



Principal

SEARCH PROSPECTUS



Our Lady of Mercy Academy

SYOSSET, NY

www.olma.org

START DATE – JULY 2018



Mission Statement

Our Lady of Mercy Academy is dedicated to providing a comprehensive education grounded in the charism of Catherine McAuley, foundress of the Sisters of Mercy. Guided by the principles of Fides, Mores and Cultura, the faculty and staff educate young women within a compassionate environment to empower them to be authentic witnesses of Catholic values in the global community.

Vision Statement

Our Lady of Mercy Academy inspires the hearts, minds, and spirits of young women to lead, serve and succeed in their colleges, careers, communities and lives.



About the School

Our Lady of Mercy Academy (OLMA) prepares young women to be life-long learners and empowers them to use their God-given gifts to make a difference in the world. Core values such as compassion and service, educational excellence, concern for women and women's issues, global vision and responsibility, spiritual growth and development, collaboration with others and reverence for the earth are the guiding principles for all young women who attend.

Sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, this is a school for families seeking an exemplary college preparatory education rooted in Christian values. Providing a comprehensive education that develops and cultivates each student's academic pursuits, personal gifts and talents in a safe and welcoming environment is what guides the school in achieving excellence. Our Lady of Mercy Academy is proud of its longtime traditions, many of which date back to the school's founding in 1928. These traditions serve as hallmarks of the Mercy experience.

Dedication to challenging its young women to develop their strengths and talents is of utmost importance. With a rigorous academic curriculum, extracurricular activities and a diversified service program, there is abundant opportunity to thrive in a nurturing environment. Students are challenged to lead and become moral leaders in school and in the larger community. This includes local, national, and global service opportunities.

As a school sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, modeled by its foundress Catherine McAuley, its charism of service provides foundational strength to every part of the Mercy experience. This is evident in academic programs, social events, service projects, and support of one another. OLMA is part of a network of over 50 Mercy Secondary Schools located in 20 states in the US, six countries in Latin America, and the Caribbean.

Geographically, the 96 acres of campus create an atmosphere of spaciousness and natural beauty. The wide, rolling acres serve the Athletic Department for softball, tennis, soccer, lacrosse and track. The Science and Art Departments use the grounds for extended classroom instruction and experimentation, including an Arbor Day ceremony of planting memorial trees.

Our Lady of Mercy Academy is chartered by the Board of Regents of the University of New York, is accredited since 1983 by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, is a member of the Mercy Education System of the Americas (MESA), the National Catholic Educational Association, and the Catholic Schools Administrators Association of New York. The Academy's graduation requirements exceed the minimum expectations of the New York Education Department.

Intellect

Our Lady of Mercy Academy's young women have the chance to learn, lead, and gain self-confidence. The Mercy experience is one in which teachers want to teach and students want to learn. Students will be prepared for college-level academics and a lifetime of learning. Advanced Placement courses, college affiliation classes, computer labs, Internet access, on-line databases and a completely automated library media center, new science labs, and *iCenter* all are important resources available to the students to help achieve success and practice critical thinking.

Important to its mission and vision, students who have demonstrated, with honor, their scholarship, character, leadership and service are recognized for their accomplishments through membership in Honor Societies including: the Italian Honor Society, National Honor Society, National Art Honor Society, National Spanish Honor Society, the Tri-M Music Honor Society and the French National Honor Society.

EDEN is a 4-tiered program offering experiential, student-centered learning. The EDEN Research program is built upon the foundations of Education and Environment. It is intended for students who are interested in learning the scientific process and was created to give students an opportunity to design and conduct studies beyond the traditional classroom experience. Through their participation in the program, students will develop their understanding of the scientific method and its application to both the natural and social sciences; learn proper research methodology; enhance critical thinking, collaboration, writing, presentation, and communication skills; and experience the application of science and math to problem solving. The 4-tiered program offers experiential, student-centered learning experiences that support the gradual release of responsibility from teacher to student. A critical component of the program requires that students structure their research within the Catholic Church's guidelines for ethical and moral research.



Faith and Character

At Our Lady of Mercy Academy, students are encouraged to become women of Mercy by living the Mercy core values of justice, compassion, respect, integrity, and service. These values are lived out as they develop a spirituality which includes a strong relationship with God, a community of care and respect, and service to people who are in need. They develop their relationship with God through retreats,

liturgies, daily prayer and Eucharistic adoration. They become a community through activities that call them to serve one another as well as those people who are in need. Opportunities for service bring forth a compassionate response as they contribute their best selves to society.

