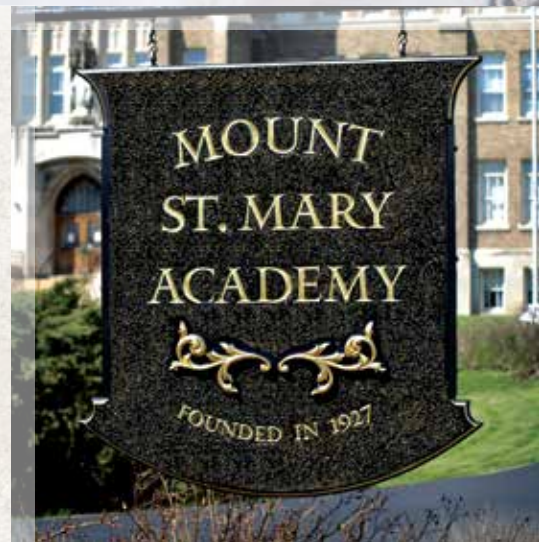


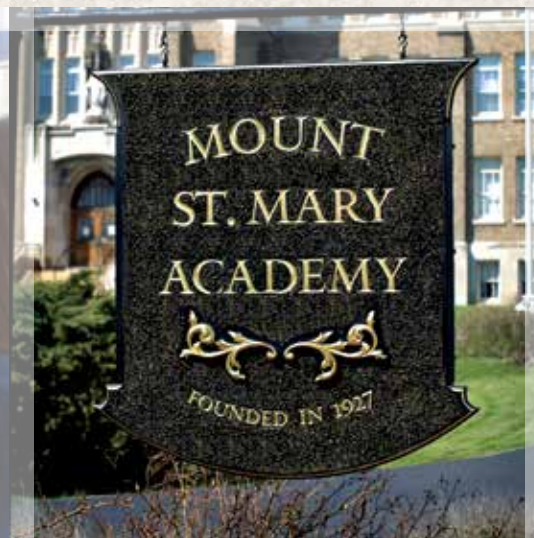


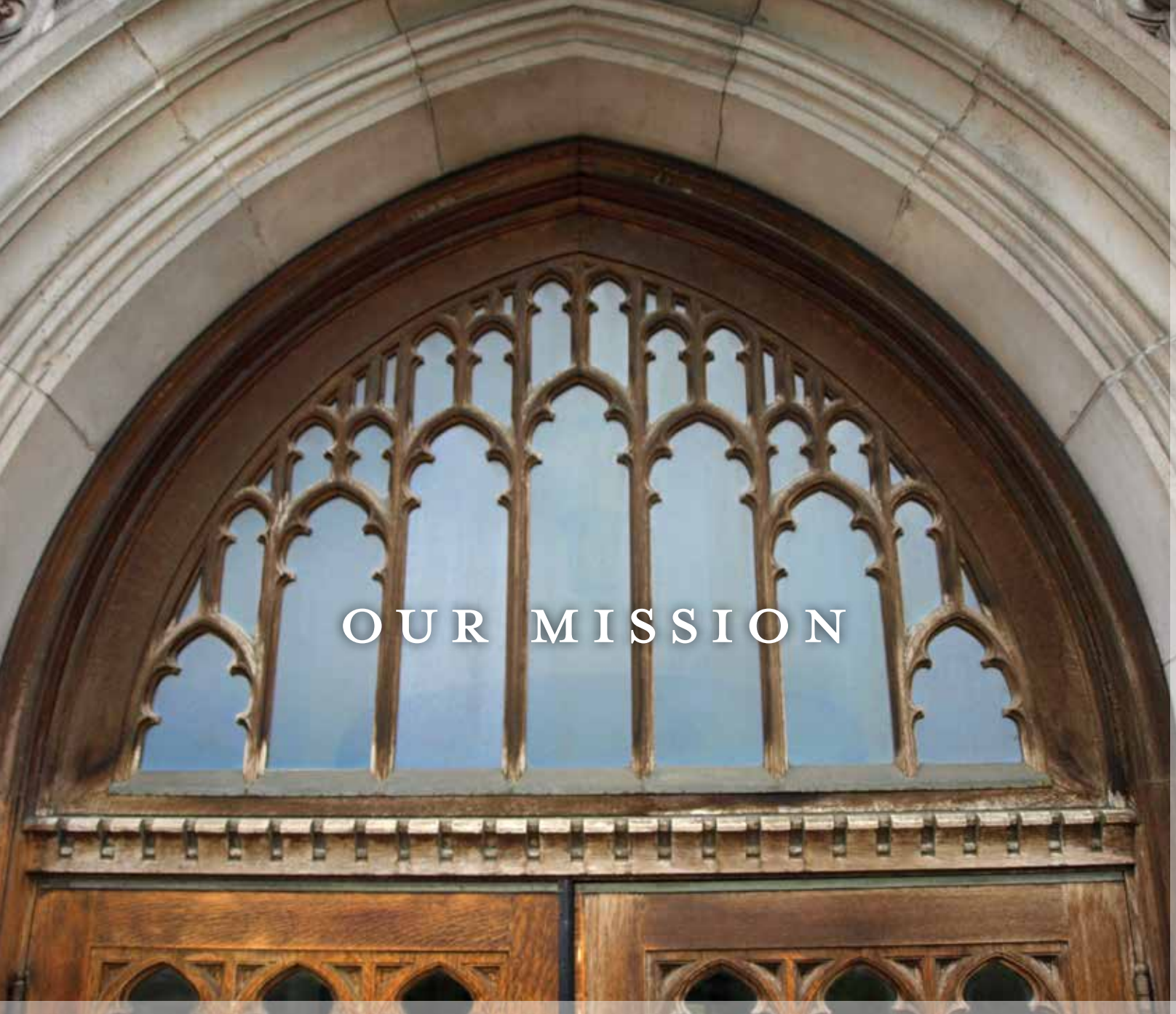
We know what we believe in.





