



## Gouterman named academic dean for upperclassmen

by Emily Reynolds  
senior reporter

Mr. Tom Gouterman has been named Academic Dean of Upperclassmen.

Principal Larry Tucker announced the appointment in an email to faculty and staff on April 10.

Gouterman received his bachelor's degree in chemistry from Kalamazoo College and a master's degree in teaching and special education from National Lewis University.

He taught at Harlan Community High School in Chicago for five years before joining the Marist faculty in 2011.

Since then, Gouterman has served as a science teacher, coordinator of academic mentoring, summer school principal, track and wrestling coach.

Gouterman currently works with 150-200 freshmen, meeting with them individually or in small groups in his office in the ARC. During these meetings, Gouterman tries to assist the students to develop organizational skills, motivation and good study habits.

He applied for the academic dean position in hopes of his making a greater impact on the whole school community.

"I am excited to get the chance to work directly with the very talented adults in the building," Gouterman said. "The biggest challenge, however, will be not working in the classroom directly with the students."

Although he will not interact with students as much in his new role, and his focus will be on upperclassmen rather than underclassmen, he hopes to continue encouraging all students.

The quality that Gouterman believes distinguishes Marist from other high schools is the relationships that teachers and students form. The relationships are different at Marist because Gouterman believes that everyone cares for each other in the building at a level which he has not seen in other high schools.

"It is so nice to see that people actually care about other people in the school," Gouterman said. "Teachers understand that it is about people first and learning second. What Marist has is truly special and these relationships help separate us from all the area high schools."

As Gouterman takes on his new role as academic dean, one of his goals is to find out what support the teachers need as they try to deliver the best education possible to the students. He wants to learn what can be done differently to help students and the teachers succeed throughout the year.

"You can only help a student when the student feels trusted and respected by their teachers," Gouterman said. "I stand for being genuine, caring and empathetic everyday. This is why I love Marist because you can really see these things in the building everyday."

Gouterman believes that as Marist continues to improve, one thing the school can focus on is holding students more accountable for their own success. He believes that holding students more accountable will help them to become more independent and confident in their work.

"We can help the students become more independent and confident by allowing them to make their own decisions," Gouterman said. "As a school



photo by MiKaela Dismukes

Mr. Tom Gouterman talking to students in his MOD H honors chemistry class, has been named academic dean for upperclassmen and will begin his new role on July 1.

we should encourage students to seek out independence in their own education which will help them with their goals later on in life."

Brother Hank Hammer, who served as the dean for underclassmen before becoming president, said, "I am delighted to have Mr. Gouterman as the new academic dean. He will be bringing a lot of experience as a teacher, which will help him work with and better serve the students."

Principal Larry Tucker echoed Br. Hank's comments and said that he and the rest of the administrative team look forward to working with Gouterman.

"We're very excited that Mr. Gouterman is going to serve as dean for upperclassmen," Tucker said. "He has strong skills as a teacher and as a person who has worked with students who are struggling. He has the respect of adults in the building, and he is very analytic and personable."

## Very close race continues for valedictorian, salutatorian

by Stephanie Kozlowski  
junior reporter

Four members of the Class of 2017 continue to strive for the titles of valedictorian and salutatorian.

Administrators will continue to calculate senior grade point averages through final exams, and the top two seniors will be announced on May 16.

A graduate of Oak Lawn-Hometown Middle School, Jack Golden will attend Loyola University-Chicago in the fall to double major in molecular/cellular neuroscience and Spanish.

His favorite extracurricular activities include the Theatre Guild, math and speech teams, and he is proudest of beating a former state champion to become regional champion in dramatic interpretation in speech individual events.

"Marist has been the perfect mix of strong academic rigor and a friendly environment," Golden said. "I can't imagine there are very many schools where I can meet my best friends while taking five AP classes to prepare myself for med school. It's pretty awesome."

Becca Valek, a graduate of St. Barnabas, will attend Vanderbilt University, majoring in biochemistry on the pre-med track, with a possible double major in Spanish.

Valek's favorite extracurriculars include theater, the math team and Marist Youth. Her proudest accomplishment is serving as co-chair for Relay for Life and helping to raise over \$55,000 for the American Cancer Society.

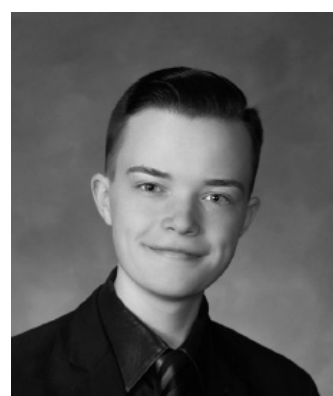
"Marist has been my second home for the past four years," Valek said. "I have probably spent more time here than at my actual house. It has prepared me for my future, both inside and outside of school, and has brought incredible mentors and friends into my life."

Monica Viz graduated from Saints Cyril and Methodius in Lemont and will attend Purdue University. She plans to major in engineering.

A four-year member of the band, Viz said that she enjoyed the "collaborative effort that goes into all of our performances and the opportunity to perform for our school, our city and in the other cities we have visited on tour."

