



## ***Mission Statement***

*Guided by the wisdom of our Patron, Pope St. John Paul II, Our Mission is to partner with parents in their roles as the primary educators of their children, so as to foster a love for truth, beauty, goodness, and learning by providing students with a foundation of wisdom and virtue, so that they may bear witness to the kingdom of God. We desire to form disciples of Jesus Christ, who are made free to realize their full potential by living joyfully in accordance with the truth revealed by God through nature and the Catholic Church. We do this by providing a challenging and integrated Catholic liberal arts education.*

## ***Educational Philosophy***

*“Our hearts are restless until they rest in You.” St. Augustine, Confessions*

Every human heart longs to find answers to the fundamental questions of existence: Who am I and what is the world?, Where do I come from and why am I here?, How am I to live my life? Saint Augustine, whose own life and work profoundly engaged these perennial questions, gives classic expression to the Christian response, an expression that proposes that there is Truth, creation is the expression of intelligent purpose, and man is a rational being, the highest material creation endowed with inherent dignity, made in the image and likeness of God. Furthermore, man can live a joyful, ordered life because of God’s abundant goodness and mercy.

Inspired by this life in Christ, Divine Mercy Academy has in its educational philosophy a vision of education grounded in the Catholic intellectual tradition, the teachings of the Universal Church and her understanding of the human experience. We believe that it is our mission to provide students with a foundation by which they are truly made free to seek truth and live joyful, productive lives informed by reason and virtue in order to help bear witness to the kingdom of God in our day. We believe that the ultimate purpose of a Catholic school is to bring souls to Christ through His Church. As a school, we achieve this purpose when we develop our students’ intellects and when we provide them with foundational principles that they can later employ to live good, fulfilled, and holy lives. Thus, at its core, the purpose of Divine Mercy Academy is to form in each of our students a Catholic mind and heart.

## *About DMA*

### *History:*

DMA was founded in the summer of 2018 after months of prayer and discernment about the need for a full-time classical school in the Annapolis-area. DMA's founders recognize the need for a primary school with a classical liberal arts curriculum that is fully immersed in the Catholic faith which is also affordable. We opened our doors in the Fall of 2019.

### *General Information:*

Divine Mercy Academy, Inc. is qualified as a 501(c)(3) entity by the Internal Revenue Service. We are certified by the State of Maryland as a private independent school. We are affiliated with the Institute for Catholic Liberal Education (ICLE). We will meet five days a week between the hours of 8:30 am to 3:30 pm at Our Shepherd Lutheran Church at 400 Benfield Rd. in Severna Park. We offer classes to students from Kindergarten through 8th grade. Divine Mercy Academy boasts a 4:1 Student to Teacher ratio.

### *School Day:*

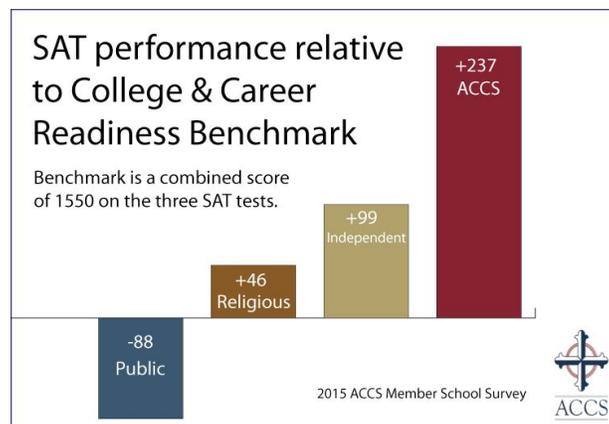
8:30 - Mass at St. John the Evangelist  
9:00 - Transport to Our Shepherd Lutheran (Divine Mercy Academy)  
9:15 - Chapel - Saints/Prayer/Announcements  
9:30 - Math (K-3) Music and Latin (4-8)  
10:30 - Language Arts (K-3); Math and Language Arts (4-8)  
12:30 - Pray the Angelus followed Lunch, Recess, and Physical Education  
1:30 - Humanities (K-4); Arts and Sciences (5-8)  
2:25 - Arts and Sciences (K-4); Humanities (5-8)  
3:15 - Chaplet of Divine Mercy  
3:30 - Dismissal

## *What Is Classical Education?*

Classical liberal arts education is the fullest form of how the Catholic Church understands formation. This educational model assumes a higher purpose and a deeper meaning to life. It is faith seeking understanding. The goal of a liberal arts education is liberty – freeing the mind so that it can understand God and the world He created in order that we may serve Him better. Rather than subjects being understood as separate, they are all understood as facets of the Human Experience. The result of this method is a love of God, a love of learning, and a love of school. In one word, students are happy!

