

Summer 2026

JAGVIRE



MERCY ACADEMY

In This Issue:

The Mary Mershon Reisert Theatre

LETTER FROM MERCY'S PERFORMING ARTS DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of Mercy,

When Mercy Academy teacher Mary Mershon Reisert first went to Sr. Prisca and asked if she could start a theatre club, she was told, "No." When she asked for an explanation, she was told, "Because if you do, it will never end."

The seed Mrs. Reisert planted all those years ago has since grown into a thriving garden. In the decades that followed, Mercy Theatre blossomed from a small after-school club with a handful of dedicated students into a vibrant artistic community that has become an integral part of the heartbeat of life at Mercy.

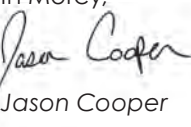
What began as an extracurricular activity has evolved into a full-time, year-round program offering courses in Theatre Arts I, II, and III, Musical Theatre, and Technical Theatre. More importantly, it has become a place where students discover their voices, their confidence, and their passion.

Today, more than 70 Mercy students are members of the International Thespian Society, a testament to the dedication, artistry, and academic commitment of our young performers and technicians. This summer, Mercy Theatre will make its third trip to Scotland to perform in the American High School Theatre Festival as part of the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, the largest theatre festival in the world. What was once a single annual production has grown into a season of three major shows each year, alongside two additional student showcases that celebrate student creativity and leadership.

And the story continues to grow. In the summer of 2027, Mercy Theatre will launch its inaugural alumnae summer production, welcoming past members of the Mercy Theatre family back home to create theatre together once again.

This past spring, we proudly named our auditorium The Mary Mershon Reisert Theatre, a fitting tribute to the beautiful and gracious woman who started it all. I was fortunate enough to meet Mrs. Reisert at the dedication ceremony and personally thank her. It is because of her generosity, vision, and determination that I and countless students over the years have found a home here at Mercy.

What Mrs. Reisert understood all those years ago—and what continues to ring true today—is that theatre does not simply create performers. It creates confident, compassionate, creative young adults. And thankfully for generations of Mercy students, Sr. Prisca was right - it truly never ended.

In Mercy,

Jason Cooper
Performing Arts Director



MERCY EXTENDS A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Teresa Kleinhenz Riggs '76
Chair

Karen Roalofs '89
Vice Chair

Kathy Newman Beam '68
Secretary

Kim Brohm '98
Tiffany Cooper-Allen '88

Kathy Robinson Dreyer '98
Peggy Hagerty Duffy '85
Jeff Filcik

Andrea Nelson Hennessey '98
Dr. Susie Williams '00
Ashley DeVault Zaring '01

JAGWIRE
Summer 2026

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Advancement Office of Mercy
Academy.

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Comments and submissions for
the *JagWire* or any change of
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In This Issue...

On the Cover:

The Mary Mershon
Reisert Theatre

At the spring production of
The Little Mermaid, Mercy
celebrated the naming of the
Mary Mershon Reisert Theatre.

Pictured: Mary Mershon Reisert
and son, John Boorman Reisert





A **M**ERCY LEGACY

How Mary Mershon Reisert turned a few Shakespeare scenes into a thriving theatre program

This spring, Mercy Theatre presented Disney's *The Little Mermaid*. With an impressive set design, unforgettable music, and incredible performances, the production was a showcase of student talent and the growth of Mercy's performing arts program over the years.

For **Mary Mershon Reisert**, the founder of Mercy's drama program, how far we've come is almost unbelievable when she reflects on what Mercy Theatre looked like when it began: "We did not have a stage, we did not have lights, and we did not have makeup. My wedding gown was on Juliet for a performance because we didn't have costumes. Some old fur coat I had appeared in *Hello Dolly!* Somehow we made it work. It took a village."



Mercy's drama program actually began in Mrs. Reisert's English classes. As a part of class projects, students would act out scenes from Shakespeare. Mrs. Reisert saw how much talent students had, but the only people seeing these scenes were her and the other students in each class.

Wanting to share this talent with the larger Mercy community, she approached Sister Prisca with the idea to put the acts from her classes together for a night of drama. Mrs. Reisert shared, "She looked at me and said, 'Oh, Mary. Don't do that. Don't do that.' And I said, 'Well why not?!' And Sister said, 'Because it will never end!'"

