

February 24, 2016

Dear Parents,

This is the time of year when we begin to see crocuses push through a fading layer of snow to remind us of the promise of spring, and to give us glimpses of the next step. In the same way, we live this second semester as we make plans for next year. Your daughters are choosing classes for next year as we build a master schedule and calendar for 2016-2017. At the same time, as a school, we have been talking about this Year of Mercy and its implications in our lives as people loved by God, given a mission on earth, and invited to eternal happiness. This is why we exist as a Catholic School.

Tuition and Fees

It has been a blessed year at Mount de Sales Academy, and the Board of Trustees continues to work diligently to balance our tuition with the growth of the overall experience for our students. In the 2016-2017 school year, tuition will be \$13,600, which reflects only a 1.5% overall increase in the tuition from the 15-16 school year. The rental fee for textbooks remains at \$175, and the athletic fee remains at \$150 per sport. A non-refundable reservation deposit of \$350 will be charged that is part of the total tuition. This deposit reserves a place for your daughter for the 16-17 school year. Without this payment, there is no guarantee for placement of a student. The deposit for all returning students is due on March 11, 2016. There will be a late fee of \$50 charged for any submissions after this date. Further information pertaining to FACTS tuition management, books, and related topics is enclosed in this mailing.

Gradescale

Over the last six months, Mrs. Theresa Greene, Vice Principal of Academic Affairs, led us through a study of our gradescale. Through the study, we decided to revise the gradescale, and this new scale will go into effect starting August 2016. For more details and the listing of the scale, please see the Academics page of our website.

Library/Guidance/Nursing Renovations

Over the last two years, the Board and our facilities department have been working on an overall space plan to better utilize our present campus for services to the students. Last summer we created technology offices within the library, and we renovated Alumnae Hall for more admissions space. This summer, we will renovate the library to create a library/media center. We will also renovate and expand the guidance area and former admissions office to create a new guidance and health suite.

Strategic Plan Update

Lastly, the Board of Trustees continues to study possible facilities use of our Gatehouse, the fourth floor of the 1852 building, and the feasibility of a performing arts building. They will share decisions on these projects and an update on all strategic plan progress on Thursday, March 17, at 7 pm in the Bird Room. All are welcome.

In Christ,

Sister Mary Thomas, O.P.
Principal, Mount de Sales Academy