GREAT THINGS ARE HAPPENING AT MMA!

THE MMA HIGH SCHOOL PLACEMENT (ENTRANCE) EXAM FOR 8TH GRADE GIRLS
ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2007 AT 8:00 A.M.

5 WEEK HIGH SCHOOL PLACEMENT EXAM PREP COURSE AVAILABLE

SHADOW PROGRAM FOR 8TH GRADE GIRLS
SPEND A SCHOOL DAY FOLLOWING AN MMA STUDENT THROUGH HER SCHEDULE
CALL 825-8796 X 241 OR GO TO WWW.MTMERCY.ORG FOR DETAILS

MAGIC MONEY SWEETSTAKES TICKETS ON SALE NOW! $5000 PRIZE!

MOUNT MERCY ACADEMY IS MORE THAN YOU IMAGINED!

October, 2007

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Fall is in the air and we have already settled into a well-established routine here at Mount Mercy Academy. The start of the school year went smoothly and I have to say that our students this year are absolutely lovely. They have been a joy to work with and they make me proud to say that I am the principal.

Please be sure to consult your calendar for the October events, many of which are featured in this issue. Also, pay particular attention to the inserts in this month’s mailing. We have mailed every parent a copy of the Student Directory. This is meant for the parents so that you can contact have a vehicle to network with the parents of your daughter’s friends. In addition we have included information from WNY United Against Drug & Abuse, Inc. regarding underage drinking laws. The safety and well being of our students is everyone’s responsibility and we want you to be aware of the laws and how they impact you and your children. Homecomings, holiday dances and other festivities are on the horizon and sometimes our children do not exercise good judgment. It is up to us to make sure that they make wise decisions and that we hold other adults accountable when it comes to our most precious possessions.

I hope to see you at upcoming Mercy events and to hear from you as the need arises. Progress Reports will be mailed to you soon. I encourage you to contact the teacher directly with any questions or concerns. I also encourage you to attend the Parent-Teacher Conference that will be held after the first quarter report cards are mailed home. Please note that we have three conferences this year. Consult the calendar for time and dates. You will also receive reminders when the report cards are mailed. The time to deal with academic problems is early in the school year to avoid larger problems in May and June.

God bless you all and may Our Lady watch over you all during this month of October.

Sincerely,

Paulette C. Gaske
Principal

The 2007-2008 newly inducted Student Government Officers, Class Officers and Representatives and Members-at-Large smiled together after reciting the Oath of Office at the first Student Government Meeting of the year on September 26, 2007. The MMA Student Government Officers this year are President Meghan Hess, Vice President Carly Story, Secretary Leah Clancy and Treasurer Madeline Reid.

MMA Principal Mrs. Paulette Gaske welcomes visitors to the annual Open House held on September 23rd and 24th.
Distinguished Alumnae and Spirit of Mercy Honorees Announced

The MMA Alumnae Association announces the 2007 Mercy Honors Program. The awards recognizes distinguished Mount Mercy Academy graduates and affiliates. Awards in two categories will be presented at a gala dinner at Romanello’s South on November 8, 2007 at 6:15 PM. The Catherine McAuley Distinguished Alumna Award is presented in the name of the Sisters of Mercy founders. The award honors alumnae who have distinguished themselves in the areas of faith, family, community and career. The Spirit of Mercy Award honors persons who exhibit the Spirit of Mercy in their professional and personal lives, especially for their commitment and dedication to the community.

The 2007 recipients are

Margaret Flanagan Barrett, Class of 1973, School Social Worker in the Lancaster School District

Mary Beth Hess Farruggio, Class of 1969, Vice President of Patient Care Services at Mercy Hospital

Pamela Krawczyz, Class of 1977, Commissioner of Erie County Department of Senior Services

Meg Quinn (Margaret Quinn Poplawski), Class of 1960, Artistic Director of the Theatre of Youth.

