



# Dunneback returns as principal

Billy McNicholas  
senior reporter

Meg Dunneback accepted a job as an English teacher at Marist-Chicago from a payphone in New York back in 1995.

In July, she returned to begin a new role as the new principal.

Dunneback was motivated to move from New York to Chicago because she was teaching junior high and wanted a high school position. She thought she would stay in Chicago for just a couple of years, but even after getting another job offer in New York, she decided to stay in Chicago.

"I was taking a graduate class and my teacher said you already know the answer to a tough decision," Dunneback said. "My teacher told me to close my eyes and see where I saw myself. And I saw myself in the halls here at Marist."

Dunneback left Marist after six years for Richards High School, where she worked as a teacher, dean and assistant principal. After 20 years at Richards, she decided to apply for the principal position here when it opened last spring.

President Larry Tucker, who ultimately offered her the position, shared what he wants students to know about Dunneback.

"She is all about the students and their education," Tucker said. "She cares about them and wants to know what's working and what isn't. She wants school to be enjoyable and fun. She is dedicated to working with others so that our school will continue to grow and improve."

When she was teaching, Dunneback started to notice that different students had different needs. Not all students could learn in the traditional sense, where the teacher taught one way and the students were meant to absorb everything. Dunneback pointed this out to the late Br. Vito Aresto, who worked in the counseling department. The two started planning a program to fit these students needs, and this became the Marcellin program.

"I was taken out of the classroom a little bit, and I spent more time with Br. Vito," Dunneback said. "Br. Vito and I went to a board member with expertise in educational testing for students and we learned a great deal. This helped us to create the Marcellin program, which aimed to meet the needs of that wide variety of learners who were being accepted at Marist."

Counselor Holly Cox also worked with Br. Vito and Dunneback. Cox said Br. Vito was looking for someone to partner with him who had a passion for teaching, was inspirational and wanted to help students, so he chose Dunneback.

"Meg was absolutely wonderful," Cox said. "She loved teaching and she was willing to do whatever it took to help the students be successful."

Dunneback's former students enjoyed her style of teaching and how she inspired them to learn. Former counselor and current student database manager Patrick Ryan is among those students with fond memories of her.

"We read *Romeo and Juliet* in class and she was able to bring the play alive in a classroom with 30 boys," Ryan said. "That was maybe the first time I read a book or play from beginning to end. She made it fun as well as educational."

At Richards, Dunneback accepted an administrative position to help with a program called "A School Within a School" which was designed to help students who struggled with learning for a variety of reasons, similar to the Marcellin program.

Dunneback's experience working in both of these programs have helped her understand how classrooms are run.

"My background helps me look at the classroom in a broader sense," Dunneback said. "Working in programs like those really forced me to do research and pay attention so that every student can benefit. When the teacher adjusts their approach, as opposed to having the students adjust themselves."

Since Dunneback's departure two decades ago, many things around the school have changed.

***"[Mrs. Dunneback] is all about the students and their education. She cares about them and wants to know from them what's working and what isn't. She wants school to be enjoyable and fun. She is dedicated to working with others so that our school will continue to grow and improve."***

"The physical appearance of the school is very different since I taught here with the addition of the science wing and the Hynes Gym," Dunneback said. "There were no girls when I was here. Going co-ed was a really awesome decision by the school since I left. It sets the tone that it is normal to work with and develop friendships with the opposite gender. This will better prepare students for college and the work world."

During her first year as principal, one of Dunneback's goals is to observe student-teacher relationships in the classroom.

"I want to observe how students interact with each other and how the teachers interact with the students," Dunneback said. "My goal is to get in and out of classrooms. I am in there looking more at the students than I am at the teachers right now. I want to see how the students receive what is being taught to them. I am also observing how the teachers work."

"Are you with me?" is a theme Dunneback created for the weekly videos she posts to the school website. Her aim in the videos is to keep all students connected and up to date on what is going on around school.

Dunneback's first video was intended to help students get to know her better. She also encourages students to communicate with her about what is on their minds. She is happy with the feedback she has received from students, and hopes to get more throughout the school year.

"I believe that the students and I are in a partnership," Dunneback said. "I can't do my job if students do not do theirs. If students need things, I need to provide those things for students. The 'Are you with me?' theme blends itself to a perfect question for that partnership."



photo by Meg Dunneback

Principal Meg Dunneback jumps right in and takes a selfie with returning students on the first day of school, Aug. 23. Dunneback, who taught English here 20 years ago, took over the role of principal on July 1.

Over the summer, Dunneback and Tucker worked to decide on a theme for the 2021-2022 school year. They decided that focusing on our family spirit, one of the five Marist Pillars, made the most sense, especially as all the students are back in the building every day for the first time since the pandemic started.

"This is a great pillar for me to start with as a first-year principal," Dunneback said. "Because we have had to work from home during the past couple years, we wanted people to feel connected as we come back together in person. Having kids back in the building is the first step, but letting them know they're part of a family that will welcome and accept them is the next step."

Dunneback said most things she will do this year will be with family spirit in mind. She hopes students will feel comfortable coming to talk to her about school.

"We have so many different types of kids who go here," Dunneback said. "I want to know who they are? What do they like about the school? What do they think needs some attention? What makes them feel accepted here? Do they feel respected? My door is open."

Student Council President Gavin Murphy gives Dunneback high marks for having a positive impact on the school so far.

