



The Mercymount Country Day Middle School Experience

This document may be amended, revised, or updated by the Administration at any time.

Our middle school program is designed to challenge, support, and nurture the whole child academically, spiritually, socially, and personally. As students grow in independence and responsibility, they are encouraged to become confident learners, compassionate leaders, and faithful members of their community.

Throughout their middle school years, students develop:

- Critical thinking and problem-solving skills
- Effective communication and collaboration
- Leadership and personal responsibility
- Faith formation and spiritual growth

What Sets Mercymount Apart?

- ✓ A strong academic foundation
- ✓ Faith-centered learning and formation
- ✓ Opportunities for leadership and service
- ✓ A close-knit and supportive school community

As a PK–8 school, Mercymount provides students with consistency, stability, and a strong sense of belonging during some of their most formative years. Students benefit from lasting relationships with teachers, staff, and peers while growing within a community that truly knows, supports, and challenges them.

This unique environment allows students to gradually develop confidence, leadership skills, independence, and personal responsibility in a setting rooted in faith, values, and community.

Middle school at Mercymount is more than preparation for high school—it is a time of growth, discovery, leadership, and formation that empowers students to become confident, capable, and faith-filled young adults.

Middle School Tips & Recommendations:

Transitioning to middle school is an exciting milestone, and we work hard to help students feel comfortable, organized, and confident as they adjust to changing classes, lockers, and increased independence throughout the school day. To help ease this transition, many families have found the following optional recommendations helpful:

Locker Shelves

Locker shelves can help students stay organized and maximize the space inside their lockers. Sturdy shelves with drawers often work best for storing textbooks, supplies, and personal items.

6th Grade: measures approximately 15 inches wide and 11 inches deep. [Link for locker shelves](#)

7th & 8th Grade: measures approximately 12 inches wide and about 9 inches deep so possibly look for a sturdy adjustable-width shelf.



Soft Pencil Cases

All middle school students are required to have a pencil pouch or pencil case. Because students move between classes throughout the day, plastic pencil boxes are discouraged. Soft zippered pencil pouches are highly recommended, as they can easily hold calculators, pens, pencils, colored pencils, and other daily essentials while fitting conveniently into backpacks and tote bags. [Here](#) is an example of a pencil pouch that many of our students have found works well for keeping their supplies organized throughout the school day.

Tote Bags

A sturdy tote or canvas bag is strongly encouraged to help students carry materials between classes. Canvas boat bags and smaller reusable-style tote bags tend to work especially well for middle school students.



These recommendations are completely optional; however, many students find that they help them stay organized, feel prepared, and navigate the transition to middle school with greater confidence.

Student Agendas (Grades 7 & 8)

Students in Grades 7 and 8 are required to have an agenda or planner to track homework assignments, assessments, project deadlines, and important school reminders. Families may purchase any agenda of their choice, as size, color, and design are entirely optional. Developing the habit of regularly recording assignments and upcoming deadlines helps students build strong organizational and time-management skills throughout middle school.

Please Note: An agenda is provided by the school for all Grade 6 students and is included as part of their school supplies.

Middle School Expectations & Demerit System:

Creating a positive and respectful middle school environment begins with clear expectations. At Mercymount, we strive to foster a community built on growth, accountability, responsibility, and mutual respect. As students transition into middle school and gain greater independence, it is important that both students and families understand the standards that help maintain a safe, supportive, and productive learning environment.

For more information about our demerit system, please refer to the [Student Handbook](#).

Signature Middle School Experiences:

1. Outdoor Classroom: November 4–6

This three-day, two-night outdoor education experience helps students build independence, teamwork, confidence, and leadership skills through hands-on learning and group activities.

Cell phones are not permitted on the trip. Families requesting an exemption must contact the Administration in advance. Chaperones will have access to cell phones and can be reached if necessary. Students may not bring, use, or conceal cell phones during the trip. Any student found with an unauthorized cell phone will be subject to disciplinary action.

2. 8th Grade School Trip:

Date TBD

Possible Destinations

- Washington, D.C.
- Philadelphia
- New York City
- Boston

3. Student Council:

Yearly Election for Grades 6 - 8

The Student Council serves to uphold the mission and values of Mercymount Country Day School, represent the student body, support faculty, and promote school spirit.

Student Council members help plan and support various school activities, service projects, spirit events, and Middle School dances throughout the year. Through their involvement, students develop leadership skills while helping to strengthen the school community.

Membership

- Two representatives are elected from each Middle School homeroom.
- Four officer positions are available: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- Officer positions are typically reserved for 8th grade students. If no 8th grade student is available to serve, a 7th grade student may be considered with advisor approval.
- Elections are conducted by secret ballot.

Meetings

- Student Council meets regularly throughout the school year, typically on a weekly or biweekly basis.
- General meetings are held periodically to gather ideas and feedback from Middle School students.
- Student Council officers meet with the Assistant Head of School as needed.