In the first drama productions at Mercy Academy, they used carpenter lights in the ceiling and put down tape on the floor to create the shape of a stage. Mrs. Reisert even signed up to be a Mary Kay

consultant so students could use the cosmetic bag for make-up. She confessed that, "I never sold one Mary Kay product!"

Overall, the word Mary Reisert uses to describe her time with Mercy Theatre is "joy." She goes back to the village that it took to make it all happen - the parents who called themselves MADS (Mercy Academy Drama Sponsors), the teachers and office staff pitching in to help, and the students themselves. In that respect, not much about Mercy Theatre has changed at all. Just as it took a village to make those first productions happen, it still takes the support of the entire Mercy community to bring shows like *The Little Mermaid* to life today.

Mrs. Reisert shared with the audience at the Sunday matinee of *The Little Mermaid* that, "Now when I hear about what is happening at Mercy today with Mr. Cooper and these fabulous opportunities for these young women, I am overwhelmed with complete joy. All I can say is, I'm glad back in 1966 that Sister took me in and let me teach a half day of English. She allowed me to be a Mercy girl."

Mercy Academy is proud to honor Mrs. Reisert's dedication and legacy with the naming of Mercy's theatre as the Mary Mershon Reisert Theatre. ●

MARY MERSHON REISERT THEATRE

Join us at the Mary Mershon Reisert Theatre for Mercy's 2026/2027 season: *Murder on the Orient Express* in the fall, *Mamma Mia!* in the spring, and our first alumna show in summer 2027.



WHY NOT ME

Tony and Kathleen Nauert Scholarship

MERCY DAY Scholarships

Establishing a Mercy Day Scholarship is a wonderful way to honor or remember a loved one while providing tuition assistance to a current Mercy student. If you would like to establish a Mercy Day Scholarship, please contact Leslie Hibdon at **(502) 671-2010** or hibdon@mercyjaguars.com.

SCHOLARSHIP NAME:

- Adams Family
- Albertus Magnus
- Beth and Frank Craven
- Brian "Big Dog" Walsh Memorial
- Brooke Nicklies Memorial
- Carlton Family Mathematics
- Cebe Family
- Dr. Stephanie & Stephen A. Heitz Family
- Drew Wilson Memorial
- Eleanor Rose Roberts Norton Memorial
- Emily Convery Memorial
- Flaget Alumni Association
- Head Sisters
- Helen Dillon Mazzoli Memorial
- Herzog
- Jane Conboy
- Jennifer N. Harris Class of 2010
- Joe Nash Memorial
- Julie Browning Ice Memorial
- Karen Ramser Filcik
- Kitty Yocum Darst
- Kramer Family Service Learning
- Laura Schulz Memorial
- LaVerne Schlaug Gregory Memorial & Susan and Terry Meagher
- Lily Strange Memorial
- Linda Roalofs Memorial
- Margaret Kotich Merker Memorial
- Martin Napper Memorial
- Mary Alice Gregg Byerly 1922 Memorial
- Mary Jean Schulz Memorial
- Montgomery & Blazis
- Nancy J. and Phillip O. Akers
- Nancy Kundert Ackerman Memorial
- Natalie Thompson Memorial
- Norma Gerwing Bender & Mary Ann Gerwing Cundiff
- Norma Russell Ragsdale Memorial
- Patricia Ann "Patsy" Hartigan
- Patricia Higgins Memorial
- Perry Memorial
- Roalofs Spirit of Mercy
- Schlosser Family
- Scott "Scooter" Kremer Memorial
- Sheri Applegate Memorial
- Sister Mary Carmel Performing Arts
- Sister Mary Prisca Pfeffer Memorial
- Sisters at Mercy
- Travis Riley Memorial
- Tricia Banta Amburgey "Carpe Diem" Memorial
- Twyla Gollar Memorial
- Walsh Family

NEW SCHOLARSHIPS:

RUTH MUELLER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship was established in memory of Ruth Dooley Mueller, Class of 1947.



WHY NOT ME TONY AND KATHLEEN NAUERT SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship was established by Shirley's Way in honor of Kathleen Nauert's retirement from Mercy Academy.