"I believe that Mrs. Dunneback brings back the kind of leadership and energy that Marist needed to see again," Murphy said. "After months of not being fully together, Mrs. Dunneback made the return to school feel welcoming, comforting but also exciting. She brings such passion to her job and is always willing to help a student out. She gives a definite sense that she will always be there for you, whether it's for school work, activities or your personal life."

Dunneback said she also hopes after students graduate that they will continue to carry the faith they have developed during their four years here.

"I don't want students' sense of faith to disappear once they go to college," Dunneback said. "I want students to remember that Marist brought faith into their lives daily through prayer and every-

thing they experienced in religion classes and on retreats. Faith will help you with so many aspects of life once you leave Marist."

Dunneback also points out that she will always "be herself" as principal, not caring about what others might think as she joins students in showing school spirit and pride.

"When I am out there dancing in the student section during football games I could be thinking 'what are these kids thinking about me' or 'what are these parents thinking about me'," Dunneback said. "Instead I am thinking of how much fun I am having. I think kids get wrapped up too much in what others think of them."

She hopes students will follow her lead.

"Just be yourself," Dunneback said.

**HAPPY HOMECOMING WEEKEND!**

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# Theatre Guild presents ‘Sherlock’s Best’ as fall play

Kevin Cardinale  
junior reporter

The Marist Theatre Guild will present the mystery “Sherlock’s Best” as this year’s fall play. Performances will run Nov. 11, 12 and 13 at 7:30 p.m. and Nov. 14 at 1:30 p.m. in the RedHawk Theater. Tickets, available at the door before each performance, cost \$5 for students and \$10 for general admission.

The play, directed by faculty members Erin Kelly and Erin Vail, is unique in that it consists of two, one-act plays.

In the first act, “The Adventure of the Six Napoleons,” Sherlock Holmes and Watson try to uncover the truth behind a murderer in London.

The second act, “Sherlock is Dead,” consists of Holmes himself in the middle of a poison case.

For the first time in the Theatre Guild’s history, each act will have its own cast.

“Each act is its own story told by a cast unto itself, and we’ve never done a play quite like that before,” Vail said.

Sherlock Holmes will be played by junior Evan Fox in the first act and by junior Andrew Crisp in the second act.

The rest of the Act 1 cast includes Emma Fishback, Mia Padilla, Rebecca Jackson, Laura Cintron, Scott Geary, JoJo Martin, Brian McLoughlin, Jake Finn, Pablo Escalante, Sara Moran, James Czoski, Addison McBride and J.C. Coleman.

The Act 2 cast includes Matt Elenty, Riley Cleveland, Kaylee Frederking, Anna Lazarz, Emerson Grace Murphy and Audrey O’Connor.

Vail said having two separate groups made it fun to cast this play, and makes rehearsing more interesting as two actors prepare to play the same role.

“In Act 1, Watson is female, and in Act 2 Watson is male,” Vail said. “This allows the actor to play around with characterization a little bit. We have two different Sherlock Holmes, which again allows each actor to create a different concept of the character. This is challenging because characters like Holmes have had so many incarnations over the years. So it’s really great to have two actors in each role.”



photo by Kevin Cardinale

Members of the Act 1 cast of “Sherlock’s Best” gather on the RedHawk Theater stage before rehearsal on Oct. 6. Audiences will see a different cast for act two of the show, which opens on Nov. 11 and runs through Nov. 14.

## RedHawk girls take on entrepreneurship *photo essay by Faith Harper*

Many young people today have turned to entrepreneurship to explore their creative sides.

Professor Christopher Marquis of Cornell University said to Forbes Magazine that in today’s job market, it is important to have skills like critical thinking, problem solving and independence.

Being ready for life after high school is one of the main motivators for student entrepreneurs. Another motivator for students is that they have a lot of free time to start a project that is not school related.

Bernhard Schroeder, the director of Lavin Entrepreneurship, reports that millennials in the United States made up 52% of entrepreneurs in 2021 while older Americans made up 54%. Of that percentage, 28% women have small businesses. Schroeder also found that 22% of millennial entrepreneurs are more likely to be women than veteran business owners.

Various organizations have been created to help young people learn what an entrepreneur does.

Lemonade Day is an organization that gives children the opportunity to open lemonade stands and learn how to set goals and draw up business plans.

Junior Achievement is another establishment focused on getting youth to participate in research on financial literacy and learning what products should be brought to the market.

For more information about entrepreneurship visit [unchartedlearning.org](http://unchartedlearning.org).

Our school reflects Schroeder’s statistics because all three entrepreneurs interviewed were females. So let us go around the school to meet an accessory designer, a cosmetic creator and a photographer to hear how they define what an entrepreneur is.



Senior Eriyan Davis opened her business, Eriyan Davis Photography, as a sophomore. She hopes to motivate other young entrepreneurs to pursue the ideas they are passionate about.

“I think an entrepreneur is a person who is inspired, someone who is passionate about sharing their creativity,” Davis said. “I am inspired by art and through photography I can help other people to see what I see. Through photography I can tell a whole story through a single picture.”

Davis is available to take portraits or event photos and can be reached through Instagram [@eriyandavisphotography](https://www.instagram.com/eriyandavisphotography).

Senior Julia Gonzalez started Jewels by Jules in 2020, selling custom-made jewelry.

