its general welfare,
- To assist Mercymount to attain its financial goals through fundraising.

2020 / 2021 MCDS Parents Association Officers & Committee Positions

Co-Presidents: George Stansfield & Julie Parkes

Vice President: Michele Favaloro

Secretary: Chad Solomon

Treasurer: Kristen Mallinson

Committees:

- Sports Eric Amaral
- Sunshine Arianne Tanasio
- Enrichment Kristen Mallinson and Jenny Collins
- Host Family Jenny Collins and Julie Parkes
- Hospitality Moira Gerrish and Lynne Rubenstein
- Volunteers Lisa Albert
- Socials Jamie Sims and Colleen DiPetrillo
- Advancement Michelle Favaloro
- Parent Federation Chad Solomon and Christen Magill

Please see the attached meeting schedule. All parents are welcome to attend.