

ACADEMY OF OUR LADY OF MERCY

Lauralton Hall



HALLMARKS
SQUARED
V2.2024



On Friday, October 18 the Lauralton Hall community joined together for the Mary Ann Wasil Daisy Walk, a powerful event dedicated to raising awareness for breast cancer! We welcomed actress and breast cancer survivor Miranda McKeon as our guest speaker, who shared her inspiring journey with us. Representatives from The Get In Touch Foundation and Norma F. Pfriem Breast Center were also present, supporting this crucial cause. Compelled by Mercy, a Core Value of the Sisters of Mercy, our students came together to make a difference and spread hope, strength, and support.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, LAURALTON HALL!

A LETTER FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL



Birthdays are a big deal. During their time at Lauralton Hall, our students will celebrate two significant milestone birthdays—when they turn 16 and become old enough to apply to drive and when they turn 18 and become legal adults. The years from 14 to 18 are as transformational as birth to four.

During the next 18 months, our community will draw attention to a special birthday for the school itself.

January 18, 2025, marks 120 years since Mother Mary Augustine Claven purchased the property on High Street for \$35,000. The goal of the Sisters of Mercy was to continue the work of foundress Catherine McAuley when she wrote, “No work of charity can be more productive to society than the careful instruction of women.”

September 12, 2025, will be the day we will celebrate our 120th Founders Day, remembering when Lauralton opened its doors to educate girls in the Mercy tradition.

May 30, 2026, is when we will honor our 120th graduating class at their commencement.

Not many things withstand the test of time, and staying relevant for over a century is remarkable. While little things have changed, the outcomes of a Lauralton Hall education have remained true to our mission of empowering young women to reach their highest potential.

I am honored to lead Lauralton even further into her second century. Good things are happening here, and you are helping to spread the word. We warmly invite you to join us on campus over the next 18 months to celebrate this milestone birthday. Our Gala on April 26, 2025, will be a joyous occasion, complete with a birthday cake!

If you are unable to visit us on campus, we encourage you to attend one of our Reunions on the Road. If you don't see one in your area, let us know and we'll do our best to add one to our schedule. Please stay in touch!

Until then, every good wish,

Beth Coyne

Beth Coyne

We're in High Spirits for Our 120th!

Have a photo memory of Lauralton school spirit that you'd like to share? We're hoping to collect images of our extraordinary student body from every decade. Send us yours: alumnaerelations@lauraltonhall.org



Photo Credit: Shades Shutters Photography



Each year on Mercy Day, we take pride in the legacy of Mother McAuley, the Sisters of Mercy, and our donors and families as we take the day to appreciate our traditions and our school building made possible through their sacrifice and generosity.

Pictured L-R: Head of School Beth Coyne, Ellery Varholak '25, Katelyn Landin '25, Amirah Easter '25, Daniela Velez '25, Camille Irby '25, and Religion Teacher Lisa Rathe.

Investing in Tomorrow: The Heart of Giving at Lauralton

The role of donors extends far beyond financial contributions; it embodies a profound commitment to fostering educational excellence and empowering young women within a holistic learning environment. The impact of donated dollars resonates throughout the entire school community, enhancing vital programs, facilities, and resources that support the intellectual, spiritual, and personal growth of our students.

One of the most significant ways donor contributions make a difference is through scholarships funded by the Lauralton Hall Annual Fund. This crucial financial aid ensures that a diverse group of young women can access a quality education, regardless of their financial circumstances. This inclusivity enriches the student experience and fosters a vibrant community rooted in Mercy values, where students learn from each other's unique perspectives.

The impact of donated dollars is profound and multifaceted. It transcends financial support; it is an investment in the empowerment of young women, the enhancement of educational facilities, and the cultivation of a vibrant community. Donors play an integral role in shaping the future of the school and its students, ensuring that Lauralton Hall continues to thrive as a beacon of learning and leadership. Through their generosity, donors help create an environment where young women are inspired to achieve their fullest potential.

As we look to the future, let us celebrate the transformative power of giving. Each contribution—whether large or small—carries with it the promise of a brighter tomorrow for our students. Your support not only transforms lives; it builds a legacy of hope and possibility that will resonate for years to come. Join us in this mission and become part of Lauralton Hall's remarkable journey!

Did You Get My Text?

We are excited to announce that Lauralton is now using text messaging as an additional way to stay connected with our community. This method of communication will allow us to quickly share important updates, reminders, and announcements directly to your phone, ensuring that you stay informed and engaged with school events and news. Keep an eye out for messages from us!

