



Administration updates grading scale

Faith Harper
senior reporter

Much like the plans many people have to put up Christmas decorations after Thanksgiving, the administration took steps to update the grading scale for RedHawk students.

An email was sent out by school administrators on Nov. 11, explaining that the 5.0 GPA and grading scale are not leveled to college admissions or scholarship processes. When the decision was made to move to a 4.0/90-100% scale, members on the administrative team believed that the best time to make this change would be over Thanksgiving break.

"The foundational work had already been done prior to [Principal Dunneback's and my] arrival," Director of Teaching and Learning Elaine Gaffney said. "The question became, 'Should we make the change now?' and [truthfully] the reason to do it was that we couldn't find a reason to wait."

The new grading scale will distinguish a '+' for A's, B's and C's, and an A now begins at 90%. Administrators expressed that this adjustment will not dilute academic standards for RedHawk students.

"[The administrative team and I] want to communicate to the entire community that we are very proud of our standards and we're going to continue to hold high expectations," Gaffney said. "Our students are going to need to work as hard as they did before in order to achieve good grades and to continue to master skills in the classroom."

College counselors Allison Culver and Nicole Peterson expanded on the advantages this grading scale will grant current seniors.

"Rather than waiting until next summer, making the change now could still raise the GPA of seniors for the first semester. This will help those who

are waiting until later this year to apply to colleges and for scholarships."

The letter sent out by administrators also addressed concerns of prospective parents and students regarding the comparison of the past grading scale to other Catholic high schools like St. Ignatius and Loyola Academy who had adopted the 4.0/90-100 scale.

Not every college takes the time to look into the school's profile and how much weight is gained for courses so the idea of shifting the scale from 5.0 to 4.0 was a goal administrators had in mind.

"There [were] many issues that would arise that could have negatively impacted a student's admission or scholarship amount [with our past grading scale]," Culver said. "By converting to a 4.0 scale we are eliminating all of those issues. At the end of the day, our current seniors are benefiting because they are receiving money [for college] and more acceptances which is great."

French teacher Sean Curtin, who also teaches at Loyola University, is looking forward to the implementation of this change because he is accustomed to this scale that universities have been using for years.

"I am actually for [the new grading scale]," Curtin said. "I taught at the university level for a long time, and on a personal level when I see a 70 [percent, for me] I see that as a low C and not a D."

The idea of students losing the willingness to work as hard as they did before the update is a concern among some. However, senior Kennedy Tate still has hopes for the positive impact this will have on RedHawks.

"I think that most students will keep the same work ethic they had before the change," Tate said. "The students should want to continue working hard to improve their grades. I believe [the new grading scale] will allow students to be assessed more fairly compared to other schools and have an even better chance to get into the colleges of their choice."



photo by Faith Harper

The administrative team, led by principal Meg Dunneback, meets in the main conference room on Nov. 17 to finalize plans for implementing the updated grading scale over Thanksgiving break. Among other benefits, the updated scale aims to help RedHawks earn more scholarships.

| Former scale | | Updated scale | |
|--------------|---|---------------|---|
| 93-100 | A | 90-100 | A |
| 85-92 | B | 80-89 | B |
| 76-84 | C | 70-79 | C |
| 70-75 | D | 60-69 | D |
| 60-69 | F | 50-59 | F |

"We are very proud of our standards and we're going to continue to hold high expectations. Our students are going to need to work as hard as they did before in order to achieve good grades and to continue to master skills in the classroom."

--Director of Teaching and Learning Elaine Gaffney

With the updated scale, Gaffney and other members on the administrative team also hope to alleviate some of the concerns of parents.

"[Mrs. Dunneback and I] were getting questions from some parents because they are thinking about financial aid and college scholarships," Gaffney said. "We all know that college is expensive so we want to give our students the greatest opportunities to get scholarships that we can."

The updated grading scale went into effect over Thanksgiving break and worked retroactively to the beginning of the school year.

"Our students are already working to achieve good grades," Gaffney said. "So I believe that students receiving more money for colleges as a result of this updated grading scale is going to be a wonderful thing."

McDonald's films commercial here

Olivia Carter
junior reporter

Sophomores Imani Hill, Trechelle Williams and Shakira Luster were featured in a McDonald's commercial that was released on Oct. 18. "Bishop Takes Fries," filmed here at school and at a local McDonald's, showcases their love of chess and their personal story using a documentary-style approach.

"I think this commercial has opened a gate of opportunities for me and the other girls," Williams said. "I learned that chess is apparently something colleges look at and it has really boosted our social status. Who knows? Maybe a college scout has seen us and wants us at their school."

