

# Mercy High School Activities & Clubs

2011-2012

Participation is the key to happiness!

## *Clubs and Activities*

### **ART CLUB**

The Art Club meets on the first Wednesday of every month. The students work together to incorporate their artistic creativity into projects for our school and the Mercy community. The club members also work on individual projects of their choice: drawing, painting, crafting, sculpting.

The Art Club projects will be on display in early May at the annual Mercy Art Show.

**Moderator: Mrs. Roper – Room 220**

### **AWARE**

“AWARE” is a group of students dedicated to bringing the issues of diversity and multiculturalism to our student body. The members hope to promote acceptance, heighten communication and foster the appreciation of differences in our school community. “Aware” hopes to lead our students to challenge the stereotypes and biases in their lives, which can inhibit inter-group understanding.

The dimensions of diversity run wide but several issues which we hope to confront include: stereotyping, prejudice, discrimination, race, ethnicity, gender and religious beliefs. Our group hopes that they can educate each other and their peers to respect their differences and use this as a bond to promote tolerance and understanding of each other.

**Moderator: Ms. Lauren Daniels – Room 216**

### **BALLROOM/LATIN DANCING CLUB**

Just like “*Dancing with the Stars*” students will learn dances like the Tango, Waltz, Cha Cha, Rumba, Jitterbug and more. It’s great fun and great exercise. Join the group on Mondays, from 3:00 – 4:30pm in the cafeteria. This club is open to Mercy and Xavier students. For more information, see Mrs. Morse.

**Moderator: Mrs. Morse – Room 224**

### **BeAT**

BeAT (Be a Tutor) members help students develop study techniques, review for quizzes and tests and assist students with their courses. You and your assigned student can meet during a study hall or after school. Service hours are available for the tutors. This activity is open to all students.

**Moderator: Mrs. Esposito – Room 214**

## **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 on their families.

**Moderator: Mrs. Bachenheimer – Kitchen and Conference Room #2**

## **DANCE TEAM**

The dance team consists of members of Mercy High School and Xavier High School choreographing routines performing the latest hip hop and reggae moves. Practice is weekly from late September through the month of March. The team performs at Mercy High School home basketball games.

**Moderator: Mrs. LaBella– Room 213**

## **ECOLOGY CLUB**

Students interested in learning about environmental issues and in spreading environmental awareness meet twice a month to discuss and plan activities including the school’s recycling program, Earth Day events, nature hikes, the annual tree-planting ceremony for the senior class, etc. Members may also become involved with the state Envirothon and/or SEARCH program.

**Moderator: Ms. Ceberek – Room 108**

## **EPOCH**

Staff members work several days a week from September to February - and after graduation - preparing the Mercy High yearbook and its supplement. Members plan, organize, write, copy and take photographs during these busy months in order to produce a book that reflects not only the senior class but also the entire student body. These highly involved students acquire skills in meeting deadlines, organizing, communicating, compromising and handling responsibility as they work toward completion. Seniors – and then undergraduates – receive their yearbooks in May.

**Moderators: Mrs. Garstka and Mrs. Curello – Room 223 – Seniors Only**

## **FINANCE CLUB**

The topics discussed in the Finance Club will cover Dave Ramsey’s financial peace philosophy. This philosophy empowers students to make sound financial decisions by teaching them a basic understanding of how to be financially responsible and still give generously to others in need. Decision making, income and careers, money management, credit and debt, risk management, and saving and investing will be discussed.

**Moderator: Mrs. Naumann – Room 110B**

### **HELPING HANDS-HELPING PAWS**

The Helping Hands-Helping Paws Club has monthly meetings for anyone concerned about homeless or abandoned pets. Donations of pet foods, toys, blankets, other pet supplies and monetary contributions are collected for local animal shelters during the Christmas Drive and a few other times during the school year.

**Moderator: Ms. Ceberek – Room 108**

### **“I HAVE A FRIEND” YOUTH CENTER VOLUNTEERS**

This volunteer program gives all Mercy students a chance to help younger children with their homework (Tuesdays & Thursdays) as well as special activities at the Center located in Forge Square in Middletown. Volunteers plan arts and crafts activities for monthly theme parties on Fridays. A once a week commitment is important to the children at the Center.

