



Mercy
High School

Clubs & Activities

2024 - 2025

Clubs and Activities

ALL ARE WELCOME

“All Are Welcome Club” is an organization that promotes inclusivity within the student body. We are dedicated to fulfilling our foundress, Catherine McAuley’s, mission of empowering and educating young people, in terms of students’ backgrounds and identities. We work to create a sanctuary of safety and individuality, where all people are welcomed and accepted. Within our gatherings, each member is encouraged to open up a dialogue about their own unique experiences and goals, as well as participate in activities that inspire collaborative solutions to injustices related to anti-inclusivity. Together, we wish to create a safe haven containing discussion, comfort, and celebration of all people, acting concurrently with the modern ideals of our evolving, progressive era.

Moderator: Ms. Buonasora

ART CLUB

In Art Club, students have the opportunity to work freely on personal art projects as well as projects related to the school and community. It is a great place to not only be creative, but to meet new friends and just hang out and relax while creating exciting projects using many different mediums. It is also an opportunity to enjoy some time dedicated to art for those students who could not fit an art elective into their schedule. Art Club meets twice a month after school in Room 220.

Moderator: Mrs. Roper

BEAM – Black Excellence At Mercy

B.E.A.M. (Black Excellence At Mercy) is a student-run and student-centered club founded at Mercy primarily to promote cultural diversity, healthy conversation, and the empowerment of young women of color to find a community. While a goal is to highlight diverse representation at our school, students of all backgrounds are welcome and encouraged to join us in our community service opportunities, engage in our fun after-school activities, experience guest speakers, and learn from each other about our core values!

Moderator: Mr. Cahill

GOOD NEWS - BIBLE STUDY

The Bible tells the story of God’s love. Let’s read it together. We will get together two times a month to learn and experience God’s freedom, companionship and friendship with one another. God loves you and wants to be in a lifelong friendship with YOU! Please join us on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month to read the Gospel of John. There will be snacks!

Moderator: Mrs. Malafrente

BOTANY CLUB

Botany Club welcomes everyone who has an interest in plants! Plants bring peace, happiness, and joy to the world. This club will provide members with opportunities to celebrate the everyday plants in our lives. Activities will include nature crafts, trail walks, species identification, lots of planting, and even some tasty plants to eat! Our long-term goal is to purchase an outdoor greenhouse for Mercy where our plants can thrive year-round. Come join us! We are a new club, eager to grow and share our love for plants.

Moderator: Mrs. Reagan

BRACELETS FOR THE BRAVE

Bracelets for the Brave is a club that all students may join. Students gather in Room 104 to craft friendship bracelets of various designs and styles as well as encouraging cards. At the end of each semester, we send all the bracelets we make as a gift to the children Children's Medical Center Foundation in Texas. Our hope is to support them and encourage them as they bravely fight against their illnesses. No previous knowledge or skill needed!

Moderator: Mrs. Grace Farrell

BREAKFAST BOOK CLUB

Breakfast book club is a club that was proposed by a junior at Mercy High School who responded to a need for student athletes to be able to participate in extracurricular activities at times that did not conflict with their sport's team responsibilities. The book club meets before school (7:30 a.m.) once a month to discuss a novel which is selected by members of the group. We have food, discussion, and bookish talk. This club is particularly unique because the membership includes students, some faculty, and staff.

Moderator: Ms. Freeman

BROADCAST JOURNALISM

Broadcast Journalism Club produces a regular school video new program and produces two podcasts a year. Club members will be involved in all areas of production in front of and behind the camera writing scripts, operating cameras and anchoring the news. If you have an interest in story production, video and audio editing and livestream broadcasts, this is the club for you! Meeting times vary, depending on projects with the expectation of attending at least one meeting a week. All grade levels welcome.