We believe in academic excellence. We believe learning is more than just a classroom. We believe in the importance of teamwork. Creating a community. Celebrating our faith. We believe in a rich tradition. **We believe in you.**





## OUR MISSION

Mount St. Mary Academy, founded by the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur, is a Catholic, private, college preparatory school for young women. Within a nurturing and academically challenging environment, the Academy strives to develop the whole person. Guided by our Catholic tradition, and rooted in Gospel values, we educate young women dedicated to lifelong learning, moral integrity and service to and acceptance of others. Mount St. Mary continues the education and spiritual vision of the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur, who “in simplicity and joy have offered all to God.”

### ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

Mount St. Mary was founded in 1927 with the sole purpose of educating young women. Recognizing each student’s strengths and potential for growth, Mount St. Mary offers a varied curriculum that effectively enables her to succeed.

### WHAT MAKES MOUNT ST. MARY UNIQUE?

Small class sizes, individual attention, and a sense of family are just some of the reasons our students and their families have chosen Mount St. Mary. We blend time-honored traditions with state-of-the-art learning facilities and a student/faculty ratio of less than 10:1 – all within a developmentally safe and supportive environment.

At Mount St. Mary, our students are known. Our faculty and staff work closely with our students and their families to nurture students emotionally, academically, and spiritually. We prepare them to seek solutions to life’s problems in the light of Christ’s teachings.

Incorporated daily into our student’s schedule are opportunities to enhance their sense of well being. A focus on mental, physical, spiritual and social wellness in secondary school has a positive impact on students’ ability for advocating for themselves and nurturing healthy relationships.

There are limitless opportunities available to our students – whether they choose to challenge themselves with Advanced Placement or college-credit coursework, learn to play a musical instrument, try a new sport, lead a club or activity, write and direct the spring drama, or start an award-winning small business.

### PROFILE OF A GRADUATE

We believe that our students will be ready to take on any challenge or opportunity the modern world gives them. Our Profile of a Mount Graduate champions the skills that we encourage our students to develop. Buoyed by a sense of worth and purpose, our young women go out into the world ready to make a positive difference.

