

The CLS Experience: Educating the Whole Child

At the Campus Laboratory School (CLS), we believe that education extends beyond academics. Rooted in the Mercy Catholic tradition, CLS provides students with meaningful opportunities to grow intellectually, spiritually, socially, emotionally, and physically. Through rigorous academics, leadership development, service, the arts, and athletics, students are encouraged to discover their gifts and use them in service of others.

All CLS experiences are intentionally aligned with the Mercy Core Values—Compassion, Hospitality, Justice, Respect, and Service—and the Mercy Education Profile of a Graduate, forming students who are confident, capable, and committed to making a positive difference in the world.

Academic Enrichment & Leadership Opportunities

CLS offers a variety of enrichment experiences that encourage creativity, problem-solving, communication, and leadership.

- **Brick Club** – Hands-on building and design that fosters creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking
- **Robotics** – Technology-based problem solving and innovation
- **Science Fair** – Inquiry-based scientific exploration that builds research skills, perseverance, and confidence
- **Forensics** – Public speaking, critical thinking, and persuasive communication through speech and performance
- **Morning Announcements** – Student-led communication and leadership
- **Student Leadership Opportunities** – Classroom, school-wide, and service leadership roles
- **Buddy Program** – Older students mentor and support younger students, fostering compassion and responsibility

Mercy Alignment: These opportunities support lifelong learning, confidence, collaboration, and principled leadership grounded in respect and integrity.

Arts & Creative Expression

CLS values creativity as an essential component of student growth and self-expression.

- **Strings Program**
- **Orchestra**
- **Spring Musical**

- **Middle School Musical** – Providing middle school students with opportunities for performance, teamwork, and creative expression

Mercy Alignment: The arts promote confidence, self-expression, collaboration, and appreciation for the gifts of others.

Athletics & Wellness

Students are encouraged to develop physical wellness, teamwork, resilience, and sportsmanship through athletic participation.

- **Cross Country**
- **Basketball**
- **Soccer**
- **Track & Field**
- **Ski Club**

Mercy Alignment: Athletics emphasize respect, perseverance, teamwork, and care for the whole person.

Service & Faith in Action

Service is central to the CLS identity and reflects our commitment to living the Mercy mission.

- **Extensive Service Projects** integrated across grade levels
- **8th Grade Mission Trip**, providing students with a transformative service and leadership experience
- **Community Partnerships**, including outreach initiatives such as support for families through the *Purple Door* food program

Mercy Alignment: These experiences embody compassion, justice, service, and global awareness, forming students who respond to the needs of others.

Summer Learning & Enrichment at CLS

CLS extends its commitment to educating the whole child through a robust **eight-week summer camp program**, intentionally designed to support academic growth, creativity, and joyful learning in a nurturing environment.

Montessori & Reggio-Inspired Camps (8 Weeks)

CLS offers **eight weeks of Montessori and Reggio-inspired summer camps**, providing hands-on, child-centered experiences that honor curiosity, independence, collaboration, and creativity. These camps encourage students to explore, question, design, and create while building confidence and social-emotional skills in developmentally appropriate ways.

Mercy Alignment: These experiences foster respect for each child's individuality, promote lifelong learning, and encourage students to use their gifts with purpose and confidence.

Read, Write, Soar (4 Weeks)

Read, Write, Soar invites students to join us for a morning of learning and fun while reinforcing foundational literacy skills. Students engage in 15 hours per week of targeted, structured, multi-sensory learning experiences designed to strengthen reading, writing, and language development.

Camp Carlow's Read, Write, Soar program is universally designed to meet the needs of all learners, including students with reading-based learning differences, ensuring access, support, and success for every child.

Mercy Alignment: This program reflects our commitment to justice, compassion, and educational equity by meeting students where they are and supporting their growth with intention and care.

Themed Summer Camps

CLS also offers a variety of **Themed Summer Camps**, where learning is integrated with play, creativity, and exploration. These camps provide engaging opportunities for students to collaborate, problem-solve, and build friendships while enjoying meaningful, joyful summer experiences.

Mercy Alignment: Themed camps promote community, creativity, collaboration, and joyful learning in a supportive and inclusive environment.

Mercy in Action at CLS

CLS continues to deepen its commitment to the Mercy mission through intentional formation and community engagement:

- Faculty and staff participate in Mercy formation and regularly engage with University Advancement and Mission leaders
- CLS proudly celebrates faculty members who have become **Mercy Associates**, joining many University colleagues in formally committing to the Mercy mission
- Mercy Core Values and the Profile of a Graduate are visible throughout the school through banners, common language, newsletters, assemblies, and classroom practice

Inspired by Catherine McAuley, CLS strives to meet the needs of the time with courage, faith, and compassion. As Catherine reminded us, “*The poor need help today, not next week.*” In that same spirit, CLS responds to both joy and challenge with unity, generosity, and hope.

Why CLS?

At CLS, students are:

- **Known, supported, and challenged**
- **Encouraged to lead with empathy and integrity**
- **Given opportunities to discover and develop their unique gifts**
- **Formed academically, spiritually, and socially through the Mercy tradition**

CLS graduates leave with strong academic foundations, a commitment to service, confidence in their abilities, and a deep understanding of what it means to lead with compassion in a changing world.

Opportunities may vary by grade level and year as CLS continues to grow and respond to student interests and community needs.