

SCHOOL PROFILE 2020-2021

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

- Presidential Blue Ribbon Award
- Fully accredited by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Middle States Association
- Members of Independent School Teachers' Association, Association of Delaware Valley Independent Schools and Mercy Secondary Education Association

The present student body of 395 students comes from 20 school districts throughout Bucks, Montgomery, and Philadelphia counties.

- The faculty and staff: 72
- 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 24 credits to graduate. Required courses are:

- Theology (4 years)
- English (4 years)
- Mathematics (3 years)
- Science (3 years)
- Social Studies (3 years)
- Foreign Language (2 years)

Honors and AP level courses offered

- No limitations on the number of AP courses a student can take, but students are advised to carefully consider the rigor of these courses
- Students enrolled in an AP course are required to sit for the exam

Archdiocesan Scholars participating partner

- Each year about 4 seniors are selected to take courses at a local Catholic institution
- Students traditionally take 4 semester-long courses at Gwynedd Mercy University due to proximity
- The courses are listed on our transcript but they are NOT calculated into our GPA

Catherine Learning Program

- Academic support program providing individualized strategies for success
- Course listed on transcript as "Academic Support"
- Students given 1 credit for the course and it is not calculated into the GPA

GRADING SYSTEM/ CLASS RANK

- Marking system is numerical, with a grade of 70 considered passing
- Courses are weighted according to the degree of rigor
- Overall GPA is weighted
- GPAs are based only on major subjects
- We do not assign rank to our students

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.

- Follows a ten day cycle, eight days of regular classes (40 minutes) and two days of extended-time classes (80 minutes)
- The school day is 8:15-3:00pm with an activity period built into the schedule

2020 ADVANCED PLACEMENT TEST RESULTS

89% of students scored 3 or higher on one or more exam

SAT AVERAGES

	GMAHS Class of 2020	National SAT Avg. 2019	PA Avg. 2019
Evidence Based Reading and Writing (EBRW)	626	531	545
Math	587	528	537
Total	1214	1059	1082
AVERAGE ACT COMPOSITE SCORE FOR 2020 GRADUATES:			25

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	

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) 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* AP Psychology
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* Ceramics Graphics 2* Graphics 3* Art Studio 1* Drawing/ Art Studio 2* Painting Mixed Media*	Art Studio	AP Art Studio
Music		Fundamentals of Music 1 Music Technology Music Theory/History Instrumental Music Vocal Music	*Music 2* Music 3* Instrumental Music American Music	AP Music Theory
Other		Accounting* Developmental Psych. Economics/Business Law CLP Academic Support Broadcast Prod. Intro to Eng., Digital Media	Accounting* Developmental Psych.	AP Computer Principles AP Computer Science

Required minor courses (not included in GPA): Intro to Art (9) .25 credits, Intro to Music (9) .25 credits, Intro to Coding (9) .25 credits, Freshmen Seminar (9) .25 credits, Health (10) .5 credits, Physical Education (10) .5 credits

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

100% of the students in the graduating class of 2020 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.

MERCY MILESTONES CLASS OF 2020

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



COVID-19 ADDENDUM SCHOOL POLICY ADJUSTMENTS

Schedule and Instructional Methods

Recognizing that the conditions related to COVID-19 are subject to frequent change, Gwynedd Mercy Academy High School has proactively designed three instructional models that may be implemented at any time, depending on the current circumstances. Gwynedd is prepared to deliver instruction via the following three learning plans:

- *Hybrid Learning Plan* - Students attend school and learn remotely according to designated cohorts and cycle days.
 - Synchronous learning via on-campus, socially distanced Red and Gold cohorts of students that attend school on alternating days
 - Synchronous learning via livestreamed classroom instruction and engagement on Microsoft Teams at home on designated cohort days
 - Extended 70-minute class periods to allow for extended teaching and learning with fewer students on campus
 - 7 Day cycle that includes a programming day for all students (time for assemblies, liturgies, etc.)
 - Students are expected to attend each of their classes during their regularly scheduled class times, whether they are on campus or learning from home
- *Virtual Learning Plan* - Faculty and students participate in all classes on Microsoft Teams from home
- *On-Campus Learning* - All students attend classes on campus, continuing to follow the Red/Gold rotation of classes (Periods A, C, E, G; B, D, F, H)

Grading Scale and Policy -

There are no major changes to our grading policies. We will still be awarding numeric grades and a weighted GPA. Through each of the learning models the faculty will strive to provide students with opportunities for application through projects, written assignments, dialogue, presentations, and various methods of authentic assessments that may be accompanied by more traditional assessments, such as tests and quizzes.



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