



August 20, 2021

Dear Mercy Families,

We thank you for your continued support as we partner together in the education of our Mercy Girls. As we enter this school year, we are deeply aware of the stresses our students are experiencing. The spiritual, physical, social, and emotional well-being of our students must be a priority so that our girls can flourish academically. Schools are not only places of instruction, but places for students to develop important social and emotional skills.

As you may be aware, local, state, and federal authorities all have urged in-person learning for students. To carry this out with minimal disruption, the Maryland Department of Health and the Maryland State Department of Education, in alignment with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, recommend that schools follow layered prevention strategies including ventilation, physical distancing, staying home when sick, handwashing protocols, contact tracing and quarantining, encouraging vaccination, and consistent and correct mask use. In the attached document, *COVID-19 Health and Safety Protocols 2021-2022*, you will find our layered strategies.

We ask that families continue to monitor their health and students stay home when ill. Students who are absent from school due to illness or quarantine will receive asynchronous course work.

Please note that in this fluid environment we may need to update our COVID-19 protocols. Kindly look for updates through emails and in the school's *Principal Notes*. Thank you for supporting us in our **prudent, flexible**, and **creative approach** to providing your daughters with a robust experience this year.

Warm regards,

Mary Beth Lennon '85  
President

Kathryn Adelsberger  
Principal

Mary Ella Franz Marion '76, P'09  
Dean of Students