

The Motto Project

Senior Capstone Project



**SHARED BY OUR LADY OF MERCY SCHOOL FOR
YOUNG WOMEN (ROCHESTER, NEW YORK)**



Mercy Education
System of the Americas

Educación de la Misericordia
de las Américas

Our Lady of Mercy School for Young Women

Rochester, New York

The Motto Project

What Is it?

The Motto Project allows students to connect their talents, passions, and interests through a coordinated effort developing and executing action, research, and presentation. It clearly demonstrates the impact of the Mercy Critical Concerns and the Core Values on the student's action and research. Every graduate of Our Lady of Mercy completes a Motto Project as a culmination of her Mercy experience. "Motto" is not an acronym; it is simply what our school represents – serving others through the Critical Concerns is our school's motto!

Parts of the Project:

Journal – 10 reflective and 10 investigative journals

- Reflective journals are the personal thoughts of the student as they complete their project. It could also be the various experiences during the action.
- Investigative journals are the "research" behind the action. All information is cited in MLA format.

Action

- Formal Proposal to the Motto Project Coordinator to get approval for determined action.
- Actions include:
 - Volunteer Work/Internship
 - Planned and Executed Event
 - Display for Students/Educational Presentation
 - Collection and Distribution of Items
 - Completed both inside and outside the school environment

Presentation

- Motto Day Celebration (March)
 - Each student presents to:
 - Panel of Faculty, Staff, Community Members, Alum
 - Junior Class
 - Approximately 10 panelists in all
- 8-15 Minute Presentation
- Letter to the Panelists - written and provided to the panelists prior to the presentation
- Rubric for Feedback:
 - Exemplary
 - Proficient

- Not Yet – student will present again after making necessary revisions (based on presentation only – not action)
- Immediate Feedback from the Motto Project Coordinator

Process:

- Begin March of Junior Year
 - Observe Senior Presentations
- May of Junior Year
 - Presentation by Project Coordinator in English class
 - Motto Day/Volunteer Fair
- Motto Coordinator is available throughout the summer
- Motto Days throughout the school year as work time
- Motto Coaches available to guide the process
- Presentation in March

Sample Projects:

- Volunteer/Internships:
 - Tutoring refugees
 - Foodbank sorting, sort clothing, office work at nonprofit
 - Teach swim lessons
 - Work in a classroom
 - Perishable food pick-up and deliver
 - Therapeutic horseback riding
 - Assistant in music and art programs
 - Teach own STEM class
 - Participate in afterschool enrichment activities
- Event:
 - 15-hour relay, “Girls on the Run”
 - 25-hour erg-a-thon to raise money for a homeless shelter
 - Ice skating event to raise money for those dealing with cancer
 - Bone marrow registry set-up at Relay for Life
 - Throw-A-Thon to make bowls for a charitable event
 - Dance benefit for dyslexia
 - Golf tournament for human trafficking awareness
 - Fashion show for self-esteem and fashion show for families of children in remission from cancer
 - Beach clean up
 - Regatta to raise funds for a speaker on domestic violence
- Collections:
 - Hats, gloves, coats, toiletries for refugees
 - Books for inner city schools
 - Craft supplies for afterschool programs
 - Costumes for afterschool programs

- Gently used instruments
- Gently used sports equipment
- School supplies for Rochester City School District
- Education:
 - 6th grade enrichment on nonviolence
 - Linking current 6th graders with graduating seniors and Mercy schools around the world
 - Exploring Diversity event
 - Poetry Slam to find your voice
 - Critical Concerns Day presentation on diversity
 - Cultural Immersion Fair
 - Health class presentations
 - Women in politics assembly
 - Letter-writing campaign to speak your voice
 - Speaker on domestic violence
 - Speaker on mental health
- Topics:
 - Homelessness
 - Human Trafficking
 - Refugee Resettlement
 - Plastic in the Ocean
 - Pet Therapy
 - Poverty and Nutrition/Poverty and Education
 - Domestic Violence
 - Autism
 - Theater/Arts/Music
 - Drug Addicted Babies
 - Home for Expectant Mothers

Setting the Stage:

- 6-7-8th grade Ministry Days
- I-Search Paper in 9th Grade
- Morality Project in 11th Grade
- Mercy Service Program 9-12
- Making Motto the Culture of the School

For more information contact:

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