"Marist has prepared me academically for college and has enhanced my formation as a person," Viz said. "I am extremely thankful for the sacrifices my parents have made to send me to such an excellent high school, and for the dedication of the teachers."

Maryclare Leonard started grade school at St. George and graduated from Cardinal Joseph Bernadin. She will attend the University of Notre Dame to major in accounting or engineering.



Jack Golden



Maryclare Leonard



Becca Valek



Monica Viz

A member of the cross country, track and math teams, Leonard's proudest extracurricular accomplishment is "achieving Coach Quinn's goal of qualifying as a team for cross country state in 2015, the first time in program history."

"Marist is an extension of my family," Leonard said. "To be honest, I didn't want to be interviewed for this article because, in my eyes, we are all one in our Marist family. I will miss Marist with my whole heart next year."



THE  
SENTINEL



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Freshman named Miss Black Illinois Talented Teen

by MiKaela Dismukes  
senior reporter

The hope and dream of most young girls is to be discovered. For freshman Kaylin Strahan, the dream became a reality.

Strahan was crowned Miss Black Illinois Talented Teen 2017 after submitting her biography and photograph to contest officials.

“I was notified by e-mail that I was selected to represent Illinois for the national pageant,” Strahan said.

She will compete in the national Miss Black USA Talented Teen Pageant in June.

The Miss Black USA Talented Teen Pageant is the ‘little sister’ organization to Miss Black USA.

“I hope to encourage teens to be comfortable in their own skin,” Strahan said. “It is more important than ever that we empower each other by embracing our true, authentic self. Being unique is what makes everyone special and it is time for society to promote that message.”

Although she never entered a pageant before, her mother’s support and her own desire to reach out and help fellow teen girls motivated Strahan to compete.



Freshman Kaylin Strahan, Miss Black Illinois Talented Teen 2017, will compete nationally this June and is using her title to encourage young girls to raise their self-esteem.

photo by MiKaela Dismukes

“I felt that this would be a great opportunity because Kaylin expressed concerns about her peers and a desire to talk to them about loving themselves and how special they are,” Strahan’s mother, Mrs. Laticia Strahan said.

Her ‘platform’ is the theme she will focus on as Miss Black Illinois Talented Teen. She calls her platform Embrace Y.O.U. (yourself, your origin, your uniqueness).

“I hope to reach young girls like myself through sharing my platform and helping them to build relationships with others,” Strahan said.

“My message is to strive for your passion, remember the importance of education and keep pressing past limitations in whatever you do in life,” she said.

Already a sprinter on the varsity track team, Strahan hopes to become a lawyer and entrepreneur after college.

“I will reach my goals by maintaining a balance between academics and extracurricular activities,” she said.

RedHawk journalists excel in  
spring writing competitions

Seven RedHawk journalists entered a very competitive IHSA sectional at Homewood-Flossmoor on Saturday, April 22, with all team members placing and three emerging as sectional champions.

Champions included juniors Megan Alagna (copy editing), Stephanie Kozlowski (feature writing) and Marie Weber (photography).

The champions advanced to state on April 28 at Eastern Illinois University, along with junior Gianna Miritello, who placed third at sectionals in sports writing and went on to place sixth at state.

Also placing at sectionals were juniors Michelle Lenz (fifth in editorial writing and sixth in review writing), Jocelyn Diaz (sixth in editorial cartooning) and Kathleen Wilkison (fifth in news writing).

On April 17, The Illinois Women’s Press Association recognized five RedHawk journalists for excellence in writing in this year’s IWPA high school journalism contest.



photo by John J. Gonczy

The 2017 RedHawk sectional journalism team, each member placing in competition this year at Homewood-Flossmoor (l to r): Marie Weber, Jocelyn Diaz, Gianna Miritello, Kathleen Wilkison, Michelle Lenz, Megan Alagna and Stephanie Kozlowski.



After placing 3rd at sectionals on April 22, junior Gianna Miritello placed sixth out of a field of 21 contestants in sports writing at the IHSA state journalism finals at Eastern Illinois University on April 28.

photo by Marie Weber



# A fond farewell to three veteran teachers

by Michelle Lenz  
junior reporter

With a combined 114 years of teaching, Mrs. Bonnie Littleton, Mr. Randy Coe and Mr. Jerry Sullivan will retire at the end of the 2016-2017 school year.

The three have done much throughout their careers for the Marist community and students, and to carry out St. Marcellin Champagnat’s mission of educating children.

Littleton began teaching in 1977 as an English teacher. After 25 years, she moved to the art and technology department where she currently teaches web design.

When she first started working at Marist, Littleton was one of few women in the building. She embraced a role as a mother-figure, showing compassion, care and comfort to her students.

“A very long time ago someone asked me what it was like being one of the few women in the building,” Littleton said. “It’s like being a mom all day. This has held true for my 40 years as a teacher. I really do feel a sense of family with the students I see every day.”

Littleton has seen the campus change a lot over the years, including the addition of more teachers, the McNamara Gym, the new baseball and football fields, the computer wing and Wi-Fi throughout the building.

As a teacher, Littleton has learned a lot about having patience with students and adapting to new teaching strategies. She advises current teachers to enjoy the work they do, and not get too caught up in and exhausted by grading and paperwork.

