

INSIDE MERCY

**A PUBLICATION FOR THE PARENTS OF STUDENTS OF
MERCY VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL**

*From The Desk of Sister Susan Walsh, RSM
Principal*

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Dear Parents and Guardians:

Happy February to all of you! The school year is half over, and, hopefully, the better half is still to come. We began the third quarter/second semester on January 30 and are looking forward to good teaching and good learning throughout this quarter. Students will receive their second report cards on **February 6**, and with these grades they can chart the path ahead into the second semester. Many students are performing to the best of their abilities, and they deserve our congratulations. Some need to take corrective action. Thank you for staying informed of your sons’ and daughters’ progress and for “staying the course” in encouragement and support for your sons and daughters. Visit PowerSchool often and find out the latest information on grades, attendance, and demerit count.

There is something special for each class this month. I invite you to check our web calendar for the full link at the events of **February and early March**.

- Each freshman will take a long look at his/her “**first-choice and second-choice**” shops by spending a typical day (two shop periods) with the sophomores in that trade.
- Some of our older students and faculty are gearing up for **our seventh Operation Katrina-Lee trip to upstate Pennsylvania** to assist in the rebuilding of the area. This Towanda, PA area, ravaged by the flood from Tropical Storm Lee, is in need of our skills and service. Twenty juniors and seniors, along with members of the faculty, will offer a full week of service. Stay tuned for more details on Operation Katrina-Lee 7.
- Many students continue their **community service**. Thank you for encouraging the completion of the ten required hours. The report card will show the number of hours to date. These hours must be finished by graduation or promotion to the next grade.
- **Parent/Teacher Conferences are scheduled for March 1**. Typically, these conferences are for failing or underachieving grades and/or behavior or effort concerns. Information will be mailed to you if MVHS is requesting you and your children’s presence at these meetings. The report card envelope will contain information for a parent-requested conference. No classes are held this day.
- Circle **March 4** on your calendars and join other members of the Mercy community at a “Family Mass” at 10AM.
- Our annual food drive, **BreadBasketBall**, begins on March 5 and extends to March 23. Thanks for doing as much as you can do to help others.
- Stay tuned for an announcement for the **date and topic of our second Parent Gathering and Information Session**. The last session on November 30 about Internet Safety was a big success.

Of special importance to all of us is **Winterfest**. For many years now, the Mercy community has joined together to provide a day of fun for our friends with challenges/disabilities. On **Saturday, February 11**, administrators, faculty, and students will gather with students from other schools to be buddies for the day and to bring joy to our guests. Many companies and individuals help us to make this day possible, and we are grateful to all of these benefactors. Our coins from earlier in the year take care of most of the expenses for the day as well. After many hours of fun and lots of excitement, all of us can recognize the many blessings which God gives to us each day. We give to our friends this day and receive much more in return. This Winterfest day is a big example of Mercy in action, of students and teachers uniting for the joy of others. It is service with many smiles!!! Thank you for allowing your sons and daughters to participate in this worthwhile event.

If you would, I ask that you pass on several pieces of news. If you know any current 9th, 10th and 11th grade students from the closing Archdiocesan high schools, please encourage them to come on Saturday, February 4, in the morning for Open House or just contact the Admissions Office. If you know any parents of eighth graders, remind them to consider Mercy as a choice for their children and ask them to contact Mr. Donahue for admission details. The Spring Open House (April 1) is designed for seventh graders or any eighth graders who would like to see MVHS in action. Your good word to others about Mercy is appreciated. We, at Mercy, count on your support.

Best Wishes and prayers,
Sister Susan Walsh, RSM
Principal

**FROM THE STUDENT SERVICES
OFFICE**

Parents/Guardians are required to call school by 7:30 A.M. every day that students are absent or are going to be late.

Please call 215-226-1225 Ext. 119.

Also, students who need early dismissals need to submit the request a minimum of one day prior to the day that they need the early dismissal, not the day of.

GENERAL NEWS

- ~Wednesday, February 22—Ash Wednesday—Lent begins
- ~Tuesday, February 28—Honor Society Induction
- ~Wednesday, February 29—80's & 90's Dance 3:15 P.M.