Moderator: Mrs. Crutchfield

CATHERINE'S SHAWL MINISTRY

The Catherine's Shawl Ministry is made up of students, faculty, staff members, moms, alumnae, parents of alumnae and friends of students who volunteer their time and share their talents by either knitting, crocheting, putting together fleece blankets, making hats for preemie babies and adult cancer patients both for those in our Mercy community and for those outside our community who need support. We are always looking for new ways to get involved in serving our community through the work of our hands. So, if you can knit, tie knots or crochet please join us this year in helping to bring joy and comfort to others. Parents, alumnae, friends of Mercy are also invited to join us by making items at home and then sending them in to be prayed over and then donated to

those in need. If you would like to be part of this ministry, or have any questions, please contact Ms. Derbacher at aderbacher@mercyhigh.com.

Moderator: Ms. Derbacher

CHESS CLUB

The Chess Club is open to students of all grades and with any ability level. If you have never played before, you can learn this great game! Typically, chess matches are casual, but the club welcomes the idea of having a tournament among its members. Chess Club meets weekly on Mondays.

Moderator: Mr. Michaud

CODING CLUB

Mercy Girls Who Code Clubs is meant for girls to join our sisterhood of supportive peers and use Computer Science to change the world. You will be able to learn from fun and simple online coding tutorials, build community through interactive activities, and learn about inspiring role models. You then work in teams to design and build a Girls Who Code Project that solves real world problems. Whether you are new to coding or have lots of experience coding, this is the club for you!

Moderator: Mrs. Crutchfield

COOKING CLUB

The Mercy High School Cooking Club meets twice a month and consists of cooks at all levels of expertise. The experienced chefs plan menus, get recipes and ingredients, and then teach the beginners their culinary skills. Once cooking is completed, the class enjoys the “masterpiece.” Many students go home and try the recipes with their families.

Moderator: Mrs. Bailey

DANCE TEAM

The Mercy High School Dance Team is a competitive Hip Hop team. The team practices weekly and performs at school wide events. The team attends various competitions throughout the year. Girls have the opportunity to bring their personal dance experience and creativity to the team while strengthening their technique and learning new choreography. Dance Team is a wonderful way to meet Mercy girls from all grades. Tryouts are held at the beginning of each school year.

Moderator: Ms. LaBella

ECOLOGY CLUB

Students interested in learning about environmental issues and making the world more eco-friendly meet twice a month to discuss and plan activities such as trail and campus clean-ups, movie nights, and climate demonstrations. The club goes on regular nature hikes and works to improve Mercy’s recycling program.

Moderator: Mr. Oeschger

FIGHT AGAINST CANCER CLUB (FAC)

The Fight Against Cancer Club has monthly meetings and is open to all students who wish to raise awareness about the disease. Members take part in fundraising activities and volunteer their time and talents to help those in communities across the globe celebrate the lives of people who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost, and fight back against the disease. Members will help educate the Mercy community by sharing information and stories about the disease, those who have survived it and offer support for those in need. Join us in the fight against cancer.

Moderator: Ms. Buonasora

GIRL UP!

“Girl Up – is a girl centered leadership development initiative, focusing on equity for girls and women in spaces where they are unheard or underrepresented. Girl Up’s mission is to develop transformative leaders who advance gender justice worldwide. Girl Up was founded by the United Nations Foundation as the first-of-its-kind initiative dedicated to supporting adolescent girls’ education, health, and safety. Since then, Girl Up has grown to become a global movement that engages, trains, and mobilizes girls and young people to be leaders.” At Mercy, Girl Up strives to give girls the opportunity to become global leaders and channel their energy and compassion to raise awareness and funds for the United Nations programs that help some of the world’s hardest-to-reach adolescent girls.

Moderator: Mrs. Ray

JUSTICE AND PEACE – WANT PEACE? WORK FOR JUSTICE

Students meet monthly to plan outreach programs for the local communities including a coat drive, collecting items for a battered women’s shelter, volunteering at St. Vincent de Paul soup kitchen, a food drive for the Red Cross and making quilts for the homeless. This year our efforts and energies will be directed to OUR COMMON HOME too! We invite speakers from various fields to come and share their expertise with us and find ways to work in solidarity for PEACE!

