Mother McAuley
Liberal Arts High School
The world needs more Mighty.

SCHOOL PROFILE
2026–2027
CEEB Code 144-041

PRESIDENT
Mrs. Carey Harrington ‘86

PRINCIPAL
Dr. Kathryn Baal, PhD

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF ACADEMICS
Ms. Sandra Smycz

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF STUDENT SUPPORTS
Mrs. Sarah Kolkmeyer ‘06

DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS AND ENROLLMENT
Mrs. Colleen White ‘94

COLLEGE COUNSELORS
Ms. Sara Diaz
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(Last names M-Z)

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ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO COUNSELING
Ms. Terese Enright
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REGISTRAR
Ms. Laurie Keaty
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About Mother McAuley

Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School is a college preparatory, Mercy Catholic high school located on the southside of Chicago. Mother McAuley’s mission is to provide a challenging liberal arts education for young women. Operating as the oldest Catholic high school in Chicago, Mother McAuley initially opened its doors in 1846, as St. Francis Xavier Academy for females. In the tradition of the Sisters of Mercy and their foundress, Catherine McAuley, we prepare students to live in a complex, dynamic society by teaching them to think critically, communicate effectively, respond compassionately to the needs of their community and assume roles of Christian leadership. In partnership with parents, we empower young women to acknowledge their giftedness and to make decisions with a well-developed moral conscience. We foster an appreciation of the diversity of the global community and a quest for knowledge and excellence as life long goals.

Our Community

Mother McAuley is one of the largest all-girls high schools in the United States, with approximately **800 students** enrolled in grades 9-12 (Seniors=183). McAuley draws students from a diverse background from over **200 different grade schools** throughout the Chicagoland area and the suburbs as well as Indiana. Our students represent a rich cultural and geographic diversity representing **74 different zip codes**. Approximately 30% of our students represent ethnic minority groups. Mother McAuley provides substantial tuition assistance for those families who demonstrate need, but also students can apply for a host of scholarships annually. More than 94% of our students participate in one or more clubs, organizations, or teams. Admission to Mother McAuley is based on several factors including, but not limited to, the High School Placement Test (HSPT) score, junior high school grades and previous standardized testing scores.

Athletics

Mother McAuley is a member of the Illinois High School Athletic Association (IHSA)and the Girls Catholic Athletic Conference (GCAC). Our **16 competitive sports teams** demand exceptional self-discipline, dedication, loyalty, integrity and teamwork. We have proudly earned **21 state championships** – with 50+ state appearances – and numerous conference and regional titles. Our athletes excel in the classroom, as well; in 2025-2026 all Varsity teams achieved IHSA’s academic excellence award.

Class of 2026

100%
ACCEPTED TO COLLEGE

93%
ATTENDING A 4-YEAR COLLEGE

6%
ATTENDING A 2-YEAR COLLEGE

48%
ATTENDING PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS

44%
ATTENDING PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

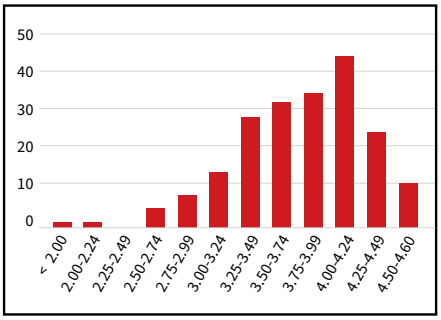
39%
ATTENDING AN IN STATE INSTITUTION

29
ILLINOIS STATE SCHOLARS

4
COLLEGE BOARD NATIONAL FIRST GENERATION RECOGNITION PROGRAM WINNERS

23
COLLEGE BOARD SCHOOL RECOGNITION AWARD WINNERS

Grade Distribution Class of 2026
Based on 195 students and 8th semester data



3737 W. 99th Street | Chicago, IL 60655 | 773.881.6500 | fax 773.881.6624 | www.mothermcauley.org

Academics

Mother McAuley is accredited by the Illinois State Board of Education and by Cognia. We are members of Mercy Education, the College Board, National Catholic Education Association and the National and Illinois Association of College Admission Counseling.

Graduation Requirements

A minimum of **28 credit hours** are required for graduation.