For 36 years **Kathleen Nauert** has been a steadfast presence in the offices of Mercy Academy. Her compassion, humor, and incredible ability to remember the names and stories of students across the years have made her a beloved figure, and, when she announced her retirement, we wanted to honor her legacy at Mercy.

While working behind the scenes to find a way to celebrate Kathleen's retirement, Mercy's Director of Advancement, Leslie Hibdon, happened to meet Mike Mulrooney. Mike Mulrooney is the founder and executive director of Shirley's Way, a community-driven nonprofit focused primarily on supporting individuals with cancer but also on initiatives to help those in need across Kentucky. The meeting proved serendipitous - Kathleen's late husband, Tony, was one of the first people to work with Shirley's Way when he fought his battle with cancer. Even after Tony's passing, Mike remained close to the Nauert family.

At the final faculty and staff meeting of the school year, Leslie and Mike surprised Kathleen with the news that Shirley's Way would be funding the Tony and Kathleen Nauert Scholarship. This scholarship will be awarded to an incoming freshman student from St. Paul - close to home for both the Nauert family who deeply value Catholic education in



Kathleen and Tony Nauert

the south end of Louisville and for Mike Mulrooney whose mother, Shirley, attended St. Paul.

We wish Kathleen all the best in her next chapter! Her legacy at Mercy will continue on, not only through the Tony and Kathleen Nauert Scholarship, but also in the life of every student, alumna, faculty, staff, and community member she has impacted in her 36 years of service. Please join us in thanking and celebrating Kathleen! ●

You can support Kathleen's scholarship, and all Mercy Day Scholarships, at www.mercyacademy.com/donate.



Retreats

AT MERCY ACADEMY

Mercy's retreat program offers each student the unique opportunity to grow in her awareness of God, herself, her family, and her relationships. Each grade level has its own retreat, with activities, reflections, and talks shared by alumnae, faculty, and upperclasswomen.

Freshmen Retreat

All students participate in this retreat as a part of Freshmen Mission Week. Students reflect on who they are and who they hope to become as a "Mercy Girl" as they learn more about the heritage of Mercy.

Sophomore Retreat

Based on the letter from St. Paul to the Corinthians regarding spiritual gifts, students learn that their gifts, talents, skills and passions are their God-given superpowers, and that they play a part in changing the world for the better.

Junior Retreat

Students explore the home and family they have made for themselves through their valued relationships. They learn how their values are intertwined with their family of origin and their broader global family. They are given tools to aid in adult relationships, especially in regards to their parents and friends.

Senior Retreat

Students reflect on their relationship with God as they think about entering into the adult world. They look at the challenges and obstacles of living out this relationship with God as a Woman of Mercy and prepare for life beyond high school.



ELISSA HORRELL
Director of Mission Integration

Elissa joined Mercy Academy as our Retreat Director in 2024. Elissa holds a Master of Teaching in theatre and encourages students to grow in their faith with joy and creativity. She felt immediately connected to the Sisters of Mercy and their mission, leading to her current role as Mercy's Director of Mission Integration. Now, she continues to lead our retreat program for students while also ensuring that Mercy's mission is at the heart of everything we do.

Alumnae leaders are always needed for senior retreats! To join Elissa's email list and learn more about these opportunities, please contact ehorrell@mercyjaguars.com.

WE CELEBRATE THE Life OF...