Campus Ministry is another central piece to living the Mercy experience. Its purpose is to bring about the Kingdom of God by fostering a culture of authentic Catholic witnesses in today's young church. It is centered in student affairs and campus life, offering opportunities to connect to the world in Christ's Way.

Daily prayer during morning and afternoon is part of the culture of faith. Students celebrate the sacraments of Eucharist and Confession, attend and facilitate retreats, make pilgrimages, and support one another during times of communal need. They serve, reaching out in the spirit of the Corporal Works of Mercy and the Beatitudes to meet the material and spiritual needs of all. This is accomplished through the facilitation of regular food, blood, clothing and toy drives, as well as mission trips (domestic and abroad). Students are encouraged to learn and live the Gospel teachings through service and compassion for others. They become disciples through their shared faith by practicing leadership, advocating for the vulnerable, and persisting in virtue.

“No work of charity can be more productive of good to society than the careful education of young women.”

— CATHERINE McAULEY



Guiding Beliefs:

- A collaborative environment is essential to achieve a common goal.
- Compassion and service are necessary to promote moral integrity.
- It is important to educate students about the roles of women in history and to challenge them to realize their unique genius.
- Every person has value and deserves respect.
- Through daily prayer, liturgical celebrations, and opportunities for service, spiritual growth is encouraged.

FAST FACTS



91

Class of 2017
Graduates

Class of 2017
Earned Over

\$21M

in College
Scholarships

410

Enrollment

7,500

Alumnae



11:1

Student-Teacher
Ratio

Extracurricular Activities

The Athletic Department at Our Lady of Mercy Academy views interscholastic athletics as an integral part of the total educational process in which student-athletes are challenged to develop their full potential. In the athletic program, students have a forum to develop their skills and fine-tune their abilities. In doing so, they experience a sense of self-accomplishment knowing they have achieved their personal best.

Athletes learn to work within a group, develop dedication to their teams, and make personal sacrifices for the common good.

Athletics, by nature, provide a significant opportunity to instill the qualities of personal integrity, honesty and self-discipline. Competitive athletics demand dedication, excellence, and determination. It takes courage to give 100 percent of self, have humility in victory and graciousness in defeat. The athlete puts forth the best of herself and, together with her team, represents the best of Our Lady of Mercy Academy.

The young women have many opportunities to participate in numerous clubs and sports teams to help each student identify their gifts and talents so that they understand where and how God has called them to serve.



The Critical Concerns of the Sisters of Mercy

Earth - We believe in the need to work toward the sustainability of life and support movements and legislation that secure the fundamental right to water for everyone, and that address climate change. That leads us to examine our own behaviors and policies and to adopt more environmentally sustainable practices. We also advocate against hydro fracking; against mining that impacts indigenous and impoverished communities; for regulations that protect land, air and water; and for national and international agreements that mitigate climate change and ensure support for those most vulnerable to its effects.

Immigration - We reverence the dignity of each person and believe everyone has the right to a decent home, livelihood, education and healthcare. In the United States we work for just and humane immigration laws, a reduction in deportations that tear families apart, and an end to the detention bed quota. We look at the root causes of immigration, including U.S. policies that contribute to the economic and social conditions that push people to flee their countries, and the global impact of migration through our reality as an international community of women religious.

Nonviolence - We work for peace through prayer, education, and personal and communal practices of nonviolence. We support nuclear disarmament, reduction of arms, and the use of dialogue instead of armed conflict. We work to prevent domestic violence and abuse of women and children, stop human trafficking and reduce violence in our communities. That leads us to advocate for commonsense gun violence prevention legislation, an end to the death penalty, an end to the U.S. military presence in Afghanistan, and dialogue with Syria and Iran.

FAST FACTS



Since 2013 OLMA has had 572 graduates

99%

Attended College

96%

Attended 4-Year College

3%

Attended 2-Year College



Racism - We believe racism is an evil affecting us all. We work to mobilize sisters and associates in recognizing and dismantling institutional racism in order to become an anti-racist multicultural community. We advocate for upholding the voting rights of marginalized Americans and for a fair criminal justice system and point out racism wherever it exists.

Women - We believe that women's education, health and spirituality need special attention. We continue this mission in our schools, colleges, health-care institutions and spirituality centers. We advocate for equal pay, for services for domestic violence victims, and for the rights of girls and women in especially repressive societies.

The Position

Our Lady of Mercy Academy seeks a collaborative, visionary instructional leader who will serve as its next Principal. The successful candidate will have a proven track record of achievement as a high school administrator, as well as a high level of enthusiasm for Catholic all-girls secondary education and an appreciation of the Mercy mission.