**Moderator: Ms. Marceau – Room 110B**

### **INTRAMURAL SPORTS**

Intramural Sports is a Mercy after school activity open to all students. There are no try-outs, no pressure, but lots of fun. Activities include volleyball, flag football, and badminton. Intramural sports are played through the fall and winter months.

**Moderator: Mrs. Sklar-Levine – Gym**

### **INTERNATIONAL FILM CLUB**

Students explore different countries, nationalities and languages of the world when they meet each month to view a foreign film. The films will be introduced, viewed, and followed by post film discussions.

**Moderator: Ms. Freeman – Room 213**

### **ITALIAN CLUB**

Students learn about the culture, language, traditions, customs, and cuisine of Italy. They gain an appreciation of people from diverse backgrounds. Meetings are every second Thursday of each month throughout the school year. Guest speakers are welcome.

**Moderator: Mrs. Esposito – Room 214**

### **JUNIOR CLASSICAL LEAGUE/LATIN CLUB**

This organization, which is one of the many Connecticut affiliates of the National Junior Classical League, encourages Mercy students to have an interest in and appreciation for the civilization, language, literature, and art of ancient Greece and

Rome. All Latin students are welcome to meet twice monthly to plan and implement their own activities to promote the national purpose. Through projects, such as video productions, banquets, Latin Day events and drama, members come to a better understanding of classical antiquity's enormous influence on our own culture.

**Moderator: Ms. Marceau – Room 110B**

### **JUSTICE AND PEACE**

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 St. Vincent's, and making quilts for the homeless.

**Moderator: Mrs. Pepitone – Room 102**

### **LIBRARY CLUB**

Students in the Library Club assist the library staff in many areas. Students help with circulation and preparation of the collection, return books and periodicals to their appropriate areas, create bulletin boards and book displays, and maintain the library scrapbook as well as helping to plan authors' visits. Members help with recycling newspapers, periodicals and computer paper. Participation in the club can be during the school day or before and after school. Meetings are held periodically.

**Moderator: Mrs. Boothroyd - Library**

### **MERCY ADVOCATES FOR LIFE**

This group is open to all students, faculty and staff. In our society, human life is under direct attack from abortion to assisted suicide. The value of human life is being threatened in every stage. Mercy Advocates for All Life come together to know the facts, become educated and knowledgeable on these important life issues. To support, speak and write in support of all life issues is what is needed to become an advocate. Join us if you are interested in LIFE. Our meeting dates will be announced later. Keep your eyes posted on the written announcements for upcoming meetings.

**Moderators: Ms. Derbacher and Mrs. Pepitone – Room 102**

### **MERCY AMBASSADORS/ RECRUITMENT**

Open to any student who believes in Mercy and feels that she could be a mature representative for her school. Applicants must be in good academic standing. Interested student must submit an information form yearly as activities, interests, and electives often change from year to year.

Responsibilities include 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. Throughout the year, Mercy Ambassadors host perspective student visitors. 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. Santostefano for an application.

**Moderator: Mrs. Santostefano – Admission’s Office**

### **MERCY SHAWL MINISTRY**

The Mercy 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 or making hats for preemie babies and adult cancer patients for those in our Mercy community and for those outside our Mercy community who are in need of support. 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](mailto:aderbacher@mercyhigh.com).

**Moderator: Ms. Derbacher – Campus Minister’s Office**

### **MOCK TRIAL TEAM**

Mercy will again field two mock trial teams for the Connecticut High School Mock Trial Competition sponsored by the Connecticut Consortium for Law and Citizenship Education. Attorney Terri Corigliano, a Mercy faculty member will be the coach for the teams. Each team will consist of twelve members: 3 defense attorneys, 3 defense witnesses, 3 prosecution/plaintiff attorneys and 3 prosecution/plaintiff witnesses. Over 70 high schools throughout Connecticut enter the competition.

The regional competitions take place in February/March and the finals are held in the State Supreme Court in Hartford and judged by some of the Connecticut Supreme Court Justices.