“Every few years, a new strategy for teaching comes out and teachers are asked to make changes to their curriculum, their style of teaching or their way of presenting,” Littleton said. “Some of the strategies are worthwhile and exciting, but some end up creating more paperwork and

not that much improvement in teaching. Focus on the students in front of you and try not to get too buried in the paperwork.”

Littleton’s retirement plans include continuing to volunteer with her therapy dogs at Palos Health Hospital, for which she was recently awarded her 600 hour service pin. She also plans on traveling, camping and spending time with her granddaughter.

Coe began working at Marist in the fall of 1979. Since then, he has been a coach for football and chess, student council moderator, director of student activities, principal of summer school, academic dean. This year, he served as a history teacher, band moderator and “the Voice of Marist.”

Coe has announced over 1,250 sporting events at Marist, attending almost every football, basketball and volleyball home game over the last 37 years.

Courses he taught include honors and academic western civilization and U.S history, music & art appreciation, AP European history and AP art history.

After seeing several changes in teaching styles, Coe advises teachers to be true to themselves.

“The biggest changes have been in educational methods, from Jurassic, Industrial Revolution type of teaching to a 21st Century style that prepares students for an unknown future” Coe said. “I have learned that there is no absolutely correct way of educating students. Different learning experiences prepare students to adapt to a variety of scenarios in life.”

Throughout his 38-year career, Coe has received many awards in recognition of his excellent teaching, including the Claus Nobel Educator of Distinction Award, Heart of the School Award, Coca-Cola Educator of Distinction Crystal Apple Award and the Champagnat Educator Award.

Coe was also inducted into the Marist Hall of Fame in 2011.



photo by Marie Weber

Retiring teachers Mr. Randy Coe, Mrs. Bonnie Littleton and Mr. Jerry Sullivan, whose Marist careers each span four decades, gather in Champagnat Square on May 1.

Sullivan has been teaching at Marist for 39 years and currently teaches chemistry in the Marcellin program. He has also taught math and biology and coached boys’ golf for 23 years.

Sullivan was among the faculty members who worked with the late Br. Vito Aresto in developing the Marcellin program at Marist.

“The biggest challenge of teaching is understanding each individual student’s needs,” Sullivan said. “Teachers need to remember that it’s not what you teach. It’s what the students learn.”

“Brother Vito and I discussed how it would be beneficial to have a program that

would be taught to smaller classes where the individual needs of the students would be met,” Sullivan said. “With the help of Mrs. Barb Duffy, we began developing the Marcellin program in the 1990s. It takes an exceptional teacher to be able to continue the teachings of the Marcellin program and to meet each student’s needs.”

In retirement, Sullivan looks forward to golfing, fishing and playing tennis.

All three teachers emphasized the love, respect and connection they felt with all their students over the years, modeled after Champagnat’s own words:

“To educate children you must love them, and love them all equally.”

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# A timeless treasure



MiKaela Dismukes

*“I am just beginning, the pen’s in my hand, ending unplanned.”*

I can remember my first day of high school like it was yesterday. My favorite song, “Unwritten,” sung by Natasha Bedingfield, played as I arrived at Marist for the first time, starting a new milestone in my life, new memories and experiences.

Entering as a 14-year old freshman and leaving as a 17-year old, I have learned so many life lessons and created some very happy memories.

Thank you to Mrs. Cozzie, Mrs. Hayes, Ms. Pochyly, Mr. Meyer and Mr. Vickers for making a significant impact in my life more than you know it. Thank you for sharing your time, talent and knowledge.

I am forever grateful for my amazing friends who remained loyal to me these past four years.

You will never be forgotten.

My most memorable and exciting time happened my junior year. It was an honor to go to LaValla in Esopus, New York for a mission trip. This enriching experience allowed me to connect with Marist students from Miami, New Jersey and New York.

A memory that I will always keep in my heart. To this day, I still communicate with my second Marist family that I hope to see again in the future.

My journey here was like a rollercoaster, it had its major ups and downs, but here I am, ready to graduate.

The experiences and opportunities here at Marist have shaped me into a *Magnanimous, Infinite, Kindhearted, Ambitious, Effulgence, Leader* and *Assertive* young lady.

When I was younger, I didn’t grasp the full understanding of what success was. My understanding of success is different today after my excursions here at Marist.

Success is to live your life with integrity and to not give into peer pressure to try to be something that you are not.

Success is to be honest and to contribute in some way.

Success is to follow your passion, pursue your dreams and stay true to yourself.

These past four years went faster than I expected and it is time to move on to the next chapter in my life. It is difficult to do this. You get to know somebody and you have to say goodbye.

I am content of who I have become through the years. These years have been just the foundation of my future.

With happy tears and great memories, I am walking out as a Marist graduate.

In the words of Donovan Livingston, *“together, we can inspire galaxies of greatness for generations to come. No, sky is not the limit. It is only the beginning. Lift off.”*

# Thanks, Marist, for all the memories

High school can be some of the best and worst times of your life. With graduation approaching, I have mixed emotions about leaving high school.

One side of me cannot wait to move on and go to college and another part of me doesn’t want to leave my same comfortable routine and some of my best friends.