All three girls were members of the St. Ethelreda chess team that won state in 2020. This caught the attention of the McDonald's marketing team, Luster's father, Eric Luster, was their chess coach.

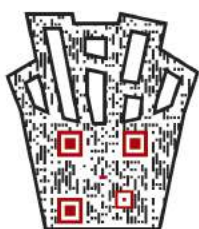
"I really enjoyed filming because I felt like we got to share our story with the world," Luster said. "I hope to encourage more girls to get into chess as a result."



Sophomore chess players (l to r) Trechelle Williams, Imani Hill and Shakira Luster were featured in a McDonald's commercial filmed in October.

photo by Kristine Kavanaugh

To view the commercial, scan this QR code:



Hill, Williams, and Luster currently play for the RedHawks under the guidance of head coach Bob Morowczynski, and are ranked among the top 100 players in Illinois.

"[The commercial] was a blessing and a really good experience," Hill said. It's truly amazing being a regular student who got to do something important."

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RedHawk SADD chapter promotes safe choices

Delaney Powers
senior reporter

Students Against Destructive Decisions is an organization that focuses on educating the student body on issues including drugs, suicide, depression, bullying, violence, body image, mental health and traffic safety.

The RedHawk chapter celebrates its fifth anniversary this year.

“I believe that a SADD Club Chapter was necessary here because education and encouragement will equip adolescents with information and tools they need to make positive, healthy choices in their lives,” moderator Cathleen Novak said.

The four senior co-presidents, Rayne Cave, Shannon Heitschmidt, Kathryn Pawlecki and Gianna Ibrado are eager to spread the word about these issues.

“High school students are constantly faced with peer pressure, so educating ourselves about the dangers of drinking, drugs, vaping and smoking are so very important,” Cave said.

Heitschmidt believes that the student body should be more educated about mental health issues, particularly ways to cope with stress.

“So many students struggle with self esteem, especially since [the pandemic],”Heitschmidt said. “I think SADD is doing a great job with this by creating stress tables.”

The stress tables are a part of next week’s activities promoting awareness of mental health.

“SADD will be sponsoring a “Mental Health Matters Week” beginning on Dec. 13,” Novak said. “It will kick off with a \$3 dress down day promoting mental health on Monday. The club will offer anti-stress tables during lunch on Tuesday. A yoga/ mindfulness session will be available through pre-registration all week as well.”

Next semester, the club has more events and activities planned.

“In February, we will offer the annual “Here’s the Scoop” leadership event here for middle schoolers,” Novak said. “The RedHawk virtual 5K, benefiting mental health awareness, will take place in May.”



photo by Ava Stercic

Moderator Cathaleen Novak meets with Katie Pawlecki, Rayne Cave and Shannon Heitschmidt, three of the four senior presidents of SADD, in the Tribute Room. Students interested in joining should email Ms. Novak at novak.cathaleen@marist.net.



photo by Kaylee Frederking

In November, RedHawks dropped off approximately 1500 pounds of canned and boxed food items in Champagnat Square, which were contributed to the community of Our Lady of Tepeyac High School in Chicago prior to Thanksgiving.



photo by Siobhán Bennett

The varsity soccer team held a coat drive at school for eight weeks, collecting over 300 coats for underprivileged communities in the Appalachian Mountains. The team partnered with Alliance for the Children in Alsip and the organization will deliver the coats.

RedHawks come through for charity

Jordan Mighty
senior reporter

Each year as the holiday season approaches, the RedHawk community steps up to deliver help to those in need. This year was no exception.

In November, Campus Ministry sponsored a school-wide food drive. Freshmen and sophomores were asked to bring in canned goods, including vegetables, fruit, soups, chicken and tuna. Juniors were asked to bring in boxed potatoes, boxed stuffing or pasta. Seniors were asked to bring in boxed desserts, such as cake or brownies.

Along with these items, a total of 50 turkeys were delivered to help the community of Our Lady of Tepeyac High School in Chicago.

“I taught there for 15 years and knew that they were particularly hard hit by the pandemic last year,” Campus Minister Mike Brennan said. “I reached out to them last year. They needed our help then and they needed it again this year and our kids came through as always.”

Brennan notes that the RedHawks’ response reflects their commitment to our mission.

“This drive reflects well on our students,” Brennan said. “It shows the best of who we are as Marists. It shows our kids living out the charism and caring for the least favored. The response of our students and families is just more proof that we do live out that charism.”

Throughout the fall, the RedHawk varsity soccer team sponsored an eight-week coat drive.