MMA Student Works for a Cure

October is Breast Cancer Awareness month and MMA Senior Sarah Murphy has helped to educate the Mercy Community and raise a few dollars for breast cancer research. Sarah used her own funds, time and talent to create breast cancer awareness pins which she sold to students, faculty and staff for $1. She has shown herself to be a true woman of Mercy, a woman of whom we all can be proud.

MMA Poets and Authors Recognized

Congratulations to our published authors Jane Bechard, Leah Glancy, Rosa D’Fadilla, Danielle Koch, Madeline Kretsch and Christina Stock. During the 2006-2007 school year they worked with their English teacher Kristen Parillo and a Just Buffalo literary teaching artist, Shoshan Scarry to create literary art in the words of their own making. These works have now been published in an anthology called WordPlay. Over 300 copies will be distributed to local schools, libraries, community centers and individuals throughout the Greater Buffalo area. Mount Mercy was the only Catholic school chosen to participate and the education director, Cass Clarke, praised the high caliber of the work contributed by our students. We are so proud of our Mercy authors!

Attention Senior Class Mothers and Daughters

The Senior Mother-Daughter Mass and Breakfast will be held on Sunday, October 14th at Our Lady of Victory Basilica (8:00) and Lucarelli’s Banquet Center (9:30). We hope all will attend this very special event. Tickets ($15 for 2) may be purchased at the MMA Bookstore.

Congratulations to MMA Artist Maria Colosi

MMA Freshman Maria Colosi will have her artwork grace the cover of the event program for the upcoming Gospa House Gala to be held at Samuel’s Grand Manor on October 19, 2007. Proceeds of the event will benefit St. Luke’s Mission of Mercy Gospa House Project. Run by missionaries from St. Luke’s, Gospa House will be a new home for single mothers and their children.

REMEMBER!

• Sell your 4 Magic Money Sweepstakes Tickets
• Remind your daughter to bring in her $5 basket raffle donation to her advisement room teacher
• Return your Magic Money Sweepstakes Parent Volunteer Form to your daughter’s advisement room teacher
• Mark your calendars Magic Money Sweepstakes Party Friday, November 16 6:35 - 11:00, not Friday, Nov. 17, 2006 as listed in the top paragraph
• Mark your calendars Magic Money Sweepstakes Party Friday, November 16 - Ironworkers Local Union No. 6 Hall, Orchard Park Road, West Seneca Doors open at 7pm.

If we sell 1600 Tickets, then Wednesday, January 2 will be a day off from school for the girls!

Mark your calendars Magic Money Sweepstakes Party Friday, November 16 - Ironworkers Local Union No. 6 Hall, Orchard Park Road, West Seneca Doors open at 7pm.

If we sell 1600 Tickets, then Wednesday, January 2 will be a day off from school for the girls!

Institutional Advancement Office is pleased to announce that last year’s Magic Money Sweepstakes was successful by raising a profit of over $30,000.

Over 300 parents, alumnae and friends had a wonderful time celebrating with the Magic Money Sweepstakes winners the evening of the drawing and now it is that time of year again to start selling your Sweepstakes tickets and prepping for the Sweepstakes Party! This year, we expect each Mount Mercy family to sell a minimum of 4 raffle tickets at $25 per ticket. Once again, when your family sells 7 tickets your 8th is free.

As an added incentive this year, if we achieve our goal of selling 1600 Magic Money Sweepstakes tickets, then Wednesday, January 2, 2008 will be a day off from school for the girls!

The top prize for the Magic Money Sweepstakes will be $5,000 with a total of $11,000 in prizes, including cash prizes to the sellers of the top 4 winning tickets! The winners will be drawn on Friday, November 16 at our adults only Sweepstakes Party, which will take place at the Ironworks Local Union No 6. Hall located on Orchard Park Road in West Seneca. All of you that participated last year remember the great time we had celebrating with the winners the night of the drawing. There will be an Early Bird Drawing on Monday, October 22.