**Moderator: Mrs. Corigliano – Room 201**

### **MODEL UN**

The Model United Nations at Mercy is an organization sponsored through Fairfield University. Participating schools will be assigned to represent a nation at a simulated conference, acting as delegates and ambassadors from that nation.

Expectations are that students will research the nation that they will represent, comprehending the nation's foreign and domestic policies. That knowledge will be used to fuel further research to prepare for debate and discussion in the Model UN Committees where the objective will be to pass resolutions benefitting not only the nation represented but also the global community. Issue topics include: peacekeeping, poverty and disease, and environmental concerns.

Students interested in joining must submit a one page typed reflection addressing the statement: Why I would like to participate in the Mercy Model UN.

Submissions must be handed in by Tuesday, October 5<sup>th</sup> to either moderator.

**Moderators: Mrs. Malafronte - Room 115 and Mrs. Pepitone - Room 102**

### **MYARC - MIDDLESEX YOUTH ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CITIZENS**

MYARC is a service group of Mercy and Xavier students dedicated to working with area adults and children who have mental retardation. They also sponsor holiday-themed parties for all to enjoy. MYARC meets twice a week, Tuesdays for dance therapy and Thursdays for ceramics. **Mandatory training session dates for volunteers will be announced in mid September.**

**Moderator: Brother Houlihan, Xavier High School - Mercy Cafeteria**

### **RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS**

The goal of this club is to unite as a community and share our gifts with those in need by raising money, donating goods, or simply providing inspiration. We will be working with Riverview Hospital, New Horizons Domestic Violence Services, and the Catholic Worker to make the Corporal Works of Mercy a reality. Join us in making cards, wrapping presents, singing, and spreading some joy to those in need.

**Moderator: Ms. Iannucci – Room 210**

### **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 interactors around the world who carry out two community service projects each year, including one that furthers international understanding and goodwill. Interactors 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 – Room 216**

## **ROBOTICS CLUB/TEAM**

The Mercy High School Robotics team (Tech Tigers) 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.

**Moderators: Mrs. Bachenheimer and Mrs. Malafronte – Robotics Center**

## **SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions)**

The Mercy SADD Chapter is part of the National SADD organization and the Middlesex County Abuse Action Council. The members try to share with their peers the mission of SADD which is to address not only the issues of underage drinking, drinking and driving, and drug use, but also other destructive decisions and killers of young people. These other issues include violence, suicide, alcohol poisoning and AIDS. Mercy SADD members attend monthly meetings where they sometimes listen and interact with guest speakers, watch and discuss important videos, and share ways that Mercy students can get the SADD message across to their peers. Members are also involved in the Red Ribbon Campaign, SADD Awareness Month, and in the Nationwide Insurance Prom Promise Campaign.

**Moderator: Mrs. Maitra– Room 210**

## **SIGN LANGUAGE CLUB**

The Sign Language Club was organized four years ago to allow students interested in learning sign language or practicing their skills a chance to meet with other students. This club is open to everyone who is interested in learning or practicing sign language. Beginners are warmly received, as well as skilled signers. During the meetings members will discuss the culture of the deaf community and learn how to communicate effectively with hearing impaired people. This year the group hopes to expand on using sign interpreters at Mercy Liturgies. We will also explore career paths with sign language needs and community service opportunities as tutors/visitors for hearing impaired children and adults.

**Moderator: Mrs. Pugliese – Room 204**

## **SKI AND SNOWBOARD CLUB**

The Mercy High School Ski and Snowboard Club participates in the Mt. Southington after school program. This club meets for five weeks in January and February (weather permitting) and is a great way to get to know other people. No experience is necessary, lessons are offered and rental equipment is available. THINK SNOW!!!!

**Moderator: Mrs. Jennifer Larson – Room 215**

## **STUDENT PEACE ALLIANCE**

The Student Peace Alliance Club will allow students to continue to be involved in “the promotion of human rights through the raising of awareness of violations of these rights and through lobbying of governments for prisoners of conscience, the end of torture and the death penalty, and the rights of all to basic freedoms.”

**Moderator: Mrs. Pepitone – Room 102**

## **Music and Theatre Performing Arts**

### **JAZZ ENSEMBLE**

#### **No Man’s Band**

The Mercy Jazz Ensemble meets once a week in the evening and rehearses for several performances throughout the year. This group is open to all students who play a musical instrument used in the jazz idiom.