The team partnered with Alliance for the Children, a charitable organization based in Alsip. Led by the 15 senior players, the team collected over 300 coats. Together, they sorted and labeled the coats that will be delivered to needy communities in the Appalachian Mountains by Alliance for the Children.

“This is such a wonderful group of boys and they worked very hard to sort the coats into categories, bag, label and load them onto a truck for delivery in time for winter,” said Siobhán Bennett, mother of senior Liam Bennett, RedHawk varsity center back and center defensive midfielder.

Head soccer coach Sean Maxwell credits Mrs. Bennett, who is affiliated with the Alliance for the Children, with helping to get the parents and players involved in this year’s coat drive.

“She really got the ball rolling over the course of the season,” Maxwell said. “We are proud of how many coats were brought in by countless people, whether they were connected to the soccer program or not. It seemed like every time we emptied the boxes, they filled right up again. We are sincerely thankful to the entire Marist community to help to keep both children and teens in some of the poorest areas of the country warm this winter.

The final charity drive before Christmas break is the annual Alliance for the Children Giving Tree program. During lunch periods on Monday, Dec. 6, students were given the opportunity to take a tag with a child’s name and his or her Christmas present wishes. Students have until Friday, Dec. 17 to return the presents unwrapped to the Student Life Office in the cafeteria.

Tags are still available for pick up in the Student Life Office.

The presents will be loaded onto a truck and taken to Alliance for the Children, which will distribute the gifts to the children by Christmas.

According to Campus Minister Colleen Pochly last year RedHawks collected gifts for about 700 kids and this is the 20th year Redhawks have participated in this program.

Director of Campus Ministry Kim Madonia is very proud of the generosity of the students this season.

“Service opportunities are the backbone of being Marist,” Madonia said. “They allow us to lift up those around us. Reaching out to people in need around the holidays reminds them that they are not alone in their struggles. There is amazing generosity in this community and we share our blessings as God asks us to do. St. Marcellin encourages us to care for the least favored, and what better time to do that than right now.”

RedHawk alumnae continue successful journalism careers in college

Katelyn Finley
senior reporter

Two former members of the RedHawk journalism program, Isabella Schreck and Hannah Finnegan, currently in their first year of college, are already writing for their colleges' newspapers.

Schreck attends Kent State University where writes for her school's newspaper, *The Kent Stater*.

"I am majoring in journalism and after my great time on the *Sentinel* I knew I wanted to be a reporter," Schreck said. "A week into college, I emailed the editor in chief of *The Kent Stater* about any available positions and sent a resume. I met with her soon after and attended a general meeting for the publication."

Schreck started by covering women's volleyball, drawing on her experience with sports writing from being on the *Sentinel*, where she regularly wrote sports articles and feature stories and won a number of awards for her work.

"The editor asked if I wanted to be a sports reporter, so I said yes and then talked with the sports editor about covering women's volleyball," Schreck said. "I covered both boys and girls volleyball at Marist and really enjoyed writing about it. I also genuinely loved watching the sport."

Schreck will cover a new sport each season. This fall, she covered women's volleyball, and this winter she will cover women's gymnastics. She has also written feature stories for *The Kent Stater*, including a piece about thrift stores and sustainable fashion.

"I wrote one to two stories every week for *Kent Wired* (the online version of the paper) about the games that week," Schreck said. "After the games I interviewed the coach and a player either in-person if games were at home or over the phone if games were away. It was preferred that stories were finished about three hours after the game, so deadlines were really short."



Isabella Schreck '21, who won numerous awards during her three years in the RedHawk journalism program, prepares post-game questions for the Kent State women's volleyball team on Nov. 13.

photo by Cara Carlson

Finnegan attends Moraine Valley Community College, where she writes for her school's newspaper, *The Glacier*.

"I started doing college journalism by just signing up for the class," Finnegan said. "Since I already had experience in high school, I was able to join the higher class. On my first day, my professor asked me to stay after class and told me that she could already see the potential in me and offered me the position as the opinion editor for *The Glacier*."

As opinions editor for *The Glacier*, an online-only publication, Finnegan comes up with ideas for editorials and column. She writes pieces as well as edits and lays out other writers' pieces for the website.

"Since we publish online, we have a lot more freedom with what we can write," Finnegan said. "My professor keeps trying to push me to be more creative with my leads and really make people visualize things through my stories."

Finnegan's career in journalism also began in the RedHawk journalism program where she often wrote columns, opinions, editorials and other various types of writing. She said that participating in the program helped her acquire many skills needed to be successful at the college level.