Moderator: Mrs. Pepitone

LIBRARY ADVISORY CLUB

Members of the Library Media Center Advisory Club are an important part of the selection process of fiction books purchased for the library. Members meet monthly to discuss current trends in young adult literature and the library’s collection needs. Members help plan reading-centered events, such as our annual Barnes and Noble Bookfair and generate excitement about reading. Members can also earn service hours by helping maintain our growing collection. To join, please send a brief note of interest to Mrs. Crutchfield.

Moderator: Mrs. Crutchfield

MATH CLUB

The Mercy Math club provides math and problem-solving based activities open to the entire school community. Members of the math club meet once a month to plan school wide activities such as scavenger hunts and math bingo! The Mercy Math Club welcomes girls from all grades 9-12.

Moderator: Mrs. Dziatko

MATH TEAM

The Math Team is a fun and competitive activity as well as a great way for students to develop intuitive thinking skills and learn new types of math. Students will not only learn new material, but also will apply their previous math knowledge from school instructions to do more challenging problems and higher-level exercises. Team members will meet regularly for training and discussion with the moderator. The team will take part in various math competitions sponsored by the Middlesex County Math League. Both team and individual competitions are available.

Moderator: Junior Varsity and Varsity – Mrs. Dziatko

MEDICAL MINDS

The Medical Minds Club consists of students who are interested in the healthcare field and wish to explore the options available to them in order to pursue their chosen path. Mercy alumnae and other guest speakers from various medical professions are invited to meetings to present what experiences are needed in order to obtain the proper qualifications for their field of choice as well as address the personal path they took to reach their goals. After each semester, the club releases a newsletter highlighting the guest speakers from the previous months, facts from the medical field, as well as information on volunteer and internship programs available.

Moderator: Mrs. Rodrigues

MERCY AMBASSADORS/RECRUITMENT TEAM

Open to any student who believes in Mercy and feels that she could be a mature representative of our school. Applicants must be in good academic standing. Interested students must submit an application for the moderators' review. Responsibilities include—but aren't limited to—being a tour guide at Open House, speaking at school visits and high school nights, greeting students, and assisting proctors during the November, December, and January Entrance Exams, and assisting with Discover Mercy in March, and at other special Admissions events. Throughout the year, Mercy Ambassadors will host prospective student visitors through our *Mercy Girl for a Day* program. Some Mercy Ambassadors will be selected to serve on the Mercy Ambassadors Transfer Transition Team which helps to welcome newly transferred students to Mercy. Please see Mrs. Papke for an application.

Moderators: Ms. Barone and Mrs. Papke

MERCY LIFE ISSUES

Do you like to discuss, inform, and learn about all types of issues on life that are going on in today's world? Then MERCY LIFE is a group to join! We invite all students, faculty, and staff to join us. We even get together with the Xavier guys for discussions and projects. We talk about the issues that are important to you. Mercy Advocates are for ALL LIFE. It is important to know the facts, be educated on different topics and then be able to share your information with others. If you like a good discussion, different opinions and a no judgment zone, check us out.

Moderators: Ms. Derbacher, Mrs. Grace Farrell, and Mrs. Pepitone

MOCK TRIAL TEAM

The goal of Mock Trial is to educate students about the foundations of our United States' judicial system and the mechanics of litigation. Through participation in the program, students will increase basic skills such as listening, speaking, reading, writing, and problem analysis by role playing lawyers and witnesses. In so doing, students explore all aspects of a trial. Each year teams try a case against other school teams with the possibility of success at the national championship. It takes many different talents to develop a successful team. Keep yourself open to possibilities.