## *Why Classical?*

**It's better Spiritually** – According to the Institute for Classical Liberal Education: “Catholic liberal education (from the Latin, liber, which means free) is ordered to the Truth that sets us free. This formation frees us for growth in faith, wisdom, and virtue. While recent attention has been aimed at the revival of liberal learning in higher education, we understand that these habits of mind and heart must first be cultivated in the very young. The sacramental and moral imagination is nurtured in childhood.” The secular model of education is rooted in an atheistic, utilitarian philosophy. Its rise over the past century has fragmented knowledge and failed children at an increasing rate with every experiment it deploys. When this industrialized approach is imported uncritically into Catholic schools, it undermines both the faith and reason of our children – contrary to the Church’s central purpose in education.” **It's better Academically** – Students of classical liberal arts education perform better on Standardized testing. Association of Classical Christian Schools:



Lastly, **it's better for the family** - By providing students with a foundation in wisdom and virtue, the Catholic family as the domestic church is fully supported in its mission to be part of the New Evangelization. Children come home not having to be retaught in faith and morals, but ready to embrace and engage their family life as the summit of their formation.

## ***Why Divine Mercy?***

The message of The Divine Mercy is simple. It is that God loves us – all of us. And, he wants us to recognize that His mercy is greater than our sins, so that we will call upon Him with trust, receive His mercy, and let it flow through us to others. Thus, all will come to share His joy.

The Divine Mercy message is one we can call to mind simply by remembering ABC:

A - Ask for His Mercy. God wants us to approach Him in prayer constantly, repenting of our sins and asking Him to pour His mercy out upon us and upon the whole world.

B - Be merciful. God wants us to receive His mercy and let it flow through us to others. He wants us to extend love and forgiveness to others just as He does to us.

C - Completely trust in Jesus. God wants us to know that the graces of His mercy are dependent upon our trust. The more we trust in Jesus, the more we will receive.

This message and devotion to Jesus as The Divine Mercy is based on the writings of Saint Faustina Kowalska, an uneducated Polish nun who, in obedience to her spiritual director, wrote a diary of about 600 pages recording the revelations she received about God's mercy. Even before her death in 1938, the devotion to The Divine Mercy had begun to spread.

## ***Why Should I Send My Children To Divine Mercy Academy?***

Divine Mercy Academy is the only classical primary school in the Catholic tradition in the Annapolis area which offers classes five days a week. We will provide a nurturing environment aimed at fostering in your child a love of learning and living the Catholic faith. We do this through a classical liberal arts curriculum, frequent prayer and reception of the Sacraments at an affordable price.

## *Tuition and Fees*

### **Tuition**<sup>1</sup>

First child - \$7,000  
Second child - \$6,500  
Third child - \$6,000

### **Tuition Payment Policies**

Tuition may be paid annually, semi-annually, or on a monthly pay schedule (June-May).  
A \$29 late fee will be assessed after 10 days.

**Application Fee** - \$75.00 per child

**Books, Materials, and Incidentals** - \$500. All books and supplies for the year will be handed out to the students at Back to School night.

## *Admissions Information and Checklist*

- Step 1
  - Application for Admission is done through our website: [divinemeracy.md](http://divinemeracy.md).
  - Once on our website, click on Apply.
  - Now click on the TADS Admissions and Enrollment icon.
  - Click on Fall 2020 - Spring of 2021 School Year
  - Click on "Click here to apply"
  - Select "Create a new account"
  - Fill out all appropriate information to the best of your ability
  - You will need to upload a writing sample as well as a current report card.
- Step 2 (Optional)
  - If you would like to be considered for financial aid, please fill out the Financial Aid application.
- Step 3
  - Once your application and financial aid applications are complete, DMA will contact you to schedule an interview to complete the admissions process.
- Step 4
  - Within two weeks of acceptance notification, new families must enroll their child and pay the registration fee (\$500 which covers all books, materials, and incidentals for the year) to hold a place for your student/s at DMA. This deposit will be payable via electronic payment through TADS.
  - If you have any questions or need financial accommodation, please contact us at [divinemeracyacad@gmail.com](mailto:divinemeracyacad@gmail.com)

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<sup>1</sup> **If a completed application is submitted by Jan 30th, tuition of each child will be discounted \$250. We are also offering a \$1,000 discount off of tuition for a referral of our school which results in a family enrolling their children at Divine Mercy Academy.**