

MERCY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY



YEAR IN REVIEW

2024-2025





MERCY

CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Mercy Christian Academy admits students of any race, color, national origin, and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. Mercy Christian Academy does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

*I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser.
Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away,
and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes,
that it may bear more fruit.*

John 15:1-2

I have this lemon tree in my front yard that belonged to my husband's 98 year old grandfather. It was in a pot for years, and before he died he gave it to my husband but not without saying, "David, you better not plant that thing in the ground. It needs to stay in a pot so you can drag it into the house during the winter." Despite this warning, one summer after PawPaw died, I convinced my husband to plant the lemon tree in the ground. For a while it grew, but one day in the early fall my husband trimmed the tree too far back and cut it below "the root stock." We thought he had ruined the plant, preventing it from producing buds and fruit. For 5 years my husband has carefully tended to this lemon tree. The leaves and branches continue to stretch to the sky, and the tree has exploded, but no lemons. Last year my husband was outside watering the tree when we saw one flower. That one flower has turned into 70. The tree has exploded in productivity, and this year after faithful pruning and tender care, we will have a basket full of yellow lemons.

The children of Mercy Christian remind me of this lemon tree. They are not meant to be planted in a tiny pot. They are meant to be planted by God in the expansive ground where their roots can grow down deep and they can be nourished by God. Each day the teachers and I skillfully plan our lessons, giving our students the best education possible. As a small school, we are able to see and care for each child individually. We are building and maintaining a beautiful school, and our students are exploding in vibrant curiosity and learning. Throughout this Year in Review you will see pictures and hear stories of students and families who are thrilled with the education they are receiving. Mercy Christian is a place of immense growth because we are all being nurtured and cared for by the great gardner, God himself. Come and see our many fruits.

JESSICA ELSTON
HEAD OF SCHOOL



MEET OUR TEAM



Jessica Elston
Founder & Head of School



Kristen Thomas
Co-Founder & President



Judy Milam
Secretary



Jason Monarch
Treasurer



Matt Ponder
Board Member



Daniel Robinson
Board Member



Tina Moser
Director of Operations



Grace Hernandez
Teacher



Connie Tingle
Teacher



Lindsay Austin
Teacher



Beth Bernard
Teacher



Christy Grayson
Bursar/Bookkeeper



Thank you,
Broadmoor Baptist Church,
for hosting Mercy.

Your facilities are being used
to make disciples.

*"Go therefore and make disciples
of all nations...teaching them
all that I have commanded you."*
Matthew 28:19



MISSION • VISION • VALUES

Mercy Christian Academy exists to bear witness to the mercies of Christ
by providing a high-quality, Christian education
to Shreveport-area families, regardless of income.

Mercy Christian Academy will satisfy
a child's thirst for knowledge
and cultivate students grown in God's love.

Global

"After this I looked, and behold, a great
multitude that no one could number, from
every nation, from all tribes and peoples and
languages, standing before the throne and
before the Lamb..." Revelation 7:9

Restful

"Better is a handful of quietness than two
hands full of toil and a striving after wind."
Ecclesiastes 4:6

Original

"For we are his workmanship, created in
Christ Jesus for good works, which God
prepared beforehand, that we should walk in
them." Ephesians 2:10

Worshipful

"All your children will be taught by the Lord,
and great will be their peace." Isaiah 54:13

Natural

"Look at the birds of the air, for they neither
sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your
heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of
more value than they?" Matthew 6:26



FROM MERCY PARENTS:

It brings me great peace and excitement to watch my children flourish at MCA. They are becoming who God intends them to be, which is one of the greatest joys a parent could have. In that way, I see MCA and its teachers and curriculum as partners with me in my parenting. The school has also been very generous with scholarships to our family.

Mercy has been a blessing in our lives. Our daughter finished her second year at school, and each year has impacted us in different ways. I believe this year God has touched our hearts, and my daughter's desire to know more about God, how we can love Him and praise Him, has been incredible. When we joined Mercy, we did have a relationship with God, but it wasn't as deep. Seeing how God has impacted our daughter's life, her love for God, and her understanding of what the Bible says about many topics has pushed us to seek God more as a family.

My children have found a community at the school that they have been unable to find or maintain elsewhere. I'm so grateful to see my children belong somewhere and be embraced as they are. I'm grateful for the administration and teachers who act as shepherds for this community, making sure it is safe, encouraging, creative, and challenging.

Mercy has provided a community in which our daughter can grapple with the realities of life and grow in a safe, Christ-centered community that we trust.

Our child used to be a perfectionist in many things. This year, we have learned that God loves us as we are and that He is strengthened in our weaknesses. We don't need to be the best at everything for God to love us; God is glorified in our weaknesses, and our strength comes from Him. To God goes all the glory and honor for our achievements.