The cost of each ticket is $25, which will include one admission to the party. Pizza, beer, wine and other refreshments will be served throughout the evening and don’t forget about our split club and basket raffle!

This year we will be raffling off baskets filled with a variety of fun and interesting items! We are asking your daughter’s advisement room to prepare one of our raffle baskets. We REQUEST that each of our students bring in a $5 donation, so that we may purchase items and assemble baskets. Please remind your daughter to bring in her donation as soon as possible! We are also looking for additional basket donations. Please let us know if you’d like to make a donation.

Our goal this year is to have 100% of Mt. Mercy’s families participate in the Sweepstakes! Please return all money and ticket stubs in an envelope marked “Magic Money” to the Main Office no later than Thursday, November 15. Please contact Jennifer Hemingway at 825-8796 ext. 219 for additional tickets or you may have your daughter stop by Rm. 304 to pick up tickets.

Thank you in advance for your support of this exciting fund raiser. All proceeds from this event go directly back to Mt. Mercy Academy and to your daughter. Fund raising events are crucial in keeping the cost of tuition down as low as possible.

We are looking forward to seeing you the night of November 16 at the Sweepstakes Party and finding out who our lucky $5,000 winner will be. It may be you!
McAuley GALA Parent Steering Committee

We are pleased to announce our McAuley GALA Parent Steering Committee!

The role of the parent steering committee is to reach out to Mercy Parents, share ideas and plans for the upcoming GALA, increase parent interest and participation, and encourage parents to attend a class year sponsored gift gathering party and the GALA!

The following representatives will be contacting you about the wonderful opportunities for you to become involved in the McAuley GALA! Please help them in anyway possible to make this year’s GALA the most successful GALA to date!

Freshman
Grace and Edward Jackson - Parents of Bridget Jackson
Mary and Tim McDonald - Parents of Margaret McDonald
Kathy and Joe Murphy - Parents of Kaitlyn Murphy

Sophomore
Peter and Kathleen Grimm - Katelyn Grimm
Jim and Colleen Kaminie - Parents of Kathleen Kaminie

Junior
Don and Lorna McCormick - Parents of Katherine McCormick
John and Peggy Recktenwalt - Parents of Meg Recktenwalt

Seniors
Rosanne and Rick Wilson - Parents of Brianna Wilson
John and Mary Gruchala - Parents of Lauren Gruchala

Corporate Sponsorship Opportunities!

Last year, over 30 businesses generously supported the McAuley GALA through corporate sponsorships. This is a great way to support the McAuley GALA and give high visibility to your business name.

If you or someone you know maybe interested in becoming a corporate sponsor, please contact Jennifer Hemingway at 825-8796 ext. 219.

We are looking for individuals to serve on our Corporate Committee!

The Corporate Committee is responsible for securing donations from businesses and corporations to help underwrite the expenses of the Dinner-GALA. Committee members make contact with potential donors during the months of August - March.

Our first meeting is on Nov. 7, 2007 at 5:30 in the Library. Please contact Jennifer at 825-8796 ext. 219 if you are interested in attending!

Mount Mercy Middle States Update
Mount Mercy Academy is working on its Mid-Year review for accreditation from the Middle States Association. In 2004, Mount Mercy received its accreditation from the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools after developing a three fold action plan for improvement.

The accreditation process also led the school to develop a new mission statement, belief statement and a profile of a Mercy graduate. These documents can be seen around school, on the school website and in school literature. They were developed with input from students, teachers, parents and "alumnae" and "alumni" who have a vested interest in Mount Mercy.

A three fold action plan was developed which focused on improvements in character and religious development, academic success and technology improvements for students. These action plans have been in place since 2005 and include a variety of methods for increasing success. For example, to encourage students to perform more service hours, the Catherine McAuley Yellow Rose award was developed. Implementation of this honor led to significant numbers of students performing additional service to their school and community. Increased preparation for English and Social Studies Regents examinations has led to a significant number of students reaching Mastery level (a grade of over 85%) in those two Junior Year examinations. Mount Mercy has committed to increase the technological skills of its students by significantly increasing the number of computers and printers for students, as well as offering Digital Photography classes.

