1. Why are you doing this? What is the purpose of the MECC?
   The vision for the initiative is that the MECC will bring a new level of efficiency in college preparation and skills for lifelong learning for young women while ensuring the long-term strength and viability of each school and the continuation of its unique history and traditions.

2. Is this part of a national initiative? How is the Sisters of Mercy organization involved?
   The Sisters of Mercy is an international religious order and institute that sponsors approximately 80 schools in the U.S., including McAuley and Mother of Mercy.

3. Does this mean that McAuley and Mother of Mercy schools will merge?
   No. Each school will remain separate in terms of student experience and institutional identity with its own campus. Each will maintain its unique traditions and heritage. The goal of the MECC is to ensure both schools remain open, thriving and offering a quality education in the Mercy tradition for years to come.

4. How will the MECC affect students?
   In the short term, students will not notice any difference in their day-to-day activities. We estimate it will take one year to complete the assessment process and put the initial plans in place. Ultimately, the MECC will deliver positive outcomes by drawing from the best practices and resources of both schools and collaborating to create a new level of excellence in the educational experience. In the near future, students will benefit from an enriched curriculum that exceeds national Common Core Standards, advanced technology to extend instruction and more efficient school operations.

5. If resources are being combined, does this mean some people will lose their jobs?
   The growth that will come from the MECC may require changes in structure and/or responsibilities. While we go through this process, we commit to communicating in a timely fashion to reduce any anxiety associated with organizational change. Persons with specific questions or concerns can address them with their supervisors and/or the appropriate MECC vice president.

6. How is the Archdiocese involved? What sort of input and influence does the Archdiocese have?
   The Archdiocese of Cincinnati fully supports the MECC and its objectives. Dr. Jim Rigg, Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the
Archdiocese, states, “The MECC represents a significant strategy to ensure vibrant, high-quality Catholic education in the Archdiocese. We see the MECC as helping us to achieve our core mission: to provide a superior Catholic education that is available, accessible and affordable to any family who wished to come.”

7. When I donate as an alumna does my money still go to my alma mater? Yes, absolutely.

8. If this is a two-year process, where will the schools be in two years? Will there be action or just recommendations? Throughout the process, we will be working toward our vision of bringing a new level of excellence for our students and ensuring the long-term strength and viability of each school. We have just begun our initial discussions, and our commitment to the process of improving will continue past the two-year timeframe. As our plans develop, we will communicate our progress toward our goal.

9. What changes can my daughter expect during her next few years specifically? Per our current timeline, we estimate it will take one year to complete the assessment process and put the initial plans in place. Subsequently, the MECC will deliver positive outcomes by drawing from the best practices and resources of both schools and by collaborating to create a new level of academic excellence. We are already seeing excitement among faculty and staff for both schools as they begin to share and challenge each other to further strengthen our educational and programmatic offerings.

10. What are the schools doing to ensure this is not too disruptive on daily operations or too distracting for teachers, to the detriment of instruction? We are in the process of gathering input from all constituents – faculty, staff, alumnae and parents – to provide an opportunity for all to contribute and invest in the process. Through clear communication, we will keep everyone informed about our plans and progress.

11. What is the new board’s role for the schools? The board will oversee both schools, focused on strategic direction and advancing the MECC vision for education in Cincinnati.

12. How long will Sister Doris be the MECC President and who will replace her? Sister Doris is serving at the request of the MECC Board of Directors and of the sponsors, the Sisters of Mercy. Therefore they will determine when the new structure is sufficiently established to begin the search for her successor.
13. What is the proposed timeline for leadership transitions for principals and school officials?

   Cheryl Sucher and Dave Mueller will continue as principals through the current academic year. We will have new principals in place at both schools for the 2014-15 academic year with the search beginning this fall. As the MECC’s Vice President for Academic Affairs in 2014-15, Dave Mueller will work closely with both principals, as well as the faculty at each school, to further strengthen curriculum and program offerings for our students.

14. How and when will input from faculty and staff at both schools be invited and considered in the transition?

   The process has already started. Dave Mueller, the MECC’s Vice President for Academic Affairs, has been meeting with individuals from both schools to gather comments and feedback.

15. Will the plan also include Mercy Montessori?

   No. The MECC addresses the needs of the high schools only.

16. Will the collaborative partner with an all-boys school too?

   No. The MECC has been initiated by the Sisters of Mercy, and McAuley and Mother of Mercy are the only local high schools sponsored by the organization.