My daughter has always struggled with anxiety and lack of confidence. MCA and its consistent, firm love has helped her to grow in assurance and confidence so that she can use the gifts God has given her.

Our son is more confident and less anxious.

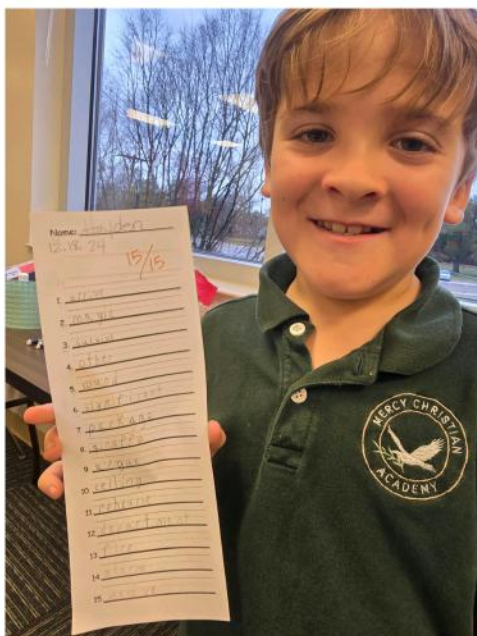
I am constantly surprised how much my children know about the Bible. Not only do they know Bible facts about people and events, they are being taught a full worldview, seeing the world through God's eyes. They have a hunger for God, constantly asking questions and making observations and connections that are rare for children their age. They understand the gospel! I know MCA has been a big part of this spiritual growth.

After a family crisis in the fall of 2024 which exposed our deep need for help, Mercy was one of the primary ways that the Lord met us and provided for us as we struggled to care for and educate our own children.

Mercy has given our child a community outside of her family, but in unity with her family, to continue growing and developing in healthy ways. Our daughter regularly speaks of spiritual lessons that she has learned from school. She reads much stronger than she did when she began; I see Mercy as a vital part of this.

MCA has fulfilled my greatest academic hopes for my children - to give them a love of learning. They are endlessly curious, observing life and nature and people and constantly asking questions to understand. Although they are challenged at the school, it is in a way that reinforces rather than stifles the love of learning.

Before MCA, my son would get bored and misbehave when he was not challenged or things were too easy. Thankfully, the school's curriculum keeps him challenged and engaged, and the teachers have a structured, disciplined environment that keeps him engaged and on task.

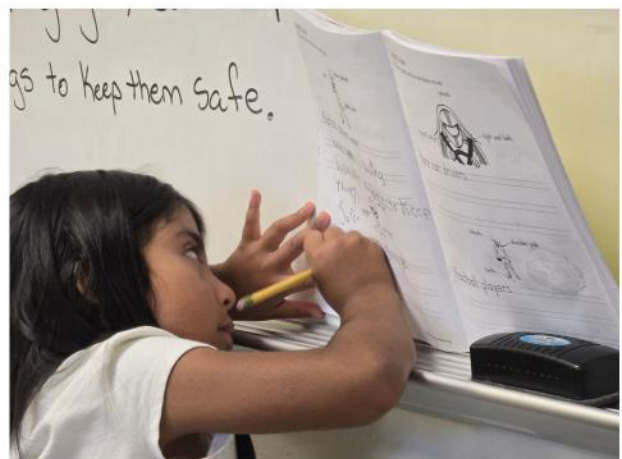


Our child has excelled in all subjects and has impressed us most with reading. The methods MCA uses to teach reading far surpass what was being taught to him in his last school. He caught on quickly and now is able to enjoy reading! He went from "needing intervention" in his local public school to A's and B's (on-level) in reading and math!

Our daughter has learned to read in such a short amount of time!

My child has transformed from someone who struggled to enjoy school and merely got through the day to a student who loves learning and is thriving in every aspect of life. He is calmer, kinder, more confident, growing spiritually, and excelling academically. Thanks to the love and support of the MCA staff and their exceptional teaching methods, my child is flourishing. We feel truly blessed to be part of the MCA community.

Our son has grown greatly spiritually. He has a much better understanding of the Bible and has found comfort in the power of prayer.





*And God is able to bless you abundantly,
so that in all things at all times,
having all that you need,
you will abound in every good work.
2 Corinthians 9:8*

After teaching in public school for 11 years, I struggled with the system's focus on test scores over children. Students who were struggling were passed along, ready or not. Those facing family tragedies were still expected to take mandated tests. Teachers taught to the test, and children got a mere 10-15 minute break daily. Burn-out and anxiety were common, and my heart was broken. I knew God was leading me elsewhere, but I wasn't sure where.