MERCY ALUMNAE:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1946 Jeanne Hardt Clark | 1957 Sheila Higgins Price | 1970 Martha Starkey Cresswell |
| 1946 LaVerne Merrifield Metzler | 1958 Verna Huber Wright | 1974 Donna Raley Betzer
Sister: Phyllis Raley Cook '65
Sister: Jean Raley McCormick '68 |
| 1947 Margie Bischoff Magruder
Granddaughter: Dr. Julia Mattingly Frith '97 | 1959 Jo Ann Levie Duddy | 1974 Nancy Farmer Penny
Daughter: Melissa Whyte Robinson '96
Daughter: Blair Whyte Phillips '03
Daughter-in-Law: Jennifer Ruxer Whyte '07 |
| 1947 Marcella Houck Yunt | 1959 Beverly Wall Mueller | |
| 1949 Agnes Wohlleb Kavanaugh | 1961 Rita Gausepohl Beckmann | |
| 1949 Ginna Miner Willenbrink | 1962 Judy Blair Brown
Sister: Norma Blair Pridemore '59
Sister: Melva Blair '60
Niece: Leigh Anne Pridemore '01
Great-Niece: Toni Curella Villanueva '06
Great-Niece: Ana Sanning '20 | 1976 Belinda Powers Willinger
Sister: Patricia Powers Feger '78
Sister: Susan Powers Cantelli '82
Daughter: Katie Willinger '04
Daughter: Kristen Willinger '07 |
| 1951 Betty Childers Schmitt | | 1979 Joyce Naughton Lesch
Daughter: Brittany Lesch '11 |
| 1951 Lois Vassie Miller
Sister: Marita Cummings Allendorf '62
Sister: Pat Cummings Gee '64
Great-Niece: Katie Blakeman '21 | 1962 Virginia Burkhead Spencer | 1989 Liz Clements Lyons |
| 1952 Sherrill Henry Lavelly | 1962 Kathy Koenig Vollmer | 1989 Cheryl Michels Durham |
| 1952 Shirley Blunt Olliges
Sister: Barbara Blunt Gordon '54 | 1964 Cecilia Siewert Longest
Sister: Theresa Siewert Wheatley '56 | 1999 Megan Bendorf Pizarro |
| 1952 Pat Norrenbrock Lindeman | 1964 Therese Dana Weller | |
| 1952 Evelyn "Mimi" Ritz Stottmann Graves | 1966 Mary Ann Salvagne Walker
Daughter: Dana Lamon '88 | 2005 Abby Cornell Cahoe
Aunt: Teresa Kleinhenz Riggs '76
Aunt: Janet Kleinhenz '78
Mother: Vivian Kleinhenz Cornell '80
Aunt: Ann Kleinhenz Sinkorn '82
Sister: Emily Cornell '04
Cousin: Jenny Riggs Murphy '06
Sister: Liz Cornell '08
Cousin: Marie Riggs '09
Sister: Nina Cornell '12
Cousin: Molly Sinkhorn '22 |
| 1953 Mary Ann Brangers Fuller | 1967 Patty Webb McCarty
Daughter: Kim McCarty Ingram '88
Niece: Shannon Webb Swanson '88
Niece: Jennifer Webb Holevas '90 | |
| 1953 Carolyn Weber | | |
| 1955 Joan Fellmy Kirchner Marx | 1967 Linda Jamison Stirneman
Sister: Diane Jamison Crawford '68
Niece: Stefany Crawford Lawson '98 | |
| 1956 Theresa Siewert Wheatley
Sister: Cecilia Siewert Longest '64 | | |
| 1956 Joan Zehnder
Sister: Carol Zehnder Fessler '54 | | |

FAMILY:

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| Alvin Barth
Wife: Dolores Dumeyer Barth '56
Sister-in-Law: Dorothy Dumeyer Smith '65
Great-Niece: Jennifer Giangarra '15
Great Niece: Megan Giangarra Marsden '15 | Michael Crask
Sister: Michelle Crask Kamber '82
Daughter: Amanda Crask Ash '12 | Ralph Kempf
Granddaughter: Katie Viegl Meany '05 | Rick Shuff
Daughter: Laurel Shuff Wyatt '03,
Past Faculty/Staff |
| Geneva Blair
Daughter: Mary Ann Blair Hoagland '80
Granddaughter: Trisha Blair Letourneau '04
Granddaughter-in-Law: Katie Greenwell Hoagland '04
Granddaughter: Candace Blair Jones '11 | Edward Drury
Daughter: Leslee Drury Benfield '79
Daughter: Kelly Drury Hagan '80
Niece: Stacey Drury Stetson '85
Granddaughter: Heather Drury '06
Granddaughter: Alexa Drury Coury '09
Great-Niece: Shelby Stetson '10
Granddaughter: Jessica Drury Cummins '16
Granddaughter: Sarah Drury '18 | Joe Kenney
Granddaughter: Brianna Wolken Thomas '16 | Marie Tolly
Daughter: Ann Tolly Dever '81
Granddaughter: Rachel Dever Johnson '09
Granddaughter: Rebecca Dever '17 |
| Jesse Bloom
Grandmother: Joyce Ackerman Bloom '60
Sister: Samantha Bloom '16
Sister: Sarah Bloom '17
Sister: Savannah Bloom '20 | Chris Fink
Daughter: Donna Fink Striet '85 | Jim Leet
Wife: Sherrin Wiegand Leet '61
Daughter: Shannon Leet-Hebestreit '89 | Sharon Walker
Granddaughter: Audrey Nethery '27 |
| Barbara Botner
Daughter-in-Law: Susan Olliges Botner '81
Granddaughter: Anna Botner Hudson '06
Granddaughter: Monica Botner '08 | Martha Eberenz
Past Faculty/Staff | Frank Mattingly, Sr.
Daughter: Dr. Julia Mattingly Frith '97 | David White
Daughter: Melissa White Gunter '81
Granddaughter: Sondra White Lee '02
Granddaughter: Nicole White Anderson '03
Granddaughter: Jessie White Treadway '08
Granddaughter: Lauren Gunter Tingle '11 |
| Rick Breit
Sister: Lisa Ann Breit '73
Sister: Kim Breit '78
Daughter: Shannon Breit Mitchell '91
Niece: Allison Breit Fallin '05 | Eric Gratz
Wife: Mariah Weyland Gratz '98 | Mary Ann Mudd
Granddaughter: Madison Mudd '16 | Mildred Whitfield
Granddaughter: Caroline Robinson '19 |
| Todd Costelle
Aunt: Verna Costelle Carr '58
Niece: Autumn Costelle '11
Niece: Hannah Costelle '13
Niece: Candace Cox '16 | Frank Greenwell
Daughter-in-Law: Monica Beatty Greenwell '86
Granddaughter: Amanda Greenwell Turki '16
Granddaughter: Angela Greenwell '20
Granddaughter: Emily Greenwell '20
Granddaughter: Natalie Greenwell '23 | Bruce Niemi
Wife: Rhonda Niemi - Past Faculty | Bette Williams
Daughter: Lisa Williams Courtney '80
Granddaughter: Sarah Courtney Koons '09 |
| David Bright
Granddaughter: Ashley Vogel Bowden '03
Granddaughter: Caitlin Ritsch Leshon '16 | Helen Hagan
Sister: Nancy Nusz - Past Faculty | Father Robert Osborne
Niece: Rose Strubel '77
Niece: Mary Clare Strubel Jodrie '80 | Lew Zwiebel
Wife: Donna Byrd Zwiebel '60
Daughter: Ellen Zwiebel Broderick '82
Granddaughter: Amber Edwards '18 |
| | Juanita Hagan
Granddaughter: Jade Hagan '16 | Paul Osting, Sr.
Daughter-in-Law: Mary Ann Nash Osting '70 | Obituaries in the JagWire are based on information provided by members of the Mercy community. Please send information regarding the death of an individual to the Advancement Office by calling (502)671-2010 x2302 or by sending the information to Candace Cox at ccox@mercyjaguars.com . |
| | | Michael Pulliam
Wife: Elaine Hopkins Pulliam '69 | |
| | | Luis Prada
Daughter: Martha Prada Callahan '83
Daughter: Maria Prada Bale '85
Daughter: Ines Prada '88
Granddaughter: Gillian Bale '21
Granddaughter: Gracie Bale '22 | |
| | | Dena Rogers
Mother: Diana Powell Motsch '60
Daughter: Elizabeth Greer Ramirez '15 | |
| | | Courtney Schweinhart
Daughter: Abby Schweinhart '19
Niece: Nora Dickerson '22 | |

ALUMNAE UPDATES



JILL JOSEPH BELL '80 is a part of Leadership Louisville's 2026 Elevate Council. Members of the Elevate Council help unite and engage Louisville's most influential women to ensure generations following them are positioned for success. Congratulations, Jill!

DEBBIE FOUSHEE '87 is the VP and Compliance Officer for ThirdEye Health, a telehealth company providing after hours coverage and support for residents of long term care and other entities.



SARA REDDINGTON WELCH '06 welcomed Nora Jo to the world on March 21, 2025.



After their classmate **NATALIE THOMPSON** passed away between her sophomore and junior year, members of the **CLASS OF 2011** remembered her with yellow butterflies. Over 15 years later, **ALLISON SHONTZ BONE '11** worked with current Mercy student **RACHEL FITZGERALD '26** to create new artwork and stickers to keep Natalie's memory alive.