Hannah Finnegan '21, another award-winning RedHawk journalist, serves as opinions editor for the Moraine Valley College student newspaper, *The Glacier* this year.

photo by Erin Cacciatore



"The RedHawk journalism program was definitely a great platform for me to stand on," Finnegan said. "We spent a lot of time learning the basics like AP style and how to edit, so I know what I'm talking about when it comes to those things. Knowing the basics gets you really far. I think the fact that my professor was impressed with my knowledge in the first day of class really reflects well on the journalism program at Marist."

Finnegan shared advice for today's college-bound RedHawks.

"My advice is to not be intimidated," Finnegan said. "Take classes you're not sure you'll like, join clubs, take advantage of campus resources. You'll never know where or when you will discover your passion."

Scan this QR code to see samples of Isabella Schreck's work



Scan this QR code to see samples of Hannah Finnegan's work



Are you interested in writing, editing, reading, art, or photography?
Then please join FALC: The Marist Fine Arts and Literary Club
held every Wednesday from 2:50pm-3:30pm in Room 132.

If you are a writer, an artist, a photographer, or a graphic designer, please submit your work to be published in
The Marist Fine Arts and Literary Magazine: *Emergence*.
Submissions can be sent to: amato.tracy@marist.net

As your Christmas Season continues to unfold,
please join us for:

Silent Night

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2021 AT 4:30 PM
IN THE MARIST CHAPEL

This special event is free and open to community members. The Marist High School Choir will sing "Stille Nacht," and welcome in the light of Christmas!

THE
SENTINEL



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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.

Updated grading scale levels playing field for RedHawks

The grading scale was updated over Thanksgiving break to allow RedHawk students to have a greater advantage in receiving scholarships after the administration was concerned about the negative impact the former grading and GPA scale had on students.

Our administration acted in the best interests of students by updating the scale.

According to Dean of Underclassmen Students Don Pirkle there has been no update to the grading scale since 1973.

From 1973-1977, if a student got less than a 55% on the final exam, they received an F in the class despite other grades. Grades were measured per quarter, and semester grades were introduced in 2000.

Surrounding high schools updated their grading scale to the traditional scale that reflects below 60 is failing, not below 70. The revised grading scale benefits students and provides them with better access to scholarships and admission opportunities without lowering academic standards.

81% of colleges surveyed by the National Association of College Admissions Counselors placed more importance on students' grades and overall GPAs.

Admission officers say that GPA and grades are the best predictors of a student's academic performance in college.

In past years, RedHawks were compared unfairly to their peers at other high schools. Colleges do not acknowledge the difference between schools' grading scales, which affected past students' GPA and chances of admissions and receiving scholarships.

Many student athletes were not eligible for sports due to low grades. RedHawk athletes who struggled have the opportunity to perform better and not lose out on athletic scholarships now.

The revised scale will give these athletes the same opportunity to play each week that many of their peers at other schools have.

According to the founder of Niche Luke Skurman, data shows that competitor high school students received higher GPAs and, as a result, were more likely to be accepted to colleges and for scholarships.

St. Ignatius, ranked #2 Best Catholic High school in Illinois by Niche, has the traditional grading scale. According to their school website, the WildCats had 757 Illinois State Scholars, 49 students became

National Merit Scholarship Program finalists and 114 students were named National Merit Scholarship Program commended students in the last six years.

Finalists have an opportunity to continue in the competition for about 7,500 National Merit scholarships worth more than \$32 million.

While we have produced many merit scholarship finalists and scholars throughout the years, the grading scale revision will increase the chance of more students qualifying for scholarships and awards for college. The update focuses on better GPA scores for college.

The traditional grading scale does not lower academic standards.

For example, the second-best Catholic High school in Illinois has the traditional grading scale, and it is not having a negative impact. Their students receive more scholarships and opportunities while holding students to standards that match those at our school.

Students who struggled before now have the chance to perform better while continuing to meet the high academic standards we are known for.



The crushing reality of crowd crushes

At rapper Travis Scott's two-day Astroworld music festival in Houston, Texas on Nov. 5, 50,000 audience members engaged in a "crowd crush," resulting in the deaths of nine people. Hundreds more were treated for serious injuries.

A "crowd crush" is a human disaster which often occurs during religious pilgrimages or professional sporting and music events, when a large crowd tries to move to reach an object or a person. Crushes also occur when crowds experience mass panic due to an explosion, fire or other triggering event.

Crowd crushes are deadly and disturbingly common events against which venue organizers and entertainers alike must take strict and consistent precautions.

The Astroworld disaster is not an isolated incident. There are various instances of crowd crushes occurring throughout human history.

In fact, the journal "Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness" reports that the number of crowd crushes has doubled in the last 20 years.