Then, God showed me Mercy Christian Academy. My first visit was life-changing. I loved the restful learning environment, free from test-driven anxiety. Students are encouraged to use their imaginations, creativity, and unique gifts. Small groups allow teachers to meet students at their actual learning level, and we're supported to genuinely care about their lives. We pray together, encourage each other, and love one another. Students have time to be kids, not robots.

God's guidance to MCA was clear. The switch from public to private school was intimidating, with some benefits lost, but God provided answers for my concerns. He gave me a community of like-minded people who teach not just academics but God's truth and love. When struggles arise, my work family supports, loves, and prays with me.

MCA has taught me to slow down and appreciate God's creation. I'm rested and excited to come to school daily. Students aren't test scores but whole persons made in God's likeness. We help them grow academically and spiritually. I get to know them through card games, recess, or creating art together, witnessing their unique gifts. The Lord is doing amazing things at MCA every day!

LINDSAY AUSTIN
COHORT 3-4, 2024-2025



PICTURE STUDY

At Mercy Christian Academy, our Picture Study program, inspired by Charlotte Mason, invites students to immerse themselves in the world of great art, fostering a deep appreciation for beauty and truth. Each year, students focus on a handful of artists, quietly observing masterpieces, narrating their insights, and engaging in thoughtful discussions. This gentle yet powerful approach helps them internalize art, building a mental gallery that enriches their lives. As Charlotte Mason beautifully expressed, “We cannot measure the influence that one or another artist has upon the child’s sense of beauty... he is enriched more than we know in having really looked at a single picture” (Simply Charlotte Mason). Through this practice, students develop sharp observation and concentration skills, essential for academic success, particularly in disciplines like science, while cultivating a taste for what is good, true, and beautiful in a world often filled with distractions.

The spiritual dimension of Picture Study sets it apart, connecting students to the divine through art. Russ Ramsey captures this, noting, “We are the only creatures who engage in behaviors purely for encountering beauty... hungering to see the glory of God” (Rembrandt Is in the Wind). Similarly, Liliás Trotter reflects, “The true artist is the one who lets the beauty of Jesus be seen through his work” (Parables of the Cross). By exploring the works of artists like Giotto di Bondone, Diego Velázquez, or Zaha Hadid in a nurturing environment, students freely share ideas and explore divine beauty. We are grateful to our donors and volunteers who make this enriching experience possible. Through Picture Study, we nurture students’ souls, equipping them to see God’s world with wonder and discernment.



2025 MAIS OVERALL ART FAIR WINNERS

Fourth Grade

Judah Elston, 1st Place Painting
Lucas Phillips, 2nd Place Collage

Third Grade

Charlie Boyd, 1st Place Painting
Ali Vargo, 2nd Place Drawing
Rebecca Grace DeLeón, 1st Place Collage

Second Grade

Libby Fredieu, 2nd Place Mixed Media

First Grade

Kudo Todman, 1st Place Crayon
Julian Calma, 1st Place Mixed Media
Elliott Aguilar, 1st Place Drawing

Kindergarten

Jonathan Byun-Anderson, 1st Place Mixed Media

2025 MAIS DISTRICT V ART WINNERS

Fourth Grade

Judah Elston, 1st Place Painting
Lucas Phillips, 1st Place Collage
Aurelia Byun-Andersen, 1st Place Crayon
Evie Beseau, 1st Place Mixed Media
Hayden Moore, 1st Place Drawing

Third Grade

Charlie Boyd, 1st Place Painting
Ali Vargo, 1st Place Drawing
Rebecca Grace DeLeón, 1st Place, Collage
Skyleigh Bernard, 1st Place Crayon
Alberto Reyes, 1st Place Mixed Media

Second Grade

Libby Fredieu, 1st Place Mixed Media
Valery Rosales, 1st Place Crayon Only
Silas Vining, 1st Place Painting
Bishop McLeod, 1st Place Drawing
Frances Elston, 1st Place Collage

First Grade

Kudo Todman, 1st Place Crayon Only
Julian Calma, 1st Place Mixed Media
Elliott Aguilar, 1st Place Drawing Single Media
Timothy Vargo, 1st Place Painting
Levi Beseau, 1st Place Collage

Kindergarten

Jonathan Byun-Anderson, 1st Place Mixed Media
Elizabeth Kendrick, 1st Place Paint Only
Judith Meyer, 1st Place Drawing

2025 WRITING COMPETITION WINNERS

Tied for 1st Place

Rebecca Grace DeLeón & Jaymes Ivy Jean

Third Place

Frances Elston

Honorable Mention

Alberto Reyes
Evie Beseau
Elijah Wood

2025 READING AWARDS

Elijah Dantes	1 st Place Reader, Cohort K	6,421 minutes
Gabe Calma	2 nd Place Reader, Cohort K	5,428 minutes
Yuria Todman	3 rd Place Reader, Cohort K	5,336 minutes
Kudo Todman	1 st Place Reader, Cohort 1-2	9,934 minutes
Frances Elston	2 nd Place Reader, Cohort 1-2	7,305 minutes
Julian Calma	3 rd Place Reader, Cohort 1-2	5,615 minutes
Judah Elston	1 st Place Reader, Cohort 3-4	7,085 minutes
Jaymes Ivy Jeane	2 nd Place Reader, Cohort 3-4	6,936 minutes
Lucas Phillips	3 rd Place Reader, Cohort 3-4	6,369 minutes