These are just some of the many ways MMA is fulfilling its action plans, making the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools' report a "satisfactory" document. Dr. John Philes, from the M.S. Evaluation Committee, is scheduled to visit MMA soon to review the school's action plans and Mount Mercy's progress in this seven year process.

Attention Parents!

New York State mandates all students entering 9th, 10th and all transfer students in any grade have a current physical exam on file at the school. Please see that these are completed and signed by the physician.

Please feel free to call the health office if you have any questions at 825-8796 x 238.

Thank you for your cooperation!

The MMA Administration, Faculty and Staff would like to thank all Parents and Students who assisted in making our Open House so successful! Over 200 visiting prospective young women and their parents were very impressed by our students and the many MMA parents on hand who believe in a Mercy Education.

Home-To-School Note

School ____________________________

Name ___________________________________

Today’s Date ____________________________

Was absent on ____________________________

Because ____________________________

Will be picked up today at dismissal by ____________________________

Will be picked up early today at ____________________________ by ____________________________

Because ____________________________

Was late today because ____________________________

Thank You, Mrs. Joyce Fruth

Attention Office

825-8796 x216

Download and print page 1 of Mount Mercy Academy Health Appraisal Form

This form must be completed, signed and dated by the physician.

Thank you for your cooperation!

Dear Parents/Guardians,

If your daughter is going to be late to school or absent for the day please call the Attendance Office by 8:15AM. This way I know that she is safe and has your permission to be absent or tardy.

If she is late due to an appointment please have her bring in a slip from the doctor/dentist’s office. Most doctors’ offices have form letters or slips that can be printed at the time of checkout.

If she has an early dismissal for an appointment please write a note and have your daughter bring it to the Attendance Office, Room 111, first thing in the morning. If you have made a last-minute appointment please call me to make early dismissal arrangements.

Do not call your daughter’s cell phone. If she is absent please write an excuse stating her full name, date and reason for the absence. If she has been seen by a doctor please have him/her write a script stating why and when she missed school, including any restrictions or special requests.

Please feel free to copy and use the form to the right. It is a standard school excuse.

I appreciate your cooperation concerning our attendance policy. Please call if you have any questions or refer to your daughter’s agenda, pages 12 and 15.

Thank You,

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Attendance Office

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SAT Test Dates & Registration Deadlines

**www.collegeboard.com**

**Mount Mercy Academy Testing Code – 331-065**

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**ACT Test Dates & Registration Deadlines**

**www.actstudent.org**

**Mount Mercy Academy Testing Code – 331-065**

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**IOWA and PSAT Testing Day Scheduled**

On Wednesday, October 17, 2007, all MMA Freshmen will be administered the IOWA standardized test, and all Sophomores and Juniors will take the PSAT exam. Dismissal is scheduled for 11:30 a.m.

**Counseling Center – Room 201**

Phone: 825-8796 Fax: 825-0976 **CEEP Code: 331-065**

Counselors: Grade 9 – Mrs. Katie LoTempio ext. 225 e-mail – klotempio@mtmercy.org

Grade 10 & 11 – Ms. Suzanne Perry ext. 211 e-mail – sperry@mtmercy.org

Grade 12 – Miss Runfola ext. 209 e-mail – trunfola@mtmercy.org

Office Assistant: Mrs. Deanne Lukasik ext. 213 e-mail – dlukasik@mtmercy.org

Licensed Social Worker: Sister Margaret Quinlan ext. 229 email –mqquinlan@mtmercy.org