To make your contribution to the Lauralton Hall Annual Fund, please use the enclosed envelope, visit our website to make a gift, use Venmo (@LauraltonHall), or call the Advancement Office 203-877-2876, ext. 148



An Update from the Director of Enrollment

Yvonne Fosse-Previs '90, P'27

At our Matriculation Ceremony on Thursday, August 29, we welcomed 83 new students to the Lauralton Hall community representing the largest freshman class in three years. I sincerely thank each of you for your steadfast support throughout last year's Admission Season.

The excitement for our programs and community is on the rise. We continue to experience impressive interest from prospective students and their families. This fall we welcomed over 350 people to our Mornings in the Mansion open house programs. We recognize that the strongest recommendations to look at Lauralton come from our current families and alumnae. Please continue to share your positive experiences and help spread the word about Lauralton Hall. Your support can assist us in connecting with even more future students, thus shaping the next generation of Lauralton girls. Thank you for being a fantastic ambassador for our school!

Visit www.lauraltonhall.org/admissions for an up-to-date look at our admissions events!

Reflecting on the Success of the Lauralton Hall Athletics Department

Christopher Lindwall, Director of Athletics

It's hard to believe I recently celebrated my first anniversary at Lauralton Hall on November 1st. What an incredible year it has been with Lauralton Hall Athletics! I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to be part of this community. Over the past year, the importance of athletics and team spirit has only grown, creating an environment our student-athletes are excited to be part of.

The achievements of our student-athletes have been remarkable, reflecting their hard work and dedication to both sports and academics. Their success in SCC and CIAC State competitions is a testament to their commitment and resilience. Under the guidance of Head of School Beth Coyne, we prioritize our students, ensuring they feel supported by the Lauralton Administration, Staff, and Teachers in an environment where they can truly excel.

Our dedicated coaches and athletic staff share this mission, working together to create an atmosphere where everyone can succeed. Last spring, all our teams qualified for the SCC and State tournaments, with Tennis finishing as State Runner-Up and our Lacrosse Team winning the State Championship. This has built a strong foundation for our future, and we aim to make the journey one our athletes are eager to continue.

I'm excited for the upcoming year as we build on these successes, striving to become one of the top Athletic Departments in the State. As my wife reminds me daily, "You always come home with a smile." I tell her, "It's not just work; it's Lauralton, and it's the best decision I've made in my professional journey. I feel incredibly fortunate to be part of such a wonderful environment."



Photos Courtesy of JF Newman Photography

Call for Nominations: Claven Awards and Athletic Hall of Fame



Nominations for the prestigious Claven Awards and the Athletic Hall of Fame are accepted year-round and presented biennially. As we prepare for the September 2025 Claven Awards event, we remind you to send us your nominations.

A lifetime achievement award, the Claven Award is named in honor of Mother Mary Augustine Claven, Lauralton Hall's foundress, whose spirit is at the core of Lauralton's mission and Mercy education values. The Claven Award is given to a woman who has exceptionally demonstrated in her personal life or career one or more of the core Mercy values.

The Reverend Peter H. McClean Award honors the memory of Father McClean, revered mentor, chaplain, and lifelong friend of Lauralton Hall. This award recognizes the dedication of a man whose enduring friendship and unusual generosity endear him to the Lauralton Hall community.

The Reverend Cornelius J. Doherty Distinguished Service Award pays tribute to Father Doherty—priest, chaplain, friend, and much-loved teacher of Lauralton Hall. This award recognizes devoted faculty and staff members who have generously given of themselves through outstanding service.

Celebrating a long tradition of athletic excellence, the Lauralton Athletic Hall of Fame, inaugurated in 2012, recognizes the exceptional achievements, leadership skills and values demonstrated by our Alumnae Athletes, Teams and Coaches at Lauralton, collegiate, professional, and amateur levels or individuals who have having been instrumental in the overall development and success of our athletic program.

Lauralton Hall is indeed fortunate to have so many alumnae and friends who are outstanding in their accomplishments and serve as an inspiration to us and to their communities at large. They are a testament to the Mercy values and ethics that have guided Lauralton Hall since its inception in 1905.

To nominate an alumna, parent, trustee, retired faculty/staff member or friend of Lauralton for a Mother Mary Augustine Claven Award, Reverend Peter H. McClean Award, or the Reverend Cornelius J. Doherty Distinguished Service Award, please visit www.lauraltonhall.org/claven-award.

To nominate an athlete, coach, team or friend of LH Athletics for the Athletic Hall of Fame, visit www.lauraltonhall.org/ahof.

For additional information, please contact Director of Advancement Kathleen Kearns Donahue '80, P'06, P'14.