*You crown the year with a bountiful harvest;
even the hard pathways overflow with abundance.
Psalm 65:11*

GOD PROVIDES

God has given us more than we could imagine. May He give us open eyes to see this and open hearts to receive it and to praise Him. Amen.

Some Items Given to Mercy:

Mo Willems Book Set

Butterfly Garden

Stencils

Chess Sets

Building Straw Kits

Games

Lunches for Teachers

Lunches for Students

Sewing Kits

Crochet Kits

Magna Tiles

Winter Jackets

Winter Stockings

Long Sleeve Polos

Socks

White Boards

Healthy Snacks

Over 1,000 Books

Right Start Math Grant

Professional Videographer Services



*As each has received a gift,
use it to serve one another,
as good stewards of God's varied grace.
1 Peter 4:10*

OUR DONORS & VOLUNTEERS

To everyone who has given to Mercy Christian Academy, we thank you. Your support has grown our faith and shown us that- indeed- God provides for His Kingdom work. Thank you for being a part of our journey.

To all of our anonymous donors:
Thank you for your generous support.
Your kindness makes a meaningful impact,
and we are deeply grateful for your contributions.

Lauren Aiken
Patti Alberts
Jane Allison
Sharon Aymond
Lindsay Austin
Karen and Phil Barbaree
Kayla Barker
Cameron and Emily Beaty
Adam and Beth Bernard
Spencer Bernard
Josh and Jess Beseau
Ashley and Cody Boyd
Cory Boyett
Tina and Ryan Bowen
Holly and Christian Briery
Weston and Lindsay Brown
Claude and Bethia Bundrick
David and Janet Calhoun
Mona and Frank Caraway
Chuck and Lisa Clinton
Paul and Danielle Cooper
Kate Craig
Jan Crain
Anna and Brady Crenshaw
Holly and Chase Crismon
Mark and Alyscia Dantes
Theresa DeFrancis
Kate deKay-Eustis Mortgage Corp.
Virginia Doolittle
April and Pat Dunn
Curtistine Earnest

David and Jess Elston
Grace and Steve Eyler
Barbara Fanta
Diane Foster
Barb Fuller
Jason and Jessica Gambill
Leisa and Ray Geoghegan
Carrie and Jeremy Gilbert
Linda Goodgion
Kelly and Jeffrey Gosslee
Kirk and Morgan Grantham
Christy Grayson
Stacey Guillory
Michelle and Paul Guillot
David Hackney
Suzanne and David Hamm
Richard and Jamie Hausgen
Chan and April Hearron
Daniel and Graciela Hernandez
Madeline Holder
Gloria Hoopes
Kay Hough
Kayla Hough
Cathy Howell
Lisa Huddleston
Emily and Mickel Husted
Roger and Linda Johnson
Stephanie Jonker
Sam and Mary Kendrick
Ed and Lisa Lazarus
Pam Leach

Leslie and Matt Ponder
Liz Light
Joe Livergood
Stephen and Linnae Magyar
Elliott Maples
Gena Matthews
Nancy and Mickey McDonald
Stefanie McInturf
Leon and Jean McKee
John & Lisa McLean
Daniel and Molly McRae
Santee Meaney
Sherin Mercer
Danny and Dee Milam
Judy Milam
Carla Miley
Deborah Monarch
Jason and Jennifer Monarch
T Willie Moore
Charles and Tina Moser
Virginia Moser
Denise Moss
Michael and Heather Newton
Linda and Mitch O'Neal
Allison and Larry Palmer
Debra Pendleton
Emery Pendergrass
Mark and Joan Perkins
Norann Planchock
Aimee and Allen Plummer
Chuck and Tracy Pourciau

Maggie and Jeremiah Raab
Candy Ray
Erica and Michael Rhodes
Ralph and Anne Richardson
Daphne Rivera
Daniel Robinson
Kevin and Renee Roig
Karen Rothell
Libby Rowell
Meg Sanders
Holly Scurlock
Cameron Settle
Eileen Shoup
Kristen Simmons
Catherine and Lewis Smith
Jordan and Britney Smith
Virginia St. John
Emily Strong
Ashley and Mark Taylor
Seth and Kristen Thomas
Tom and Barb Thomas
Stephanie Thornton
Joy and Roger Tinsley
Ray and Amy Vining
Jennie and Matt Weeks
Gregg Wilkes
Laura Williams
Kristi Youmans