Moderators: Dr. Bullock and Mr. Levesque

MUSIC MINISTRY

“Those who sing, pray twice”. Music Ministry is open to anyone who wants to be a part of enhancing the liturgy through praise and worship. You can sing, play an instrument or both! Music is an integral part of celebrating Mass by adding more beauty to prayer and creating a sense of community. All are invited!!

Moderator: Mrs. Brugger

MYARC (Middlesex Youth ARC)

Founded in 1971 by Brother Robert Houlihan, students from both Mercy High School and Xavier High School volunteer to assist adults with I/DD (intellectual and developmental disabilities) in a Movement Dance Class on Tuesdays and an Art & Crafts class on Thursdays from 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. All MYARC classes are held at Mercy High School as well as a mandatory orientation in early October. For this calendar year 2023/2024, the first session of classes will run in October & November 2023 and the second session of classes will run in January & February 2024.

Moderators: Lisa Christensen, Director of Adult Recreation at MARC Community Resources; Mrs. Papke – Mercy

PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB – New!

In this club, we plan to discuss and practice photography and editing. We'll explore the technical aspects of photography, including digital and learning how to work with a lens. The club provides a space for members to share their work, get feedback, and become better photographers!

Moderator: Ms. Freeman

Paws for PAL – New!

Description to follow.

Moderator: Mr. Fitzgerald

ROBOTICS (TechTigers)

The Mercy High School Robotics team (TechTigers) gets young people interested and involved in science and technology while having fun. Students work with adult mentors who teach the skills needed to build and program a robot and to run a business, so no previous experience is necessary. The robotics program has many parts to it. The most obvious one is that the students build a robot and compete with others in regional competitions. In each round of the competition, three robots form an alliance and work as a team. Since our robot will be working with each of the other robots at some point, it is important to support and get to know the other teams. There is also a business side to the team. The students are

expected to find sponsors, make presentations to them, and produce and keep a budget. Other students are responsible for designing a web site and for monitoring safety rules. There is something for everyone and enough parts so that each person can be in charge of something.

Moderator: Mrs. Ray

ROSARY FOR PEACE

A chance to meet every Thursday morning at 7:45 a.m. in the Chapel to recite the Rosary and Pray for Peace in our world. We are grateful to have a short time every week to pray for ourselves and others!

Moderator: Mrs. Grace Farrell and Mrs. Malafrente

ROTARY INTERACT CLUB

The Rotary Interact Club is an international service organization for young people. Sponsored by our local Middlesex County Rotary Club, our students join with more than 250,000 club members around the world who carry out two community service projects each year, including one that furthers international understanding and goodwill. Club members donate relief supplies to victims of natural disasters, organize fundraisers to purchase books for needy schools, and volunteer their time and energy in the community. An 80% attendance is required to maintain membership throughout the school year.

Moderator: Mrs. Mullaney

SIGN LANGUAGE CLUB

The goal of this club is to spread awareness of hearing- impaired individuals. We will learn ASL together as a Mercy community. The meetings will take place every other Tuesday during the activity period. We are studying basic communication skills and plan many fun activities.

Moderator: Ms. Freeman

SKI & SNOWBOARD CLUB

This club meets for four consecutive Wednesdays from 4-7 during January and February at Powder Ridge Ski Mountain. Transportation is provided to and from Powder Ridge. Students are picked up at Mercy High School. All skill levels are welcome, and lessons are available. A great time!!

Moderators: Ms. Dunn and Mrs. Malafrente

SOCIAL MEDIA CLUB

Social Media Club is for students who exhibit interest and talent in storytelling, reporting, photography, and video production. Students are allowed to develop their social media skills by brainstorming content, establishing a production plan, creating campaigns, taking pictures, shooting videos, and drafting captions for various platforms. There will be standing monthly meetings and additional meetings as needed.

