



# Divine Mercy Academy

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Dear Prospective DMA Families,

Welcome to Divine Mercy Academy! Thank you so much for taking the time to get to know our school as you plan for your child's future. With the many choices that you have in education for your child, we are happy to be a part of your consideration process.

Divine Mercy Academy is committed to providing all of our students a faith-based, rigorous academic program aligned with the Diocese of Pittsburgh and Pennsylvania State Standards. We believe in educating the whole child academically, spiritually, emotionally, socially, and physically. As a school, this approach is best accomplished by our parents, students, teachers, and parish community working in partnership on behalf of our children.

Often prospective parents ask what makes DMA different from other local schools. Although we believe there are countless distinctions, there are a few reasons that immediately come to mind that can be summarized with the "Four Cs."

**Catholic Identity:** We take the responsibility of raising our children in the faith very seriously. We use every opportunity each day to weave our Catholic identity into our instruction and interactions. Our goal is to foster in our students a life-long relationship with Christ. We strive to use our faith to make the world a better place one child at a time. Students participate in many faith-based activities throughout the school year including weekly Mass, prayer services, religious celebrations, and service projects.

**Comprehensive Curriculum:** Our curriculum focuses on all domains of learning including social-emotional, cognitive, physical, spiritual, and communication. Students of all learning levels excel to their fullest potential. When our DMA students move on to high school, they are fully prepared for the continuation of their academic journey. We also make arts integration an integral part of our curriculum. Not only do we have an excellent fine arts program encompassing visual arts, vocal music, instrumental band, and theater, but our teachers also incorporate the arts into their everyday curriculum. In addition, we are in the process of building on our programs by updating our library/media space and adding a STREAM (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts, Math) Lab. Learning doesn't stop at the final school bell, however, as we also have a rich athletic program and a variety of other after school activities.

**Commitment and Collaboration:** We have an amazing faculty and staff who give their all every day. They are committed fully to the education and well-being of all of our students. They are passionate about what they do, and it is apparent in their interactions with their students, the school families, and each other. They collaborate with each other on a regular basis to bring the best program possible to the students. Each teacher's classroom has a SmartBoard, and we have a 1:1 Chromebook ratio for our students in grades 2-8 as well as class sets of Chromebooks, iPads, and tablets which are used with our PreK-1st graders. The teachers integrate technology into their daily classroom programs to enhance student learning. Our teachers believe in providing the students with the best academic program possible with the desire for them to have all the skills and tools necessary to succeed in our world today

**Community:** Our school has a very active, diverse, and involved community with a family-focused atmosphere. The faculty, staff, and administration strive to know every child and family within our school. Children and their families become a very special and important part of the class, school, and church community. Family participation in a child's education is key to his/her success, and Divine Mercy Academy is beyond blessed to have such amazingly supportive families. In addition, the partnership between our preschool, elementary, and middle school creates a true sense of family, offering numerous opportunities for positive interactions and relationships. Our school family also connects with the church and local community by including them in school activities, participating in community events, and conducting community service for a variety of organizations within the local area.

One of the most important decisions that you make in your child's development is the choice of school. We are a perfect fit for families that are looking for a school that centers on Jesus Christ, teaches life lessons, and provides opportunities for students of all backgrounds to excel. We thank you for considering Divine Mercy Academy as a part of your family's future. If you have any further questions, please explore our website at [www.dmapgh.org](http://www.dmapgh.org) or email us at [schooloffice@dmapgh.org](mailto:schooloffice@dmapgh.org). WE look forward to you coming to grow in faith with us!

Blessings,

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