MERCY BY THE NUMBERS



1:7
TEACHERS : STUDENTS



153
DONORS & VOLUNTEERS



535+
BOOKS READ ALOUD



21,600
MINUTES SPENT OUTDOORS



183,077+
MINUTES READ BY STUDENTS

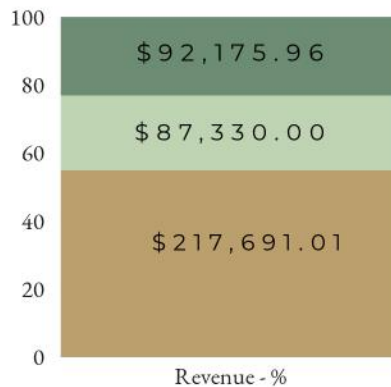


Over 1,638
BOOKS GIVEN AWAY

Fundraising Revenue

Tuition Revenue

Building Fund Revenue



Tuition Revenue

\$87,330

Donation and Fundraising Revenue

\$217,691

Total Yearly Expenses

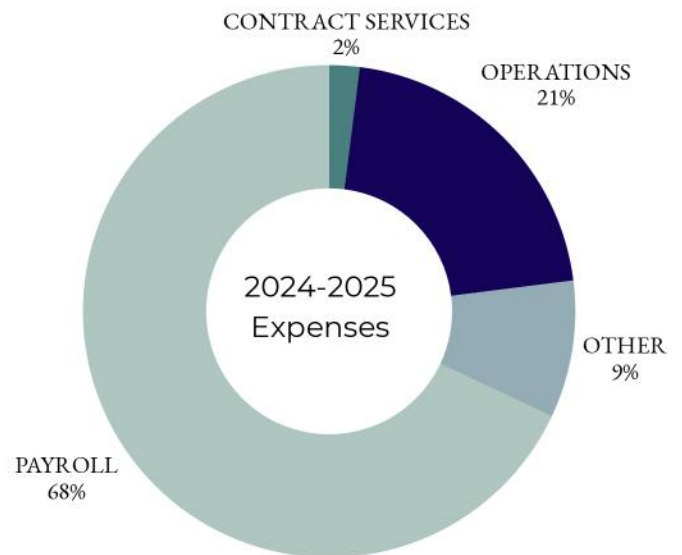
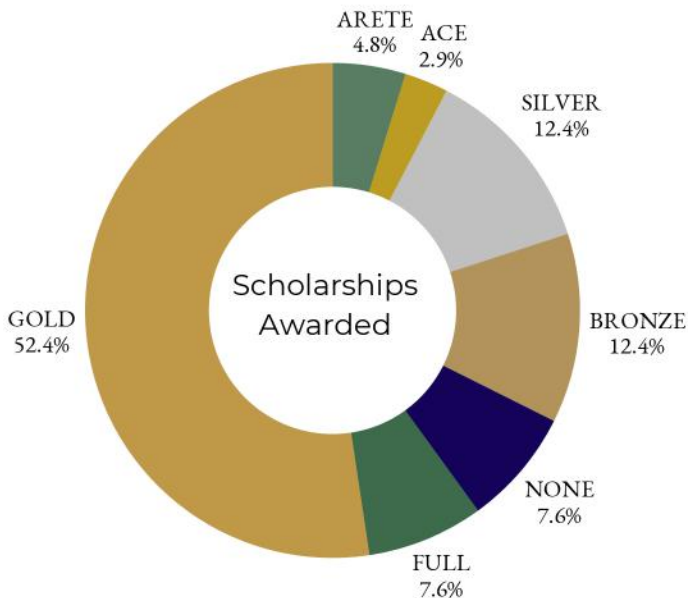
\$302,605

