



REOPENING MERCY, PART ONE

2020-2021





July 15, 2020

Dear Mercy families,

The 2019-2020 school year was unlike any other. What struck us was the way in which every segment of the Mercy community rose to the new and unprecedented challenge presented by the pandemic. Our Mercy Girls approached Mercy Online with dedication to their studies. Our parents kept in close contact with us, continuing our strong partnership. And, our faculty and staff responded with creativity and innovation, determined in their mission to continue excellent instruction—now from their homes. Together, we reimagined some of our most beloved traditions. We look back with a sense of pride, accomplishment, and gratitude.



This fall marks the beginning of Mercy High School's 60th anniversary. As we continue to make preparations for this milestone year, we offer an outline of some of the reopening plans for the 2020-2021 school year. These plans are still tentative, and may change based upon advice from our COVID-19 Response Team—trustees, faculty, staff, and other experts—as well as recommendations from our Public Health Resource Group, alumnae who work in the field of public health. We are also attuned to recommendations from the Archdiocese of Baltimore, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and other local, state, and federal agencies. Our top priority is the health and safety of each Mercy Girl and her family.



In the innovative tradition of the Sisters of Mercy, Mercy is preparing to open this fall with a Hybrid Learning model, allowing for each student to receive critical in-person instruction two days per week and to continue with high quality connected learning while she is not on campus. It is our intention to have each Mercy Girl on campus in the fall with as full a range of extracurricular offerings as we can, as soon as public health, medical science, and good judgment allow us to do so. The Interscholastic Athletic Association of Maryland has not yet announced their plans for competitive sports this fall.

We are readying our campus for appropriate social distancing, and we are continuing the very important tasks of creating policies and procedures, schedules, and systems that will allow us to prioritize the health and safety of our students, faculty, and staff. During this time, we are thankful for the guidance that we have received from the members of the COVID-19 Response Team and our partner organizations.

As we continue to finalize our reopening strategy, our personal focus on each Mercy Girl and her academic success remains a top priority. On the pages that follow, you will find more information regarding our re-entry process and our COVID-19 Response Team. Additional details will be released by August 5.

We thank you for continuing to believe in a Mercy education, and we look forward to a school year that will bring many blessings to our community!

Mary Beth Lennon '85
President

Jeanne A. Blakeslee
Principal

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

COUNTDOWN TO REOPENING



JULY 15:
REOPENING MERCY,
PART ONE PLANNING
REPORT RELEASED



AUGUST 5:
REOPENING MERCY,
PART TWO AND CLASS
SCHEDULE PUBLISHED



ORIENTATIONS BEGIN:
AUGUST 26

FULL CLASS SCHEDULE
BEGINS:
SEPTEMBER 8



RE-ENTRY *process*

Has the COVID-19 Task Force determined that Mercy High School is able to execute campus modifications to allow Mercy Girls to return to campus?

YES

Does guidance from the State of Maryland and other local authorities allow for the reopening of campus?

NO

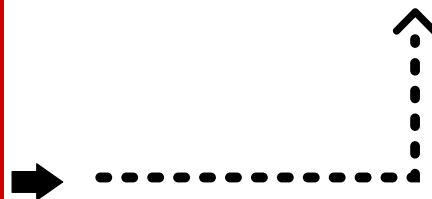
MERCY ONLINE 3.0
Mercy High School will move to a connected learning model with primarily synchronous teaching and learning.

YES

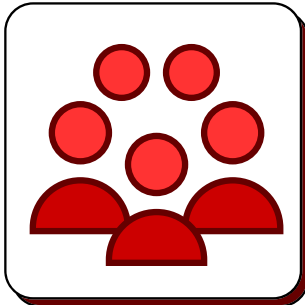
MERCY REOPENS

Mercy High School will reopen with a Hybrid Learning model, allowing students to receive critical in-person instruction and high quality connected learning while maintaining social distancing and health monitoring procedures.

Our priority continues to be the health and safety of each Mercy Girl and her family. In the event that campus would need to close due to new local or state mandates, or a new stay-at-home order, Mercy High School will transition to connected learning.



COVID-19 RESPONSE TEAM



Steering Committee

Mercy High School leadership team members, team captains, trustees, and other experts comprise the Steering Committee. This committee provides strategic guidance to all teams, and will ensure successful project outcomes of all action items. The Steering Committee reports to Mercy High School's Board of Trustees.