“I think entrepreneurs can use their work as a voice to express a message to others,” Gonzalez said. “I make pieces like Free Palestine earrings or Black Lives Matter jewelry to represent issues going on in the world today. Balancing work with school can be difficult and it sometimes takes me a week to complete an order. I get through it by focusing on school and then working on days I don’t have too much homework.”

She can be reached through Instagram [@jewelsbyjules](https://www.instagram.com/jewelsbyjules)



Junior Kamryn Cheney started Kami Gurl Beauty after inventing her own lipgloss that is vegan and for sensitive skin last year. She has her own website, [kamigurlbeauty.com](http://kamigurlbeauty.com).

“Entrepreneurs are also creators who see a problem and search for a solution,” Cheney said. “I like lipgloss and most brands have chemicals in them that made me break out. I also have lip balms and other products for both guys and girls.”

Cheney’s mission statement is that she is committed to making sure customers look great and have a place to buy natural and safe products to protect themselves and the planet.



Former teacher will lead efforts to focus on diversity, equity and inclusion

Jordan Mighty  
senior reporter

Former Spanish teacher LaToya Hayes has left the classroom to become the Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, a new leadership role created by the administrative team this school year.

“[This is a new position that] I don’t take lightly, and it is a role that has many layers,” Hayes said. “The meaning of diversity means differences. We want to take a closer look at differences, including race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, gender, disabilities, and the list goes on. We have students with various backgrounds in the building and we want to make sure that they are supported and valued. We hope to promote and celebrate our cultural diversity. We are also planning professional development opportunities aimed at promoting heightened cultural awareness for the faculty and the staff.”

Though she is no longer in the classroom, Hayes believes that there are lessons she can teach in her new position.

“It does not feel like I left teaching,” Hayes said. “This role offers me many opportunities to enlighten others. I still can work with faculty, staff and students. That is probably what motivated me even more to apply for the position. I did not have to leave Marist and I did not have to leave teaching. I am still doing things I love to do in the building with the [people] I truly enjoy working with.”

Hayes has planned a series of workshops for the faculty called “We are One.” The first workshop, held during different periods between Sept. 21-24, focused on the topics of building classroom community and building relationships. Teachers were invited to read two articles prior to the workshops and then participate in a discussion.

“The first session was about building relationships and fostering a sense of community in the classroom,” math teacher Tracy Carlson said. “I left the session with a renewed sense of hope that we can recover from the pandemic and the differences that seem to be tearing people apart. Ms. Hayes’ position and programs are coming at a time when we need to acknowledge and talk about what makes us different and what can bring us back together. I know she will create safe spaces for students and faculty to have healthy conversations that will make Marist better than ever.”

Hayes looks forward to working with the community this year.

“As difficult topics arise, I will be here as a resource to help teachers and students find their way,” Hayes said. “I really want to make sure that the teachers have everything they need to meet the needs of every student. I also want all students to feel that their teachers genuinely care about meeting their needs so that they are able to thrive and succeed.”

*“I want all students to feel that their teachers genuinely care about meeting their needs so that they are able to thrive and succeed.”*

Principal Meg Dunneback believes that Hayes is thoroughly prepared to fill this very important role.

“Ms. Hayes will help us see through a wider lens that doesn’t only pertain to being black or white,” Dunneback said. “[The position] also encompasses things



photo by Faith Harper

Former Spanish teacher LaToya Hayes chats with students in the hallway during lunch. Hayes has taken a new role as the Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and will work to promote an even greater sense of community at school.

such as different socioeconomic backgrounds and gender inequalities. We are all different. It is okay to talk about our differences. We just have to learn to talk without being so divided. Sometimes what we realize through talking is that we are actually alike.”

Hayes acknowledges that there might be some challenges along the way, but along the way it will make our community stronger.

“Change is difficult,” Hayes said. “It is not easy to happily embrace change. I know that some topics that we will discuss this year are challenging and have the potential to make [myself, faculty, staff and students] uncomfortable. No one

enjoys being uncomfortable, but I have personally experienced the most significant growth during uncomfortable times. When I was placed in uncomfortable situations that challenged my thinking, it encouraged me to see things from different perspectives. When we are engaging in these conversations, we will realize our strengths and weaknesses.”

Hayes’ office is located between the main and business offices and she looks forward to working with everyone.

“I’m here as a resource if anyone has questions or needs help,” Hayes said. “My desire is to ensure that all students feel like valuable members of the Marist community.”



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MRS. MEG DUNNEBACK  
PRINCIPAL

MR. JOHN J. GONCZY, CJE  
FACULTY ADVISER

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As an open forum, the *Sentinel* welcomes and encourages letters to the editor and guest columns. Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less and must be signed by the author. Guest columns are limited to 500 words and must also be signed by the author.

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In the event the *Sentinel* makes an error, a correction or retraction will be published in the following issue.

How social media is hurting American politics

Social media is a place to share parts of one's daily life, news and many other forms of media. Along with sharing what is happening in your life and news, people also have the ability to share one's personal beliefs, specifically political beliefs.

Most of the people who post about politics are elected officials or, more often than not, random people who either lean far left or far right.

Social media has affected politics in many ways, especially in the past decade, and the political climate of the country is worse for it.

The Constitution grants everyone freedom of speech, and this extends to social media. Unfortunately, many people have taken it upon themselves to abuse this power and post fake news that seems to favor the political party or candidate they support.