ROBIN SODER CRISP '87 works as a STEAM teacher at Brooks Elementary School, empowering students with hands-on, real-world learning experiences. A recent third-grade Bridge Building Authentic Learning Experience let students apply the engineering design process to build, test, and refine their own model bridges, culminating in a public showcase of their work.



KATIE WINTERGERST ROGERS '93 was an honoree at the Catholic Education Foundation's Salute to Catholic School Alumni event. Katie was named Chief Administrative Officer of Norton Women's and Children's Hospital in 2024. She was also Mercy's graduation speaker for the Class of 2026. Congratulations, Katie!



MELISSA JAMES '01 celebrated Mardi Gras in New Orleans with a proposal from her fiancé, Cooper Wiley. They will be married in the fall at the Kentucky Derby Museum.

ANDREA MATTINGLY EBERTSHAUSER '12 welcomed Colin Michael to the world on December 19, 2025.



KRISTEN FANTE BLANKENSHIP '13 was appointed as the next principal for Holy Trinity Catholic School. Her position began July 1, 2026. Congratulations, Kristen!

AMANDA CRASK ASH '12 and Collin Ash - November 1, 2024.



JILL SULLIVAN FULTON '01 and her family officially adopted their son, Maddex, on October 1, 2025.



COURTNEY HALL '14
recently graduated from YPAL's (Young Professionals Association of Louisville) Spring 2026 Emerging Leadership Program. This seven week program focuses on growth, connection, and fundamental leadership skills. Congratulations, Courtney!



TIFFANY HERM '15
welcomed Beckham to her family on March 25, 2025.

BRIANNA WOLKEN THOMAS '16
and Matthew Thomas - October 18, 2025.
AMANDA MACALUSO '16 and
EMILY TWYMAN '16 helped
celebrate as co-maids of honor.



MEREDITH GARDNER SNYDER '17
and Michael Snyder - September 13, 2025.

During **NATALIE HEIL '20**'s senior year, she participated in the exchange program with Mercy's sister school in Argentina. Natalie hosted a student at Mercy but wasn't able to stay in Argentina due to the pandemic. Six years later, she was able to visit and enjoy the other half of the exchange!



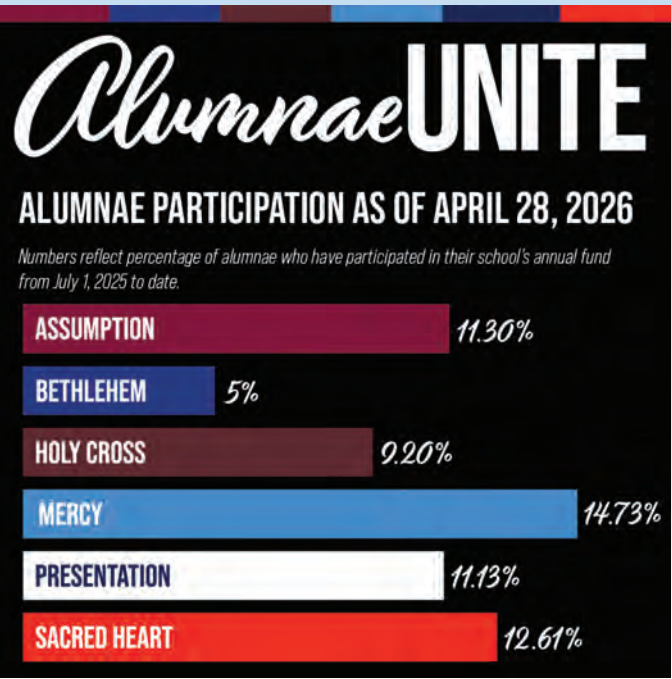
We would love to update your classmates on what is going on in your life. Please submit updates at [mercycademy.com/jagwire](https://www.mercyacademy.com/jagwire).

AlumnaeUNITE

APRIL 20-22, 2026

Mercy is back at the top of the leaderboard!
Thank you to everyone who supported Mercy during the Alumnae Unite challenge, helping us to have the highest alumnae participation among Assumption, Bethlehem, Holy Cross, Mercy, Presentation, and Sacred Heart. We are so excited to be back at number one, but we know the real winners are the young women who will benefit from the funds raised.

Miss the challenge? It's not too late to support Mercy Academy! The Mercy Fund is at the heart of our tuition assistance program. Your donation helps to make a Mercy education possible for so many of our students!