A prime example of a crowd crush was in 1989 in Sheffield, England, when 95 people died after they were caught in a crowd crush at Hillsborough Stadium during a soccer match.

According to John Fruin, a retired research engineer and one of the founders of crowd studies in the U.S., the leading cause of death in a crowd crush is compressive asphyxia. This occurs when people are pushed against one another so tightly that their airways become constricted and they are no longer able to breathe.

At a presentation at the First International Conference on Engineering for Crowd Safety, in London, England in 1993, Fruin explained that most major disasters can be prevented by simple crowd management strategies. Fruin insists that staff must have at least limited training in crowd management, recognition of potentially dangerous crowd problems and the handling of accidents. Entertainers should be aware of their own responsibility for maintaining order and not inciting dangerous group behavior.

Venue designers have the responsibility of preparing a crowd management plan as part of the life safety evaluation of a new venue. Emergency room space and equipment should also be sufficient to handle routine accidents and larger crowd incidents.

Paul Wertheimer, founder of the consulting firm Crowd Management Strategies, told *Insider* the Astroworld incident was "a preventable disaster."

In Wertheimer's booklet, "You and the Festival Crowd," he recommends those caught in a crowd crush keep their elbows in, protect their chest and give themselves breathing room. Concertgoers should not fight against the flow of the crowd when trying to escape. Rather, go with it and, during lulls, try to work their way diagonally through the crowd to the perimeter.

If performers and management take the proper steps to avoid crowd crushes, these deadly situations are completely avoidable and incidents like what happened at Astroworld incidents will no longer occur.

Mall culture is dead and we killed it

Jordan Mighty
senior columnist

Growing up we watched movies and TV shows that depicted what life inside and outside of high school looked like, such as *Mean Girls* and *Clueless*. For current high school students, it is probably safe to say the lives depicted in those movies were not realistic (sorry for the spoiler alert, freshmen). However, a small part of those scenes held some truth. Or used to.

Going to the mall with your friends was popular among teenagers not too long ago. Then the Youth Supervision Policies happened. A Youth Supervision Policy is a rule put in place for people 17 and younger to be with a parent or guardian after a certain time in the mall. The time frames when there is no supervision usually vary between the time the mall opens (usually 11 a.m.) until around 3 p.m. Who is going to the mall at 11 a.m.? Anyone? Maybe your grandma. That is a big maybe.

And no, these policies are not just in Illinois, but around the nation. Back in September, if you look at the Simon Property Group website (the people who own most of the malls in America) they stated that Lenox Square, a big mall in Atlanta where celebrities go to all the time, instituted a youth policy. This past July, Simon also put the policy in place at Concord Mills in North Carolina. It is not long before Simon Property Group put in policies in all its malls.

We can all sit here and blame Simon Property Group, but we must also hold ourselves accountable for the death of an era. The reason why we cannot be at these malls and others for so long is simple: People do not know how to act.

Imagine working at the mall, just doing the job that needs to be done and minding our business. Next thing that happens, two boys are knocking each other's teeth out in the store, and someone must call security. Now the employees are overwhelmed, security is overwhelmed and the customers are overwhelmed. This is not a good look on the mall's part, as ABC-7 will soon be at the front door, looking for the next 5 o'clock news story. This amounts to just more bad publicity for teens.

Cady Heron, a character in the film *Mean Girls*, was speaking truth when she said going to the mall reminded her of a water hole where all the wild animals gather.

With Christmas coming in a few weeks, malls are going to be opened for longer hours than usual. But guess what? We are still going to get kicked out, which is unfortunate because some of us like to do Christmas shopping ourselves (or we are forced to, but let us not get into that).

Maybe one day, we can return to that old way of life.

Maybe one day we can add the mall back among the places where we can hang out with our friends and maybe even get a pretzel.

But one thing we should be able to agree on is that mall culture is dead. For now. And we have only ourselves to blame.

Time's up for daylight savings

Kevin Cardinale
junior columnist

Daylight saving time is recognized by 48 states in the United States, but it has become outdated and causes problems of its own. The practice started in 1918 by Germany as a part of the war effort to conserve fuel, and many countries soon followed.

Although the war ended in 1918, it is still the norm in 48 U.S. states for citizens to turn the clock forward one hour in the spring and back one hour in the fall. However, the rationale behind it is no longer relevant in today's society, and it actually has negative effects.

Daylight saving time should be eliminated by the U.S. government. It causes accidents on the road and costs the country millions of dollars due to electricity usage.