Responsibilities

Student Council members are expected to:

1. Demonstrate respect for all members of the Mercymount community.
2. Maintain good academic standing.

3. Attend meetings and events prepared and ready to participate.
4. Represent the interests of their classmates.
5. Promote school spirit and unity.
6. Serve as positive academic, social, and spiritual role models.

4. Middle School Dances:

Mercymount's Middle School Student Council plays a leading role in planning and organizing several school dances throughout the academic year. These events provide students with opportunities to build friendships, strengthen school spirit, and create lasting memories outside of the classroom.

Each year, Student Council is responsible for coordinating three dances:

- **Winter Dance (December)** – Open to all middle school students in Grades 6–8.
- **Winter Dance (January/February)** – Open to all middle school students in Grades 6–8 and planned by the 8th grade class as part of their middle school leadership activities.
- **Spring Dance (April)** – Open to all middle school students in Grades 6–8 and serves as a fun end-of-year celebration.

Student Council members help select themes, decorations, music, refreshments, and activities while working alongside faculty advisors to ensure each event is enjoyable, safe, and memorable for all students.

5. Honor Roll: Each trimester, the Honor Roll recognizes students' academic achievements. Students in grades 6–8 may earn High Honors or Honors based on the average of all subjects. To qualify, students must be passing all classes with a minimum grade of 80 or higher.

- High Honors: 93–100 average
- Honors: 85–92 average

6. National Junior Honors Society:

The National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) is the nation's premier organization established to recognize outstanding middle school students. More than an honor roll, NJHS honors students who demonstrate excellence in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service, character, and citizenship.

At Mercymount, students may be considered for NJHS membership at the conclusion of sixth grade, with membership beginning in seventh grade. NJHS membership is open to eligible students in grades 7 and 8.

To be considered for membership, students must maintain a cumulative average of 93% or higher in the five major academic subjects: Religion, Science, Mathematics, Social Studies, ELA. In addition, students must earn passing grades in all special subject areas, including Spanish, Computer, Music, Art, and Physical Education.

Students who meet the academic requirements are invited to complete a Student Activity Information Form, which provides an opportunity to document examples of leadership, service, and extracurricular involvement. Applications are reviewed by the Faculty Council, which makes final membership decisions based on NJHS selection criteria.

7. Mid-terms & Finals:

During these weeks, students will be dismissed at 11:30 a.m., earlier than the regular school day dismissal time.

Families are strongly encouraged not to schedule vacations during the week of Martin Luther King Jr. Day or the final week of school.

If a child is going to be absent during an exam, the Assistant Head of School must be notified. An unexcused absence will result in a 10-point deduction on the make-up exam.

8. Buddy Program & Middle School Traditions:

Middle School students play an important leadership role within the Mercymount Country Day School community through our Buddy Program and school-wide traditions.

- 7th grade students are paired with Kindergarten students
- 8th grade students are paired with 1st grade students

Throughout the year, Middle School students have the opportunity to participate in special activities and events that promote leadership, mentorship, school spirit, and a strong sense of community. These opportunities may include:

- Thanksgiving Lunch
- Santa Store

- Spirit and Catholic School's Week Activities
- Easter Egg Hunt

These experiences help create meaningful relationships across grade levels while encouraging our students to grow as role models within the school community.

9. Sports:

Important Athletic Forms

Before participating in any sports season, all parents/guardians must complete and submit the following required forms:

- [Student Liability Form – Consent and Assumption of Risk](#)
- [CAL Parent Form – Parent Code of Ethics and Conduct](#)

These forms must be completed and returned prior to the start of the season in order for students to participate in practices and games. Please note that students will not be permitted to attend the first official practice or participate in any matches until all required forms have been submitted.

○ Fall:

■ Cross Country

Registration: July 31, 2026

- Practices take place at Mercymount after school on Tuesdays and Fridays with Mrs. Antone.
- Meets are held on Wednesday afternoons at Slater Park in Pawtucket, with separate races for boys and girls.
- The season runs from September 3 through October 1, culminating in the Diocesan Championship Meet.
- Uniforms are provided by the school and must be returned at the conclusion of the season. There is no additional fee for uniforms.

■ Tennis

Registration: August 13, 2026

Uniforms must be ordered by Friday, August 7

- Middle School Tennis practices and home matches are held at Bishop Feehan, with away matches taking place throughout northern Rhode Island.
- The season runs from September 1 through October 6 and concludes with the Middle School Playoffs.