Top 10 Classes by Participation

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1 1991 with 51.92% | 6 1972 with 32.43% |
| 2 1976 with 51.22% | 7 1998 with 32.35% |
| 3 1999 with 39.53% | 8 1974 with 28.30% |
| 4 1970 with 36.99% | 9 2005 with 28.05% |
| 5 2004 with 32.89% | 10 1971 with 27.91% |

To see every class percentage and information on tote bag and cookie pick-up, visit www.mercyacademy.com/alumnaeunite.



First Lady **Britainy Beshear** visited Mercy as the first high school in the state to participate in a series of student roundtable discussions. This opportunity allowed our students to gain firsthand experience engaging state leadership and using their voices to discuss the topics they are most passionate and concerned about as young people in Kentucky.



Mercy students joined more than 16,000 young Catholics from across the country at the **National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC)** in Indianapolis.



Mercy is excited to announce **Keith Baisch** as our next Head Basketball Coach! Coach Baisch has a long history in the Mercy community and with Mercy's basketball program, having previously served as head coach for seven seasons (2013-2020) and as an assistant coach for the past two seasons.
Welcome home, Keith!

This year, many amazing student-athletes have committed to continuing their athletic careers at the collegiate level. We are so proud of the dedication these seniors have shown during their time at Mercy both in the classroom and with their teams. **Congratulations to all!**



Fall Athletic Signing Day: Riley Clore (Flag Football), Madison DeGrella (Softball), Abbie Woolley (Field Hockey), Addison Davis (Volleyball), Jenna Hawkins (Volleyball), Reese Houston (Volleyball), Ella Grosshans (Soccer), Allison O'Shea (Volleyball), Haley Rupe (Softball), and Mady Yaden (Volleyball)



Spring Athletic Signing Day: Heidi Hennemann (Flag Football), Abby Reitzel (Basketball), Laney O'Connell (Field Hockey), Maggie Young (Basketball), Lillian McCarron (Golf), and Audrey Farmer (Flag Football)



Congratulations to our **Archery Jaguars** for earning 3rd place at the **NASP Kentucky State Tournament!**



Izzie Yaden '26 and **Jaelyn Money '26** competed in the **Louisville Regional Science and Engineering Fair**. Izzie's project on the microbiological and healing properties of breast milk won fourth place in the microbiology category. In the animal sciences category, Jaelyn's project researching the effect of a mouse's diet on its cognitive abilities, won second place.



Congratulations to **Colleen Harley '27** for being one of sixteen students across Kentucky to be named a member of the 2026-2027 KHSAA Student Advisory Group. Colleen is a manager for the basketball team and a member of the tennis team.



Mercy welcomed **grandparents** of juniors and seniors to celebrate **Mass** in December and grandparents of sophomores and freshmen in March. This is such a special tradition each year for students and their loved ones.

Address to the Graduating Class of 2026

EMERSON
SHIVELY '26



If the eight year old version of each of us were standing here today, what would she see? She would see confidence where there once was hesitation. She would see courage where there once was uncertainty. And she would see a group of young women who have spent the past four years proving that they belong wherever they choose to stand.

Mercy Academy has a way of shaping that kind of confidence within each of its students. It is not a loud change, but rather a steady growth. It flourishes in classrooms, on stages, on fields, and in hallways filled with the energy of bright young women discovering the power of their own voices. And, that shared experience has been stitched into something we have all worn since our first day of freshmen year: our plaid skirts.

I remember the excitement of putting it on for the first time. It felt like a signal that something new had begun, that we had entered the Mercy community with its own traditions and spirit. Over time, the pieces of fabric became more than part of a uniform. Rather, the skirts became a symbol of belonging. Their plaid patterns, made of intersecting stripes, woven together into something unified and strong with these lines mirroring this time in our

lives. Each of us arrived here with different stories, different dreams, and different paths ahead. For a time, those paths crossed at Mercy. But, the lines of plaid do not end where they intersect. They continue forward, extending beyond the pattern. Now, we have put these skirts away for the last time. The excitement we once felt putting them on is a memory rather than a routine. Yet, the meaning behind them will remain, because being a woman of Mercy is not something that belongs only in these hallways or during these four years. Instead, this identity is something we carry with us wherever we go.