Most of this comes from accounts with small amounts of followers, but the fake news that comes from verified or largely followed accounts spreads across the social media platforms. This is dangerous because there are many people who are attempting to find a political party

or candidate to support and they can unknowingly use unreliable news to shape their beliefs and make their decisions.

According to an analysis by NewsGuard, an organization that rates news websites according to their reliability, "unreliable news" more than doubled on internet sources between 2019-2020.

Social media has also worsened the turmoil between Republicans and Democrats. On almost all platforms of social media, thousands of people argue with each other over their political beliefs, yet no one seems to get anywhere.

The divide between Republicans and Democrats has been getting worse over the years, a major cause being the biased and hypocritical beliefs people share daily on social media. Opponents can almost never seem to find any middle ground, and seem completely focused on proving their opposition wrong.

Politicians themselves feed into this turmoil. Danielle Abril of Fortune Magazine said politicians are regularly using social media to express their views, which in some cases has become increasingly inflammatory as they often rebuke their opponents.

Pandering politicians are a big problem with the current political climate and social media gives them the opportunity to pander even more just so they can win an election.

Many politicians abuse the power they have through social media and lie to voters so they can get them on their side and win. These politicians treat citizens more as a means of gaining power than people they are supposed to help.

Social media platforms like Twitter and Facebook have recently started to use fact checkers across their platforms to flag any false media. This is a good step for these companies, but they still need to keep improving because a lot of fake news is still getting past these checkers.

Outside of what the social media platforms need to do to help the political climate, the users on these websites need to help as well.

People need to stop believing news from unreliable sources, and actually do the research themselves, using reliable sources online, so they can arrive at the truth and make more informed decisions.



The technological dilemma

Technology has become increasingly popular in this day and age, which has led to shorter attention spans, fewer face-to-face interactions and reduced motivation to learn new things.

We experience so many missed opportunities on a daily basis due to our fixation with our digital profiles and online conversations.

Everyone should spend significantly less time on their electronic devices. We can go outside and get a breath of fresh air instead. We are alive. We should take advantage of all that we have.

Technology has made learning more collaborative. It helps people better engage with each other about the material that they are learning or maybe having trouble with.

However, there has also been a major loss of privacy due to this increase in technological advances. Many people share their locations with practically everyone they know. This leaves them potentially vulnerable to, for example, stalkers or identity thieves.

People are more connected than ever, thanks to the rapid advancements in technology. According to Medical News Today, the overuse of technology may have adverse psychological effects, which include but are not limited to, anxiety and depression.

The ways many people use mobile devices can contribute to incorrect posture, which leads to issues later on in life. Correcting posture problems while using technology can lead to an improvement in posture and strength in the neck, core, and back.

Issues with sleep can also occur from using technology too close to bedtime. The blue light from cell phones and computers stimulates the brain, which can be bad if users are on their devices right before bedtime. Sleep experts recommend that people stop using their devices at least one hour before going to sleep.

Reading a book, doing stretches, or taking a bath can serve as healthier alternatives for staying on electronic devices before bedtime.

Medical News Today indicates that children's brains may be more sensitive to the effects of technology. Children who overuse technology may be more likely to experience low academic performance, low creativity and social interaction issues. It is important to teach children to interact with technology in healthy ways by monitoring their time on the device and offering healthy alternatives.

Social media is designed to make people feel more connected but it can have the opposite effect. Users should limit their time on social media by setting daily limits. A 2017 study found that people with higher social media use were more likely to feel socially isolated than people who did not use it as often.

Social interactions have been the most affected by technology. Staying connected and active on our mobile devices can take over people's lives. Everyone should rethink their priorities when it comes to mobile devices. We need to stop wasting valuable time and focus on real-life interactions with each other.



# We need to get vacc to normal

Katelyn Finley  
senior columnist

Although the COVID-19 pandemic is starting to feel like old news, it is still relevant in the lives of virtually every person around the world...especially the unvaccinated.

Since March 2020, many Americans and people around the world have had to interrupt the flow of their lives and adapt to living through this pandemic.

At first it seemed like this would never end, but then a solution appeared: a vaccine to combat the virus.

Eligible individuals who remain unvaccinated should seriously consider getting the vaccine, especially now that it is fall and winter is coming.

Of course, the vaccine will not make an individual invincible against the virus, but the science indicates that getting vaccinated will lower one's chances of ending up in the hospital with COVID or, even worse, dying from it.

**Eligible individuals who remain unvaccinated should seriously consider getting the vaccine....**

Many people think because the vaccine was developed in under a year, it is not safe. The vaccine was developed with technology used years ago to combat other viruses. The vaccine went through various trials to determine its safety and effectiveness.

The Pfizer vaccine was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration on Aug. 23. American citizens age sixteen and older are eligible to get this vaccine if they so choose. Scientists at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration have thoroughly examined the Pfizer vaccine and deemed it safe.

The FDA operates under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

This team of scientists can be trusted to determine the safety of the vaccine, because their job is to protect public health and to assure the safety and effectiveness of things like vaccines, drugs, cosmetics and the food supply in our nation.

Recent studies have shown that unvaccinated individuals are five times more likely to be infected with COVID than those who are vaccinated. Those who are unvaccinated are also 29 times more likely to end up in the hospital, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

While there are some "breakthrough" cases in which vaccinated individuals get infected with COVID, their illness tends to be far less severe.