Marylee Pearl Robinson '96, Managing Director, Stout Risius Ross; Trustee; Co-Chair

Mary Beth Lennon '85, President; Co-Chair

Mary Ella Franz Marion '76, P'09, Dean of Students; Co-Chair

Jeanne A. Blakeslee, Principal

Bonnie Bevans Kottraba '98, Director of Enrollment Management

Diana Rego, Director of Finance and Operations

Amy Dean Kemp, Director of Advancement

Lauren Traskey, Director of Communications and Special Projects

Kevin Berg P'14, General Manager, CJ's; Trustee

Lou Heidrick GP'16, Former Principal, Calvert Hall College High School; Trustee

Rich Huebler P'18, '19, Member, Multicam East LLC; Trustee

Lynne Lochte '84, Community Volunteer; Trustee

Sister Pat Smith, RSM, Trustee

John Hershberger P'93, Attorney, Law Offices of John Hershberger; Trustee

Bruce Votta P'10, Senior Vice President, Bala/SVA Consulting Engineers; Trustee

Laura Skorowski Bouyey '95, Counsel, Venable LLP



Finance, Legal, and Personnel Team

Mercy High School leadership team members, members of Mercy High School's Board of Trustees, and other experts comprise the Finance, Legal, and Personnel Team. This team provides counsel on ongoing concerns in these areas as COVID-19 evolves.

Lynne Lochte '84, Community Volunteer; Trustee; Team Captain

Mary Beth Lennon '85, President

Diana Rego, Director of Finance and Operations

Rich Huebler P'18, '19, Member, Multicam East LLC; Trustee

Marylee Pearl Robinson '96, Managing Director, Stout Risius Ross; Trustee

John Hershberger P '93, Attorney, Law Offices of John Hershberger; Trustee

Laura Skorowski Bouyey '95, Counsel, Venable LLP



Online Teaching and Learning Team

Mercy High School leadership team members, faculty and staff, and other educators comprise the Online Teaching and Learning Team. The mission of this team is to analyze academic and co-curricular activities, to maximize the experience of each Mercy Girl, and to ensure preparedness for all potential learning models.

Jeanne A. Blakeslee, Principal; Team Captain

Abby Schindler, Academic Dean and Director of Learning Continuity

Kathryn Adelsberger, Acting Assistant Principal and Middle Years Programme Coordinator

Melinda Johnson, Director of Information Technology, Coordinator of the Women in Technology Program, and Computer Science Teacher

Kimm Allison, Technology Coordinator and Computer Science Teacher

Lou Heidrick GP'16, Former Principal, Calvert Hall College High School; Trustee

Lynne Lochte '84, Community Volunteer; Trustee

Kristy Cummings P'16, '23, Director of Student Services and College Counseling



Facilities, Health, and Safety Team

Mercy High School leadership team members, staff, and members of Mercy High School's Board of Trustees comprise the Facilities, Health, and Safety Team. This team assists with management and implementation of new procedures on campus as local, state, and federal guidelines continue to evolve.

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

Kevin Berg, P'14, General Manager, CJ's; Trustee

Mike Oakey P'10, '12, Vice President, COSTCON Construction Services, Inc.

Bruce Votta P'10, Senior Vice President, Bala/SVA Consulting Engineers; Trustee

Diana Rego, Director of Finance and Operations

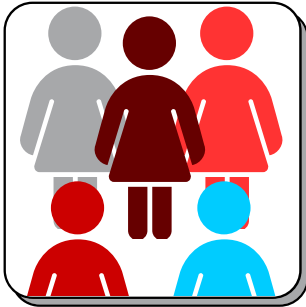
Nick Gill, Athletic Director

David Barber, Facilities Coordinator

Chris Ilyes, Campus Safety Coordinator

Heather Mork, Auditorium Manager, The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Auditorium

Betty Riley, Retired Nurse, Mercy Medical Center



Enrollment Management Team

Mercy High School leadership team members, staff, and other experts comprise the Enrollment Management Team. This team is working to reimagine the admissions cycle and to welcome and create community amongst incoming Mercy Girls.

