



**MOUNT ST. MARY CATHOLIC  
HIGH SCHOOL**  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

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**PRESIDENT**

Start Date: July 2023

[mountstmary.org](http://mountstmary.org)



**Carney  
Sandoe**  
& ASSOCIATES



## MISSION

*The Mount is a faith community serving our students and their families with mercy, compassion and an exceptional Christ-centered Catholic education.*

## VISION

*The unique spirit of Mount St. Mary Catholic High School is created by blending three distinct traditions: the heritage of Catholic education, the pursuit of academic excellence, and the charisms and mission of the Religious Sisters of Mercy and the Catholic Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. We view human life as a journey on which faculty and students are companion travelers. Together we form a community of believers. We are committed to continually clarifying our vision within the context of the Catholic vision of education, the Mercy vision of education, and the current needs of education.*

## MOTTO

*Leading. Serving. Living Mercy.*

## OVERVIEW

Located on a beautiful, tree-covered 28-acre campus just five minutes south of downtown Oklahoma City, Mount St. Mary Catholic High School (MSM) is a co-educational school serving grades 9-12. MSM embraces the values of the Sisters of Mercy, who founded the school in 1903 and who remain co-sponsors with the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. Through this unique identity, the school boasts a distinctive curriculum that emphasizes service and action. As part of The Mount experience, every student has the opportunity to volunteer in the community.

For nearly 120 years, MSM has served the community as a premier college preparatory school committed to developing future workplace leaders, family, government, and especially the community. The school's holistic academic program expects engagement, a thirst for knowledge, and personal responsibility while preparing students to thrive for a lifetime.

