

SCHOOL PROFILE 2021-2022

Gwynedd Mercy Academy High School

Established 1861
Recognized as a School of Excellence
by the U.S. Department of Education

CEEB Code: **391600**

**Gwynedd Mercy Academy
High School**
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COLLEGE COUNSELORS

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ACCREDITATION

Fully accredited by the Pennsylvania
Association of Independent School

*GMAHS College Counseling reports any
infractions of major school rules resulting in
suspensions or other significant disciplinary
action.*

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

- Faculty and staff: **72**
- **3** of the faculty and staff
members are Sisters of Mercy
- Teacher/student ratio **1:10**
- Average class size: **18 students**

COMMUNITY

Gwynedd Mercy Academy High School is located in suburban Montgomery County on 43 acres, 20 miles northwest of center city, Philadelphia, adjacent to Gwynedd Mercy University.

DISTINCTIVE PROGRAMS

Leadership Institute

Four-year comprehensive ethical leadership development program blending classroom instruction, experiential learning, and student designed and driven community service programs

Mercy Mester/Intermission

One week midyear deep dive into interdisciplinary topic of the student's choice mission-aligned with the Sisters of Mercy Critical Concerns of Racism, Nonviolence, Women, Immigration, and the Earth.

Wellness Curriculum

Curriculum and programming built around an eight-category wellness wheel that addresses the categories within grade specific themes to educate, inspire, and empower leaders for college and beyond.

Global Learning

Member of worldwide Mercy Education system partnering with other Mercy schools in classrooms and through service projects.

Design Thinking

All freshmen introduced to computational design thinking, robotics, coding and visual and performing arts to spark passion for STEAM and inspire innovation

INITIATIVES

Leadership Counsel – Select group of upperclassmen meet regularly with LEAD Department Chair and GMAHS President to plan and advise student leadership initiatives.

Lead4Change – Students can become leadership certified through a 12-course program centered on community service.

Internships – There are 20+ year-long internship positions available for students within various departments at GMAHS. Students must fulfill 50+ hours within the school year.

Externships – Students are provided the opportunity to network with alumnae to secure a summer externship with a time commitment of 30 hours. Students must keep a journal and complete a presentation in the fall.

COVID-19 UPDATE

There were no major changes to our grading policies in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Spring 2019 – Virtual Learning Plan, students participated in synchronous classes via Microsoft Teams from home.

Fall 2020 – Hybrid Learning Plan, students attended school on designated cohort days and attended classes via livestream on virtual days.

Spring 2021 – Returned to fully in-person instruction.

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 up to 4 seniors are selected to take courses at a local Catholic University
- 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 (see below)
- Overall GPA is weighted
- We do not assign rank to our students
- Minor Courses are not included in GPA calculation

COURSE OFFERINGS

AP Courses: GMAHS offers students 15 AP courses. Students pursuing our most rigorous offerings may choose one AP course junior year and 1-2 senior year. Anything additional is extremely rigorous. Students enrolled in an AP course are required to sit for the exam. 2020 ADVANCED PLACEMENT TEST RESULTS: 89% of students scored 3 or higher on one or more exam

Math	Social Studies	English	Science
AP Statistics AP Calculus AB AP Calculus BC	AP U.S. History AP U.S. Government AP Psychology AP Human Geography	AP Language AP Literature	AP Biology AP Chemistry
Languages	Art	Computer Science	
AP Spanish	AP Studio Art	AP Computer Science Principles AP Computer Science A	

Honors Courses: Students pursuing our most rigorous offerings may take 2-3 Honors courses per year. Anything additional is extremely rigorous.

NEW GRADING SCALE (2019-20 to present)

Grade	Num. Equiv.
A	100-94
A-	93-91
B+	90-88
B	87-85
B-	84-82
C+	81-80
C	79-77
C-	76-75
D+	74-73
D	72-70
F	69-0

OLD GRADING SCALE (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 (+8 Points)

Level 2 – Honors (+6 points)

Level 3 – College Prep Course

Math	Social Studies	English	Science
H Algebra 1 H Algebra 2 H Geometry H Geometry Summer H Precalculus	H Calculus H Intro to Eng Des H World Cultures H Topics in US Hist H US Gov & Politics H Modern World H Dev Psychology	H English 9 H English 10 H English 11 H English 12	H Biology H Chemistry H Physics H Anatomy & Physiology H Environmental Sci
Languages	Art	Business	Music
H Spanish 2 H Spanish 3 H Spanish 4 H Spanish 5	H French 2 H French 3 H French 4 H French 5	H Latin 2 H Latin 3 H Latin 4	H Art Studio H Accounting H Music 3 H Survey of American Music

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

100% of the students in the graduating class of 2021 at Gwynedd Mercy Academy High School chose to further their education at institutions of higher learning.

Gwynedd's College Counseling Department 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.

SAMPLING OF COLLEGES WHO OFFERED ADMISSION

TO OUR STUDENTS IN THE LAST 3 YEARS

American University
Auburn University
Boston College
Boston University
Bryn Mawr College
Bucknell University
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Davis
Carnegie Mellon University
Clemson University
Colgate University
Columbia University
Cornell University
University of Delaware
University of Denver
Dickinson College
Drexel University
Duquesne University
Elon University

Fordham University
Franklin & Marshall College
Gettysburg College
Gonzaga University
Hamilton College- NY
Haverford College
Ithaca College
Johns Hopkins University
Lafayette College
Lehigh University
Loyola University Maryland
Marist College
University of Miami
University of Michigan
Northeastern University
Occidental College
University of Oregon
Pennsylvania State University
University of Pennsylvania

Pepperdine University
University of Pittsburgh
Purdue University
University of Richmond
University of Rochester
Rutgers University-New Brunswick
Saint Joseph's University
Swarthmore College
SUNY Maritime College
Syracuse University
Tulane University
United States Military Academy
West Point
United States Naval Academy
Villanova University
Virginia Tech
University of Virginia
Wake Forest University
University of Wisconsin

Educate. Inspire. Empower.