### WHAT IS THE ALL-GIRL ADVANTAGE?

It has been shown that learning in an all-girl environment:

- Enhances self-esteem
- Drives students to leadership positions
- Increases confidence and the desire to succeed

Both inside and outside the classroom at Mount St. Mary, girls take center stage. Their voices and opinions matter; they assert their thoughts and gain confidence. We nurture their unique gifts and encourage them to develop resiliency and belief in themselves. We prepare them to be strong young women for whatever the future holds.



# 18,500

The number of community service hours completed by our students in 2018-19





## ACADEMICS

We believe in academic excellence.  
Smaller class sizes. Bigger college scholarships.

### Graduation Requirements (Class of 2023 and on)

English	4 credits
Social Studies	4 credits
Math	4 credits
Science	4 credits
<small>(students must take Living Environment in 8th grade or at MSM)</small>	
World Language	3 credits
Religion	2 credits
<small>(includes required annual Service &amp; Justice week)</small>	
Art/Music:	2 credits
Health:	.5 credits
Phys. Ed.:	2 credits
Electives:	3.5 credits

TOTAL CREDITS 29

### RIGOROUS, REAL-WORLD ASSESSMENTS

Mount St. Mary Academy's academic programs have been designed to effectively achieve the expectations of higher education and our students' future employers.

- **New York State Regents exams have been eliminated as our final assessment tool**, replaced by robust, creative assessments. Mount St. Mary Academy follows New York State Common Core Curriculum in all coursework, but with a new emphasis on enhancing the depth and breadth of study through interdisciplinary efforts and comprehensive assessments.
- Our students demonstrate mastery by producing capstone projects, written reports, group presentations, research papers, and other assessments that synthesize learning.
- Student learning is also measured through traditional paper and pen exams, created by our faculty who seek to create meaningful and accurate assessment. National standardized tests, i.e. PSAT, SAT, ACT, and AP exams, will continue to serve as academic benchmarks.

### Our Academic Vision

Through our academic and co-curricular programs, students explore their unique identities and values, enhance their moral decision making skills and begin to establish themselves as responsible members of the global community. Our new academic vision encourages curiosity, innovation and collaboration. We pride ourselves on the fact that our students graduate having developed critical and abstract thinking skills and have grown in confidence and as leaders. Typically each year, 100% of our graduates go immediately on to college. Our students are ready for this next step. Our accelerated and Honors programs challenge our students to their personal best and give them the tools they need to be successful. Advanced coursework in English, Mathematics, Science, Foreign Language and the Fine Arts is available to incoming freshmen who meet academic requirements.

The Class of 2019 collectively earned nearly \$23 million in scholarships to colleges and universities across the U.S.— an average of over \$269,000 per student.

### ACADEMIC CENTERS

Learning at Mount St. Mary is active and interdisciplinary. Students enjoy three academic centers – STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math), Humanities (Social Studies, Wellness and Religion) and Languages (English and World Languages). In these centers, students interact with faculty and each other in a way to foster robust, cross-curricular collaboration.

Our Makerspace provides opportunities for interactive learning that blends technology and creativity.

Students who need academic support thrive in our Academic Learning Center, which offers peer and adult tutoring in all subject areas, support for students with testing and instructional accommodations, and a quiet, structured place to do schoolwork.

### FOR HONORS STUDENTS

Academically gifted students have many opportunities at Mount St. Mary through the award-winning Academy Scholars program. Advanced Placement, dual-enrollment and/or honors-level coursework is available in all subject areas.

In addition, Academy Scholars participate in a hands-on entrepreneurship curriculum through which they create and run their own small businesses, allowing them to learn and engage in creativity in an exciting way. Mount St. Mary is affiliated with two international entrepreneurship programs: Virtual Enterprises

International and Students for the Advancement of Global Entrepreneurship. Our entrepreneurs have competed successfully both nationally and on the world stage, winning awards at both levels.

### LEARNING OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Students at Mount St. Mary have the world at their fingertips – quite literally. Our students are well-traveled and have learned much from their global experiences.

Student-businesses have been to Asia and Europe to network and compete with their counterparts from all over the world.