## FAST FACTS

**Founded: 1903**

**Total students: 395**

**Students of color: 38%**

**Total faculty & staff 84**

**Faculty & staff of color 9.3%**

**Faculty with advanced degrees 24%**

**Student/teacher ratio: 12:1**

**Financial aid budget \$150,000**

**Students receiving aid: 22%**

**Endowment \$16 million**

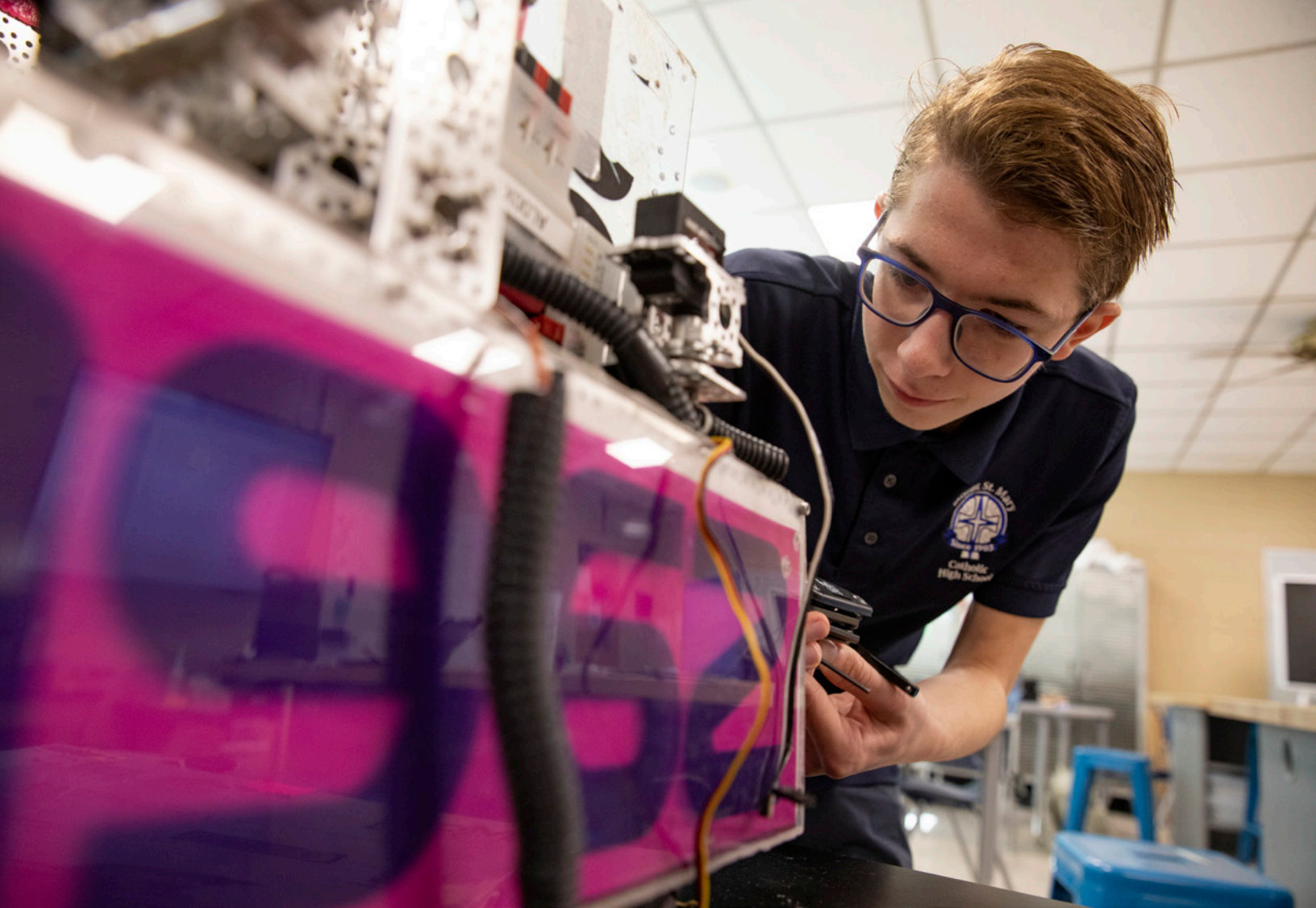


Mount St. Mary Catholic High School seeks a dynamic, faith-filled, and mission driven President, starting July 2023. The successful candidate will be an experienced educational leader devoted to the school's mission, programs, admissions, and development outreach. The President's position is a significant, high profile leadership responsibility. The President will be expected to maintain a nurturing culture while modeling values, fostering community connectedness, and supporting the mission and traditions that set this outstanding school apart. This is an exceptional opportunity to lead a dynamic secondary school with deep ties to its community and an unwavering commitment to its Catholic mission.

## SCHOOL HISTORY

Students have made history, memories, and discoveries for over a century at Mount St. Mary. Five Sisters of Mercy traveled to Indian Territory in 1884 to establish a school near Konawa for young ladies. When a fire destroyed the school in 1901, the Sisters relocated to Oklahoma City. The Sisters built what was at that time, the tallest building in the city on a hill one mile south of downtown Oklahoma City. The cornerstone was laid on December 12, 1903 (4 years before statehood).

Young ladies arrived from all areas of the United States to be educated at Mount St. Mary's Academy. In 1950, Bishop Eugene McGuinness asked the Sisters to consider expanding their education to include young men. Since that time, Mount St. Mary Catholic High School has been co-educational. The Mount has a long history of educating the youth of Oklahoma. For over 100 years, the school has committed to continuing the tradition of excellence in Catholic education begun by the Sisters of Mercy and supported by the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, who formed a co-sponsorship maintained since 2002.



In recent years, Mount St. Mary Catholic High School, the oldest high school in Oklahoma, has also undertaken a number of initiatives to enhance and improve its programming and services, including instituting Advanced Placement (AP) and pre-AP curriculum, initiating inclusion programs to help students with learning disabilities, and implementing a 1:1 digital student laptop program.

Today, Mount St. Mary currently serves students from all across the OKC metro and beyond. The Class of 2021 was awarded over \$7 million in college scholarships and are now enrolled in universities all across the country.

## THE SCHOOL

The school's legacy is summed up by its motto: *Leading. Serving. Living Mercy.* The Mount experience is expressed in the way students, parents, faculty, and staff show love, service, and discipleship to those within the school's halls, in the local community, and all around the globe. In a Christ-centered, nurturing environment, MSM provides a well-rounded, college preparatory education while fostering compassionate, socially conscious students prepared to live a life of Mercy.