Change can be a scary thing, but I know for a fact my time at Marist has taught me enough lessons so I will be prepared moving on in life.

My time here at Marist has been a huge learning experience. The amount of things, not just academically, I have learned here is enormous.

I would like to share three important lessons I have learned throughout my high school career that I will continue to follow throughout my life that I would like to pass down to others.

Work hard in everything you do. Strive to be the best you can be every day. Whether it be school, sports or any hobby you may do, always try your best. Find out



Cara Donegan

what you are passionate about and put time and effort in to that because in the end, it will be worth it and people will see all the work you put into it. Although some days when you may not feel up to the challenge, dig deeper and find the strength to be successful.

Respect everyone. You never know what people are going through at home. Even if you think you know, you never really know or understand the full story. So be kind.

It’s really not that hard to smile and be nice to people. Just one little compliment can make a person’s day. One little helping hand can make someone’s day. Just smiling and saying “hi” to someone in the hallway can make someone’s day.

Always keep a good attitude toward everything. Your mindset can make or break you. If you tell yourself you aren’t going to try, you probably won’t. If you tell yourself your going to put everything you have into it, you probably will. Find the positives in life rather than the negatives.

Keeping a good attitude can mean winning the really important game, even if your team is the underdog. It can mean getting that academic scholarship you worked so hard for. It can mean getting your dream job. Keeping a good attitude will help you to go after your dreams without letting anyone stop you.

I hope current and future students can take this advice and use it in their lives because it makes high school and life a lot better.

# Back down memory lane

The date is May 17, 2017, the day before graduation. As I lay across my bed, I think to myself, “This is it.”

Last week, I was toddling toward my toys and now I am about to graduate from high school. Four years felt like four months. As I look up, I reflect on the four lessons that I have learned during my high school experience.

Freshman year was a big transition. It took time to adjust, especially with the constant switching to different classrooms or the death of recess. Now, that was something junior high school did not help me prepare for.

Then, there were many kids to meet, and my awkward greetings did not make things better. I remember holding up peace signs, saying, “Turn up” whenever I would come across somebody. When I look back, I realize that my awkward 15-year-old self just wanted to fit in. The moral of the story is to be open for change and adapt to it.

Sophomore year, I was finally able to scream “Go home, freshmen!” One thing



Hillary Jones

for sure: I was determined to make the year awesome. I joined clubs, like the Theatre Guild and Marist Youth, and I got involved. It felt wonderful to cook for families at the Ronald McDonald House or spend countless hours rehearsing for “The King and I.” More importantly, I learned a second valuable lesson, which is to open yourself to opportunities and get involved.

During junior year, accepting myself became important to me. I would often feel

terrible about myself. I wanted to love who I wanted to love, yet I feared rejection and hatred. After a while, I finally gained the courage to no longer live a lie and be true to myself. It felt amazing to finally accept myself, instead of feeling ashamed. The moral of the story is to accept yourself and not worry about what others think.

Senior year is that year where a kid can feel like he or she is on top of the world. Everything that you have known and loved for 18 years will become a memory. Senior year is not all fun and games. There were good times, but there were times when I hit walls and experienced drama and stress. The lesson I learned is that everything is worth it in the end.

Marist has taught me valuable life lessons that prepared for a better tomorrow. Marist has given me not only an education for “time and eternity,” but also brothers and sisters for life. To all RedHawks and future Redhawks, I wish you all wonderful, happy lives. I will always consider Marist a part of my family.

# My final piece, so peace out, RedHawks

The past four years have been the most formative years of my life, and it is crazy to look back on the person I was freshman year. I was that kid who wore too much eyeliner and listened to Fall Out Boy on repeat.

Crazy to think that as I am writing this I am listening to Carly Rae Jepsen and thinking if I want to go with pink or purple colors for my dorm room in the fall. Besides minor changes in taste, I have also grown into someone who I am quite proud of.

My education is one of the most valuable things that I am taking with me from these past four years. I learned not just a lot inside the classroom, but outside as well and what it means to be Marist. I was taught the ups and downs of life, and what it means to be a good person.

I learned to remember throughout difficult times that good times will always be just around the corner. I received a priceless education that helped me on my way to college in the fall.



Faith Laughran

Although I still do not know how to solve proofs from sophomore year, I feel academically prepared for the next few years I have ahead of me. The teachers here are a blessing and their intelligence will never cease to amaze me.

I went into high school with my two best friends, Megan Noonan and Molly Welsh, and I could not be prouder to be graduating beside them this May. Besides the two of them, I have made countless friendships

here that I am so very thankful for. I am not going to list them because they know who they are. They have taught me what it means to be a trustworthy and honorable friend.

There have been countless laughs in the halls, supporting each other through hard tests and classes, spending Friday and Saturday nights together, and of course Wednesdays. The friends I made here are my family and I love them so very much.

My advice to underclassmen is to put yourselves out there and connect with the people around you. I thank God every day that I was part of the class of 2017 because they are truly some of the best people. Go to the football games, homecomings, proms and Kairos, because I would have regretted not making those decisions.

Thank you Marist for the lessons, people and memories I am leaving with. I am excited to be attending St. Ambrose University in the fall, and to bring the Marist way with me.