Our student-musicians have explored and performed in the Caribbean, understanding in an up-close way that music is truly a world language.

Trips to Europe and Central America have taught our students about different cultures, exposed them to the history and faith traditions they have learned about in the classroom.

Travel to the hubs of the political and entertainment industries in the United States have given student-journalists the chance to ask questions, listen, and act on their passions.



**Throughout the year, we hold a variety of fun events that have grown into the Spirit of MSM:**

- Big Sister/Little Sister Program
- Freshman/Sophomore Luncheon and Junior/Senior Luncheon
- Mountstock – Fine Arts Department's battle of the bands
- Prom and Post-Prom Party – for Juniors and Seniors and their dates
- School and Class Liturgies
- School Spirit Week
- Sleep Out for Charity
- Travel Abroad
- Winter Semi-Formal

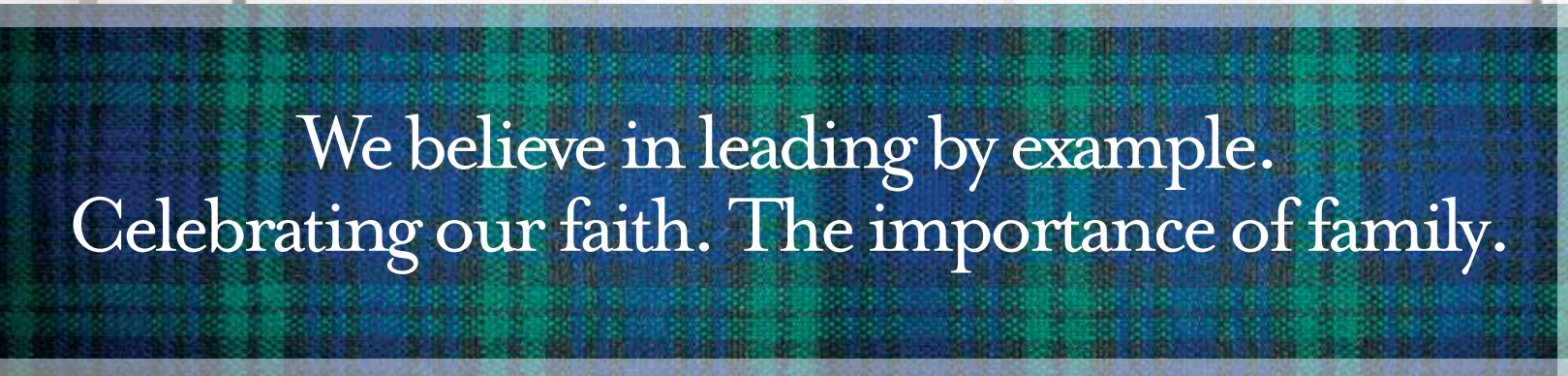
**SPOTLIGHT ON SERVICE**

Mount St. Mary students devote more than 18,500 hours each year helping those in need. Partnerships with organizations such as Buffalo's St. Luke's Mission of Mercy and the Western New York Food Bank offer the chance to see need present in our own community. Mission trips to New Orleans have enable students to live out their call to be good neighbors and build community.

**CELEBRATING OUR FAITH**

At Mount St. Mary, students are challenged to be stewards of their individual gifts, using them to understand people of varied backgrounds and participate in service to others.

Service and Justice Week, held every January, brings our Catholic faith to life in the form of experiential learning. The whole Mount St. Mary community participates in projects designed to emphasize diversity, equity and inclusion. Students select an opportunity that speaks to their curiosity and passion. Examples include understanding more about hunger in our community, considering the transformational power of the arts in bringing people together, enhancing green spaces by acts of



Mount St. Mary blends state-of-the-art learning with time-honored traditions. Our more than 90-year history has taught us that our past enriches our present. Throughout a student's four years at Mount St. Mary, major milestones in her high school career are honored and celebrated by the presentation of red roses. Red Rose events include: Junior Ring Ceremony, Senior Year Mother-Daughter Liturgy, Baccalaureate Mass and Graduation.

