



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What does my child need to start school?

Mercymount partners with [1st Day School Supplies](#), which delivers school supplies directly to the classroom. Participation is optional.

- Order Deadline: July 1, 2026
- If you want to purchase on your own, follow the grade-level supply lists on 1st Day School Supplies
- Students should bring:
 - Backpack
 - Lunch box
 - Water bottle

Preschool and PreK Families

- Please send a blanket, nap mat, or sleeping bag each Monday.
- These items will be sent home every Friday for washing.

2. What Textbooks does my child need?

Most of the required books, primarily consumable workbooks, are provided for Mercymount students by the school. Parents of students in Grades 4 through 8 are responsible for obtaining their own Math and Spanish textbooks.

Massachusetts residents must purchase these textbooks independently, while Rhode Island residents may borrow them through their local public school districts.

[Cumberland Book Ordering & Return Information](#)

[2026-2027 Textbook List](#) *students are only responsible for obtaining the Math and Spanish books

3. What medical and school forms are required for my child?

The following forms must be submitted prior to the start of the school year:

- Documentation of immunizations ([RI Required Immunizations](#))
- Copy of the student's most recent physical exam dated within the past year ([RI Physical Form](#))
- [Health History Form](#)
- [OTC Medication Form](#)
- Release form from the student's previous school (for transfer students)
- If your child requires an EpiPen, inhaler, or prescription medication, physician documentation is required. Please also complete and return:
 - [Long-Term Medication Plan](#)
 - [Allergy and Anaphylaxis Emergency Plan](#)
- Completed [RI Dental Exam Card](#) for grades K–5 and Grade 8, or a letter stating the date of the student's most recent dental exam (within the past year)

Medical forms may be dropped off at Mercymount or emailed to nurse@mercymount.org

School forms will be sent via email and must be completed online.

4. Where do I order uniforms? How many uniforms should I purchase?

Uniforms are purchased through [Flynn O'Hara](#). Orders may be placed online.

- We recommend purchasing:
 - Three school uniforms
 - Two gym uniforms
- Gently used uniform items are available free of charge in the Mercymount Uniform Room.

Preschool and PreK Families

- Please leave one complete change of uniform clothing at school in case of accidents.
- Shoes without laces are recommended.

5. Is there a hot lunch program?

Yes. Payments for lunch are made using a cashless lunch payment program. You may fund your child's account by visiting the [FACTS Family Portal](#) (District Code: mm-ri) and selecting **Financial→Prepay Accounts→Add Funds**.

In general, we recommend that you fund at least 1-2 months worth of lunches at a time. A small amount should be added to your account, even if your child

never buys lunch, as this system will be used as the emergency backup to pay in case your child forgets to bring in lunch. The payment system is also used for drinks, snacks and desserts.

Please note that if your child's account reaches a negative balance of \$25, they will not be allowed to purchase snacks or ice cream.

Preschool and PreK Families

- Hot lunch is not available.
- Students should bring:
 - Morning snack
 - Drink
 - Lunch

Teachers recommend containers that children can open independently, such as Bento-style lunch boxes.

Please note: All classrooms are peanut-free.

6. Are students allowed to bring cell phones to school?

Cell phones, smart watches, and other personal electronic devices must be powered off and stored in lockers or backpacks during the school day. Students may not carry phones on their person or access personal accounts while at school.

Please note: Students may use school phones only with permission. In emergencies, the school will contact parents/guardians directly.

7. What is Mercymount's policy on computers and electronic devices?

All students and parents/guardians must sign Mercymount's Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) at the beginning of the school year. Students who do not have access to a working computer or printer at home should notify the school so arrangements can be made to use school equipment.

8. Do I need to sign a Technology Acceptable Use Agreement?

Yes. All students and parents/guardians are required to acknowledge Mercymount's Computer and Internet Acceptable Use Policy through the online handbook form.

Students in Grades 4–8 agree to use school technology resources responsibly and understand that violations may result in the loss of technology privileges and other disciplinary consequences.

Parents/guardians acknowledge their understanding of the policy, grant permission for their child to access the Internet for educational purposes, and understand that student technology use is monitored by the school.

9. Is there a Before and After School Care Program?

Yes. Parents may register here: [Before/After Care Sign Up](#)

Before Care

- Grades K–8: Begins at 7:15 AM in the cafeteria
 - *All doors close promptly at 8:30 a.m. Students arriving after this time must be accompanied by a parent and checked in at the main office.*
- Preschool: Begins at 7:45 AM at the classroom door

After Care

- Available until 6:00 PM
- Final pick-up is no later than 6:00 PM

10. Is there busing?

Busing is available only to residents of Cumberland, North Smithfield, Burrillville, and Woonsocket.