## Four years to remember

I knew I wanted to go to Marist ever since I shadowed. I thought it was a great place where I wanted to spend the next four years. As my time at Marist is coming to an end, it is hard not to reflect on the great time I spent at Marist.

Going into freshman year, I was extremely nervous. I was nervous about going to class with kids I have never met before in a bigger building. I thought I would never be able to navigate the halls without the red map we received at freshman orientation. To my surprise, that all changed rapidly.

Everyone was super friendly. I came out of each class with a new friend and met so many more people at the football games. I ditched my red map real quick after I realized how easy it was to find all my classes. Freshman year turned out to be great.

Sophomore year got even better when we went to the first rally of the year and my class was not sitting in the balcony while the rest of the school cheered, “Go home freshman.”



Sheila O’Keeffe

Already, my whole wardrobe changed to red, white and black Marist t-shirts from every special event, trip to the bookstore or rivalry game.

I knew going into high school that I wanted to play soccer and basketball, but I also wanted to try something new. I ended up trying out for tennis even though I did not know anything about it or even own a racket. I quickly learned what it meant to wear a Marist uniform and met some really fun people along the way.

Any team at Marist proved to be nothing but fun, whether actually playing on the team or cheering as a rowdy in the bleachers. I will always remember going to Friday night football games and making history with the girls’ soccer team by becoming sectional champions my junior year.

Junior year was rough between the ACT and all the homework. However, I did feel prepared. My teachers at Marist taught me a lot inside and out of the classroom. They helped me develop great study skills that have gotten me to my senior year and enrolled in college.

The countdown to graduation is almost over. When Mr. Tucker told us our four years of high school would fly by fast at freshman orientation, he wasn’t lying.

As I get ready to go off to college, I feel confident because of all the academic and life skills I learned at Marist.

I will definitely miss walking through the halls with the unmatched flooring and the familiar faces that made my four years at Marist the best.

## A learning experience

For some people, high school is torture. I’d be lying if I said it wasn’t hard for me, but school has never been something I dreaded. Especially Marist.

I have always loved Marist. I think it’s the love and pride I have for our school that made me so susceptible to the lessons it was teaching. In four years, Marist has changed me into someone who I am proud to be.

Every person I have met at Marist has taught me a lesson in kindness, love, compassion and humor. You don’t just learn how to be a good student at Marist, you become educated and admirable young men and women.

That doesn’t mean every experience is good though. You will go through hardships during your journey here at RedHawk High. You will struggle with your grades and you will get in fights with friends, but those times make you appreciate the good times more, for you never truly know goodness if you’ve never encounter bad. Thanks for that lesson, Dr. Bello.



Maureen Mitchell

My journey started freshman year. It was definitely the scariest year of my life. I didn’t have a lot of friends, I was terrible at algebra, and I couldn’t figure out how to open my locker. Rallies scared me, the seniors looked like grown adults, and all I kept thinking was, “who’s idea was it to make passing periods only four minutes?!!?”

Sophomore year wasn’t much better, but I met three of my good friends, Bella Flores

Megan Caparelli and Kathleen Galvin. Megan and I had forensics MOD A and it was the best way to start the day because she is hilarious. Kathleen and Bella had gym with me MOD C and would cheer me on during kickball because I was a huge try hard.

Junior year was toughest academically, but I pushed through. I learned time management and became the hardest working version of myself I’ve ever been.

And finally senior year. My favorite year. The year of new friends like Jeremy Brown and Brian Fanella. The year I met my K124 sisters and had the best experience of my life on Kairos. The year I got to lead the junior retreat. The year of finding myself and becoming the person I’ve always wanted to be.

High school flies by, so grab onto every moment and make it your own. Never forget that coming to Marist is a privilege. Never forget the sacrifice of your parents to send you here. Never forget to thank your teachers. And never forget to pray for each other.

## Go your own way

My Marist experience has been bittersweet, but mostly sweet. I have learned a lot academically and many life lessons.

I have learned that you cannot please everyone and that is okay.

I have made friends and lost them, but that is life. Luckily, I have kept one very special friend since freshman year. I will be forever grateful to Marist for this beautiful friendship it blessed me with.

I also learned that it is okay to make mistakes and that you should not be judged for your past actions. Nobody is the same person they were freshman year, let alone a couple of seconds ago.

We grow every day into the person we are meant to be.

I have become knowledgeable about the world and what it has to offer me. Marist has helped me grow into the person I am today. I can honestly say it has been a humbling experience.

Obviously, there is still plenty more to learn, but Marist simply opened one of the doors to opportunity. I cannot imagine having gone to school anywhere else.



Marina Mosquera

Even though I was not an athlete, artist, musician or in all honors classes, Marist still had something for me. I absolutely love writing and sharing my opinions, so I joined the *Sentinel*. If there is one person who deserves more appreciation at Marist, it would be Mr. Gonczy. He has been the best, most involved and caring teacher I have ever had. Everyone is entitled to an opinion, but when I received backlash for one of mine, Mr. Gonczy backed me up and pushed me to my full potential. Thank you so much.