**Some of today's most beloved student events are:**

- Baccalaureate Mass
- Academic and Athletic Awards Ceremonies
- Fall Musical
- Father-Daughter Dance
- Junior Ring Ceremony
- May Crowning
- Mother-Daughter Mass and Brunch
- National Honor Society Induction

conservation and beautification, and many other hands-on experiences that encourage unity and bring hope.

Community service plays a big role in the lives of students and faculty alike. Service Club offers participants ways to actively help others. Our religion curriculum includes a service requirement each year, and it offers students opportunities to actively participate in the sacramental and liturgical life of the Church.



Mount St. Mary student-athletes shine on the field, court, pool and track!  
 In 2019, more than 30 students were named to All-Catholic teams

10 students from the class of 2019 are going on to complete in NCAA athletics.

**WE BELIEVE IN STAYING ACTIVE**

Mount St. Mary offers students three ways to enjoy physical education: taking traditional Phys-Ed class, Dance Movement, or Fitness.

Physical Education class emphasizes a strong foundation in all sports to engage students in physical wellness as a lifelong goal. Traditional team sports, as well as fun games for fitness, are introduced.

Our full-size dance studio is the perfect spot to become a better dancer. Build muscle tone, increase flexibility and balance, and develop performance skills in a general or by-audition only dance class.

Students who prefer individual fitness to team sports or dance work out in our Wellness Center and, under supervision, keep in shape with aerobic activities and weight training. Alternative disciplines such as yoga, pilates and core strength training are also included.

We believe in good sportsmanship.  
 Scoring goals. Working as a team.

**THE MOUNT ST. MARY THUNDER IS MADE UP OF 22 DIFFERENT TEAMS INCLUDING:**

**FALL**

- Cross-Country (Varsity)
- Golf (Varsity)
- Soccer (Varsity)
- Swimming (Varsity)
- Volleyball (Varsity, JV)

**WINTER**

- Basketball (Varsity, JV)
- Bowling (Varsity, JV)
- Ice Hockey (Varsity)
- Indoor Track (Varsity)
- Cheerleading (Varsity)

**SPRING**

- Lacrosse (Varsity, JV)
- Softball (Varsity)
- Tennis (Varsity)
- Track and Field (Varsity)

**YEAR-ROUND**

- Crew (Varsity, Novice)

Check out the MSM Thunder teams at our athletics website at [www.MSMathletics.org](http://www.MSMathletics.org)





# THE ARTS

We believe in singing loudly. Marching to our own drum. Bringing our dreams to life.

Mount St. Mary celebrates the Arts in a variety of ways. We are home to the only all-girls marching band in New York State. In addition to this, we offer Concert Band, Jazz Ensemble and Strings Ensemble. The program is award-winning and offers student-musicians the chance to perform often. Our band has been invited to these premier locations for concerts: Walt Disney World, St. Patrick's Day Parade in New York City, Presidential Inaugural Ball in Washington, DC, and even on a Caribbean cruise ship.

### MOUNTIES TAKE THE STAGE

The world of theater comes alive in our 1100-seat auditorium, which was built to model Buffalo's Kleinhans Music Hall. Our annual fall musical and spring drama give students, and young men from area high schools, the chance to act, sing, dance, and learn more about theater.

Vocal musicians enjoy many opportunities to shine. Our auditioned singing ensemble, Gemtones, is award-winning. The group's repertoire emphasizes pop and musical theater, but is not limited to any style. Students may take individual voice lessons during the school day, join our Chorus, and participate in the MSM Music Ministry program.

What's your medium? MSM student-artists take coursework in drawing, ceramics, crafts, digital photography and computer graphics in one of three on-site art studios.

### Activities

Mount St. Mary is truly a second home for our students. For most, the final bell of the day is the start of a new chapter in their activities at MSM. Some of our most popular student activities include:

- Book Club
- Creative Writing Club
- Culinary Club
- Discover Japan Club
- Drama Club
- Fall Musical
- Fit Club
- Foreign Language Club
- Gemtones
- Knitting Club
- Literary Magazine
- Mathletes
- Mock Trial
- MSM Rumlbers
- National Honor Society
- Service Club
- Ski and Snowboarding Club
- Student Council
- Student Newspaper
- Students Against Social Injustice
- UNYTS Donate Life Club
- Year Book



### DRESS CODE

Mount St. Mary students wear a uniform which ensures an appropriate study atmosphere while permitting individual choice and self-expression.