As the educational leader of the school the Principal, who is hired by the President and is endorsed by the Board of Directors, is accountable to and evaluated annually by the President. The Principal is responsible for day-to-day operations of the school in accordance with the Mission and Values of Our Lady of Mercy Academy. The responsibilities of the Principal include, but are not limited to, the following areas: faculty selection, Office of School Counseling, athletics, professional development, supervision and evaluation, curriculum and extracurricular implementation, New York State accreditation, mandated services, policies & procedures, student activities, parent and school relations, and school functions.

The candidate will serve as the instructional leader responsible for all aspects of the academic program, providing leadership, visioning and planning for the enhanced educational future of Our Lady of Mercy Academy. He/she will be charged with ensuring innovation and excellence in all aspects of school life and extra-curricular activities. This position also requires collaboration with the President in preparing, executing and operating within the annual budget and assisting the President in long-range and strategic planning.

Challenges and Opportunities

The compelling charism and traditions of the Sisters of Mercy have positioned OLMA to leverage its distinguishing characteristics of a rigorous college preparatory school steeped in the Catholic tradition, provided in a small welcoming community. The pride of being a "Mercy girl" is reflected in a well-known quote often spoken at OLMA: "Don't go through Mercy, let Mercy go through you".

The Principal will be expected to continue and maintain an emphasis on best practices in teaching and learning while ensuring high standards of academic and co-curricular excellence in delivering the respected experience. He or she will be an accomplished visionary who can effectively manage the mission-critical challenges of: sustaining and growing enrollment in a highly competitive market with



1188

SAT Average Score
Class of 2017



26

Average ACT Score
Class of 2017

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

Adelphi University	Ithaca College
Albright College	James Madison University
Alfred University	Keystone College
Allegheny College	King's College
Alvernia University	Lafayette College
American University	La Salle University
Arcadia University	Le Moyne College
Becker College	Long Island University, Brooklyn
Bentley University	Long Island University, Post, Old Westbury
Binghamton University	Loyola University Maryland
Boston College	Loyola University New Orleans
Boston Conservatory at Berklee	Lyndon State College
Boston University	Manhattan College
Brandeis University	Manhattanville College
Bucknell University	Marist College
Case Western Reserve	Marquette University
Carroll University	Marymount University
Catawba College	Maryville University
Champlain College	Marywood University
Chestnut Hill College	Mercy College
Christopher Newport University	Mercyhurst University
Clark University	Merrimack College
Clemson University	Miami University, Oxford
College of Charleston	Michigan State University
College of Mount Saint Vincent	Millersville University
Concordia College	Mitchell College
Connecticut College	Misericordia University
Cornell University	Molloy College
Curry College	Mount Saint Mary College
DeSales University	Muhlenberg College
Dean College	Nassau Community College
Dickenson College	Nazareth College
Dillard University	New York Institute of Technology
Dominican College	New York University
Drexel University	Northeastern University
Duke University	Nova Southeastern University
Eckerd College	Occidental College
Emerson College	Ohio State University
Emory University	Pace University
Emmanuel College	Pennsylvania State University
Fairfield University	Philadelphia University
Fairleigh Dickenson University	Providence College
Florida Southern College	Purdue University
Fordham University	Queens College of the CUNY
Franklin & Marshall College	Quinnipiac University
Franklin University, Switzerland	Rice University
Franklin Pierce University	Roanoke College
Gannon University	Roger Williams University
Gettysburg College	
Georgetown University	
Georgia Southern University	
Gustavus Adolphus College	
Hartwick College	
High Point University	
Hofstra University	
Hunter College of the CUNY	
Iona College	

a shrinking pool of prospective students, implementing 21st century curriculum and related student learning experiences, keeping tuition at affordable levels, providing adequate levels of tuition assistance, and continually updating facilities to support academics, athletics, the arts and co-curricular activities.

The faculty and staff are mission-focused and dedicated to their calling to serve in their ministry at OLMA. There is a “family centered” culture that embraces the concept that every young woman should be empowered to be intelligent, compassionate leaders in the community.

An aggressive and far-reaching strategic plan was recently completed which provides a blueprint for the future of OLMA. The next Principal will play a significant role in the support and implementation of OLMA’s mission and strategic plan.

Desired Qualities and Characteristics

The Principal supervises members of an operational team consisting of assistant principal, department chairs and faculty, who oversee the daily operations of the school. The Principal is hired by the President and reports directly to the President.