The *Sentinel* gave me a voice, something that I craved for a very long time. So, if you are reading this Mr. Tucker, please find a way to expand the journalism program to underclassmen because I would have loved to join the school newspaper my freshman year.

Finally, thank you to my loving, supportive and generous parents. They risk their lives everyday on the Chicago Police Department and have been my role models. There is no one on this planet that I would rather have as my parents. Parents are truly the real life superheroes. They sacrifice so much more than we will ever realize.

Mom and dad, I hope I made you proud.

Now it is time for all of us to move on and start a new adventure in our lives. Do not look back on your high school experience and regret anything, because everything happened for a reason. It may sound super cliché, but you will be happier if you keep looking forward, not backward because your future isn’t there.

Anyway, good luck to my fellow graduates of 2017 because, God knows, we will all need it!

## Thank you for the memories



Emily Reynolds

When I was a freshman, I never believed anyone who told me that high school would fly by, but I wish I would have listened to anyone who had told me this.

I have spent the past four years waiting for college, counting down the days until graduation or counting down until 2:20 p.m. everyday.

Now graduation is a few days away, I am enrolled in college and I am reflecting on the past four years here at Marist High School.

To the class of 2020, take in all of the moments at Marist, from the small things like friendly faces in the halls to the bigger things like homecoming dances or football games that you might not have thought much about during freshman year.

Enjoy the first rally when you can chant “go home freshmen.” Many teachers have probably mentioned keeping up your GPA, if you listen to them you will end up thanking them when senior year rolls around and you are applying to colleges.

To the class of 2019, welcome to junior year, arguably the hardest year of high school. Do not let the stress of the ACT ruin your year, look at multiple colleges and try your best in your classes because this is the year colleges look at. Do well in your classes but do not forget to enjoy all of the opportunities available to you junior year.

To the class of 2018, you have made it through junior year, probably have taken the ACT multiple times, and are narrowing down your college choices, and now you get to be at the top of the school.

Enjoy everything senior year has to offer, experience Kairos, meet new people, and take in all of the things Marist has to offer. Try not to let the senioritis kick in too early, because it will happen. When you are weeks away from graduation, you will probably realize that the seniors who told you freshman year that high school would fly by were right.

To the class of 2017, thank you for the past four years we have spent together. As we go our separate ways and start our new beginnings, I hope everyone carries what they have learned at Marist along with them. Our new beginnings may bring challenges, but as Marist graduates we will have brothers and sisters for life to help us along the way.

I believe that Marist has provided me with the best education that I could receive and helped to prepare me for college in many ways.

May 18 will be a bittersweet day. Although I am excited to start college, I am going to miss the familiar faces, homecoming dances and everyone at Marist that I have met over the last four years.





best personality (boy)  
**Nate Stinites**

**You voted.  
We tabulated.  
Congratulations Class of 2017!  
Here are your choices for this year's  
"MOST LIKELY TO" and "BEST IN CLASS  
AWARDS**



best personality (girl)  
**Carlin McNulty**



best eyes (boy)  
**Jack Carmody**



best eyes (girl)  
**Jen Sears**



best hair (boy)  
**Fred Jackson**



best hair (girl)  
**Delaney Mulcahy**



best sense of humor  
**Will Poole**



couple most likely to get married  
**Gavin Wollenberg and Vicky Krummick**



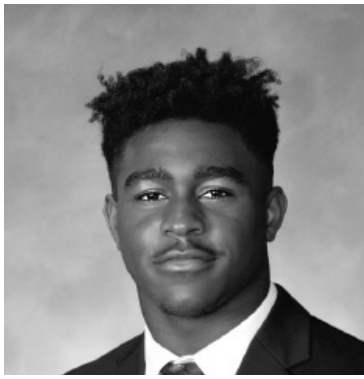
best smile (boy)  
**Jack Berglind**



best smile (girl)  
**Molly Healy**



best school spirit  
**Lizzy Travník**



most likely to become a professional athlete  
**Micah Awodiran**



most likely to marry for money  
**Brianna Ramos**



most likely to work at Marist  
**Tom Englehart**



most likely to become famous  
**Becca Valek**



most likely to get carded at age 30  
**Jack Roche**



biggest flirt (boy)  
**Colin Pfothenhauer**



biggest flirt (girl)  
**Belle Scarnavack**



most likely to be living at home in 20 years  
**Sean Girard**



most likely never to leave the South Side  
**Billy Wagner**



biggest teacher's pet  
**Matt Jones**



# RedHawk tennis players stay positive in tough season

by Marina Mosquera  
senior reporter

The Redhawk varsity tennis team, 1-6 for the season, lost against Stagg on April 24 and Benet on April 25.

An earlier victory came against Morgan Park Academy on April 20, while the team has lost to University of Chicago Laboratory, Oak Lawn, Nazareth and Marian Catholic.

During a tournament on April 22, the Redhawks defeated Eisenhower and Shepard.

Varsity tennis player junior Timothy Flynn said there is always room for improvement, but thinks the team this year is better than last year.

“Every season has its ups and downs,” Flynn said. “We are just coming off a sweep against Morgan Park, so hopefully it can boost our overall team morale and we can go out and win some more matches.”