The entire state of Indiana went to daylight savings time in 2006, while only certain counties had done it prior. By examining electricity usage in Indiana, Matthew Kotchen of the University of California found that electricity usage in Indiana increases two to four percent after daylight saving time in the fall and costs households an extra \$9 million per year. Although this experiment was only conducted in Indiana, Kotchen concluded that "the effect is likely to be even stronger in other regions of the United States."

Even if one hour of sleep may sound insignificant to a person's health, it actually makes a world of difference in U.S. hospitals. According to an article in *Business Insider*, hospitals have a 24% increase in heart attacks the day after Americans lose an hour of sleep in the spring. On the other hand, when Americans gain an hour of sleep, hospitals report a 22% decrease in heart attacks.

The hour of sleep that America misses out on in the spring has also affected the number of traffic accidents. *Business Insider* research indicates an additional 30 fatal car accidents occur each year as a result of changing the clocks.



According to the Bureau of Highways in Kentucky, the percentage of fatal accidents after sunset is nearly four times the amount of accidents in the daytime.

After the time changes in the fall, the sun is down for most of, if not all of, rush hour, and this contributes to the increase in accidents.

In 2019, European Parliament voted to abolish daylight saving time, but they have not decided on how to implement it.

The United States should follow in the European Union's footsteps and begin the process to stop changing the clocks.

Hawaii and Arizona have stopped recognizing daylight saving time, and the rest of the country has no reason not to follow suit.

photo opinion

compiled by Kameron Beal and Leah Kane

What is your New Year's Resolution for 2022?



Paul Stanecki
freshman

I am going to start scheduling my life. I'm something of a master procrastinator, which is an issue. I don't use a planner or a calendar, and it causes unneeded stress in my life. Moving forward, it will be helpful to keep things organized.



Charlotte Bittner
sophomore

My New Year's resolution is to get better grades. My first semester grades weren't as good as I wanted them to be. I want straight A's so that I'm happy and feel a greater sense of accomplishment.



Kevin Kelly
junior

I plan to do my best the rest of this school year, to push myself harder and study more. I plan to stay on task and be more positive, telling myself that "I can do it." I will also try to maintain all A's and B's.



Julianna Coleman
senior

I want to graduate with at least a 3.5 GPA from my current 3.3. I have been staying after school to do homework with a study group in the cafeteria and it's a good, quiet environment. I recommend it highly.

A letter to my fellow RedHawks

Jenesia Diaz
senior columnist

As Catholics, Christians or individuals attending a Catholic school, we are called to be the best versions of ourselves and to spread love and kindness to those around us. This calling is now more important than ever with Christmas right around the corner.

During this festive season, we prepare for two major things: the coming of Jesus Christ and Santa Claus. Jesus' mission here on earth was to spread love and kindness, and to encourage peace where there was nothing but violence and hate. With Santa Claus, we must behave our best to stay away from getting on the naughty list.

It can be hard sometimes to always be nice and follow Jesus' path. There will be mess ups, and that's perfectly okay. It is the effort that counts. Both Santa and God can see how hard you try to be your best. It is important to never give up though, or else you will end up on the naughty list and stray from the mission we are called to. Fortunately, I have committed to a really good plan to not only stay on Santa's nice list, but also follow Jesus' mission as well. It is a guaranteed, safe plan that only involves three simple steps, and it's one we all really need to follow.

The first step is inclusion. As high school students, it can be a struggle to fit in or find a friend group. Some people feel left out and sit alone at lunch or do group projects by themselves. If we see a fellow classmate alone, invite him or her to participate in whatever you and others are doing. It is important to make sure others feel included, and you may even make their day.

The second step is compliments. As teens, most of us can be obsessed with the way we look and this can have a negative impact on our lives as we try to reach the beauty standards of today's society. Everyone is beautiful and unique in their own way and it's a nice thing to make that known. Giving a few compliments out a day to friends, family and people you don't know will help boost confidence and maybe even make you feel good.

The third step is respect. We are old enough now to have our own thoughts, beliefs and opinions. Sometimes, they can start disagreements if they aren't the same views and values and can tempt us to adopt a negative outlook toward the person you don't agree with.

Not everyone will believe in the same things you do, and that's okay.

It is important to remember we are all entitled to our own opinions and, whether we agree or not, we must treat everyone with respect.

When we treat others with respect, we create a safe learning environment for ourselves and others around us.

You don't have to be friends with the person, or even like them, but treating all people with respect shows that you are following Jesus' mission.

I hope this helps. Sincerely,

Going to high school...when mom and dad run the place

Emma Fishback
junior reporter

According to two current students, being the child of an administrator, especially being the ‘principal’s kid,’ adds a completely different perspective to the high school experience.