Moderator: Mr. Conyers

STOCK MARKET CLUB

The Stock Market Club is open to students of all grades and does not require any knowledge of stocks or finance. Students will learn about stocks, mutual funds, and the market. They will also participate in the “Stock Market Game” which is a simulation that allows students to buy and sell stocks over the course of a few months. The Stock Market Club meets biweekly on Thursdays.

Moderator: Mr. Michaud

SURF RIDER CLUB

Surfrider Club is dedicated to marine conservation. It is interconnected with the Surfrider network, and it is a space for like-minded students to come together to discuss ecological issues and ways to best keep our coasts clean and our marine life safe.

Moderator: Ms. LaBella

UKULELE CLUB

We will meet every Tuesday for a half hour in Room 103. There will be a lesson every meeting and all levels are WELCOME! We will have Ukes to borrow or buy. Come join us!

Moderator: Mrs. Malafrente

WRITING CLUB

Students that are interested in writing poetry, prose, plays, song lyrics, short stories or graphic novels should check out this club. We provide a positive, creative atmosphere for a writer to grow. We offer author events, workshops, and other exercises to benefit individual skill and competence. We meet during the activity period.

Moderator: Ms. Freeman

Music and Theater Performing Arts

MERCY/XAVIER DRAMA PRODUCTION and DRAMA CLUB

Drama Club is for Mercy and Xavier high school students who are interested in performing and learning about theatre. Students will interact through improvisation, acting techniques, and scene work. Students will also have the opportunity to learn about the technical aspects of theatre as well. There is a full production in the fall and several special events to showcase talent.

Moderators: Mr. Cahill and Mrs. Frace Farrell

MERCY/XAVIER MUSICAL

Major musical plays are undertaken and performed at Mercy High School in early March by a large cast of Mercy and Xavier students. Fine Broadway musicals such as Halo award winning “Mamma Mia!”, “Sister Act”, “Fiddler on the Roof”, “Into the Woods” and “Les Miserables” are just some of the productions that have filled the Mercy auditorium with music, laughter, and enthusiasm. Watch the written announcements in November for details of this year’s production.

Moderators: Mrs. Brugger, Mr. Cahill, and Mrs. Grace Farrell

Student Leadership Organizations

STUDENT COUNCIL (StuCo)

The Mercy High School Student Council has been established to maintain school spirit, create unity among the classes, encourage good relations between the administration and the student body, foster student relationships in advisor group, cultivate student leaders, instill good citizenship, organize, and promote social activities between Mercy and Xavier students, and sponsor schoolwide student activities. It represents the entire student body and provides the means for student expression. Students are chosen by schoolwide elections for their positions. Meetings are announced in advance on the Mercy High calendar.

Moderators: Mr. Michaud and Mrs. Nelson

PEER MINISTRY/PEER MINISTERS

Peer Ministers are seniors who serve others in the name of Jesus. They are a unique blend of talents and abilities that help with their mission as spiritual leaders in the school. They are responsible for planning Masses, leading Morning Prayer, creating feast day prayer services, planning a school-wide retreat day, conducting faith sharing groups and any other spiritual needs of the community. Peer Ministers serve as positive role models to all members of the community. Juniors are invited in January to apply to become a Peer Minister in their Senior year. Peer Ministers, as witnesses for Jesus Christ, continue to grow in their own faith and are willing to share their beliefs and struggles with others. If you have any questions, contact Ms. Derbacher, Campus Minister at aderbacher@mercyhigh.com.

Moderator: Ms. Derbacher

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY (NHS)

The McAuley Chapter of the National Honor Society sponsors service projects for Mercy High School and the community. Members and BeAT tutors volunteer their time to assist their peers in all subjects. The chapter recruits donors for the Red Cross Blood Drive, collects gifts for Santa's Sack in December and candy for Easter Bunny Bundles in the spring. During the past twenty years, the chapter has presented over \$100,000 in scholarships to students at Mercy.