- Families are encouraged to register early to ensure uniforms are ordered and received prior to the start of the season.
- **Winter:**
 - **Cheerleading**

Registration: August 19, 2026

 - Mercymount is for students in Grades 4-8. Our cheer program will support the basketball program throughout the winter season.
 - Practices will take place at Mercymount after school. Cheerleaders will have the opportunity to encourage their fellow athletes, build lasting friendships, and represent Mercymount with pride while helping create an energetic and positive game-day atmosphere.
 - Additional details regarding the season schedule, registration, and uniform information will be provided prior to the start of the season.
 - **Basketball**

Registration: August 19, 2026

All parents/guardians of participating students are required to attend a mandatory meeting in early October.
- **Spring:**
 - **Soccer**

Registration: March 23, 2027

 - Mercymount fields one coeducational Middle School team for students in Grades 6–8.
 - The program provides students with opportunities to develop athletic skills, teamwork, sportsmanship, and school spirit while competing against other schools throughout the season.
 - Most games begin at approximately 4:30 PM or 5:00 PM, and the season runs from mid-April through the end of the school year.
 - **Volleyball**

Registration: March 27, 2027

 - Volleyball is a coeducational program open to students in Grades 6–8. The team provides students with an opportunity to develop athletic skills, teamwork, communication, and sportsmanship in a fun and supportive environment.
 - The season runs from early April through the end of the school year. Practices are typically held one evening per

week, with matches generally scheduled one to two evenings per week, including occasional weekend competitions.

- **Middle School Sports Awards:** Thursday, May 20, 2027

10. Musical:

Each year, Mercymount produces a high-quality, family-friendly musical that is presented to our school and local community in the spring. Participation is by audition only and is open to students in grades 5–8.

Auditions are held in January and typically take place over 1–3 days. Students may be called to rehearsals up to three days per week (Monday, Tuesday, and Friday) from 3:00–5:00 PM. Both recurring and one-time conflicts from January through mid-April are accepted and accommodated whenever possible.

Tech Week takes place Sunday through Thursday prior to the performances and typically runs from 3:00–6:30 PM each day. Due to the importance of these final rehearsals, conflicts of any kind cannot be accommodated during Tech Week.

The musical culminates in two performances: a Friday evening show and a Saturday matinee.

11. Ski Club:

Middle School students are invited to participate in the 2027 Ski Club season at Nashoba Valley. Ski Club will take place on six Tuesday evenings beginning January 5, 2027 and concluding on February 23, 2027.

The Sports Committee generously helps offset the transportation costs for the Ski Club. In return, each participating skier and their parent/guardian will be asked to work three volunteer shifts during the Pot-of-Gold Tournament. Additional details will be provided at the parent meeting.

Mandatory Parent Meeting: All parents/guardians of participating students are required to attend a mandatory meeting in October.

During this meeting we will:

- Review expectations and procedures for Ski Club trips
- Complete all required waivers and paperwork
- Discuss each family's volunteer commitment during the Pot-of-Gold Basketball Tournament

Ski Fitting: An in-school rental ski fitting with Nashoba Valley personnel will take place in November.

Important Information:

- Helmets are required for all students.
- Students must provide their own helmet, as helmets will not be available for rental through Nashoba Valley this year.

2026 Ski Club Costs:

Mandatory Fees: (subject to change)

- 6-week Ski or Snowboard Lift Ticket: \$310 OR Six (6) Beginner Group Lessons including Lift Ticket: \$440
- Transportation Fee: \$100

Optional Fee:

- Equipment Rental for 6 Weeks: \$200 + \$100 refundable deposit

12. Math & Science Olympiad (*Parent-Led Initiative*)

Science Olympiad begins in early September and is open to students who are interested in science, engineering, problem-solving, teamwork, and competition. Participants work collaboratively to prepare for a variety of challenging events throughout the year while developing critical thinking and scientific inquiry skills.

Students should be available to participate in most of the following competitions:

- Brown University Invitational
- Harvard University Invitational
- Rhode Island State Science Fair

Students interested in participating should contact Miss Dwyer at sdwyer@mercymount.org for additional information.

Math Olympiad begins in October and runs through mid-March. The program is designed for students who enjoy mathematics, problem-solving, and friendly competition while developing advanced mathematical reasoning skills.

Participation is limited to 20 students and is offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

13. Mercy Ministries:

Mercy Ministries is a program which engages students in grades 7 and 8 in the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy. Students are bused to various institutions

(Mount Saint Rita Health Centre, McAuley House, and McAuley Village) to volunteer for the day. Mercy Ministries is incorporated into their school day and occurs once a month. Students are to wear their gym uniform and bring a bagged lunch on their Mercy Ministry day.

14. 8th Grade Fundraising: *(Parent-Led Initiative)*

At the beginning of the school year, 8th grade parents meet with a member of the Administration team to review key milestones and events for the year. This meeting provides a roadmap of opportunities for parents to support their students throughout the year, including graduation activities and the 8th grade class trip, which may include an overnight stay depending on the destination.

15. Parent Volunteering and MCDS Committees:

Our committees and volunteers help strengthen the academic, athletic, spiritual, and social life of our school community. Whether you are interested in volunteering occasionally or serving in a leadership role, we welcome your involvement.

All parents are welcome to attend meetings and become involved. All meetings will be available via ZOOM.

[Please complete this form](#) to indicate your areas of interest for the 2026–2027 school year.