Eligibility is limited to students in Kindergarten through Grade 8.

Cumberland Residents

Statewide will continue to provide busing for Mercymount families for this upcoming school year. Below are the directions to submit an application.

Parents can go to www.ride.ri.gov

—> Click **Students and Families**

—> Click the **drop-down arrow** in Students and Families Box

—> Click **Additional Resources**

—> Click **Student Transportation**

—> Click on the first **orange** + “**Transportation Requests for Private, Parochial, Charter, and Career and Technical Education**”

—> Scroll down just a bit to the **Blue Banner**

—> Click inside the blue banner << **Request Transportation Form**

After submitting the form, the next communication that you will receive is a transportation letter in the mail that the bus company will send out 2 weeks prior to the first day of school. The letter provides bus info, vendor, office phone numbers, instructions for our parent app., and other helpful information.

North Smithfield, Burrillville, and Woonsocket Residents

To ensure a bus stop for the first day of the school next year, **both current and new riders** must register by **July 31, 2026**.

Students from participating school districts who are eligible to use the statewide transportation system next year must annually request transportation through the statewide website at:

<http://ride.ri.gov/StudentsFamilies/AdditionalResources/StudentTransportation.aspx>

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

School Hours:

- School Day: 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM
- Student Drop-Off: 8:15 AM – 8:30 AM
- Student Pick-Up: Beginning at 2:50 PM

Please note: All doors close promptly at 8:30 a.m. Students arriving after this time must be accompanied by a parent and checked in at the main office.

Dismissal Procedures:

- PreK and Kindergarten students are dismissed from their classroom doors at 2:50 PM.
- Middle School students without younger siblings can utilize the Early Bird Pick Up line at 2:55pm.
- Students in all other grades are dismissed through their designated door.



Parking:

For the safety of our students and families, please back into parking spaces when arriving at school.

Student Illness:

If your child is sick, please contact the school at (401) 333-5919 or email mputt@mercymount.org

School Communications:

Important school information, including calendars, lunch schedules, upcoming events, and announcements, will be shared monthly through the Partners in Education (PIE) email, [Facebook Parent Association Page](#), and [FACTS](#). Please read these communications carefully, as they contain important and pertinent information throughout the school year.

Grades 4-8 use FACTS Management System to track grades, homework and assessments.

Who Should I Contact?

For the fastest assistance, please contact the appropriate staff member based on your question:

Tuition, Lunch Accounts, and Aftercare Accounts

Candace Simas, Office Manager

 csimas@mercymount.org

 Ext. 32

Attendance and General School Questions

Michele Putt, Administrative Assistant

 mputt@mercymount.org

 Ext. 0

Admissions and Enrollment Questions

Bernadette Cafarelli, Admissions Officer

 bcafarelli@mercymount.org

 Ext. 19

Student-Related Questions

Dr. Kimberly Blessing, Dean of Students

 kblessing@mercymount.org

 Ext. 22

Health and Medical Questions

Kellie Bryda & Gina Ludovici, School Nurses

Parent Volunteers 2026-2027 School Year/Safe Schools Certification:

All school volunteers must be Safe School certified before beginning their service at school. This process normally takes 3-4 weeks to complete once your paperwork is submitted. Please plan ahead and complete your paperwork in a timely manner if there is a certain event you would like to volunteer for. It is suggested that brand new applicants complete their paperwork over the summer to allow ample time for processing. The only way to expedite the process is to bring your paperwork to the Office of the Attorney General in Cranston. The applicant will also need to complete a national background check. That digital link will be provided after your paperwork is submitted to the front office to mputt@mercymount.org.

Please follow these instructions carefully to become certified:

- *Submit color photos of the front and back of your driver's license. Fill out the BCI form (see below). Watch the Safe Schools Slideshow and complete the **Signoff** form. This form **MUST** accompany your paperwork. (see below)*
- *Forms need to be printed, signed and sent in to the office, they cannot be emailed. The Diocese will consider emailed forms "photos" and will reject your forms if printed from a third party. The Diocese must see an inked signature.*
- *Sign all forms manually, the Diocese will reject digital signatures.*
- *Complete the digital National Background check link sent to you from Assurehire.*

BCI Disclaimer Form:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1kEg5x79e3sRXN5prcBLLeH8_0NxATMT5/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=110772509632138972502&rtpof=true&sd=true

Safe Schools Slide Show:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1j48mptw8dXKRmwxEBY-D8UnGkcTYTeTx/view?usp=sharing>

Slide show Signoff:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Ccw7LR-A1ZmVuvybslItcwQ4EtDlbW5N/view?usp=sharing>