Theology	4 credits
English	4 credits
Science *(Biology, Chemistry, Physics)*	4 credits
Mathematics	3 credits
Social Science	3 credits
World Language	2 credits
Physical Education	1 credit
Fine Arts *(½ Art History, ½ Music or Theatre, 1 Fine Arts Elective)*	2 credits
Personal Finance	½ credit
Electives	4½ credits

Curriculum Guide

For additional information regarding the courses Mother McAuley offers, the curriculum guide is available here.

Catherine McAuley Honors Scholars (CMHS)

The Catherine McAuley Honors Scholars program recognizes superior academic achievement. Requirements include: enrollment in at least four honors classes each semester, the completion of five AP classes, a 4.1 grade point average each semester, participation in at least one extra-curricular activity each year and management of an electronic portfolio. Approximately 10% of total Mother McAuley students, grades 10-12, are in CMHS.

Visual & Performing Arts

All students at Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School are required to take one semester of performing art and one semester of art history. Additionally, they are required to take one credit of either a performing or visual art class. We offer 22 visual art classes, including two at the AP level. These classes run the gamut from 2D and graphic design classes to 3D and photography classes. We offer 26 performing art classes, including classes in public speaking, band, orchestra, choir, and theatre. Our Visual Art & Design students from the Class of 2026 earned more than $1.7 million in scholarships for their works. Around 640 students take a visual or performing arts class annually.

Advanced Placement, Honors Courses and Dual Credit

Mother McAuley offers **19 Advanced Placement courses** and **29 Honors courses**. Student enrollment in AP or Honor courses is based on academic performance, GPA and teacher recommendation. Mother McAuley and Saint Xavier University have collaborated to offer students the opportunity to earn college credit through AP Literature and AP Biology. Additionally our students can take an Introductory to Nursing course (after school) for credit only at St. Xavier University. Mother McAuley also partnered with Lewis University to offer dual credit for American Criminal Justice and AP Spanish.

AP Courses

2D Art and Design
Art History
Biology
Calculus AB
Chemistry
Computer Science Principles
Drawing
English Language & Composition
English Literature & Composition
French Language
Human Geography
Physics C-Mechanics
Physics I
Psychology
Spanish Language
Statistics
U.S. Government and Politics
U.S. History
World History

AP Recognition

	2024	2025	2026
AP Scholar	46	46	36
AP Scholar with Honor	21	25	24
AP Scholar with Distinction	32	36	39

Grading

Mother McAuley updated its grading scale and weights beginning in the 24-25 school year. All students were grandfathered in.

Previous Grading Scale *2023-2024 School Year*

GRADE	%	STD QUALITY POINTS	HONORS	AP
A+	100-97	4.0	4.5	5.0
A	96-90			
B+	89-87	3.0	3.5	4.0
B	86-80			
C+	79-77	2.0	2.5	3.0
C	76-70			
D+	69-67	1.0	1.0	1.0
D	66-60			
F	59-0	0	0	0

Grading System: Scale and Weights

Implemented 2024-2025 School Year

LETTER GRADE	GRADING SCALE PERCENTAGE	ADVANCED/ ACADEMIC	HONORS (H)	ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP)
A+	98-100	4.67	5.00	5.33
A	93-97.99	4.33	4.67	5.00
A-	90-92.99	4.00	4.33	4.67
B+	88-89.99	3.67	4.00	4.33
B	83-87.99	3.33	3.67	4.00
B-	80-82.99	3.00	3.33	3.67
C+	78-79.99	2.67	3.00	3.33
C	73-77.99	2.33	2.67	3.00
C-	70-72.99	2.00	2.33	2.67
D+	68-69.99	1.67	1.67	1.67
D	63-67.99	1.33	1.33	1.33
D-	60-62.99	1.00	1.00	1.00
F	0-59.99	0	0	0

Academic Honors

Honors with Distinction	Weighted GPA: **4.67 or higher**
First Honors	Weighted GPA: **4.00 - 4.669**
Second Honors	Weighted GPA: **3.33 - 3.999**

Due to Mother McAuley's selective admissions policy and curriculum, the school does not rank its students.