**Moderator: Mr. Robert Link – Room 111**

### **MERCY/XAVIER DRAMA PRODUCTIONS**

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. The Drama Club presents a play in early December.

**Moderator: Mrs. Dastoli – Room 104**

### **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: “Fiddler on the Roof”, “Bye, Bye, Birdie” and “No, No, Nannette” are

just some of the productions which have filled the Mercy auditorium with music, laughter and enthusiasm. Watch the written announcements in November for details of this year's production.

**Moderator: Mrs. Dastoli and Mrs. McKenna**

### **SHOW CHOIR - "CHORALATIONS"**

The "Choralations" are the award winning show choir at Mercy. The group performs at various functions and competitions all throughout New England. The group is open to students of all grades and of all levels of dance and singing ability. The group meets every Monday night during the school year.

**Moderator: Mr. Link – Room 111**

### **Student Leadership Organizations**

#### **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 seventeen years, the chapter has presented \$80,000 in scholarships to students at Mercy. (See membership requirements on page 31 of the Student-Parent Handbook.)

**Moderator: Mrs. Esposito – Room 214**

#### **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. (See membership requirements on page 31` of the Student-Parent Handbook.)

**Moderator: Mrs. LaBella – Room 213**

## **PEER MINISTRY**

What is Peer Ministry? Peer Ministry is not a club, but rather a ministry. Peer Ministry is only open to seniors. It is an invitation to juniors in the second half of the year to become a part of a team that actively witnesses the message of Jesus Christ through Christian leadership to their peers. Just because you are a Freshwoman, sophomore or Junior right now does not mean that you can't look ahead and ask yourself the question, "Is this ministry for me and would I like to be a part of it in my senior year?" You would be part of a team that helps to plan Masses, prayer services, retreats, morning prayer, faith-sharing groups, special feast day prayer services and any other needs of the Mercy community.

You would need to ask yourself if you would be willing to be a witness for Jesus Christ, continue to grow in your own faith, and be willing to share your beliefs and struggles with others. Your involvement in Peer Ministry could change your life.

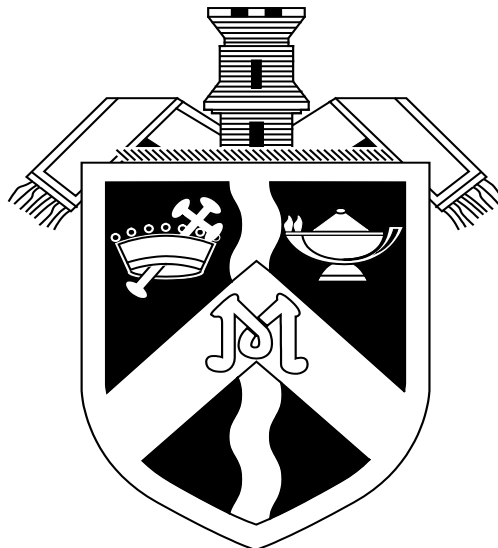
For more information or questions contact Ms. Derbacher, Campus Minister either at [aderbacher@mercyhigh.com](mailto:aderbacher@mercyhigh.com) or in the Campus Ministry office located between the music room and the weight room.

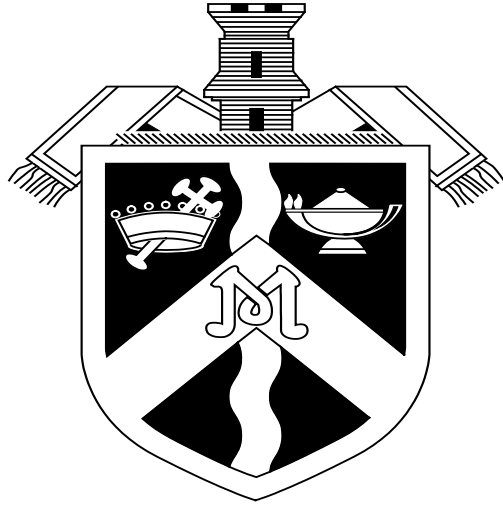
**Moderator: Ms. Derbacher – Campus Minister's Office**

## **STUDENT COUNCIL**

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, instill good citizenship, and sponsor student activities (mixers, food drives, Walkathon, Father-Daughter Dance, Mother – Daughter Brunch and Spirit Week. It represents the entire student body and provides the means for student expression. Meetings are announced one week in advance on Group Fusion.