Senior Jaclyn Tucker, daughter of former principal and current president Larry Tucker, is the youngest of the Tucker siblings to go through Marist, following her brother Ryan ‘14 and sisters Maddie ‘16 and Lauren ‘18.

Jaclyn says that having her father as principal and president definitely has an impact.

“It’s probably changed my entire life but also I was born with him working at the school anyway, so it’s all I’ve ever known,” Tucker said. “My mom’s a nurse and she has to work twelve hour shifts. So when she had to work, my dad would literally bring me into Marist. I was like six years old running around [Marist].”

Tucker said that her father often asks her opinion on school-related topics.

“He has asked me about my schedule, my teachers and just sought my input about different things,” Tucker said. “My dad would test the waters with me, ask me my opinions on the new schedule, different things like that.”

But Mr. Tucker points out that he often sought input from multiple students and not just his own children.

“I have always tried to keep a line between my kids and my job,” he said. “I may ask them if they heard about something that had happened, just to gauge how widespread a rumor was. But honestly, I rarely do that. I don’t want [my kids] to feel like they’re caught in the middle.”

Jaclyn said that there are many aspects of being the ‘principal’s kid,’ not all of which are pleasant.

“A sub once told me he was going to make it his life goal to give me a JUG just so he could say he gave the principal’s daughter a JUG,” Tucker said. “He may have been kidding, but it was awkward and I didn’t know how to respond.”

Jaclyn also described the social impact of her father’s job.

“I remember I would walk down the hall [and] people would whisper and point,” Tucker said. “Sometimes it happens in the beginning of the year when people first realize who I am. Some have made assumptions about who I am before they even know me.”

Jaclyn also pointed out the positive aspects of having her father at school.

“All of my siblings went here, so Marist has always been a second home to me,” Tucker said. “When it came time for me to choose a high school, there was no decision, and that took away a lot of stress.”

She is also proud of her father’s legacy.

“People are always complimenting my dad, which is good to hear,” Tucker said. “I am beyond proud of my dad and his legacy at Marist. I feel he truly is Marist.”

Principal Meg Dunneback said that having her daughter, Clare, attend the same school she works at “only makes [the experience] better,” because Clare provides her with the “student perspective.”

Clare, a junior, was not enthusiastic at first.

“When I first heard about [my mom’s job as principal], I was honestly like ‘No, I don’t want my mom at my school,’” Clare said. “After a lot of conversation, I realized this is something she really wants to do. I realized that the student body here would benefit from having her in that role, [someone] coming from an experience of working at different schools. I think she’s really great at it. I feel so lucky to have her and I think that she is killing it so far.”



photo by Br. Rich Grenier, FMS

Principal Meg Dunneback with her daughter, junior Clare Dunneback, join senior Jaclyn Tucker and her father, former principal and current president Larry Tucker, in front of The Point on November 22.

Clare also explained that while her mom acts “slightly more professionally” toward her at school, her personality remains essentially the same.

“There’s no gate or barrier between who she is at home and who she is at school, and I think that’s cool that she can be completely herself in front of her peers and people that she works with,” Clare said.

Her mother, however, expressed concerns about how Clare’s high school years may change because her mom is the principal.

“I hope that her peers don’t treat her or think differently of her because she’s the ‘principal’s kid,’” Dunneback said. “Like

‘Oh, [Clare’s] here so we better be quiet’ or ‘We shouldn’t be able to act like ourselves because [Clare’s] here. We never know if she will tell her mom.’ I feel like [that] is probably harder for her [but] I think she’s navigated those waters well.”

Clare said that although some peers might point out her mother’s role, most students and teachers have “treated me with the same respect and manners that they’ve always treated me with.”

Next year, Clare will be joined by her brother, Charlie, who graduates from St. Barnabas in May.

“I am looking forward to seeing what it will be like having a second child here at school,” Mrs. Dunneback said.

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2021

Friday, December 17, 2021

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Please yellow copy with receipt or purchased items for your tax deductible donation.

Gift tags are still available in the Student Life Office with the Christmas presents wishes of boys and girls in need this holiday season. Pick up a tag, buy the presents and bring them unwrapped to the Student Life Office by Friday, December 17.

RedHawk athletes commit to college teams

Billy McNicholas
senior reporter

In a ceremony held on Nov. 10 in the RedHawk Theatre, 12 senior RedHawk athletes signed letters of intent to continue their athletic careers in college.

Center fielder George Bilecki and pitcher Colin Amsden are both going to attend and play baseball at Lewis University.

“Having the opportunity to continue playing baseball with Colin at the college level is going to be amazing,” Bilecki said. “From pushing each other in the weight room everyday to traveling all over the country on the same club team, Colin and I have gotten really close.”

