

Dear Parents of the Class of 2018:

Pastoral Ministry welcomes you and your daughter to Mercy High School. As your daughter's first year begins we hope she will become more familiar with her Mercy Community and ready to begin to focus on identifying her gifts and talents. On October 15 she will be taking part in the Freshman Experience Day; part of that day will be a morning with APeX Ministries. The whole class is together for a presentation by APeX Ministries who present the Gospel in a fun and fresh way. As the first faith experience at Mercy, the activities and presentations encourage the students to see what gifts God has given them and to think how they can use these gifts as members of the Mercy community. This is the foundation of Mercy's four year retreat program.

The details of the upcoming mandatory **RETREAT** are as follows:

- **Where:** Mercy's auditorium and other rooms
- **When: Wednesday, October 15, 2014** during regular school hours. Sign-in will begin at 8:00 am in the lobby area.
- **What to wear:** Jeans and other appropriate casual dress are allowed (no shorts).
- **Dismissal:** 2:35 pm.
- **Optional:** APeX Ministries have T-shirts that they bring and sell to help fund their ministry. If your daughter is interested she can stop by the Pastoral Team Room to see some samples of these shirts or check their web site at APeXMinistries.com. The shirts cost just under \$20 **and are strictly optional.**

Mercy is proud of our four year retreat program and we look forward to working closely with your daughter. In her sophomore year, your daughter will experience a day long retreat facilitated by NET Ministries. This team of 12 young adults will challenge your daughter to continue to share God's love and realized she was first loved by God and is called to be God's hands and feet in the world. There is no additional charge for the frosh and sophomore retreats as both are funded solely by the activities fee as part of her tuition.

Building upon her first two years of retreat experiences, junior year offers her the option of attending an overnight retreat entitled, "Finding God in All Things." The goal of this retreat is to challenge her to take a deeper look at her life and where God is at work within her life. The culmination of the retreat program at Mercy is the KAIROS retreat. Over three and a half days your daughter has the opportunity to take time to look deeply at her personal relationship with God and through prayer, personal reflection, small group discussion, reconciliation and Liturgy of the Eucharist she is

challenged to develop this relationship. Both of these retreats are optional and do have a cost for the students but are highly recommended for her spiritual development.

We look forward to spending the morning with your daughter at the upcoming Frosh retreat. If you have any questions regarding this retreat or any of the future retreats please contact us in Pastoral Ministry. Also, students are invited to be a member of the Pastoral Team and there are a variety of opportunities for active membership. There are opportunities currently to become involved with Spirit Choir, Liturgy planning, service opportunities, Arts and Environment and Prayer. We encourage you to discuss with your daughter how she may use her gifts and talents to become an active member of the Mercy Community.

Pastoral Ministry also has a Schoology Group Site, <https://mhsmi.schoology.com>. Your daughter will be receiving more information regarding this later. To join she would click on Groups and then click JOIN and type: H8KDB-QG6N5. This site will allow your daughter to take a look at all the opportunities that are available for her to become involved in the faith and service opportunities at Mercy and join Pastoral Team. We wish your family God's blessings as you begin this new path with your daughter.

Sincerely,

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Pastoral Minister

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