Building Fund

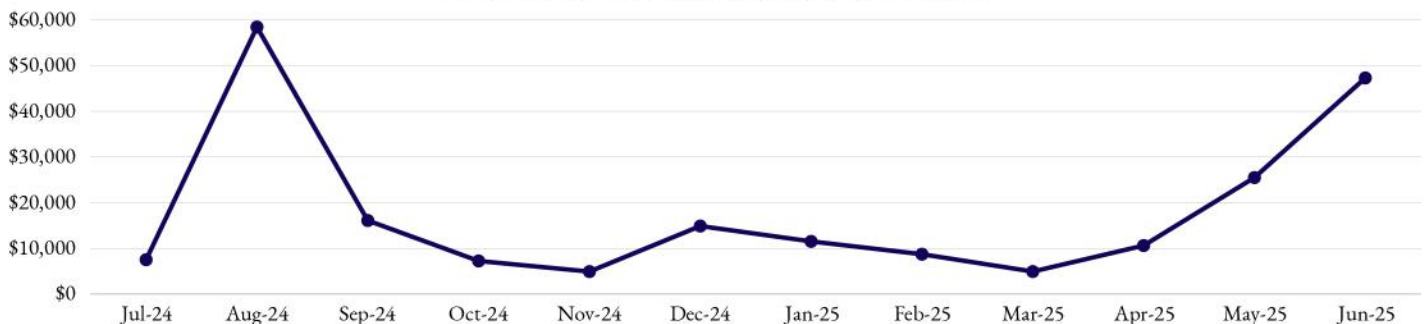
\$92,175

Cash Balance

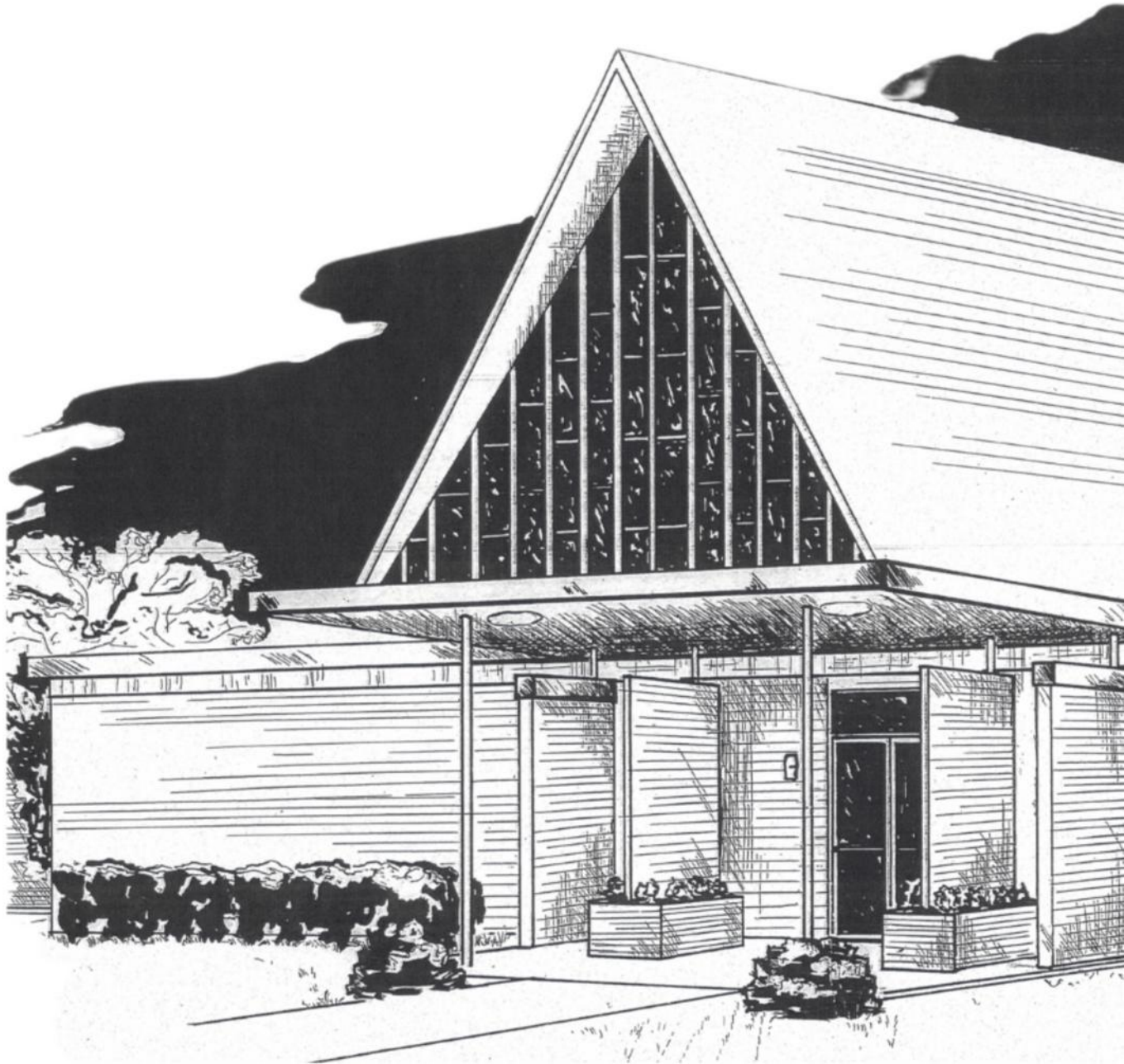
\$104,550.65



Donations & Fundraising Revenue

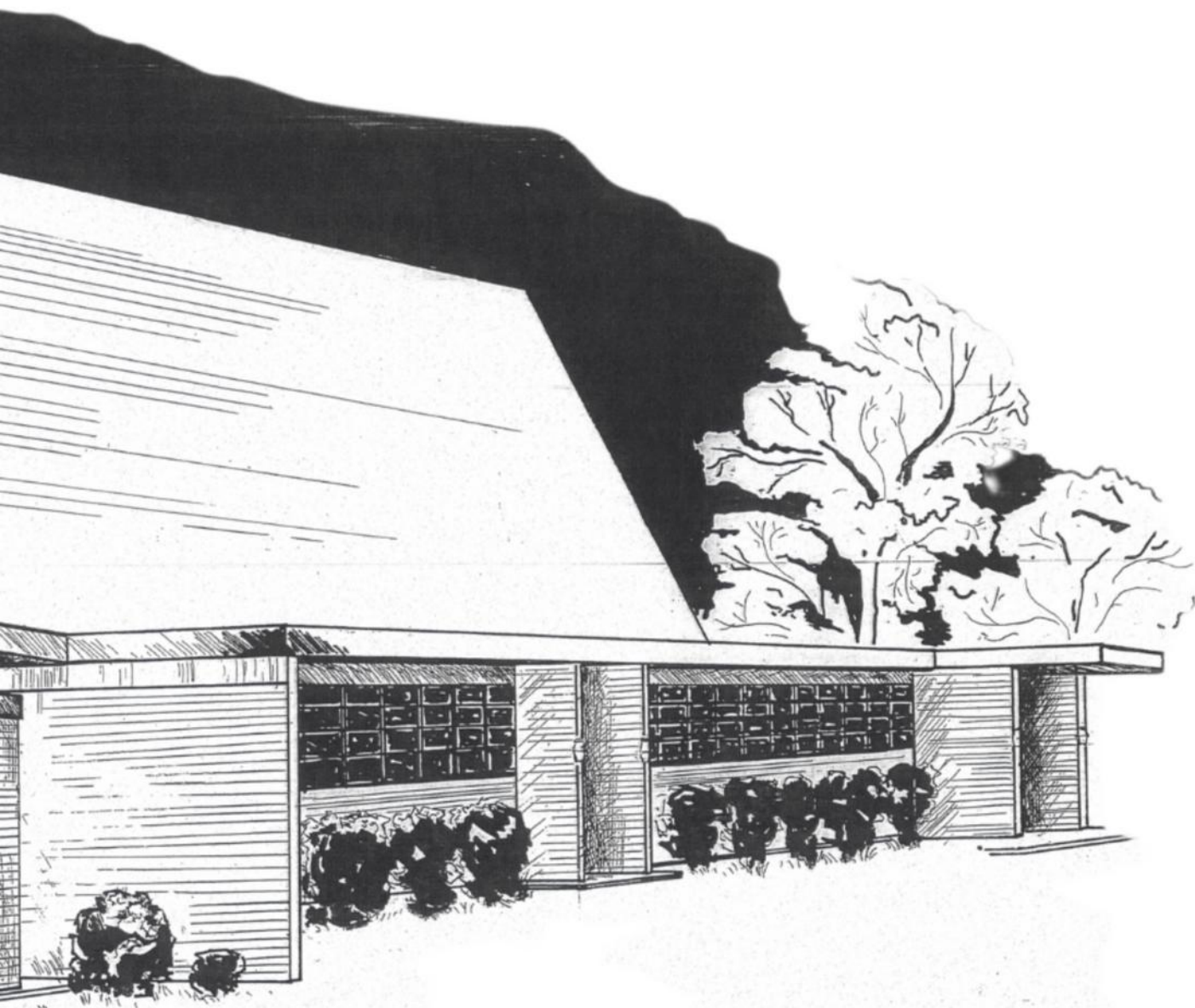


Future Home of Merc



How precious is your
The children of man find refuge
Psalm

cy Christian Academy



steadfast love, O God.
under the shadow of your wings.
n 36:7





Mercy Families, Friends,
and Celebration Church:

Your tireless efforts this summer have begun transforming Shreve City Baptist Church into our new school. Despite the intense heat, your commitment is bringing this vision to life. We're profoundly thankful for your generosity and spirit, and we praise God for inspiring your hearts to give so much.



*Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!
Give thanks to him; bless his name!
For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.
Psalm 100:4-5*

We are filled with gratitude for the remarkable growth and shared commitment that have defined Mercy Christian Academy's journey this past year. Your support has been a testament to God's provision and the dedication of our staff, volunteers, families, and partners.

This year, we achieved significant milestones. Our fundraising partnerships expanded, strengthening our sustainability. We proudly received accreditation from the Midsouth Association of Independent Schools (MAIS), a milestone driven by the exceptional leadership of our Head of School and Director of Operations. Their stewardship continues to guide our mission with excellence.