Flynn said the team needs to work at the net more often to improve and win more games this season. He expressed his hopes

for the team and believes the six players who have been on varsity, including himself, for a year or more, will carry the team.

“The team’s goals are to send some players down to state and have fun while doing so,” Flynn said.

Head coach Alex Karr said the most challenging obstacle the team faces is going up against other schools that have more experienced players.

“Although our team is facing some difficulties currently, like any other team we compete against, our single players are strong and the doubles teams work well together,” Karr said. “Everyone on the team is positive and hard working. I enjoy seeing the players develop, especially the ones I have been working with for three years.”

Both the team and coach remain optimistic moving forward in the season.

“Our main goal is to be more consistent with our shots during matches,” Karr said.

The Redhawks will celebrate senior night on May 8 at 4:30 p.m. at home and will play Shepard.



photo by Luis Ortiz

Junior tennis player Tim Flynn returns a serve against his Morgan Park Academy opponent at home on April 20 and went on to win his match. The team hosts Shepard Monday at 4:30 p.m.



photo by Raini Eldorado

Senior team captain and midfielder Emma Brennan takes control of the ball against Riverside-Brookfield at Red and White stadium on April 15. The game ended 0-0, but the RedHawks won 3-2 in penalty kicks. The RedHawks host St. Viator tomorrow at noon.

## Girls soccer team preps for state

by Raini Eldorado  
and Meagan Loranger  
junior reporters

The RedHawk girls’ soccer team is practicing and playing hard in preparation for the state tournament on May 12.

Even though the team has faced some unexpected challenges this season, the players are doing everything they can to overcome them and improve.

“We had some injuries so far this year, so we are still finalizing the positions for the girls,” head coach Chris Roe said. “The girls are handling it well and doing everything they can. They are headed in the right direction.”

In the beginning of the season, the team met up and wrote down individual and team goals they would like to accomplish.

“We haven’t achieved all our goals that we made at the beginning, but we still have more games to try,” junior forward Ally

Corcoran said. “We are hoping to win all the rest of our games to improve our record and go into the playoffs confident.”

After a 2-3 loss to Nazareth on April 19 and a 0-1 to Marian Central on April 24, the RedHawks shut out Marian Catholic with a 6-0 victory on April 26.

Monday afternoon’s game against Homewood-Flossmoor ended in a 1-1 tie, with the goal by junior forward Amanda Rizzo.

“I think that our win against Marian Catholic got us to gain confidence heading into playoffs,” Rizzo said. “Senior Delaney Mulcahy took a hit to the face, but she toughed it out and is playing better than ever.”

The RedHawks enjoy home field advantage for their final regular games of the season. The team hosts St. Viator tomorrow at noon. On May 8, the team will face Shepard at 6:30 p.m. and on May 10, the RedHawks will take on Mother McAuley for senior night at 6:30 p.m.

## Varsity track teams spring into action

by Hillary Jones  
senior reporter

The girls’ varsity track team competed at Hinsdale Central on April 15, with senior Maryclare Leonard taking second place in the mile. Sophomore Colleen Murphy placed second in the 3200 meter and freshman Kaylin Strahan placed second in the 100 meter and fourth in the 200 meter.

At Elk Grove on April 28, the girls placed second overall, with Leonard placing first in the 800-meter, Strahan placing 2nd in the 100- and 200-meter dash, senior Madyson Armer placing second in the long jump and freshman Nora Poole placing third in the long jump.

Head coach Rich Karnia is pleased with his team’s dedication.

“I admire the girls who made it through the season and continue to work to get better,” Karnia said. “The season is long and it takes a great deal of dedication from these girls, which they continue to deliver.”

Results from Wednesday’s ESCC championship meet were not available at press time.

The boys’ team began its outdoor season with a meet at Stagg on April 8. Senior Matt Wagner placed first in the two mile and senior Tom Komperda took fourth in discus.

Wagner has committed to Illinois Wesleyan University for cross country and track.

“My goal is to finish at the top of the conference and to keep training hard all summer,” Wagner said.

Last Friday at Sandburg, freshman Brian Ferguson broke alum Marty Manzke’s 32-year record of 52.5 seconds by finishing 52.04 in the 400-meter dash.

Also at Sandburg, senior Trae Thompson finished sixth in the triple jump, while sophomore Billy Skalitzky and freshmen Ethan Fit and Luke Hortsmen each set personal best records in their events.

The boys will compete tomorrow at Bolingbrook High School in the Lisle Valley Invitational in its last regular season meet.

The ESCC conference championship meet will be held at Notre Dame High School at 2 p.m. on May 10.



photo by Steve Davidson

Members of the varsity boys’ track team stand together after taking medals at Oak Lawn High School on April 13. The boys compete in Bolingbrook tomorrow, and the girls will compete in the IHSA sectional meet on May 12.



# Varsity baseball team aims for conference title

by Sheila O’Keeffe  
senior reporter

The varsity baseball team currently has an overall record of 8-11 and a 4-4 conference record. The RedHawks are coached by head coach Kevin Sefcik and assistant coaches Dan Higgins and Rich Robin.

With nine returning seniors and two returning sophomores on this year’s team, there are some new faces. However, the hard work and determination from last year’s team is still there.

