



MOUNT SAINT MARY ACADEMY

Sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy

Kate Segal, Principal, Amy True, Ministry Director

December 2017 Principal's Board Report

Mission Statement: Mount Saint Mary Academy, a private Catholic elementary school sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, furthers the mission of Catherine McAuley. Mount Saint Mary Academy is committed to academic excellence and the Gospel values of peace and justice. Our school instills in its students leadership skills and promotes the values of compassion and reverence for the community and environment.

Mercy Mission and Catholic Identity

“Be present with us in days that are long and trying, as well as in times of great joy and accomplishment. Create in each of us a space of compassion and of peace so that we in turn can create similar spaces for all we encounter this day.” Come to the Table, Network for Mercy Education, 2009

On November 21, 2017, we had our annual Thanksgiving Prayer Service, which included student and faculty read Psalms and prayers from Catherine McAuley and Sarah Young's Jesus Calling. We were lead in song by our talented music teacher Mrs. Morris, singing “Enter his Gates,” “Let us Pray,” “Thank you God, “Our Father,” “He Will,” “The Blessing,” and our closing song, “Oh Lord, I Thank You.” The Children's Blessing was beautiful; children's parents knelt down, while their children stood in front of them. After making the sign of the cross, our children placed their arms in the air over their parents or a faculty member and sang, “May the blessing of God be upon you, the blessing of the Father and the Son. And may the Spirit of God, the Spirit of love, be with you all your days.” Our service included our annual Advent appeal for New Horizons where we will continue to collect donations through January. New Horizons is an adult homeless shelter, a soup kitchen, a food pantry and operates Angie's Shelter for Women. Mount Saint Mary Academy has strong ties to New Horizons as one of the founders was Sr. Angie Whidden, a Religious Sister of Mercy. Sr. Ange and others began serving sandwiches and soup from a borrowed Winnegagio camper in the parking lot the Carpenter Center back in 1979. Today they serve hot meals every day and their food pantry provided food to households each month, while their homeless shelter provides a safe structured environment for those who are rebuilding their lives.

We have had November and December Mercy classes for grades preschool thru grade six. Now we are preparing for our Christmas Pageant. Students in grades 4, 5 and 6, will continue planning outreach projects. Also the Core Keepers have finished a Service Learning Project, with the help of Mrs. Lidtke, to create a “new” school library located next to the Technology Lab. Our students drew up blueprints which were presented to the principal, Ministry Director and Holy Cross Condominium Facility Director, with an oral presentation explaining how this project meets each of their Mercy core values. The students did a fabulous job! We are still collecting pasta for the Manchester Food Bank and have almost three boxes filled for “Toys for Tots.”

On December 5, 2017 we welcomed the Diocese of Manchester School Catholic Identity Review Evaluation Team for a day long visit to Mount Saint Mary Academy. After faculty, staff, student and parent interviews, a tour, reflection of our school standards and benchmarks for Catholic Identity and Summative School Report (included at the end of this board report), we are extremely proud to report out that Mount Saint Mary Academy was commended for our school community, culture, climate; our facility which was described as bright, cheerful, and clean, creating a warm and caring family-like atmosphere; and having high academic standards. Areas that have been recommended for improvement include increasing staff faith formation, increasing "priest" presence, and clearly communicating our mission as a private Catholic school, founded on the life and teachings of Jesus, while being sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, answering the questions of how and why we are a Catholic School. We hope to have the final report and recommendations for the Mount Saint Mary Academy Board of Trustees meeting on December 19, 2017.

Professional Evaluation

Charlotte Danielson's "Enhancing Professional Practice; A framework for Teaching" will be used for professional teacher evaluations. As a learning community, we have reviewed Danielson's four domains: Planning and Preparation, The Classroom Environment, Instruction, and Professional Responsibilities. Amy True and I are looking at adding a fifth domain, Catholic Identity.