**Moderator: Ms. Drewry – Room 110A**





**Regularly Scheduled Monthly Meetings**

**2011/2012**

	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
<b><u>First</u></b>	<b><u>Ecology Club</u></b> 2:45 - 3:30pm, Rm.108	<b><u>AWARE</u></b> 2:40pm, Rm216 <b><u>Model UN</u></b> 2:45-3:45pm, Rm.102 (weekly) <b><u>MYARC</u></b>	<b><u>NHS Officers</u></b> 2:45 –3:45pm,Rm.214 <b><u>Art Club</u></b> 2:45pm, Rm. 220	<b><u>Mercy Shawl Ministry</u></b> 2:45-3:45pm CampusMinister’s Office <b><u>Rotary Interact Club</u></b> 2:45pm, Room 216 <b><u>MYARC</u></b>	<b><u>Cooking Club</u></b> 2:45 – 5:00pm Kitchen and Conference Room 2
<b><u>Second</u></b>		<b><u>Latin Club</u></b> 2:45pm, Rm. 110B  <b><u>MYARC</u></b>	<b><u>NHS Members</u></b> 2:45-3:15pm Room 214/Cafeteria <b><u>Random Acts of Kindness</u></b> 2:45-3:30pm, Rm.210	<b><u>Italian Club</u></b> 2:45 -3:15pm, Rm. 214  <b><u>MYARC</u></b>	
<b><u>Third</u></b>	<b><u>Ecology Club</u></b> 2:45 – 3:30pm, Rm. 108	<b><u>Helping Hands/Helping Paws</u></b> 2:45pm, Rm.108 <b><u>Finance Club</u></b> 2:45 – 3:30pm, Rm.110B <b><u>MYARC</u></b>	<b><u>Justice and Peace</u></b> 2:45 – 3:45pm,Rm 102 <b><u>Rotary Interact Club</u></b> 2:45pm, Rm. 216	<b><u>International Film Club</u></b> 2:45 – 4:30, Rm.213 <b><u>Student Peace Alliance</u></b> 2:45-3:15pm, Rm. 102 <b><u>MYARC</u></b>	<b><u>Cooking Club</u></b> 2:45 – 5:00pm Kitchen and Conference Room 2
<b><u>Fourth</u></b>		<b><u>JCL/Latin Club</u></b> 2:45pm, Rm. 110B  <b><u>MYARC</u></b>	<b><u>Library Club</u></b> 2:45pm, library <b><u>SADD</u></b> 2:45pm, Rm.210 <b><u>Random Acts of Kindness</u></b> 2:45- 3:30pm, Rm. 210	<b><u>MYARC</u></b>  <b><u>Mercy Advocates for Life</u></b> 2:45-3:30pm, Rm. 102	
<b><u>Weekly</u></b>	<b><u>Peer Ministry</u></b> 2:45-3:45,Chapel <b><u>Ballroom Dancing</u></b> 3:00-4:30pm, Cafeteria (second semester) <b><u>Show Choir</u></b> 6:00 – 9:00pm, Auditorium <b><u>Mock Trial</u></b> 6:00-9:00pm	<b><u>Sign Language Club</u></b> 2:40-3:20pm, Rm. 204  <b><u>Mercy/Xavier Drama Productions</u></b> 3:00-6:00pm, Aud. (Every Tues. & Wed.)	<b><u>Intramurals</u></b> 2:45-3:45pm, Gym <b><u>Dance Team</u></b> 3:00–5:00pm in R.213 <b><u>Ski Club</u></b> January and February 2:45 to 8:20pm	<b><u>“I Have a Friend Youth Center”</u></b> Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Center 5:00 – 8:30pm <b><u>Jazz Ensemble</u></b> 6:30 – 8:00pm, Auditorium	
<b><u>Evenings and Special Schedules</u></b>					

