

# NEWS RELEASE



MOTHER MCAULEY

Liberal Arts High School

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Mother McAuley Named Participant in Amazon Future Engineer Program**

*School is one of the first, all-girls' private schools to earn distinction*

January 28, 2019 (Chicago, Ill.) – Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School has been named a participating school in the Amazon Future Engineer program. Launched in November 2018, this initiative has allocated \$50 million for programs which encourage and enlist underserved or underrepresented students in computer science. The program will encourage McAuley students' exploration of computer science to help advance the number of women pursuing careers in Science Technology Engineering and Math (S.T.E.M.) – countering gender disparity within these fields. McAuley is the largest all-girls' Catholic high school in Chicago, and currently is one of only five all-girls' private schools nationwide to be named part of the program.

Through the Future Engineer program, McAuley will receive free resources for its Advanced Placement (A.P.) Computer Science course. Faculty directing the course will be given free professional development -- a 40-hour, self-paced course to prepare for A.P. Computer Science Principles, which will run during the 2019-2020 school year. For students, cloud-based resources will be available to help them prepare for the A.P. exam. Further extending the benefits, students who successfully complete A.P. Computer Science with a Grade Point Average (G.P.A.) of 3.0 or better and decide to continue their studies in college are eligible for a \$10,000 scholarship through Amazon. These same students will then qualify for an internship at Amazon during their freshman and sophomore years in college, pending they have a 3.0 G.P.A., major in computer science, and complete 10+ hours of computer science service, as outlined through the program.

“Resources and programs are essential to direct and foster girls interest in S.T.E.M.” said Eileen O'Reilly, principal of Mother McAuley. “Mother McAuley was founded on the premise of empowering women, and this exciting partnership with Amazon supports our efforts to help our students develop skills and talents that will benefit their own education and career aspirations, while narrowing the gap between the number of women and men in S.T.E.M. professions.”

(more)

According to Amazon, women who try A.P. Computer Science in high school are 10 times more likely to major in the subject in college, and the Bureau of Labor Statistic reports that 58 percent of all new jobs in S.T.E.M. are in computing.

“Nurturing girls’ interest in S.T.E.M. fields of study is imperative, especially as S.T.E.M. careers are often referred to as the jobs of the future,” said Kim Turnbull, chair of the McAuley science department. “The Amazon Future Engineer program augments our S.T.E.M. pipeline and is a fantastic complement to current courses and clubs like Engineering Principles, Computer Science Essentials and Art and Emerging Technology, and Girls Who Code.”

Mother McAuley has long emphasized the importance of experiential learning opportunities. Advancements in the school’s curriculum and facilities have fueled interest in a variety of career disciplines, from education to S.T.E.M. The Little School program – now in its 37th year – allows senior students to earn college credit and work onsite at local grade schools to gain firsthand experience as educators. Introduction to Business, and Introduction to Nursing, are college-level courses taught by university professors through a partnership with Saint Xavier University (SXU), with the latter exposing students to the SXU simulation lab. In 2012, McAuley opened two, new, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (L.E.E.D.) certified, state-of-the-art Chemistry labs. Launched in 2018, the Professional A.B.C.s (Advice Beyond the Classroom) Club introduces students to discussions, field trips and mentoring to cultivate critical networking and leadership skills.

#### *About Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School*

Founded in 1956 by the Sisters of Mercy, Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School currently educates nearly 900 young women in grades 9 through 12. McAuley promotes a liberal arts education platform that encourages young women to grow in faith, envision their future and discover their talents through a challenging and motivating academic and co-curricular program. Mother McAuley’s tradition of excellence has made it a top choice for all-girls private education in the Chicago area for more than 160 years. The school boasts more than 27,000 alumnae.

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