Nearly every faculty member and 58% of the student body has been vaccinated. Hopefully this number will go up among all young people, now that the Pfizer vaccine is approved for ages 12 and up.

Many of us are tired of living through this pandemic and wish for it to be over. As more people get vaccinated, the closer we will get to returning to normal.

# The Rowdies are back!

Gavin Murphy  
Student Council President

Now that the 2021-2022 school year is well underway, I've noticed a phrase going around. The students, the teachers, reporters, parents and even I have been saying it. It's a phrase I couldn't be prouder to hear, because yes...the Rowdies are back!

We have absolutely kick started the beginning of the most phenomenal school year this high school has ever seen. After juniors and seniors lost on special years of high school, and sophomores and freshmen missed chances of having an 8th grade graduation and a normal high school start, it means everything to know that we are all entirely here, at Marist, our home. We are all on a fresh new start, and it matters most that we come here to be safe, to excel academically, and to make lifelong memories as RedHawk Rowdies.

Nothing is better than to see stands filled up on Friday nights, with students ready to cheer and chant as loud as they possibly can as our football team marches into the end zone. And it continues in the main gym, with our girls' volleyball team feeling the electricity in the room brought by the jumping fans. Getting out to these events are what makes the parents, teachers, and future RedHawk High students want to be a part of the Marist tradition.

It shouldn't stop there, though, as we should go out to soccer games, continue with basketball, hockey and cheering on the most astounding high school marching band there is. Our energy for all sports games should be just as high as they would for the Friday night lights football games.

And to all the kids that go to the games.. get loud! Wear the themes! Show your school spirit! It means the world to the players and to the coaches to look over at the most engaging fans Marist has ever seen. Our section this year has been the best this school has witnessed, so let's continue to hold that title for the entire year!

We should also recognize all who put together our Homecoming Spirit Week, the Powderpuff Games and the dance. We are truly lucky to be able to say we had a homecoming this year, as it is something that I and many others truly missed last school year. They all did a fabulous job designing the themes for the students and faculty to enjoy. This spirit week has been hilarious, engaging and downright awesome to see once again.

Our RedHawk Rowdy tradition should carry on even beyond this excellent Homecoming week! Coming in and seeing kids dress down in the daily themes while being excited to see their friends in class is what the whole year should feel like. Now that doesn't mean we'll be able to wear cowboy hats like on Western Wednesday, but that we should be just more motivated for a new week than the week before.

The Homecoming games and dances gave us something to look forward to with the start of the year, and as Rowdies, we need to keep that spark of excitement inside of us. As the year continues, we should keep the energy we felt this week. We must remind ourselves to stay strong academically, but to also create a year to remember. Let's keep the Marist Community stronger than ever before!

Go RedHawks!

## photo opinion

compiled by Jenesia Diaz and Kaylee Frederking

## Why is Homecoming 2021 particularly special to you?



**Ally Dispasque**  
sophomore

Homecoming 2021 is special to me because I haven't had any type of homecoming at all because of COVID-19. I have seen on social media how much fun homecomings are, and how great the students look all dressed up for the dance in photos they post. I'm really excited to fully experience one of the most prominent high school events.



**Kamryn Chaney**  
junior

Homecoming is special to me because it is the perfect time to be social and get dressed up, hang with friends and take pretty pictures. I can really express myself through what I wear. It's an unforgettable high school experience and this year almost makes up for what COVID took away from us last year.



**Aidan Rosas**  
senior

Homecoming is special to me because I play football and we always play a tough team and I want to win. The dance is really fun and we get to hang out with our friends and have a good time. This is my last year and I am excited about my last homecoming.



**Mrs. Meg Dunneback**  
principal

Homecoming is an opportunity for our student body to come together and be social and connect. The last year and a half, we had to put a lot of the social side of school on pause due to COVID. Thankfully, we are able to safely bring such traditions back.



**Braedan Bednarczyk**  
sophomore

My freshman year was very different. I came to high school knowing nothing and no one. Going to homecoming this year makes this year different than freshman year. I am excited to see everyone in their formal clothes. This is so special to me because of all the fun things we missed out on during our freshman year.



**Brian McLoughlin**  
junior

Homecoming is important to me because it's a great way to show school pride. The various activities that are offered give me an opportunity to connect with my fellow classmates. Homecoming is an exciting event to look forward to this year, especially because we didn't have one last year. It gives us a time and a place to celebrate the friendships we have made here.



**Paris Mendoza**  
senior

Homecoming 2021 is special to me because we didn't have one last year. We also didn't have junior prom. Another reason why this homecoming is special to me is because we have learned with the pandemic that anything can happen. So I feel very blessed to have this opportunity to be with our friends, dates and to get dressed up before we go off into the real world after we graduate.



**Mr. Joe Inzinga**  
dean

Because we really were unable to have the event last year, this is more or less a return to normalcy at Marist and at high schools throughout the country. This year's homecoming will also be the second outdoor dance that Marist has hosted in our history. We did host an outdoor senior prom last year and we are looking forward to the homecoming dance tomorrow night.



# RedHawk softball team wins third state championship

Delaney Powers  
senior reporter

One more out to go. Pitcher Abby Dunning unloads her wind up. The pitch is hit to junior left fielder Isabel Cunnea. Screams erupt from the players as they head to the pitcher’s circle for a dog pile. This was the scene after the RedHawk varsity softball team won the state championship game against Lincoln-Way Central, 3-1.

