

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I drop off my child safely at WMA?

Formal supervision in the Dixon Gym begins at 7:30 a.m. No student should be in the building before that time. All students are expected to be in the Dixon Gym by 8 a.m. No student should enter through the main door unless they are a walker or are arriving after 8:30 a.m. School officially begins at 8:10 a.m. Attendance will be taken at 8:15 a.m. A child not in his or her classroom at that time will be marked late.

By Car

Parents must drop all students off at the car line doors. All students who arrive by car should go directly to the Dixon Gym. **Please refrain from using cell phones during arrival on campus and remember to maintain a safe speed of 10 miles per hour.**

By Bus

Students transported by bus enter the building through the designated door and go directly to the Dixon Gym.

Walkers

Students should enter through the front door and proceed to the Dixon Gym. **(On the first day of school, all parents of students that are 3, 4 or 5 years old are welcome to come in to the school and walk their child to his or her classroom.)**

By Van

Precious Cargo private van service transports from South Philadelphia, Fairmount and Center City. Please contact Amelia and John Fogarino at 215-463-5489 (H) or 215-480-0800 (C) Please call ASAP if interested. These students enter the building through the designated door or go directly to the Dixon Gym.

How do I pick up my child at dismissal?

Half-day Montessori dismissal begins at 11:15 a.m. Dismissal for full-day students begins with prayer at 2:50 p.m. (11:50 a.m. on early dismissal days), followed by instructions for car, walker, Mercy After Care, sport, and bus lines.

Car

Parents are not permitted to pick up their children in the Dixon Gym, the Front Lobby, or any other door to the building. Please pull in the front driveway and form two lines. Do not leave your car for any reason. A placard will be given to you at the beginning of the year. Display the placard in the front windshield with the names and grades of all the children you are transporting. Follow the directions of the teachers in the car line. Teachers will escort your children to the car. Children who are not picked up by 3:20 p.m. will go to After Care and be charged accordingly. **Please refrain from using cell phones during dismissal on campus and remember to maintain a safe speed of 10 miles per hour.**

Bus

Students will be dismissed from the Dixon Gym as their buses arrive. A teacher will walk them to the buses. If a bus does not arrive at school by 3:40 p.m.,

parents will be notified.

Walkers

Only children who live within a one-mile radius of the school will be permitted to walk home. Permission notes must be on file in the Main Office for students to walk home.

A staff member will cross the children at the traffic light at Merion Road and Montgomery Avenue.

About half of our students go home by buses provided by the school districts. Most buses leave school by 3:15 p.m. Some districts require the students to stop at other schools and change buses. Philadelphia, Springfield and Marple Newtown School Districts do NOT provide transportation for the pre-k or kindergarten students. Parents will get detailed information from their school district.

How can my child be part of the After Care Program?

Beginning on the first day of school, Mercy After Care (MAC) is open from 3 to 6 p.m. On certain days such as Faculty Inservice Days, Spring Break, the week before Camp and certain holidays Mercy After Care closes at 4 p.m.

This program includes recreational activities, enrichment experiences, scheduled homework periods, and snacks for children in Montessori and the Early Learning Center) through eighth grade. The staff consists of professionals, both teachers and teacher aides, who work together to provide individual attention, security, and consistency of program in an atmosphere of respect and fun.

The cost of after care is \$8.50 per hour. The MAC registration form can be found on our [website](#).

What is the uniform for my child? Students in our three and four year old programs do not wear uniforms. Starting in kindergarten, every child wears a uniform. The students have a warm weather uniform, a winter uniform and a gym uniform. Specifics about our uniform can be found on our website. The school uniform is available through Flynn & O'Hara. Visit one of their locations or their [website](#). They can also be reached at 800-441-4122. Gym uniform (sweats) can be purchased through Lands' End and Flynn and O'Hara and the WMA Spirit Wear Store.

What is the Parents Association? How can I become involved?

Waldron Mercy Academy Parents Association is an organization made up of parents, teachers and administration. It consists of several committees that help with social, academic, athletic and outreach programs for WMA. All parents are welcome to be part of this association. Specific information can be found on our [website](#).

What is the WMA Weekly?

WMA families receive our weekly newsletter, the *WMA Weekly*, via email. It is filled with all of the updated information parents need about upcoming events, lunch menus, athletic events,

special speakers, etc. Parents are asked to read this newsletter each week to keep up-to-date on Waldron Mercy Academy news.

