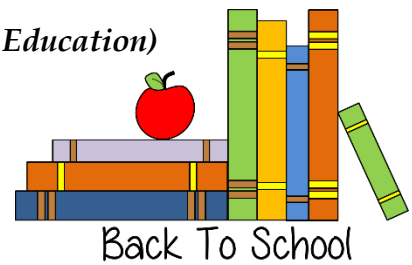


September 2021 **PIE MEMO** (*Partners in Education*)



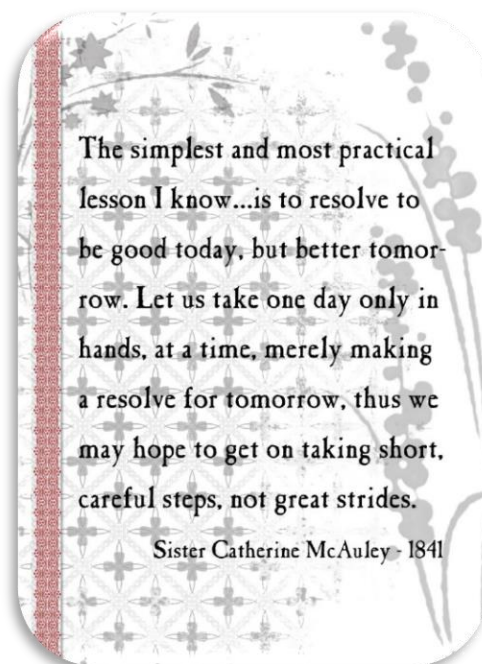
A Note From Sister Rayleen...

“Let us take one day only in hands...” This advice, given by Mother Catherine McAuley to her sisters in 1841, seems to be helpful advice for those of us living in 2021. Only “one day at a time” will likely be a mantra as we find ourselves in the need of COVID-19 protocols once again. As we did last year, in spite of these extraordinary school rules, we will stay focused on the children. We will do everything in our power to facilitate learning in an environment that is loving, nurturing and spirit-filled. Unarguably, Mercymount is a community of incredible people who “resolve to be good today, but better tomorrow.” Through the years, we have learned and re-learned that we are better together! As we step into this day and this new year together, let us welcome our new families. May each and everyone feel the incredible spiritual embrace of this incredible community.

Please be ever assured of my profound respect, deep care, and daily prayer for each one of you and your families.

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

Sr. Rayleen



Meet Our 2021-2022 Staff

Principal	Sr. Rayleen Giannotti
Assistant Principal	Mrs. Teri Bement
Administrative Assistant	Mrs. Candace Simas
Director of Admissions	Mrs. LisaPare
Manager of Fundraising and Alumni Relations	
Maintenance	Mr. Mike Prosser, Mr. Timothy Hayden, Mr. Ron Pepin
Nurses	Mrs. Kellie Bryda & Mrs. Regina Ludovici
Food Service	Mrs. Kathy Leclair, Jill Amaral, and Matt Vendetti
Cafeteria Cashiers	Mrs. Jamie Sims and Mrs. Rebecca Baril

Middle School 6 - 8

Language Arts/Literature	Mrs. Melissa Antone
Social Studies	Mrs. Barbara Paquette
Math	Mrs. Teri Bement and Mrs. Cathy Pereira
Religion	Mr. Peter Cotnoir
Science	Mr. William Evans

PK-Grade 5

Grade 5	Mrs. Kristen Roberto and Miss Mary Rorke
Grade 4	Miss Nicole Werderman and Mrs. Shonna Gaul
Grade 3	Mrs. Caitlin Demirgioglu and Miss Arianna Bruno
Grade 2	Mrs. Jessica Burke and Miss Zoe Colavecchio
Grade 1	Mrs. Christine Corio and Mrs. Jocelyn Lanyi
Kindergarten	Miss Julie Lena and Mrs. Amanda Kimatian
Pre-K	Ms. Brenda Dias and Miss Ariana Carito
Pre-K Aides	Miss Sydney Katic and Ms. Kathy Gallagher

Specials

Art TBD	Computer Science Mrs. Linda Snodgrass
Library Br. Alan / Parent Volunteers	Mercy Ministry Br. Alan Aubin
Music/Chorus TBD	PE/Health Mr. Cody Houston
Resource Mrs. Cathy Pereira	Spanish/Robotics Mr. Pierre Larivee



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

Venerable Catherine McAuley

Required Forms

Parents are required to fill out 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 Handbook is attached. 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 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 Friday, September 3rd. 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

By now, all parents that requested busing should have received their bus stop information. If you did not, please email Mrs. Simas as soon as possible. Students will be required to wear masks while on the bus. If there are any questions or issues regarding busing, please call the company directly:

Durham Bus Company (Cumberland students) 334-3745

Statewide (Woonsocket, Burrillville, North Smithfield students) 304-9136

Calendar Change

Attached you will find the annual school calendar. Please take note of two date changes.

Wednesday, November 24th and Thursday, December 23rd are no longer half days, they are full days off.

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 with 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

Due to the increase in enrollment, only Middle School students and Grade 5 siblings of Middle School students will be able to utilize early bird pick up. Those students may be picked up in the front of the school at 2:50p.m.