“The state championship game had a dramatic finish,” head coach Colleen Phelan said. “Our pitcher, Abby Dunning, pitched a no hitter in the semifinal game at noon and had a one hitter going into the sixth inning of the championship game when her arm started having muscle cramps. Her pushing through to get the final six outs was remarkable.”

Dunning won the Gatorade Player of the Year award and pitched seven no hitters. But to her, it is all about her teammates.

“To get through those last two innings, I trusted the awesome defense to make the plays,” Dunning said. “We came together as a team and as a family with goals to play and support each other.”

Heading into state, the RedHawks had a record of 38-1 and 26 of those wins were shutouts. The team stuck to its routine before the state final.

“They were always pumped up,” Phelan said. “They blasted their music in the dugout before the game, they were dancing and having fun just like before every game. The girls were not scared or tense and because we were loose we were able to win the championship.”

Teammates also credit last year’s four seniors, Dunning, Kali Case, Maggie O’Brien and Easton Lotus as key to the team’s attitude and success. The seniors did not shy away from being captains of the team.

“The seniors influenced the team tremendously,” catcher and infielder Emily Bojan said. “They were leaders on and off the field. Our core values were focus, family, resiliency, and selflessness and that is what all four of them brought on and off the field.”



photo by Hannah Doyle

The RedHawk varsity softball team poses with the state championship trophy after defeating Lincoln-Way Central on June 17. The RedHawks also won under head coach Colleen Phelan in 2015 and under former head coach Denise Bromberek in 2012.

*“[Last year’s] seniors really brought the team together. They organized team bonding activities and would lead by example at every practice and game. They set team goals and made sure the team met those expectations. The seniors were role models for every person on the team. They were approachable and down to earth, which made it easy to respect them and want to do well for them.”*  
--current senior catcher and infielder Kylie Sinal

The team had to deal with the additional challenge of playing a double header in 100-degree heat.

Usually the semifinal game is played on a Friday night and the state final the next night, but the two games were played two hours apart due to the pandemic.

“For the girls to persevere through the heat and the double header was amazing,” Phelan said. “I am proud of how the girls handled the whole day and remained tough mentally. A couple players were not feeling so hot on the bus ride home after playing two games in 100-degree weather.”

This marked the team’s third state championship since 2012 and its second under Phelan.

“I felt the same [when we won] as in 2015,” Phelan said. “I was really, really excited for the girls. I know a lot of [these players] came to Marist knowing that there was a chance we could win with the caliber of athletes we have. I am proud that these girls now have a special bond of being state champs together.”

The 2021 RedHawks worked to make school history last season and continue to feel a great sense of pride in representing their school so successfully.

“Winning the state championship is the best feeling in the world,” Sinal said. “I was so happy [when we won] that I started crying and soon I was at the bottom of the dog pile. There is truly no better feeling than winning a state championship for your school.”



photo by Katelyn Finley

Sophomore Emily Belcik broke her personal record in the 100-yard butterfly with a time of 1:07.12. on Saturday, Oct./ 2 at the Maine West Invitational. The RedHawks compete at Andrew tomorrow at 10 a.m.

## Water just fine for RedHawk swimmers

Katelyn Finley  
senior reporter

The RedHawk swim team’s season started on Aug. 27 at Fenwick, the first meet of what will be the first full swim season since COVID hit. The girls are thrilled to be back as they attempt to break both school and personal records.

“The team this year is a lot different compared to last year, we are much closer as a team,” senior Sofia Llobet said. “Because of COVID, we only had five meets and a shortened season. It didn’t let us have a great connection as a team. This season we all get along and are always there for each other whether we do well or not. Team spirit is big this season and I love it.”

Rather than focus on placing at individual meets, the team is focusing on creating or breaking school records this season.

“We swim in a conference that includes some very elite teams,” head coach Kelly

Sullivan said. “We work for individual progress, individual achievements and relay times instead of team scores.”

Because this year’s varsity team is so young, Sullivan believes a few school records will be broken this year.

“Our school records are meant to be broken and I can foresee one or two of them might go down this year,” Sullivan said. “We’ve got a couple girls who are really shooting to bring down some school records.”

One of the records Sullivan predicted going down was that of sophomore Emily Belcik, who competes in the 100-yard butterfly. At a recent meet, Belcik broke her personal record in the 100-yard butterfly. The original record was 1:07.36, but on Saturday, Oct. 2, Belcik lowered her time to 1:07.12.

“I always try to beat my personal best at each meet,” Belcik said.

The team’s next meet is tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. at Andrew High School. Spectators are permitted and encouraged to come and cheer on the team.



# RedHawk cross country teams attempt path to state

Emma Fishback  
junior reporter

The RedHawk girls’ varsity cross country team started off this season strong with an eighth place finish at the Lyons Township Invitational on Sept. 4.

“In the past our biggest competition has been Benet Academy, and this year it will probably also be Nazareth,” head varsity coach Patrick Quinn said.

In the Reavis Invitational on September 11, the team had a record of 19-3 on the day and finished in fourth place. The RedHawks were led by sophomore Jenna Bugos with her 7th place finish.

The RedHawks finished in third place at the Tinley Park Invitational on Sept. 25.