**MMA CLASS OF 2011 EXPERIENCES FIRST RETREAT TOGETHER**

On September 13th, 2007, Mount Mercy Academy’s class of 2011 attended Harvest House for their first high school retreat. Fifteen peer ministers along with several faculty members accompanied the seventy-nine freshmen in order to make the day fun and exciting one. All of the freshmen gathered in the chapel at Harvest House for an opening prayer and then split into random pre-assigned groups - giving them a chance to spend a day with girls from various grammar schools, not just their own. As the day went on, the freshmen visited different rooms - finding a new topic to be discussed in each one including; trust and unity, clicks, peer pressure, goals, and high school survival. The girls enjoyed a delicious pizza lunch and then met in the chapel again for the closing prayer. Throughout the day, each freshman had decorated a flower petal and wrote their individual goals on it. At the closing prayer, the girls brought all of their petals together - forming several flowers in the end. The flowers that were formed represented that for the first time, the class of 2011 came together as a united whole. The flowers also symbolized how the girls are going to grow throughout their four years at Mercy, into what is considered the profile of a Mercy graduate - a woman of compassionate service, respectful towards herself and others, articulate, strives for excellence in all she does, and a woman who is empowered to take her place in the world. - Jenna Szczepanski ’08

**Congratulations MMA Senior Victoria Sachse – 1st Place Winner in the Happy Birthday Buffalo Essay Contest! We are proud of your accomplishments!**

**Mark Your Calendar!**

**MMA American Red Cross Blood Drive November 15th**

**Mount Mercy Academy & Canisius High School Europe 2008**

**TOLEDO / CORDOBA / SEVILLE / LISBON / FATIMA**

Applications are being accepted for MMA’s Easter trip to Spain and Portugal next spring. Highlights include:

- Panoramic sightseeing tour of Madrid
- A scavenger hunt in Toledo with a visit to a sword factory
- The beautiful medieval Moorish city of Cordoba
- Holy Week processions in Seville
- Flamenco in Spain
- Visits to olive oil and ceramic factories and a bull ranch
- Fado show in Portugal
- Florence in Spain
- The Roman ruins at Merida
- Dali and San Sebastian
- on the Portuguese Riviera

**Applications will be taken on a first come, first served basis.**

**Research shows that students whose parents are involved in their education are more successful in school.**

**Meet other parents, enjoy their company, be informed and be eligible for drawings and bag cards for the Back to School Bash!**

**Counselor’s Corner**

Introducing Suzanne Perry, MMA’s New Sophomore/ Junior Guidance Counselor

Suzanne Perry is the School Counselor for the sophomore and junior classes at Mt. Mercy Academy. She received her B.A. in Psychology and Sociology from SUNY Geneseo and her Ed.M in School Counseling from the University at Buffalo. Her professional experiences include both individual and group counseling in the areas of academic, personal, career, and college planning, as well as the administration of guidance services in the high school setting. Additionally, she has been employed as a substitute teacher for the past four years. Suzanne is looking forward to an exciting year working with the 10th and 11th grade students. She will be meeting with them on a regular basis to cover topics such as career exploration and the college search process, as well as addressing any other issues or concerns that may arise. She may be reached at 825-8796 x 211 or at sperry@mtmercy.org.

**COMING SOON…**

Peterson’s StudentEdge Program

On online resource tool that will be made available to ALL students providing the following resources:

- Comprehensive College Search
- Career Assessment
- Peterson’s MyRoad Builder
- Financial Aid Tools
- Peterson’s SAT Award Winning Intensive, Customized Online courses
- Essay Writing Prompts with Active Listening
- Access to Practice for the ACT, PSAT, SAT, SAT Subject Tests, AP Exams, CLEP, ASVAB, and GED and much more…

Student User Guides will be provided to the Students shortly providing them with access to this program! Please see your student’s Counselor with further questions or concerns.

Please preview the website at **www.mysedgedge.com**

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**State of the School** Address

About Mount Mercy!

McAuley Auction

Research shows that students whose parents are involved in their education are more successful in school. Be part of your daughter’s success. Be part of the Parent Association.

Meet other parents, enjoy their company, be informed and be eligible for drawings and bag cards for the Back to School Bash!

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