The school community is rooted in Roman Catholic traditions and welcomes students and faculty of all socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds. MSM does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, ethnicity, national origin, or disability. Building upon the school's commitment to provide an excellent faith-based, college-preparatory education to families from all walks of life, MSM offers innovative programs, the PLUS Program (Providing the Link to Unlimited Student Success) and Cornerstone Inclusion Program, allowing students with diagnosed learning needs the opportunity to reach their full potential in an inclusive environment.

Faith, compassion, and service are the foundations upon which the school is built. The spirit of mercy and service extends throughout the classroom, on the playing field, and across the local community. The school proudly displays the Catholic Social Teachings and Mercy Values in each classroom. Students and faculty in all subjects intentionally consider the implications these values have for their studies and their lives. The Mount's religious studies curriculum gives every student an opportunity to be placed as a volunteer in the community. A unique block schedule allows students to leave campus during their Christian Service class period to serve at their assigned location.

The school is always striving to move forward yet keep the history and traditions that built MSM. In 2016, leadership set out to define what the future of the school looked like and developed a comprehensive Strategic Plan comprised of ten focus areas. Academics and Curriculum, Advancement, Athletics, Catholic Identity, Enrollment Management, Finance, Ownership and Governance, Student Life, Technology, and Buildings and Grounds. In 2021, the school proudly initiated several new programs and facilities developed as part of the Strategic Plan as well as launched a four pillar initiative program, one of which is, [A Voice for Human Dignity](#), an effort to ensure the school's policies, words, and actions reflect its mission and its Catholic social teaching honoring the dignity of the human person.



Mount St. Mary Catholic High School is governed by a Board of Trustees who work closely with the school's co-sponsors, The Archdiocese of Oklahoma and The Sisters of Mercy. The Mount is accredited by the Oklahoma State Department of Education and the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. Mount St. Mary is a member of the National Catholic Education Association (NCEA), Mercy Education, College Board, the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), the National Student Assistance Association (NSAA), the Council of Oklahoma Private Education (COPE), and the Oklahoma Secondary Schools Athletic Association (OSSAA).

## ACADEMICS

The Mount's academic curriculum focuses on challenging each student to reach their maximum potential as future leaders, emphasizing critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and a strong commitment to community. Across all grade levels, students are surrounded by exceptional faculty. Class sizes are intentionally kept under 25 students to foster the close student-teacher relationships that are essential for successful learning. Graduates leave Mount St. Mary Catholic High School with the academic skills, self-confidence, and drive for servant-hearted leadership needed to thrive in college and beyond.



Students engage in core curriculum courses including Theology, English, Math, Science, Social Studies, and World Languages (French, Latin, and Spanish) and are required to take additional courses in Fine Arts, Physical Education, Personal Finance, Speech, and Geography. Incoming freshmen are provided extra support during their transition into high school through the school's unique program, Rocket Experience, where students learn the essential foundational skills necessary to succeed in high school, including developing healthy study habits, organizational skills, etiquette, and communication skills. In addition to the traditional college-preparatory courses, MSM offers 21 Advanced Placement (AP) classes, 16 Honors courses, and a selection of STEM classes.

Enhancing student learning, technology serves as a tool at MSM to enrich the curriculum and prepare students for a connected, digital world. The school's 1:1 digital program provides students with a Chromebook to use throughout their time at MSM, promoting an immersive educational experience. Every classroom is outfitted with a Roku TV and science and math classrooms use an interactive Vibe Board to enhance lessons for students. Additionally, teachers use their Screencastify subscription to create screencast tutorials and additional educational resources for MSM students. Other technology programs, including Hapara, GoGuardian, Power School and Canvas, enrich lesson plans, ensure internet safety, and promote efficient and dynamic learning environments. New in the 2021-2022 school year students have the option to earn a Diploma of Distinction (DoD). This is an innovative, curricular pathway that allows students to focus their elective choices on their interests and aspirations for college and their future careers. DoD options include Business & Technology; Engineering; STEM; Servant Leadership; Letters; Athletics; Renaissance Thinker; Music; Performing Arts; and Visual Arts.