Quinn said that the girls’ strength this year is working together as a team, so they are not as focused on individual goals.

“We’re very strong as a group,” Quinn said. “There’s no real outstanding individual runner that gets us a real low score, so we’re going rely on everyone to work together to get the low score that we need.”

Quinn also hopes the girls get to state.

“This year we are a 2A team as opposed to a 3A team, which gives us another opportunity to get to state as a team,” Quinn said. “We’ve already done it once and the hope and prayer is that we do it a second time this year. We’re running very strong against 3A schools this season.”

The RedHawk boys’ varsity team started with a sixth place finish at the Yorkville Invitational on August 23. Senior Andrew Kerlin led the team with a time of 16:23.4.

“This year, it is between Marist, Brother Rice, and Oak Lawn Richards High School for the IHSA Regional Title,” head varsity coach John Gordon said. “It will be Marist’s first regional title in boys’ cross country since 2004.”

The team competed at the Niles West Invitational on October 2, with senior Jake Phillips leading the team with a second place finish and Kerlin with a 12th place finish.

Phillips is currently ranked in the top four in Class 2A in the state.

“I have a good feeling about the second half of the season,” Phillips said. “I believe we can take the win at regionals and qualify for state.”



photo by Kaylee Frederking

Senior Jake Phillips, ranked in the top four in the state in Class 2A cross country, runs in the Niles West Invitational on Oct. 2, finishing in second place overall.



photo by Emma Fishback

Sophomore Shirleyann Bia serves on the RedHawk tennis courts on Sept. 21, contributing to a 4-1 victory against Marian Catholic. The team continues in the ESCC Conference Championship Tournament tomorrow at 9 a.m. at Benet.

## Girls’ tennis team racquets up points

Jordan Mighty  
senior reporter

The RedHawk girls’ varsity tennis team opened yesterday in the ESCC conference championship tournament at Benet Academy.

Junior Elena Ruzevich and senior Molly Malloy both advanced in singles and will play in the next round of the ESCC championship at Benet on Saturday at 9:00 a.m.

After winning the season opener, the team went on to defeat McAuley on Sept. 9 and against Marian on Sept. 21.

More recent victories came against Reavis on Sept. 29 and Richards on Sept. 30.

Head coach Nicole Selvaggio has high hopes for the team as they head into IHSA sectionals on Oct. 15.

“I’ve been very excited about this year’s team,” Selvaggio said. “We have never been this deep with talent. Every player on this year’s varsity squad is working hard

and contributing to our team’s success. The fact that we won the Beverly Hills Clay Court tournament, our first of the season, is a testament to how talented this year’s group is.”

Malloy, the team captain is feeling bittersweet about her last year on the team. Malloy was undefeated in the conference this season.

“I’m both excited and sad at the same time that this will be the last season for our seniors,” Malloy said. “This season I really want our team to stay positive, even when we are facing tough schools. I would really love to place in conference and qualify for state this year.”

Junior Cameryn Helsdingen is already preparing for next year and helping to keep the team’s morale high.

“I learn by watching my teammates’ winning strategies and work on perfecting the basic motions of the game,” Helsdingen said. “It isn’t hard to keep our spirits up as our bond is strong and we have each other’s backs.”

## Golf seasons end at sectionals

Kaylee Frederking  
senior reporter

The Redhawk boys’ golf season started with a first place finish at the Nazareth Invitational on Aug. 8, but the team’s season ended with a loss at the IHSA sectional tournament on Oct. 4.

Senior golfer Quinn O’Boyle agrees that the season was not one of the team’s best, but he never lost hope in his team.

“I believe our season went pretty well but not as well as we would have liked,” O’Boyle said. “I was consistently confident in myself and my team to perform on a daily basis even if we may not be playing our best at the time.”

Head coach Joel Vickers agrees with O’Boyle, but he says this year the boys were not as consistent compared to previous years.

“This season we are just as competitive as last year but not as consistent,” Vickers said. “I am always confident in my team, I am just trying to get them to be more confident in themselves.”

After losing their season opener, the girls’ golf team went on to win their second outing against Nazareth on Aug.18 and their third against McAuley on Aug. 19.

Like the boys, the girl’s golf season ended on Oct.4 at sectionals.

Senior Mallorie Clifton is pleased with how the season played out.

“Our season this year was amazing [and] we really tried our best,” Clifton said. “I am happy with how we played this year.”

Clifton explains how each golfer plays differently during competitions.

“My conference depends on how well I have been playing and it and it really depends on the day,” Clifton said. “With golf you can have an amazing round one day and then other days you just can’t get a good break.”

Clifton said that this season differed from previous seasons because of who the players on the team were.

“The team was made up of all seniors this season,” Clifton said. “We really wanted to give it our all, and I think we achieved that this year.”



photo by Faith Harper

Junior Isabelle Harmon practices shots on Sept. 28 at Palos Country Club in preparation for the IHSA regional meet on Sept. 30. Both the girls and boys placed second at regionals and advanced to sectionals.



# RedHawks host Montini tonight for homecoming game

Jenesia Diaz  
senior reporter

The RedHawk varsity football team kicked off its season on Aug. 27 with a 49-0 win against Curie. The team currently stands 4-2 after losses to Mt. Carmel and Loyola Academy.

Head coach Ron Dawczak stated that this season is very different from last because a state champion will be crowned in each of the eight different classes in Illinois football. Last year, there were no state championships awarded, which gives the players a big opportunity this year and motivation to do well.