Please keep us up-to-date on your latest moves at:
LAURALTONHALL.ORG/MYINFO

For a list of Lauralton loved ones who have passed away in the last year, please visit:
LAURALTONHALL.ORG/INMEMORIAM

Reconnecting with LH Alumnae on the Road

Head of School Beth Coyne and members of the Advancement Office have been “on the road again” traveling to cities where we have a large concentration of alumnae living or working. Attending a regional event is an excellent way to build and grow social and professional networks, remain informed about news from campus, and display pride in your alma mater. From our winter kick-off in Washington DC’s Georgetown area to Wellesley Hills, MA for a reception at the home of alumna Liz Briones ‘81 to meeting at a local restaurant in downtown Stamford, CT, Lauralton is covering ground. We welcomed alumnae spanning class years from 1957 to 2014 providing a unique opportunity for alumnae to reconnect and reminisce. These reunions exemplify Lauralton Hall’s commitment to fostering lifelong connections and keeping alumnae engaged with the school’s vibrant community, no matter where life has taken them.

Plans are underway for more receptions in CT, New York City, Boston, Philadelphia and more! Follow our social media and check your emails for upcoming receptions. Please contact the Alumnae Relations Office if you are interested in hosting, planning, or attending a regional event.



On Thursday, October 3, Boston area alumnae gathered for a fun and informative evening meeting Head of School, Beth Coyne.



*On Wednesday, November 20, Lauralton Hall student Layla Braxton ‘26 led a conversation and Q&A with Krystal Marquis ‘05 who discussed the highlights of the much-anticipated second book in her acclaimed young adult series, *The Davenport*.*

Sharing Your Time & Talents

When our distinguished alumnae return to Lauralton to share their time and talents, they leave an indelible mark on our students, inspiring them with real-world experiences and achievements. Theatre Arts Professional Brenna Donahue ‘14 brought her expertise to the stage, directing and choreographing this year’s fall musical, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, and showing students the power of collaboration and artistic expression. Through our Career Speaker Series, Internal Medicine resident Caroline McCauley ‘13 provided insight into the medical field, sparking interest in the sciences and demonstrating the impact of compassionate care. Our Veteran’s Day Assembly brought home Col. Heidi Hellauer Bullock, USAF ‘81 who shared her story with our community. Exemplifying courage and resilience, her keynote address taught our students the importance of perseverance and dedication. On November 20, New York Times Best-Selling author Krystal Marquis ‘05 captivated guests with her storytelling prowess, encouraging students to find their unique voice and express it creatively. Together, these alumnae serve as role models, motivating the next generation to pursue their passions with confidence and ambition.

Planning an Event?

As a Lauralton Hall alumna, you are invited to profess your marriage vows in the Lauralton Hall Chapel. If you are planning a 2025 wedding, please consider the Chapel for your ceremony.

The Claven Auditorium is also available to rent for small parties or family gatherings. For more information, please contact the Alumnae Relations Office at alumnaerelations@lauraltonhall.org.

Surrounded by the warmth and affection of their friends and family, Keely Bushby ‘14 and Eric Johnson exchanged vows on a beautiful summer day in the historic Lauralton Hall Chapel.



Photo Credit: Alexis Manning Photography



Announcing the Lauralton Hall Golf Tournament!

Mark your calendars for what promises to be an exciting day of camaraderie and competition on Monday, June 16, 2025, at Great River Golf Club, one of CT’s most challenging and premier courses. This event is a fantastic opportunity to connect with fellow golf enthusiasts and support Lauralton Hall. Not a golfer? Join us afterward for the cocktail reception, dinner, and silent auction. You can help make this event a success by joining the planning committee or taking part in sponsorship opportunities. If you are interested in contributing your skills and enthusiasm, or for more information, please reach out to Athletic Director Chris Lindwall via email: clindwall@lauraltonhall.org. Do not miss this chance to be part of a time-honored tradition that raises funds for our students!

SAVE THE DATES

January 9, 2025
Recent Alumnae Panel & Reception

March 1, 2025
Irish Night

March 23, 2025
LH + FP Family Mass

March 30, 2025
Legacy Tea

April 26, 2025
Spring Auction & Gala

May 31, 2025
Class of 2025 Graduation

June 16, 2025
Golf Tournament

July 2025
Concert on the Lawn

Lauralton Hall

200 High St, Milford, CT 06460

LauraltonHall.org



Original Artwork: Isabella Munoz Jaramillo '28

God preserve and bless you and grant
you all the graces and precious gifts
reserved for this holy season.

—Catherine McAuley



Mercy
Education

Courageous Action. Selfless Spirit.™

Lauralton Hall is a sponsored ministry of the Institute of the Sisters of
Mercy of the Americas and is a member of Mercy Education.

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