

SCHOOL PROFILE 2021-2022

CEEB Code: **391600**

Gwynedd Mercy Academy
High School
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COLLEGE COUNSELORS

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ACCREDITATION

Fully accredited by the Pennsylvania
Association of Independent School

*GMAHS College Counseling reports any
infractions of major school rules resulting in
suspensions or other significant disciplinary
action.*

The present student body of **395
students** comes from **20 school
districts** through-out Bucks,
Montgomery, and Philadelphia
counties.

- The faculty and staff: **72**
- **3** of the faculty and staff members are Sisters of Mercy
- Teacher/student ratio **1:10**
- Average class size: **18 students**

Gwynedd Mercy Academy High School

Established 1861
Recognized as a School of Excellence
by the U.S. Department of Education

COMMUNITY

Gwynedd Mercy Academy High School is located in suburban Montgomery County on 43 acres, 20 miles northwest of center city, Philadelphia, adjacent to Gwynedd Mercy University.

DISTINCTIVE PROGRAMS

Leadership Institute Four-year comprehensive ethical leadership development program blending classroom instruction, experiential learning, and student designed and driven community service programs.

Mercy Mester/Intermission One week midyear deep dive into interdisciplinary topic of the student's choice mission-aligned with the Sisters of Mercy Critical Concerns of Racism, Nonviolence, Women, Immigration, and the Earth.

Wellness Curriculum Curriculum and programming built around an eight-category wellness wheel that addresses the categories within grade specific themes to educate, inspire, and empower leaders for college and beyond.

Global Learning Member of worldwide Mercy Education system partnering with other Mercy schools in classrooms and through service projects.

Design Thinking All freshmen introduced to computational design thinking, robotics, coding and visual and performing arts to spark passion for STEAM and inspire innovation.

INITIATIVES

Leadership Counsel Select group of upperclassmen meet regularly with LEAD Department Chair and GMAHS President to plan and advise student leadership initiatives.

Lead4Change Students can become leadership certified through a 12-course program centered on community service.

Internships There are 20+ year-long internship positions available for students within various departments at GMAHS. Students must fulfill 50+ hours within the school year.

Externships Students are provided the opportunity to network with alumnae to secure a summer externship with a time commitment of 30 hours. Students must keep a journal and complete a presentation in the fall.

COVID-19 UPDATE

There were no major changes to our grading policies in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Spring 2019 Virtual Learning Plan, students participated in synchronous classes via Microsoft Teams from home.

Fall 2020 Hybrid Learning Plan, students attended school on designated cohort days and attended classes via livestream on virtual days.

Spring 2021 Returned to fully in-person instruction.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Each student is required to take 24 credits to graduate. Required courses are:

- Theology (4 years)
- English (4 years)
- Mathematics (3 years)
- Science (3 years)
- Social Studies (3 years)
- Foreign Language (2 years)

Honors and AP level courses offered

- No limitations on the number of AP courses a student can take, but students are advised to carefully consider the rigor of these courses.
- Students enrolled in an AP course are required to sit for the exam.

Archdiocesan Scholars participating partner

- Each year up to 4 seniors are selected to take courses at a local Catholic University.
- Students traditionally take 4 semester-long courses at Gwynedd Mercy University due to proximity.
- The courses are listed on our transcript, but they are NOT calculated into our GPA.

Catherine Learning Program

- Academic support program providing individualized strategies for success.
- Course listed on transcript as “Academic Support”.
- Students given 1 credit for the course and it is not calculated into the GPA.

GRADING SYSTEM/ CLASS RANK

- Marking system is numerical, with a grade of 70 considered passing
- Courses are weighted according to the degree of rigor (see below)
- Overall GPA is weighted
- We do not assign rank to our students
- Minor courses are not included in GPA calculation

COURSE OFFERINGS

AP COURSES: GMAHS offers students 15 AP courses. Students pursuing our most rigorous offerings may choose one AP course junior year and 1-2 senior year. Anything additional is extremely rigorous. Students enrolled in an AP course are required to sit for the exam. 2020 ADVANCED PLACEMENT TEST RESULTS: 89% of students scored 3 or higher on one or more exam.

Math	Social Studies	English	Science
AP Statistics	AP U.S. History	AP Language	AP Biology
AP Calculus AB	AP U.S. Government	AP Literature	AP Chemistry
AP Calculus BC	AP Psychology		
	AP Human Geography		

Languages	Art	Computer Science
AP Spanish	AP Studio Art	AP Computer Science Principles
		AP Computer Science A

HONORS COURSES: Students pursuing our most rigorous offerings may take 2-3 Honors courses per year. Anything additional is extremely rigorous.

Math	Social Studies	English	Science
H Algebra 1	H World Cultures	H English 9	H Biology
H Algebra 2	H Topics in US History	H English 10	H Chemistry
H Geometry	H US Government & Politics	H English 11	H Physics
H Geometry Summer	H Modern World History	H English 12	H Anatomy & Physiology
H Calculus	H Developmental Psychology		H Environmental Science
H Intro to Engineering Design			

Languages	Art	Business	Music
H Spanish 2	H Art Studio	H Accounting	H Music 3
H Spanish 3			H Survey of American Music
H Spanish 4			
H Spanish 5			

NEW GRADING SCALE

(2019-20 to present)

Grade	Num. Equiv.
A	100-94
A-	93-91
B+	90-88
B	87-85
B-	84-82
C+	81-80
C	79-77
C-	76-75
D+	74-73
D	72-70
F	69-0

OLD GRADING SCALE

(through June 2019)

A	93-100
B	85-92
C	77-84
D	70-76
F	60-69

Level 0 - Minor course

Level 1 - AP (+ 8 points)

Level 2 - Honors (+6 points)

Level 3 - College Prep course

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

100% of the students in the graduating class of 2021 at Gwynedd Mercy Academy High School chose to further their education at institutions of higher learning.

Gwynedd's Counseling Center provides support and information to students and their parents as they sort through an array of options to make an informed choice regarding college education.

SAMPLING OF COLLEGES WHO OFFERED ADMISSION TO OUR STUDENTS IN THE LAST 3 YEARS

American University	Loyola University Maryland
Auburn University	Marist College
Boston College	University of Miami
Boston University	University of Michigan
Bryn Mawr College	Northeastern University
Bucknell University	Occidental College
University of California, Berkeley	University of Oregon
University of California, Davis	Pennsylvania State University
Carnegie Mellon University	University of Pennsylvania
Clemson University	Pepperdine University
Colgate University	University of Pittsburgh
Columbia University	Purdue University
Cornell University	University of Richmond
University of Delaware	University of Rochester
University of Denver	Rutgers University-New Brunswick
Dickinson College	Saint Joseph's University
Drexel University	Swarthmore College
Duquesne University	SUNY Maritime College
Elon University	Syracuse University
Fordham University	Tulane University
Franklin & Marshall College	United States Military Academy
Gettysburg College	West Point
Gonzaga University	United States Naval Academy
Hamilton College-NY	Villanova University
Haverford College	Virginia Tech
Ithaca College	University of Virginia
Johns Hopkins University	Wake Forest University
Lafayette College	University of Wisconsin
Lehigh University	



Educate. Inspire. Empower.