## COLLEGE MATRICULATION

Of the 93 members of the class of 2021, 77% attended 4-year colleges and universities and 16% enrolled in 2-year colleges. Their achievements garnered them over \$7 million in college scholarships, including academic, athletic, and service-oriented awards. In the past three years, matriculations of MSM students include the following colleges and universities, among many others:

Avila University  
Baylor University  
Benedictine College  
Boston Conservatory  
Bowdoin College  
Chapman University  
Cowley Community College  
Creighton University  
East Central University  
Embry Riddle Aeronautic  
University  
Emporia State University  
Fordham University  
Fort Lewis College  
Friends University  
Georgetown University  
International Theological  
Institute  
Kenyon College  
Michigan State University  
Newman University  
Northeastern University

Oklahoma Christian University  
OK City Community College  
Oklahoma City University  
Oklahoma State University  
Regis University  
Rhodes Colleges  
Rockhurst University  
Rose State College  
Rutgers University  
Saint Louis University  
Saint Mary's College  
Savannah College of Art and  
Design  
Seton Hall University  
Southern Nazarene University  
Southwestern OK State University  
Tabor College  
Tarleton State University  
Texas A&M University  
Texas Tech University  
Univ. of Alabama Huntsville  
Univ. of Arkansas

Univ. of Central Arkansas  
Univ. of Central Florida  
Univ. of Central OK  
Univ. of Chicago  
Univ. of Colorado Boulder  
Univ. of Dallas  
Univ. of Kansas  
Univ. of Maine  
Univ. of New Mexico  
Univ. of North Carolina  
Univ. of Northern Colorado  
Univ. of Notre Dame  
Univ. of Oklahoma  
Univ. of South Carolina  
Univ. of Southern California  
University of Tulsa  
Westminster College  
WestPoint  
Wichita State University  
William Jewell





Students at The Mount are able to pursue educational opportunities through local vocational institutions as well as earn college credit through concurrent enrollment opportunities. Seniors may elect to take a Senior Study period or participate in an off-campus internship.

College counseling is an integral part of The Mount experience and involves academic advisement, personal counseling, and college and career advising. The college counseling process begins in grade 9 and continues throughout all four years, providing invaluable support and guidance to students and parents during the college search and application process.

## THE ARTS

The MSM Fine Arts Department is dedicated to the artistic development of each student. Whether in theatre, band, choir, drawing, stagecraft, or 2D design, students can discover and develop their unique, God-given talents. The Fine Arts program builds confidence, promotes creativity, and allows students to grow in their faith as they share their talents with the community.



## ATHLETICS

Athletics at Mount St. Mary Catholic High School play a vital role in the development of students. MSM offers 14 different sports and 30 athletic teams. On sports teams, student-athletes not only develop athletic abilities but also acquire important life skills that extend beyond the playing field, including sportsmanship, self-discipline, loyalty, leadership, and friendship. Continuing with the focus to develop future leaders, the athletics program at MSM provides opportunities for students to also participate as team managers, trainers, or statisticians.

Sports teams include baseball, basketball, cheer, cross country, dance, football, golf, powerlifting, soccer, softball, swim, tennis, track and field and volleyball. The excellence of the athletic program is evidenced by the number of Rocket student-athletes who have gone on to play at the collegiate level and by the numerous championships MSM sports teams claim.

## SCHOOL LIFE

The Spirit of Mercy is found not only in the classroom but rings throughout the local community. Faith and service learning are the cornerstones of The Mount experience. Students participate in a school-wide retreat, Masses, and prayer groups hosted by the Campus Ministry Department, helping to foster each student's personal and spiritual growth.

One of the most important ways that students demonstrate discipleship is through service. Every student participates in multiple projects each year during class project days and through club and athletic team sponsored community service. This year alone, Mount students have packed food boxes, partnered with the local neighborhood organizations to make improvements, collected toys for Catholic Charities, established tutoring sessions, ventured into political activism, and successfully engaged community leaders – some were even invited to speak at the school.



Clubs and organizations provide students with the opportunities to explore new interests, develop leadership skills, give back to the community, and build lasting friendships. Ninety-five percent of students participate in at least one extracurricular activity such as drama club, Spanish club, student council, band, and bible study.

## OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

If you do not know Oklahoma City, you are in for a pleasant surprise! You may be familiar with the Big Apple or the Big Easy, but Oklahoma City is known as the Big Friendly. Those native to the city and those who come from far away describe the people of OKC as the greatest asset to the city. New faculty and staff at MSM are immediately made to feel like family within the school community. OKC is a dynamic and affordable city that ranks high on the list of best places to raise a family.

During the height of the recession, *Forbes* named Oklahoma City the most recession-proof city in the nation, and more recently, the magazine named it the most affordable city in America. Military, universities, health care, energy, and banking are the key sources of economic strength and employment for the city.

The downtown area is booming. Revitalization and growth are seen at every point in the city. The once abandoned warehouse district known as Bricktown is now the center of restaurants, retail, and entertainment. Named one of the 50 Best Places to Travel in 2020 by *Travel + Leisure*, OKC offers an abundance of cultural attractions, outdoor adventures, family activities, and cuisine. The city supports numerous museums, theatres, and the NBA Thunder basketball team. Oklahoma City has one of the ten top rated zoos in the country and abundant parks and lakes throughout the region.

Many describe Oklahoma City as a great place to live with the benefits of a large city but the heart of a small town.



## DESIRED QUALITIES AND QUALIFICATIONS

The Mount is an extraordinary Catholic school in Oklahoma City. Through a one-of-its kind co-sponsorship by both the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas and the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, the school is poised for a new chapter of excellence. The school adopted the President/Principal leadership model by appointing an interim President in July 2022, at the same time that it named a new Principal. The Mount is seeking its next President to build upon this new leadership model and continue the significant work begun by the interim President. This is an exceptional opportunity not offered to many Catholic school leaders. The President will be a practicing Catholic who summons believers to a lifelong process of continuing conversion to Jesus Christ – to a full and sincere adherence to his person and a decision to walk in his footsteps. He or she will report to the Board of Directors.

The desired qualities and characteristics for of the President include:

- Ardent disciple of Jesus Christ grounded in Catholic faith and Mercy values;
- Commitment to and passion for the Catholic, Mercy mission;
- Proven experience in executive leadership in the non-profit sector;
- Demonstrated relationship builder;
- Strong sense of business acumen and ability to implement strategic initiatives;
- Good steward of financial resources;
- Inspirational and confident leader who is trustworthy, receptive, and who can communicate clearly and effectively;
- Ability to cultivate relationships with all constituent groups, including attracting new constituent groups to the community;
- Visionary, charismatic, genuine and outgoing representative of the school;
- Exhibit integrity, empathy and genuine joy;
- Collaborative leader who has the desire and ability to work well within the school's new leadership model in order to promote educational excellence and spiritual formation.



The President of The Mount will have an advanced degree and a strong background in building teamwork, momentum and energy for a vibrant future for the school. Experience in the Education sector will be valuable.

## OPPORTUNITIES

Rooted in its mission to serve students and families with mercy and compassion, Mount St. Mary's has a long-established history of providing an exceptional Christ-centered Catholic education. This legacy means that MSM has a promising future. The sense of family is pervasive on the campus, and numerous current students represent generations of family involvement at The Mount. The alumni, faculty, administration, and current and former parents are dedicated to the values of the school.

Specific opportunities for the President include:

- Provide leadership and direction to guide the future of the Mount;
- Shape a culture in transformation;
- Celebrate traditions and embrace new vision for future growth and success;
- Rebrand to meld together the beauty of the Catholic Church in Archdiocese of Oklahoma City and Mercy core values to give a unique identity to The Mount;
- Support and grow the Mount's position as a differentiated offering among Catholic, Christian and private school options;
- Join a school that has a community committed to the success of the new leadership model;
- Create a culture of philanthropy internally and externally.



## TO APPLY

Interested and qualified candidates are invited to contact the consultants in confidence. To apply, candidates should submit the following materials electronically as separate PDF documents to the consultants listed below:

- A cover letter expressing their interest in this particular position;
- A current résumé;
- A list of five professional references with name, relationship, phone number, and email address of each (references will not be contacted without the candidate's permission)

### **Brandon Jacobs**

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