Moderator: Mrs. Bailey

FRENCH NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

The French National Honor Society, also known as *Societe Honoraire de Francais*, is a national and international academic honor society in the study of high school French and is sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of French. The purpose of this Society is to support high achievement in French and to promote continuity of interest in French studies. Membership is open to all sophomores and juniors who have maintained a composite average of 90 or above in French for three semesters at Mercy, and an overall academic GPA of 3.6. Other criteria for selection into the Society are character, honesty, and a commitment of service to others. Seniors who meet these criteria may be inducted as "honorary members" of the Society. A member will be removed from

the Chapter for failure to maintain an honor average, misconduct, or other serious infractions.

Moderator: Ms. Freeman

ITALIAN NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

The Italian National Honor Society, also known as *Societa Onoraria Italica*, is a national and international academic honor society in the study of high school Italian and is sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of Italian. The purpose of this society is to stimulate interest in the study of the Italian language, to give recognition for distinguished achievement in Italian, and to promote an understanding and appreciation of the Italian culture and civilization. Membership is open to 11th and 12th grade students with a cumulative GPA of 3.6 or better and who have maintained a composite average of 90% in Italian. Other criteria for selection into the Society are character, leadership, seriousness of purpose, cooperation, honesty, service, and commitment to others. A member will be removed from the chapter for failure to maintain an honor average, misconduct, or other serious infractions. Members must be enrolled in an Italian Language class to retain membership.

Moderator: Mrs. Bailey

MATHEMATICS NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

The Mercy High School Chapter of Mu Alpha Theta is a duly affiliated chapter of the national high school and two-year college mathematics honor society. The society is dedicated to inspiring a keen interest in mathematics, developing strong scholarship in the subject and promoting the enjoyment of mathematics in high school students. Students who have completed two years of high school mathematics and are in the 11th or 12th grade are eligible for membership. Members maintain a GPA of 3.8 in all mathematics courses with an overall GPA of 3.6 in other courses. In addition to maintaining academic standards, members must actively participate in the Mercy Math club, provide a minimum of 6 hours of peer tutoring annually and enroll in a mathematics course each of their four years at Mercy. A member will be removed from the chapter for failure to maintain membership requirements, misconduct or other serious infractions.

Moderator: Mrs. Dziatko

SPANISH NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Mercy High School announced in March 2011 its acceptance into *Sociedad Honoraria Hispanica*, also known as the Spanish National Honor Society. The Society is classified as a national and international academic honor society in the study of high school Spanish. The purpose of this Society is to recognize high achievement in Spanish and to promote continuity of interest in Spanish/Hispanic studies.

Moderator: Mrs. LaBella

MERCY/XAVIER INTERNATIONAL THESPIAN SOCIETY

The International Thespian Society (ITS), founded in 1929, is an honorary organization for high school and middle school theatre students located at more than 4,900 affiliated secondary schools across America and abroad. The mission of ITS is to honor student achievement in the theatre arts. High school inductees are known as Thespians. ITS is a division of the Educational Theatre Association (EdTA). For more information regarding eligibility criteria, please view the Thespian Induction Eligibility information at the following website:

<https://www.schooltheatre.org/internationalthespiansociety/teachers/troupedirectors/troupehandbook#1a>.

Moderators: Mr. Cahill and Mrs. Grace Farrell

TRI-M MUSIC HONOR SOCIETY

The Tri-M® Music Honor Society is the international music honor society for middle level and high school students. Tri-M®, formerly known as Modern Music Masters, is part of the National Association for Music Education and is an organization that recognizes students for their academic and musical achievements. Tri-M® rewards students for their accomplishments and service activities and inspires other students to excel in music and leadership. The students are chosen based on their participation in the music department, service to their community, meeting academic goals and by their strength of character. The Tri-M® Music Honor Society has been providing years of service through music by chartering nearly 5,000 senior and junior division chapters worldwide and providing over 750,000 hours of service to their local communities.

Moderator: Mrs. Brugger

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What will you do?

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