Bonnie Bevans Kottraba '98, Director of Enrollment Management; Team Captain

Caroline King '11, Assistant Director of Admissions

Dan Shanahan P'07, '13, Director of Business Development, Denver Elek

Lauren Traskey, Director of Communications and Special Projects

Lauren Calva '10, Advancement Director, St. Ursula School



Fundraising Team

Mercy High School leadership team members, members of Mercy High School's Board of Trustees, staff, and other experts comprise the Fundraising Team. This team is communicating positively and proactively with current and prospective families, alumnae, donors, community stakeholders, and other stakeholders to meet our fundraising goals.

Amy Dean Kemp, Director of Advancement; Team Captain

Mary Beth Lennon '85, President

Rich Huebler P'18, '19, Member, Multicam East LLC; Trustee

Sister Pat Smith, RSM, Trustee

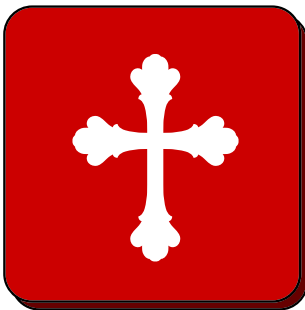
Karen Lippy Maimone '92, P'19, Director of Alumnae Engagement

Niakia Cheese-Thornton, Director of Development

Tami Zavislan, Associate Director of Annual Giving, Mercy Medical Center

Charlie Hiebler P'20, Associate Director, Office of Alumni Engagement, Loyola University Maryland

Pat Muth, Director, Major and Lead Gifts, Catholic Charities



In process...

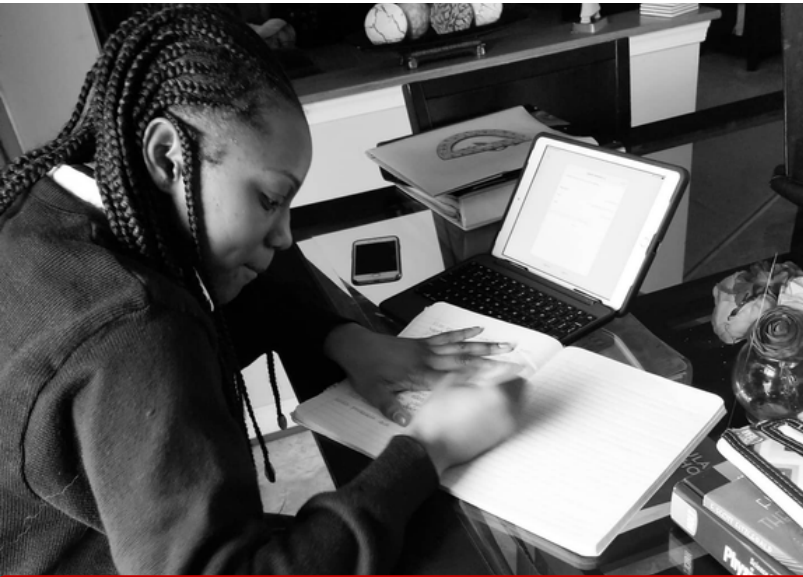
Spirituality and Wellness Team

The Spirituality and Wellness Team is currently being formed and will have additional members added to it. This team will work to make sure the spiritual needs of our community are met in the midst of COVID-19.

Kristy Cummings P'16, '23, Director of Student Services and College Counseling; Team Captain

Jeanne A. Blakeslee, Principal

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



TERMS *defined*

CONNECTED LEARNING

Teaching and learning that takes place primarily in an online format. Connected learning will primarily be synchronous with some asynchronous features.

SYNCHRONOUS LEARNING

Teaching and learning happens at appointed times where the teacher and students meet in concurrent formats.

ASYNCHRONOUS LEARNING

Teaching and learning happens at varied times where teachers provide information and content that students can access at different times, or groups can work together outside of synchronous learning.

HYBRID LEARNING MODEL

A mix of classroom campus and connected teaching and learning.

ORIENTATION DATES



Freshmen Orientation

Orientation for the Class of 2024 will take place on August 26 and 27.



Sophomore Orientation

Orientation and classes for the Class of 2023 will take place on August 28.



Junior Orientation

Orientation and classes for the Class of 2022 will take place on August 31.



Senior Orientation

Orientation and classes for the Class of 2021 will take place on September 1.