The Northwest Louisiana Baptist Association's generous gift of a building has opened doors for long-term growth, while Broadmoor Baptist Church's steadfast hospitality has provided a nurturing home for our school. These partnerships have been invaluable.

Our community has thrived through acts of service. Volunteers have enriched our students' lives by providing supplies, uniforms, and snacks, or spending time reading and playing games. These simple acts of love have profoundly shaped our culture.

We have also celebrated together at events like Mercy Day, the Global Thanksgiving Feast, Lessons and Carols, and the Flowering of the Cross. These gatherings are sacred opportunities to unite, seek the Lord, and glorify Him as a community.

Two new board members joined us, bringing vital experience as we plan to develop our new building and expand our mission. On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you, families, supporters, volunteers, and prayer partners, for your faith and generosity. We invite you to continue this journey with us by attending an event, volunteering, or visiting. You are part of God's story at MCA.

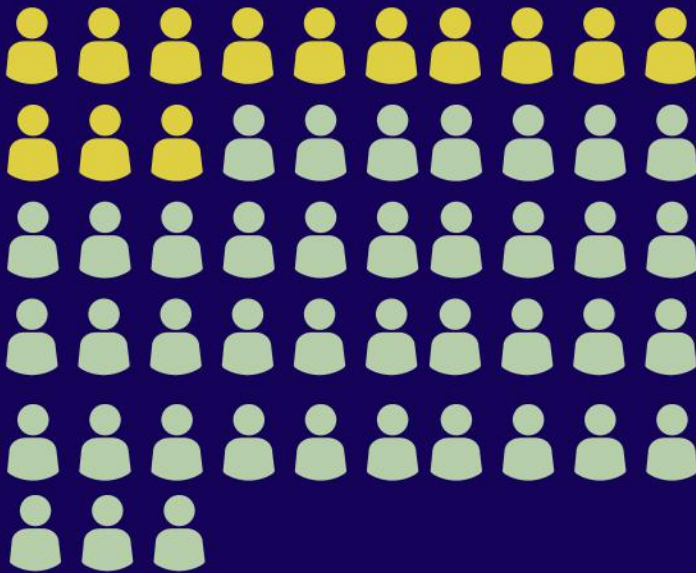
KRISTEN THOMAS
CO-FOUNDER/PRESIDENT, BOARD OF DIRECTORS



2025-2026 Needs

Your Gift Changes Lives

Become a Friend of Mercy with a recurring gift of \$25 or more — or give a one-time donation. Every dollar supports Mercy students and keeps our mission alive.



Amount	Impact
\$25/mo	5% of a student's tuition
\$50/mo	10% of a student's tuition
\$125/mo	25% of a student's tuition
\$250/mo	50% of a student's tuition
\$500/mo	100% of a student's tuition
\$6,000/yr	Sponsor a student for a year!
Custom	Give any amount

At the time of printing, the Lord has generously provided for 13 of our 2025-2026 students. We are asking him to move in the hearts of his people to meet the needs of 40 more students. Pray with us and share the opportunity with others.

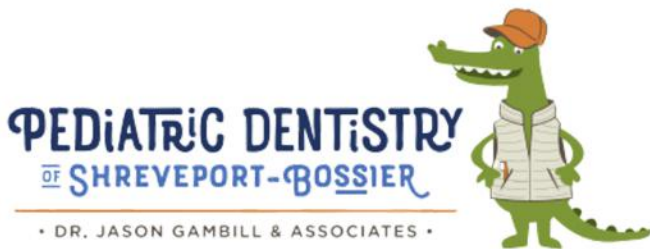
The children of mankind
take refuge in the shadow of your wings.
Psalm 36:7



MERCY
CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Join us in this good work God began in Shreveport. Be a *Friend of Mercy* today.
Mercy Christian Academy | P.O. Box 5033, Shreveport, LA 71135

Thank you to our business sponsors.
You are generous with Mercy.



REDEFINING YOUR HOME



Become a 2025-2026
Business Sponsor

Give Mercy

We invite you to join our Friends of Mercy program by becoming a recurring donor of \$25 or more. This is our primary method of receiving donations at MCA. Funds given through this program go toward our students' tuition. As a 501c3 all gifts are tax-deductible.

As we enter a new school year, we are seeking to raise \$260,000. This will allow us to sponsor more student scholarships and support our growing staff. To partner with us, or to increase your giving, scan the QR code.



To Give:
mercychristianacademy.com/donate

Volunteer Opportunities

If you are interested in providing snacks for our students, or you would like to play math games or read to them during lunch, please contact Tina@mercychristianacademy.com for more information.

Business Sponsorships

If you are a business interested in supporting Mercy Christian Academy, please contact Kristen@mercychristianacademy.com or call 318-453-3460 for more information.