Position Qualifications:

- A practicing Catholic who models and communicates the teachings and traditions of the Catholic Church and assures that the core values and critical concerns of the Sisters of Mercy are reflected in all OLMA programs, practices, and operations.
- Holds Master’s degree in administration and valid NYS certification (or the ability to qualify) as a School Building Leader or School District Administrator.
- Minimum of eight years previous teaching experience and a minimum of four (4) years of school leadership experience at the secondary level required.
- Experience in the supervision and coordination of spiritual activities, advanced teaching practices and curriculum, school counseling, and the use of leading-edge technology.
- Knowledge and experience working with New York State Common Core Standards and Curriculum, as well as NYS requirements for graduation (inclusive of Pathways), credits, and standardized examinations (Regents and Common Core) as they apply to High School strongly preferred.
- Exceptional communication, interpersonal, and public speaking skills while serving as a highly visible public face of Our Lady of Mercy Academy in building constructive relationships with all stakeholders.
- Accessible and approachable leadership style that relates to students while being extremely visible and interactive on campus and at school events..
- Demonstrates an understanding of the conditions for market leadership in a competitive private high school college preparatory environment, with proven experience in a President/Principal governing structure.
- Inspirational, humble, and authentic mentor who lives the OLMA mission and instills leadership in others.
- Able to establish immediate rapport and trust with students, faculty, staff, board members, parents, and alumnae communities.
- Skilled at identifying, attracting, developing, and retaining high-quality educators with a commitment and passion for delivering a transformational Catholic educational experience.
- Proven leadership in ongoing mentoring, professional development and evaluation of faculty and staff.
- Fair, personable, and compassionate leader who embraces collaboration while leading with enthusiasm and a commitment to excellence.
- Knowledge of, and an appreciation for the charisma of the Sisters of Mercy, or the willingness to learn and embrace the rich traditions of the Sisters.



Application Procedure

To apply, please submit the following materials, confidentially and as separate PDF attachments in one email to Michael Furey. Please include Our Lady of Mercy Academy in subject field.

- Cover letter that aligns your experiences and skill sets with the current needs of the school as you understand them.
- Current resume with all appropriate dates included.
- Statement of Catholic educational philosophy.
- List of five references including names, physical addresses, phone numbers and email addresses. No references will be contacted without your knowledge and approval.



Michael Furey, Managing Partner
 mikefurey@partnersinmission.com
 Partners in Mission School Leadership Search Solutions, LLC
 124 Sycamore Drive Westwood, MA 02090
 www.partnersinmissionslss.com

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

Continued

Rollins College	Chapel Hill
Rowan University	The University of
Rutgers University	Scranton
Sacred Heart	The University of
University	Tampa
Saint Anselm	Towson University
College	Tulane University
Saint Joseph's	University of
College, LI	Connecticut
Saint Joseph's	University of
University	Colorado, Boulder
Saint Michael's	University of Dayton
College	University of
Saint Peter's	Delaware
College	University of Denver
Salisbury University	University of Florida
Salve Regina	University of
University	Hartford
Savannah College of	University of
Art and Design	Kentucky
Seton Hall	University of Maine
University	University of
Shenandoah	Maryland, Colle
University	Park
Siena College	University of
St. John's College	Massachusetts,
St. John's University	Amherst
St. Lawrence	University of
University	Massachusetts,
St. Thomas Aquinas	Boston
College	University of Miami
Stetson University	University of
Stonehill College	Michigan
Stony Brook	University of
University	Mississippi
Suffolk Community	University of the
College	Pacific
Suffolk University	University of
SUNY Albany	Pittsburgh
SUNY Brockport	University of Rhode
SUNY Buffalo	Island
SUNY Cortland	University of
SUNY College of	Richmond
Environmental	University of
Science	Rochester
SUNY Farmingdale	University of South
State College	Carolina
SUNY Fredonia	University of South
SUNY Geneseo	Florida, Tampa
SUNY Morrisville	University of
SUNY New Paltz	Vermont
SUNY College at Old	University of Virginia
Westbury	University of
SUNY Oneonta	Wisconsin,
SUNY Oswego	Madison
SUNY Plattsburgh	Utica College
SUNY Stony Brook	Villanova University
Susquehanna	Virginia
University	Commonwealth
Syracuse University	University
The Catholic	Washington College
University of	Washington and Lee
America	University
The College of St.	West Virginia
Rose	University
The George	Western New
Washington	England
University	University
The New School,	Wilkes University
Eugene Lang	Wittenberg
College	University
The University of	Worcester
Alabama	Polytechnic
The University of	Institute
North Carolina,	Xavier University



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124 Sycamore Drive, Westwood, MA 02090

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