All full time teachers have completed a self-evaluation and reflection sheet using this framework, which "identifies those aspects of a teacher's responsibilities that have been documented through empirical studies and theoretical research as promoting improve student learning...these responsibilities seek to define what teachers should know and be able to do in the exercise of their profession." (Danielson, 2007) By the end of the second trimester, teachers will have completed a peer evaluation and reflection, and by the end of May as the principal, I will complete a third evaluation. Using these three observations, reflections, PLC documentation, and regular classroom visits, I will complete a yearly summative before June 1, 2018.

MSMA Development & Fundraising: a list of recent accomplishments & activities

November 9	Veteran's Day Tribute at 1:30 p.m. & WWII Veteran Martin Roy Navy Seaman 2 nd Class 103 Birthday Celebration Attended by Governor Sununu, Superintendent Thibault, and Chair, Dan Goldner
November 16	Parent-Teacher Conferences
November 16-21	Scholastic Book Fair in school library; raised \$1,000.00
November 17	Grand Friends' Day at 1:00 p.m.
November 18	Christmas Craft Fair 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.: raised \$1,000.00
November 21	Thanksgiving Prayer Service: campaign to raise money for New Horizons
December 1	Polar Express Night: raised \$470.00
December 2	Manchester Christmas Parade (35+ students, parents, and faculty)
December 15	Fund Roll Out
December 20	Christmas Performances: 11:00 am PK and K; 11:15 am Preschool Sing Along; 6.00 pm 1-6 Play
December 21	Cash Calendars: raised \$6,000.
December 21	Early Dismissal
December 22-29	Christmas Celebration and Break

Respectfully Submitted, Kate Segal, Mount Saint Mary Academy Principal and Amy True, Ministry Director

Diocese of Manchester
Mount Saint Mary Academy Catholic Identity Review Report

I. Overview and Demographics

Brief History of Mount Saint Mary Academy

Catherine McAuley was born in Dublin, Ireland in 1778. Later in life, after growing closer to God through prayer and performing works of charity, Catherine used inheritance money to build the first House of Mercy, on Baggot Street in Dublin as a home for working girls and orphans and a school for poor children. Other women joined her and in 1831 Catherine founded the Sisters of Mercy. Soon they were invited to other parts of Ireland and England and within 10 years, she had founded 10 convents in Ireland and 3 in England. Two years after her death in 1841, Frances Warde led the Sisters of Mercy to the United States. In 1858 the Sisters of Mercy came to Manchester, New Hampshire. There was an outreach to the immigrants who worked in the Amoskeag Mills, and to their children, who were in need of education. In 1868, Mount Saint Mary Academy was established at 435 Union Street, Manchester, NH. In February of 2003 Mount Saint Mary moved to its present location at 2291 Elm Street.

Mission Statement

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Vision Statement

In our ever changing world, we strive to provide a unique balance of intellectual, spiritual, and emotional education as a base for lifelong learning for the students and their families.

Educational Charism

Sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy our Suscipe, recited by our school community every Monday morning and Friday afternoon is adopted from Catherine McAuley.

Children's Suscipe

A prayer of supplication paraphrased from Catherine McAuley Suscipe

“My God,

I will belong to You forever. Teach me to trust in You because I know You love me and will always be near me. Help me always to obey You even when it is hard. Take from my heart all fear. Help me never to be sad, but always joyful, knowing that You are my God and that someday I will be with You in Heaven.”

The students at Mount Saint Mary Academy strive to continue the mission that Catherine McAuley began so long ago and the Sisters of Mercy still follow today. Not only is the suscipe an important part of the education students receive at Mount Saint Mary Academy, the students also work to follow the Corporal Works of Mercy. The Corporal Works of Mercy are; feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, visit the imprisoned, shelter the homeless, visit the sick, and bury the dead. Along with the important lessons the children learn from the suscipe and the Corporal Works of Mercy, as our mission statement says, students at Mount Saint Mary Academy also learn care and concern for the “community and the environment.” Each year during Mercy Classes the students in grades four, five and sixth brainstorm and choose two or three service projects to carry out during the school year. These projects focus on one of the above areas of concern. Past projects have included beach clean ups and raising money for cancer research.