“Our goal for this season is simple,” Dawczak said. “The goal for this season is to win the class 8A state championship. Along the way, my goal for the players on the team is to have them try to be the best they can be in all aspects of being a Marist student-athlete. I want them to try to be the best football player, teammate, student, son or brother they can be each and every day.”

Dawczak also acknowledges Mt. Carmel and Loyola as among the team’s biggest competitors, teams the RedHawks lost to last season as well.

“Our toughest and biggest competitors would have to be our conference opponents in the Catholic League/East Suburban Conference Blue Division,” Dawczak said, “The Catholic League/ESCC Blue Division consists of Loyola, Mount Carmel, Brother Rice, and Marist. The Blue Division is, in my opinion, the toughest conference in the state of Illinois.”

Senior wide receiver Ak’Tavion Whitlock-Agee expresses his goals and hopes this year for his team.

“A personal record I’m proud of is having zero drops on the season throughout the first five games,” Agee said. “Overall the goal is to just do what I can to help the team win the program’s first state championship.”

The RedHawks host Montini tonight at 6 p.m. for the homecoming game. Montini stands 3-3 for the season after defeating Providence last weekend, 28-3.



photo by Olivia Carter

Junior Linebacker John Nestor celebrates his team’s first seven points of the night on Sept. 10 against Nazareth Academy. The RedHawks won, 28-14 and are 4-2 going into tonight’s homecoming game against Montini at 6 p.m at Red and White Stadium.



photo by Rayne Cave

Junior Bryson Roberts about to kick the only RedHawk goal during the Pulaski Cup game against Brother Rice on Sept. 4. The RedHawks won the game 2-1 by a penalty kick shoot out. The team travels to St. Viator tomorrow for a game at noon.

## Varsity soccer led by strong seniors

Delaney Powers  
senior reporter

This year’s varsity soccer team is led by 15 seniors, the most since the 2011 season. The team was 8-1-6 going into last night’s game against Providence, the results of which were unavailable at press time.

“[The seniors] have taken on leadership roles during practices and games,” head coach Sean Maxwell said. “They have been vocal, they have pushed each other and made sure this season is special.”

Many team veterans started playing soccer at a young age and have ‘been in love’ with the sport ever since.

“My earliest memory playing soccer was when I was around five or six,” senior midfielder Kyle Quinn said. “My dad was my soccer coach at my grammar school, St. Christina. He has taught me so much (on and off the field).”

In addition to working hard to scoring victories on the field, the team is also focusing on being of service to those in need.

Currently, the team is sponsoring a coat drive for underprivileged communities in the Appalachian Mountains. New or gently used coats will be accepted in drop boxes outside the main office and by the Red and White Gym entrance until Oct. 31.

“We have some great parents this year, and some of the moms wanted to do a service project,” Maxwell said. “We partnered with Alliance for the Children in Alsip to do this coat drive. We wanted to do the drive before winter starts because the coats are needed then. The coats will be distributed to the poorest countries in the world.”

The team’s goal for the playoffs is to surpass last year’s RedHawks.

“We had a pretty good run last year to the sectional finals,” Maxwell said. “We really want to make it to the final four this year. I think that is an attainable goal with the team we have this year.”

The team hosts Shepard for the final regular season game and senior night on Oct. 11 at 6:30 p.m. Seniors and their parents will be honored at 5:50 p.m.

## Girls’s volleyball preps for playoffs

Olivia Carter  
junior reporter

With four games left before playoffs, the RedHawks girls’ varsity volleyball team’s record stands at 19-6 after Tuesday night’s win against Marian Central Catholic.

“We face the toughest competition throughout the season of any team,” head coach Jordan Vidovic said. “Our conference is one of the toughest in the nation and we play in top level tournaments all season to prepare us.”

After an away game next Tuesday against Benet, the RedHawks will play their last three regular season games at home against Downers Grove South on Oct. 14, Carmel Catholic on Oct. 19 and Minooka on Oct. 20. All home games start at 6 p.m.

The team will also have home court advantage at the IHSA regional semifinal on Oct. 26 and the regional final on Oct. 28. Game times have not been announced yet.

A highlight of the season was the RedHawks’ first place finish at the Wheaton Classic on Sept. 18, where head coach Jordan Vidovic said they came together and worked hard to finish through. They played Wheaton North (25-20, 25-19), Waubonsie Valley (25-16, 25-14), Benet (25-21, 25-21), WW South (25-13, 25-21), and Plainfield North (25-16, 25-17).

At the much-anticipated annual game against Mother McAuley on Sept. 23, the RedHawks fought but ultimately lost in two sets (15-25 and 11-25).

Senior captain and defensive specialist/libero Chloe Arteaga reflects on the Mother McAuley game and talks about what they need to do differently in order for their team to improve.

“We did not play our best that day, which is very frustrating for us,” Arteaga said. “Since then, the biggest improvement we made is our mental strength. We saw how important it was to stay calm in such a big game with so many people depending on us.”



photo by Jordan Mighty

Senior Mary Clare Brusek instructs a serve against the Notre Dame Academy Pandas on Sept. 30. The RedHawks won in two, 25-16, 25-21. The team travels to Benet on Tuesday before finishing the regular season with three home games, starting with Downers Grove South on Oct. 14 at 6 p.m.