Ultimately, a circle has no beginning and no end; it is infinite, linking past, present, and future. The Circle of Mercy reminds us of that connection; that we are a part of something larger than ourselves: a tradition of compassion, courage, and conviction that extends far beyond this moment. As we step into new spaces and new possibilities, there may still be voices that question whether we belong, voices suggesting that certain dreams or goals are unattainable and not meant for us. But, we know the truth. We know it because we have spent four years in a place that insists women's voices matter. We know it because we have been

challenged to think deeply, lead boldly, and act kindly. So, as we leave Mercy Academy as the Class of 2026, the question before all of us is not what we will do next. Instead, the question is who we will continue to become. We all must strive to make the rest of our lives the absolute best they can be. That does not mean it will always be easy. It means repeatedly choosing to pursue what matters. It means stepping into rooms where you may be the first, but refusing to believe you may also be the last. It means building a future that the younger version of ourselves would be proud to see.

We may be leaving Mercy Academy, but we are not leaving behind what it has given us. The plaid may come off, but the pattern continues and lives on within us. These hallways may grow quiet behind us, but the voices we found within them will carry forward. And the circle that connects us, will not close, but just simply expand. Because wherever we go next, we go as women of Mercy. ●

Congratulations to the Class of 2026!

Our newest alumnae were awarded over **\$16.1 million in scholarships** and contributed more than **21,665 service hours** to our community.

At Junior Ring Ceremony, **Srishti Samuel '27** received the **Sheri Applegate Award**. This award, given in memory of **Sheri Applegate '84**, is given to a rising senior that shares the qualities that made Sheri so special: someone unselfish and caring, a diligent worker seeking to fulfill the best in herself, someone willing to serve and help others, and someone who goes about her daily tasks with a spirit of joyfulness and fun.



Congratulations to **Mr. Kevin Kramer** on his retirement! Mr. Kramer has taught theology at Mercy for 29 years. We thank him for the impact he has made on generations of Mercy students.



Our annual **Mother Daughter Luncheon and Style Show** encouraged students to spend the afternoon with important women in their life while seniors modeled fashions from XO by Sophia's and Magnolia & Fig.



Blue Valentine

BENEFIT OFF BROADWAY

MERCY ACADEMY

FEBRUARY 14, 2026



\$320,541 raised to benefit our tuition assistance program - a record amount!

On February 14, 2026, we celebrated Valentine's Day with Mercy's Blue Valentine themed Benefit Off Broadway. Thank you to everyone who participated by attending, purchasing chances, bidding during the silent and live auction, volunteering their time, and more! A complete list of winners can be found on our website.

Congratulations to our **\$25,000 Capital Prize winner, Bill Smith**. Bill, parent of Jaime Smith '97 and Jessica Smith Henderson '00, has purchased Capital Prize Tickets for the past 18 years!



Being a Mercy girl means to me that I have the opportunity to do anything and everything that I could want to do. I'm taking college level courses, studying with amazing teachers, and have amazing friends. I want to take advantage of every opportunity that I can possibly have here, and Mercy really lets me do that.

— Colleen '27

The **Fund-a-Student** portion of the evening featured **Colleen Harley '27**. Colleen, a recipient of tuition assistance, is making the most of her time at Mercy. You can watch her story at the QR code.

The evening was made even more special with a surprise video appearance from past teacher and development director **Mary Reiser**, offering a matching gift challenge to encourage attendees to raise more funds for students like Colleen.



Watch Colleen's Story

Thank you, Benefit Off Broadway Sponsors!



If you are interested in event sponsorships at Mercy Academy, please contact Emily Willis at ewillis@mercyjaguars.com.



SAVE THE DATE

Wear your favorite jerseys and tennis shoes for Mercy Academy's **Benefit Off Broadway: Game Day Gala** on February 13, 2027.



5801 Fegenbush Lane
Louisville, Kentucky 40228

Return Service Requested

REUNION *Weekend*



**IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE OUR
GRADUATING CLASSES THAT END IN A 1 OR 6!**

Join us at Mercy on Saturday, August 1 for a class reunion.

Visit mercyacademy.com/reunions for individual class reunion details.



Class of 1976:

It's time to induct you into the Mercy Society.
Join us, along with other Mercy Society members,
on Sunday, August 2 for a special ceremony.

