



September 25, 2020

Dear Mercy parents and students,

In our August update on reopening, we promised to share another update at the end of September. After consultation with members of our Board of Trustees, our COVID Response Team, and our leadership team, we are pleased to provide the following information. Mercy High School will move from *Mercy PACE* to *Mercy Hybrid* in October. With favorable indicators around COVID rates, careful implementation of protocols aligning with guidelines from the CDC and other authorities, and the communication and guidance we have received from our local health department, we can begin to move to *Mercy Hybrid*. Our approach continues to be *prudent, flexible, and creative*, and our plans below reflect these hallmarks.

**During the week of October 5**, staggered groups of teachers will begin teaching virtually from their classrooms, as well as testing out new classroom technology that will support *Mercy Hybrid*.

**During the week of October 12**, we will begin to implement *Mercy Hybrid*, with freshmen learning from campus, and sophomores, juniors and seniors learning from home.

**During the week of October 19**, we will implement the *Mercy Hybrid* with all students coming to campus on their assigned days. Students in Group 1 will attend class on campus on October 19 and 20; students in Group 2 will attend class on October 22 and 23. Students will continue a similar pattern on campus with Group 1 on campus on Mondays and Tuesdays and Group 2 on campus Thursdays and Fridays. The end of the quarter will be moved from October 28 to October 30.

More information about our plans, including the details of the hybrid schedule, campus hours, student pick-up and drop-off, and health and safety protocols, will be shared in the coming weeks. Families who would like their daughters to continue to participate in online learning from home when we are in *Mercy Hybrid* can choose to do so. If you choose this option, your daughter must continue in this mode through Friday, November 6. To choose this option for your daughter, please contact Ms. Nicole Ruth at [nruth@mercyhighschool.com](mailto:nruth@mercyhighschool.com) in the Office of Academic and Student Affairs by Monday, October 5.

As part of the *Mercy PACE* model, our students have returned to campus successfully for a range of activities, including athletic skills training sessions. We are pursuing all options for fall sports, and we are in conversation with the Interscholastic Athletic Association of Maryland (IAAM) about a return to competition. Fall tryouts for Mercy students will begin on Monday, October 5. *Please note: scrimmages or contests by IAAM member schools are not currently permitted by the IAAM.* Athletic Director Nick Gill will be communicating more details via email to students and parents. Health and safety protocols for athletics will continue to be strictly observed.

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Yesterday was the Feast of Our Lady of Mercy and the celebration of Mercy Day/Ring Day. As a community, we rejoiced with the class of 2021 on their milestone day. It was wonderful to be together, and we look forward to other opportunities as our circumstances permit. Be assured of our continued prayers that our seniors and all of our Mercy Girls and their families enjoy the blessings of health and happiness.

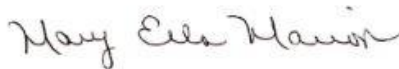
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary Beth Lennon". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Mary Beth Lennon '85

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeanne A. Blakeslee". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Jeanne A. Blakeslee  
Principal

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Ella Franz Marion". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Mary Ella Franz Marion '76  
Dean of Students