FROM THE ACTIVITIES OFFICE

10-week Club Ticket Stubs can be turned in until all drawings are completed.

The first drawing is Thursday, February 9

SCHOOL STORE

Feel free to view the items being sold from the school store on the school's website. Go to:

www.mercyvocational.org/store

You can print out an order form as well.

HOLIDAYS

Monday, February 20—President's Day

**OPEN HOUSE
SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 4**

INFORMATION TVs
TVs have been installed in the lobby and cafeteria. Information On Mercy events and activities will be posted daily.

Students are reminded that in order to participate in a formal event, tuition must be up to date, you must be dressed properly, you are responsible for your guest, and you must be in school on the day of the event.

**ALUMNI BEEF & BEER
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY
4
8:00 P.M. TO MIDNIGHT**

Mercy Vocational High School
2900 West Hunting Park Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19129-1803
215-226-1225 • Fax: 215-228-6337

FROM THE SCHOOL MINISTER—SISTER MIMI CONNOR

February Happenings:

On Saturday, February 11, our 20th annual Winterfest will take place. We're hoping that our 20th celebration will be special. Hopefully it won't snow on that day. About 75 guests who are physically or mentally challenged will join us for a day of fun and games. Our students and faculty and many teenagers from other schools help to make this day memorable for our guests who always look forward to coming. This year we have a magician who will be coming as part of the entertainment. We also welcome back the Praise and salsa dancers, as well as Irish dancers, and of course Marty Farrell and Sean Flatley will sing for us.

Lent begins this year on February 22. We will have special prayer services for our theology classes, and ashes will be distributed.

We are also preparing for our third "Family Mass" on March 4 at 10:00a.m., which will be followed by breakfast. Alumni members will also be joining us. Students, parents, and alumni are all invited. Please let us know if you will be coming. You may call Sister Mimi at extension 132.

FROM THE DESK OF SISTER ANTOINETTE

Scholarship Information

Many have asked about scholarship opportunities. Most scholarships are offered by the schools to which the students have already been accepted, based on the student's school record (transcript) , essay, letters of recommendation and test scores. Criteria vary. The following are examples of schools who offer scholarships:

**Williamson Free School of Mechanical Trades (males only)
Neumann University
CHI Institute
Johnson and Wales University
Gwynedd Mercy College
Drexel University + Blue and Gold connection with CCP
LaSalle University (Academic Discovery Program)
Immaculata University
Temple University – available to ZIP codes 19121, 19122, 19132, 19133
Chestnut Hill College
Peirce College
Advanced Placement standing at Pennsylvania College of Technology (PCT) might be offered to some applicants.**

Outside Sources:

**Imagine America (www.imagine-america.org)
Some churches
PhillyGoes2College.com
Boy Scouts
Fast Web (www.fastweb.com)
Children of Veterans
Schoolsoup.com
Black Alliance for Educational Options
United Negro College Fund some businesses to children of employees
Children's Scholarship Fund (carries over from 8th grade)
CORE Philly
ASPIRA
Scholarships4Students**

***** Students should fill out applications and registrations themselves *****

IMPORTANT ** Scholarship providers do NOT charge a fee for submitting an application or for recommending a scholarship to a school to which you want to apply. **** BEWARE OF SCAMS ******

Special to Mercy Vocational Students from:

The Philadelphia Foundation – through this foundation Benjamin Franklin Scholarships are awarded to students continuing to study or work in their chosen shop field. The approximate grant is \$8,000, divided among potential awardees.

Community College of Philadelphia – Usually one full tuition scholarship - the Robert S. King Scholarship - is awarded to a graduating senior on the basis of her/his academic record and an essay. (In the Class of 2011 – three (3) scholarships were awarded!!)

CCP's Business Department awards the Edward Anderson Business Scholarship to a student majoring in Business, Administration, etc.

Please remember that Scholarships are awarded to potential Scholars. If your son or daughter has not done homework, or really studied (read the textbook, took notes, outlined chapters, reviewed for tests, spent time on research) will he or she really be ready for college? If the parent has done the search, filled in applications, and the test registrations, who will handle the school work for him or her next September? How will he/she handle the everyday business of living, budgeting of time, dealing with conflict, accepting a diverse group of students, adjusting to a whole new way of life?