Is breakfast available?

Williamson Hospitality is the food service provider for WMA. Breakfast is available each day from 7:30 to 8 a.m. in the Cafeteria. Information about the cost and choices is found on the weekly menu posted on WMA's website.

Is a hot lunch available?

A daily hot lunch program is available to our full-day students. Information about the cost and choices is included in the calendar posted each month online. Parents have the choice of packing their children's lunch or buying. Beverages and snacks may be purchased at WMA whether you pack or buy lunch. A debit process can be used when purchasing any items. A student ID is required to set up the debit. **The ID can be found on your billing statement. It is the last 4 numerical digits.** Example STU2345, the number 2345 is the student ID.

Are there healthy snacks available at lunch?

There are healthy snacks sold at break time and lunch time. The prices range between 75¢ and \$1.75.

Is there a snack break?

Beginning in first grade, students can purchase snacks for their morning break time. Soft pretzels can be purchased for 75¢. The school provides snack for Montessori children. Preschool, Pre Kindergarten and Kindergarten students bring their own snacks from home. Please be conscious that many students have food allergies. We ask that you do not send snacks to school that contain peanuts or tree nuts.

What is Community Gathering?

Every Wednesday morning at 8:10 a.m., the faculty, staff and students join in the Dixon Gym for prayers and announcements. We celebrate birthdays, academic and athletic accomplishments, and we pray and sing together. Parents are welcome to attend.

When is "Back to School Night"?

Each September, Waldron Mercy has a time for parents to meet the teachers, hear about the grade expectations and ask questions. "Back to School Night" for our Montessori 3 and 4-year-old students, and preschool, pre-k, kindergarten, and grades 1 -3 will be held Monday, September 10, 2018. Parents of our Montessori full-day program and grades 4 to 8 will meet on Thursday, September 13, 2018. All meetings begin in the Dixon Gym at 6:30 p.m. More information will follow.

When are parent-teacher conferences? When are report cards distributed?

The Waldron Mercy academic year is on a trimester system. Report cards are distributed at the end of each trimester. Parent- teacher conferences are held in October and February. An interim progress report is sent home in October and April. Grades 5 to 8 can access their grades

online. Pre-k sends formal reports home three times a year. Montessori communicates progress through conferences two times a year. Kindergarten sends four formal reports home a year. Teachers schedule conferences for further communication concerning each child's progress. All parents are expected to attend the conference at the end of the first trimester. The second trimester conferences are by request only. Teachers and/or parents can request a second trimester conference. **Students in kindergarten through grade five attend conferences when appropriate. Students in grades six through eight are *required* to attend conferences.**

How do I communicate with my child's teacher?

Parents are encouraged to communicate with their child's teacher throughout the school year. Parents can write notes, e-mail or speak to the teacher on the telephone. If needed, parents and/or teachers will request additional conferences to discuss their child's progress.

Communication: "Blackbaud Connect" Notification

Waldron Mercy Academy has adopted the "Blackbaud Connect" Notification Service, which allows us to send a telephone message to you providing important information about emergencies and occasionally general school news. We use "Blackbaud Connect" to notify you of changes in the school schedule, such as delays, early closings or cancellations due to unforeseen circumstances, or inclement weather. **The same system** can also be used to remind you of scheduled events, including field trips, report card distribution and more. In the event of an emergency at school, you'll have peace of mind knowing that you will be informed immediately by phone.

What you need to know about receiving calls sent through "Blackbaud Connect"

- When you receive a call from this system there will be a delay after "Hello."
- It may sound like a telemarketing call, so please don't hang up.
- Caller ID will display Waldron Mercy Academy's main number when a general announcement is delivered. The call will be made to your primary phone number.
- Caller ID will display "411," if the message is an emergency.
- "Blackbaud Connect" will leave a message on any answering machine or voicemail.
- If the "Blackbaud Connect" message stops playing, you can press any key (1 to 9), and the message will replay from the beginning.

The successful delivery of information is dependent upon accurate contact information for each student, so please make certain we have your most current phone numbers—home, business and cell. If there is a change in any number since you applied to Waldron Mercy Academy, please email me with your updated information at jmcdonnell@waldronmercy.org. After the school year begins you will also be able to update your information by logging onto the WMA website. Your user name and password will be sent to you at the start of the school year.

Sr. Joellen
Admission Director
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