Enrollment Information

Mount Saint Mary Academy has 84 students, preschool-grade 6. 70% Catholics with 100% participate in our school prayer and worship services, fully participating in religious classroom and Mercy instruction. While most of our students' ethnicity is “white,” we also have students who are Asian and African American. Our students come from Manchester, Bedford, Raymond, Londonderry, Hooksett, Auburn and New Boston.

Profile of Teachers

Mount Saint Mary Academy has 9 teachers, preschool to six grade and six part time integrated arts teachers. 80 % of our teachers are Catholic and 100% are Christians. All of our teachers are certified by the New Hampshire State of New Hampshire, degrees ranging from Bachelor of Arts, Masters, and CAGs. We have several part time specialists including Spanish, Computers, Physical Education, Art, Music, and library.

Number of Students with Disabilities

3 of our 84 students have 504 Accommodations Plans, based upon a disability that affects their ability to access education. Accommodations (no modifications to the curriculum) allow them access to their learning.

II. Response to Standards

Strength: Community, Culture, and Climate

- Mount Saint Mary Academy sponsored guests, public statements and events, and community activities of MSMA do not contradict the Catholic faith, teaching, and moral discipline.
- Mount Saint Mary Academy's relationship with parents is characterized by partnership, cooperation, and mutual respect, including in times of conflict or disagreement, thus affirming the role of parents as the student's primary educators.
- Mount Saint Mary Academy is a faithful member of the greater Manchester area, providing service when appropriate, offering a model to students and families for communion with the world around them.
- Mount Saint Mary Academy has a physical environment which is rich in symbolism, sacramentals, ritual and tradition, reflecting the school's steadfast commitment to Catholic school identity.

Area of Need: establishing and improving policies and procedures to ensure that all resources (financial, human and otherwise) and infrastructure support the school's mission and Catholic identity.

- Mount Saint Mary Academy will improve its responsibility as stewards of the school's resources, ensuring that appropriately developed financial plans and budgets are implemented to advance the Catholic mission of the Mount Saint Mary Academy community.
- Mount Saint Mary Academy human resource programs will be staffed and executed fairly, affirming the dignity and worth of all employees.
- All published policies and expectations will be aligned with the Mount Saint Mary Academy mission, comport with Church teachings, and are applied fairly for all stakeholders.
- Mount Saint Mary Academy needs to improve its relationship with the Bishop, marked by mutual trust, close cooperation, continuing dialogue, and respect for the Bishop's

authority. The principal will maintain a similar relationship with the Sisters of Mercy and the Board of Trustees.

How will Mount Saint Mary Academy address those areas of need?

- Hire(d) an experienced and certified principal.
- Establish a Leadership Team.
- Establish a Marketing Committee, including multiple stakeholders.
- Establish weekly Professional Learning Communities to ensure mission statements and personalized learning plans which include targeted instruction for all learners.

III. Summary

Strengths

According to the data reflected upon from this assessment tool, the strengths of the Mount Saint Mary Academy with regard to our Catholic identity is formed by our history, starting with the humble beginnings of the Sisters of Mercy, led by Catherine McAuley in Dublin, Ireland, and resulting in Sister Frances Warde, who in 1858 brought the Sisters of Mercy to Manchester, New Hampshire to support the immigrants who worked in the Amoskeag Mills, and to their children, who were in need of education. In 1868, Mount Saint Mary Academy was established at 435 Union Street Manchester, NH. We are researching whether we are the oldest Catholic school in New Hampshire, soon to be celebrating our 160th year.