The baseball team does not pick captains. Instead all seniors are expected to step up and fill that role.

Four of those seniors plan on furthering their baseball careers on to the collegiate level. Matt Donahue committed to Roosevelt University, Colin Pfothenhauer to Taylor University, Elijah Hynes to Concordia University Chicago and Nate Stiegal to Lewis University.

The RedHawks’ regular season goal is to win conference. With 10 conference games

left, the team needs a record of 8-2 or 9-1 to win the title.

The biggest obstacle the team faces right now is with the pitchers. They are walking too many opponents and need to throw more strikes, but the team is strong when it comes to batting.

“This is the best hitting team I have had in the three years I have been here,” Sefcik said.

Outstanding hitters include seniors Bryson Lewis, Stiegal, Hynes, Donahue, sophomores Jason Hodges and Justin Janas.

“I am looking forward to competing for things like a conference championship and a playoff run because we have a great team this year,” Donahue said. “I am really looking forward to seeing what we can accomplish.”

The RedHawks are also preparing for the state tournament and came away with a 6-1 win over 2016 defending state champions Providence on April 13.

“I think we have proven that we can compete with the best in the state,” Lewis said. “The playoffs will be very exciting.”



photo by Stephanie Lysy

Freshman Johnny Kubin pitches against Kimberly, WI on April 8 at Marist, helping to lead the RedHawks to a 4-3 victory. The RedHawks host a doubleheader tomorrow against St. Viator starting at 10 a.m.



photo by Stephanie Lysy

Senior Scott Bauer (#17) hits against his St. Rita opponent in the Red and White Gym on April 11. Both the varsity and sophomore volleyball teams won in two games. The RedHawks host Nazareth on May 11 and Brother Rice on May 15 at 6:15 p.m. both nights.

## Volleyball team ready for playoffs

by Cara Donegan  
senior reporter

With a 23-6 record, the boys’ volleyball team is looking forward to finishing its regular season and heading into playoffs. The team, top in the conference with a 3-0 record, is eager to keep up the hard work.

The varsity team won the Marist Invitational on March 14. The freshmen also won, defending their undefeated record. Freshman Jake Bonnett was named the MVP of the tournament. Varsity came in third place at the Lafayette Invitational held on April 29.

The team is led by head coach Jordan Vidovic, assistant coach Maggie Strus and senior captains Jack Berglind, Mike Coogan, and Scott Bauer.

“The seniors on this team, especially the captains, lead by example and really make this team come together,” Vidovic said. “They have the best chemistry I’ve ever seen.”

The team faced rough times beginning in March, when multiple players had to sit out because of injuries.

“It was a struggle, but it gave other players the chance to step up,” Vidovic said.

The team’s goals revolve around practice and determination and have contributed to this winning season.

Some of the most challenging teams they will face include Brother Rice on May 15 and possibly Sandburg in playoffs.

“We will prepare like we do for all teams,” senior outside hitter Chris Omiecinski said. “We will continue to work toward our goals and try to get better with every game.”

With playoffs coming, the team and coaches feel well prepared.

“We feel good about playoffs,” Vidovic said. “We put ourselves in a good spot with our record. The only things left to do are continue to work hard, trust each other and stay healthy.”

## RedHawk softball stays strong

by Gianna Miritello  
junior reporter

The varsity softball team looks to improve its record at a doubleheader tomorrow at Benet starting at 11 a.m.

Head coach Colleen Biebel is happy with the team’s performance this year.

“We had a tough schedule in April, and we came out with many great wins, including Lincoln-Way East, Lincoln-Way Central and Mother McAuley,” Biebel said. “One of the most exciting was a 4-2 victory in a 12-inning game against St. Charles North. Sophomore Angela Zedak pitched all 12 innings.”

On April 28, the RedHawks beat Mother McAuley, 2-1 with runs scored by Zedak and senior third baseman Alexis Rogers.

Due to rain suspending Monday’s game into Tuesday, results were unavailable at press time.

Zedak leads the team in scoring with 23 RBIs and 16 runs. Freshman center fielder Brianna Brown and sophomore catcher Cassie Lindmark lead the team in batting averages.

Biebel commends Rogers and right fielder Madison Franks for their leadership as the only seniors on the team.

“[They] are doing a great job modeling what it takes to play at the varsity level,” Biebel said.

Having played four games before suffering an injury, junior center fielder Kara Apato observes the team’s success from the bench.

“I see how much energy and fun the team has,” Apato said. “This team is full of leaders who will get the job done.”

First-year varsity player junior Megan Verzoni says that she has learned a lot.

“One thing [Biebel] focuses on is being mentally and physically prepared,” Verzoni said. “I now understand the importance of mentality and having faith in your teammates. Being a good teammate is a significant part of the game.”

Biebel and her team look forward to a strong finish this season.

“We’re having a lot of fun and the team chemistry is great,” Biebel said. “We had two injuries, but the girls are not using it as an excuse. They can compete with anyone.”



photo by Colleen Biebel

The 2017 RedHawk girls’ varsity softball team gathers on the home field before going on to defeat Lincoln-Way Central on April 17, 5-4. The team plays a doubleheader at Benet Academy tomorrow beginning at 11 a.m.