Options include:

- Black watch plaid skirt or kilt or navy blue pants
- White or navy polo shirts (long- or short-sleeved)
- White or light blue oxford blouse
- White or navy turtleneck
- Knee socks, ankle socks or tights

Seniors are allowed the privilege of wearing hunter green shirts, socks, or tights. They also create a special class hoodie that can be worn throughout the year.

Students and faculty enjoy several dress down days and spirit wear days during the school year.





# ADMISSION

We believe in good friends. Making everyone feel welcome. We believe in you.

## Sample Freshman Year Schedule:

7:45	Prayer, Attendance, Announcements
7:58-8:38	Band
8:41-9:21	English I
9:24-10:04	Geometry
10:07-10:47	Living Environment
10:50-11:20	World Civilizations I
11:23 – 12:03	Lunch
12:06-12:26	Wellness Break
12:29-1:09	Religion I
1:12-1:52	Dance II
1:55-2:35	Spanish II

### APPLYING FOR ADMISSION

Students who wish to join the Mount St. Mary Academy freshman class should complete an application for admission, available at [MSMacademy.org/admissions/](http://MSMacademy.org/admissions/) and take the Catholic High School Entrance Examination, typically held in November. Acceptance packets, including scholarship and financial aid awards, are issued in mid-January. Rolling admission is offered if class size permits.

### SCHOLARSHIPS

Mount St. Mary offers more than two dozen scholarships and grants to incoming freshmen. Scholarship awards are based on one or a combination of the following factors: overall scholastic achievement, results of the placement examination, community service, leadership, and financial need. Scholarship applications are given to students when they take the entrance examination.

### FINANCIAL AID AND DISCOUNTS

Financial aid grants are awarded based on financial need and are available for incoming and returning students each year. MSM offers discounts to families with a parent who is a full-time Catholic school or parish employee, as well as those who have more than one daughter attending our school. We also offer a one-time grant to students whose mother or grandmother is a Mount St. Mary alumna.

### WORK-STUDY PROGRAM

Students who demonstrate financial need may be eligible for our work/study program, which matches them with an in-school job during the summer or school year. Payment is based on the number of hours worked and is credited directly to the tuition account.

### TRANSFER STUDENTS

Students who wish to transfer to Mount St. Mary will be considered for admission upon receipt of their transcripts, most current grades, letter of recommendation, and in interview with MSM administrative personnel.

### ADMISSION EVENTS

#### Open House

Students in grades 5–8 are invited to this annual fall event. Tour our school, meet our faculty and students, ask questions, and get to know our coaches and parents.

#### Fall Fest (formerly Meet the Mount Night)

A fun event just for students, Meet the Mount Night is a great way for you to see the spirited side of MSM. This themed event is full of surprises, games, food and more.

#### Mountie for a Day

Eighth graders (in the fall) and seventh graders (in the spring) are invited to spend a day with us. We'll match you with one of our student ambassadors and you'll attend class, enjoy lunch, and spend the day just like a Mountie.

#### Interested in learning more?

Visit [MSMacademy.org](http://MSMacademy.org)

Contact our Admissions Office at 877-1358

Follow us on (social media icons to come)



### What does wellness look like at Mount St. Mary?

We believe that in order to be successful a young women needs to have opportunities to reflect on her experiences and to develop life skills to ensure her well-being. Our daily Wellness block provides time for advisory with faculty, small club meetings, homework time, goal-setting, mindfulness practices, and simply a chance to build community.







We believe in you.

3756 Delaware Avenue, Kenmore, New York 14217  
(716) 877-1358 • Fax: (716) 877-0548 • [www.MSMacademy.org](http://www.MSMacademy.org)

Mount St. Mary Academy shall not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, national or ethnic origin, or age (in accordance with the law).