Before/After Care

Grades PK-8

Mercymount will be offering before care for the coming school year for children in PK-8 starting at 7:15 a.m. There is no need to register ahead of time for before care. Drop off for before care is at the cafeteria door by the sidewalk. The pricing is as follows:

Drop off between 7:15 and 7:30 - \$10

Drop off between 7:30 and 7:45 - \$7.50

Drop off between 7:45 and 8:15 - \$5

The fees are to be paid by either cash or check daily directly to Mercymount. On Monday, August 30th and Tuesday, August 31st there will be no BeforeCare. BeforeCare will begin Wednesday, September 1st.

Starting Monday, August 30th, Mercymount will once again be partnering with AlphaBest <https://www.alphabest.org/> for our AfterCare program. 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 can be found at the following link, <https://www.alphabest.org/mercymountri> . There was an error on the first flyer sent out. Aftercare WILL be available for grades PK-8. Children can be picked up as late as 6:00 p.m.

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**” parking 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. Thank you for your cooperation.

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. It is VERY important that if your child is purchasing lunch that they let their teacher know at the start of the day. Please do not send your child in with “fast food” lunches.

Payments for lunch are made using a *cashless* lunch payment program through 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!**

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.

Violin

Miss Sandy will once again be offering violin lessons for children in PK-Grade 8. Classes are held every Wednesday at 3:00 in the library. Please see the attached sign up form for more information.

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!

Recess Volunteers

Four volunteers will be needed each day for lunch and recess. These shifts are essential. Without coverage for these shifts, teachers will not have any breaks during the day! We will be utilizing Signup Genius again this year. Please see the attached flyer with more information on times and how to sign up.

***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 Melissa Quinn, if you have any questions. mcdsvolunteering@gmail.com

Friday Morning Help!ers

Beginning on September 10th, 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.

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.

Show your Mercymount Spirit!

While once again we will offer our own line of Spirit Wear through Donnelly's Clothing, this year we are happy to be selling many other items beyond clothing. Due to a manufacturing delay, we will have to hold off on opening up Mercy-mart but items will soon be ready to fly off our shelves! Stay tuned! Any questions, contact Lisa Pare at lpare@mercymount.org or call 401-333-5919 ext. 19. You may also contact Mrs. DiPetrillo, a member of our Parent Association at colleen.dipetrillo77@gmail.com

Sports

Our cross country and tennis teams will once again be participating in the Catholic Athletic League. Be on the look out for sign up information from our Sports Committee.

Morning Prayer

Every morning the school joins together in prayer at 8:45a.m. You are all welcome to join us via Zoom. <https://zoom.us/j/237373776?pwd=Zmk4T1EwaUZNdKxaYzlcOWtoNTITZz09>
Meeting ID: 237 373 776 Password: 3THMJX

Opening Liturgy - September 10

We will celebrate our Opening Mass with all students and parents on Friday, September 10th at 10:00 a.m. Children will be celebrating in their classrooms and all parents are welcome to attend via Zoom. Please use the following link:

<https://zoom.us/j/237373776?pwd=Zmk4T1EwaUZNdKxaYzlcOWtoNTITZz09>
Meeting ID: 237 373 776 Password: 3THMJX

Back-to-School Night - September 14

The annual Parent Association *Back-to-School Night* will be held in the school Gymnasium on Tuesday, September 14th beginning at 6:30 p.m. and ending at 8:30 p.m. We begin with an informative meeting followed by classroom visits for some highlights by the teachers. It promises to be an exciting night! More information to follow.

Golf Tournament - September 23

Our 24th Annual Golf Tournament will be held on Thursday, September 23rd at Kirkbrae Country Club in Lincoln, RI. Proceeds from this event fund the upgrading of technology in our classrooms to enhance the learning experience for our Students. Not a golfer? We also offer the option of a "banquet only" ticket. See the attached flyer or go to <https://mercymount.ejoinme.org/golf2021> for more information.

Other Important Dates...

Drive-In Movie Night - October 2 Our main parking lot will be transformed into a Drive-In movie theater. You won't want to miss it!

Picture Day will be on October 4th. Students do not have to be in uniform that day. More information will be sent home as the date approaches.

Middle School Exams: Students in grades 7 and 8 will have midterm and final exams. Midterm exams will be held on January 19^{th-2} Please do your best to ensure that your children do not miss school on those days.

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

7:15 - 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. **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 4-8 will enter through the Cafeteria door. (Same way that they would enter last year/ Before care entrance)
 - 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

2:50

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

Only students in Gr. 6-8 and their Grade 5 siblings 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 door at the end of the McAuley wing. (where PK, K, art room and library are located)

3:00

Children in Grades 4-8 will be dismissed through the Cafeteria door. The same entrance that they used in the morning.

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.**

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.

2021 / 2022 MCDS Parents Association Officers & Committee Positions

Co-Presidents:	George Stansfield & Julie Parkes
Vice President:	Michelle Favaloro
Secretary:	Kimberly Cornwell
Treasurer:	Kristen Mallinson

Committees:

○ Sports	Eric Amaral
○ Sunshine	Moira Gerrish
○ Enrichment	Karli Blossom
○ Host Family	Jenny Collins, Kristen Mallinson, Colleen DiPetrillo, Kimberly Cornwell
○ Hospitality	Moira Gerrish and Lynne Rubenstein
○ Volunteers	Melissa Quinn
○ Socials	Jamie Sims, Colleen DiPetrillo, Melissa Titov
○ Advancement	Michelle Favaloro, George Stansfield, Julie Parkes
○ Parent Federation	Christen Magill

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