Our rich history solidifies our positive, nurturing, and caring climate and culture, shared between our teachers, staff, board members, Sisters of Mercy, parents, and most importantly our children. Our community walks in the path of our mission statement which promotes the values of compassion and reverence for the community and the environment. Some of the school sponsored community events, conducted during either the school day, evening or weekend, attended by our parents, friends, and families, include Mercy Day, 9-11 Tribute to the Manchester Police and Fire Departments, Mount Saint Mary Yard/Estate Sale, Thanksgiving Prayer Service, Veterans Day Tribute, Scholastic Book Fair, Grand Friends' Day, Christmas Craft Fair, Christmas Play Program, Polar Express Night, Manchester Christmas Parade, Celebration of Catholic School Week, 5th and 6th grade play of the life of Catherine McAuley, Annual Auction, Step Up Day and 6th grade Graduation, Retreat, and end of the year trip.

We have worked diligently to create a positive, two-way communication parent to school partnership. Our teachers and administration send home a weekly newsletter. Our website and blogs are up to date with visual representation for families. Our families are invited each Friday to Friday Family Gathering. We have four parents on our Marketing Committee, and numerous

volunteers in the classroom and for events. The principal has regular bi-monthly daytime and evening Parent-Principal Check & Connects.

Mount Saint Mary Academy is active in raising money for other non-profits. Together, faculty and families raised money for Texas elementary schools affected by the storm in September, through the Catholic School to School program. Each month, we collect specific food items for the New Hampshire Food Bank, we raise money for New Horizons and are planning to have a fun run with them in the spring. We have a special connection with New Horizons as one of their founders was a Sister of Mercy. Each year Mount Saint Mary Academy collects for Toys for Tots, and although our enrollment is lower this year, we already have 2 ½ full cardboard boxes. Our Kindergarten students have a partnership with the Corville Community Home for the elderly off of Elm Street. For Halloween, they practiced a program of fall festive songs, celebrating our Catholic Faith and values of compassion and reverence. In addition to the Corville Community Home, New Horizons and New Hampshire Food Bank, we have several community partners including the Catholic Diocese, Manchester School of Music, two restaurants in Manchester, XO and Piccola, the New Hampshire Institute of Art and the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.

We are extremely proud of our physical environment and feel blessed to have a chapel, which is used on a regular basis by classroom teachers, and periodically by parents and the Sisters of Mercy. If you “walk the walls” of our school you will find evidence of our symbolism of the Catholic Church, Sisters of Mercy and Catherine McAuley. Our students have religious class or Mount Monday each day of the week. In addition, our Director of Ministry, teaches a Mercy class for each class monthly, from preschool to six grade.

Area to Improve

Mount Saint Mary Academy has gone through many transitions over the last three years, including 3 principals. We have had changes in administration, admissions, development, technology, accounting, and staff. We are blessed to have some of these positions filled by current or returning faculty. As a result of those transitions, we have had a drop in enrollment, currently 84 students, preschool to six grade. It is vital that we re-establish policies and procedures to ensure that all resources, including financial, human, (staff, faculty, parents, board members, Diocese) and the Sisters of Mercy ensure that we appropriately develop financial plans and budgets which advance our Catholic and Mercy mission.

We have collaborated this year to effectively staff and execute our Catholic, Mercy, and educational programs, affirming the dignity and worth of all employees, while also holding one another accountable to our roles as Catholic Educators. We hope to continue to build our relationship with the Bishop. Bishop Labschi joined us last spring for Mass in our auditorium. We were delighted to see our students in the Parable Magazine. Our principal, lead teacher, and Director of Ministry attend workshops held by the Diocese and led by the Superintendent of Schools and the Bishop. A majority of faculty and staff, including part time, joined in Formation Day in Concord. We maintain a relationship of respect and gratitude for the Sisters of Mercy, also joining them in prayer and professional development in person and

online, throughout the school year. We would like to take advantage and access the many supports available to us from both the Sisters of Mercy and the Catholic Diocese to continue the long and rich legacy of Mount Saint Mary Academy.

In our supporting documents we have included our action plans for Marketing, Vision, Staff Meetings, Professional Learning Committees, and Leadership Team meetings. After meeting with the visiting team, we will review their commendations and recommendations and look forward to increasing progress in this area, increasing our enrollment, starting with preschool and pre-kindergarten.