The two other players who signed are pitcher Cliff Mayer (Dominican University) and catcher Nate Voss (University of Michigan.)

“The coaching staff at Marist has prepared me to be a student athlete in college,” Voss said. “Coach Sefcik has been a huge help in my development as a player as well as a student and teammate.”

Members of the 2021 state champion RedHawk softball team also signed.

First baseman Gianna Richy will attend and play for the University of Chicago. Right fielder Sierra Sass will play at Loyola University. Third baseman Kaitlyn Wright will attend Saint Xavier University. Infielder Kylie Sinal will go to Grand Valley State University, and catcher Emily Bojan will play at the University of Wisconsin.

Bojan is excited to play softball at a collegiate level.

“The Marist coaching staff has prepared me for the next level by creating a highly competitive environment and scheduling one of the hardest schedules in state,” Bojan said.

Cross country runner Jake Phillips signed to attend Loyola University.

The two members of the volleyball team who signed to play in college were setter Kennedy Conrad who will attend the University of New Haven and middle hitter Mary Clare Brusek who will attend Western Michigan University.

“Marist has pushed me mentally and physically and has instilled the values of discipline and leadership, so that I am the best possible athlete I can be,” Brusek said.



photo by Kristine Kavanaugh

Seniors Colin Amsden, Jake Phillips, Gianna Richy, Emily Bojan, Sierra Sass, George Bilecki, Nate Voss and Cliff Mayer (back row) and Mary Clare Brusek, Kennedy Conrad, Kylie Sinal and Kaitlyn Wright meet in the theatre after signing their letters of intent on Nov. 10.



photo by Kamron Beal

Redhawk wrestler freshman Will Denny holds down his opponent at the tournament against Providence and Montini on Dec. 3, where the RedHawks defeated both teams. The team travels tonight and through Dec. 11 before hosting Loyola on Dec. 16 at 5 p.m.

Wrestlers seek to dominate the mats

Jenesia Diaz
senior reporter

The RedHawk varsity wrestling team is undefeated so far this season, starting with a win against Kennedy (84-0), followed by victories against St. Rita (55-21), Montini (72-8), Providence (66-9) and Marian (51-12).

Head coach Brendan Heffernan points out that although the IHSA season was cancelled last year, the Illinois Wrestling Coaches and Officials Association (IWCOA) allowed dual meets only and did hold a state series.

“It was a unique experience,” Heffernan said. “But our kids handled it well and competed to the best of their abilities. It also helped our returning wrestlers win those first meets this season.”

Heffernan also said that while the team is young, they are held to high expectations.

“Our goal is the same as every season,” Heffernan said. “We want to qualify as many individuals for the IHSA individual

state championships as we can, and to earn a Class 3A Team Dual State trophy at the end of the season.”

Junior team co-captain Jesus Herrera, who placed fourth in the IWCOA State Tournament last year, is looking to rise to the top three on the state podium this season. He also wantst to be a “great” captain for his teammates.

“I would say that this year’s team is a lot more confident and smarter when we wrestle,” Herrera said. “We made a lot more mistakes last season than do not seem to make now.”

Junior co-captain Peter Marinopoulos, who made it to state last year but did not finish due a knee injury, hopes to return and finish as a state champion this year.

“The team strives to get better every day at practice and we are pushing each other to reach our goals for this season,” Marinopoulos said.

The RedHawks face Notre Dame and Joliet Catholic at Notre Dame beginning at 5 p.m. this evening.

Bowlers aiming for strong finish

Faith Harper
senior reporter

The RedHawk boys’ bowling team continued its season with a win against Brother Rice on Dec. 6, putting both varsity and junior varsity at a record of 5-3. As their matches roll to a close, the team reflects on their progress so far.

“I started coaching bowling seven years ago,” head varsity coach Mike Brennan said. “Two years ago was the farthest [our team] has gotten which was to sectionals, and usually someone wins at state. We are never the best and we are never the worst, but we [did and are] trying to do our best.”

Brennan hopes to bring in new players for next fall’s bowling season since the varsity team consists mostly of seniors like Brendan Rayl, Sean Condon and Michael Guzaitis.

Rayl, who joined the team as a sophomore, believes the team will end the year strong.

“We face a lot of good competition and we try our best to push through to win,”

Rayl said. “[Many] of the guys have been playing really well this season which is great to put us in a spot to win. I personally feel that I have also been doing my best and we will only get better with practice.”

Senior Emmett O’Brien, who joined the team as a freshman, encourages other RedHawks to join the team.

“Being on the RedHawk bowling team has been a great experience, especially playing with the teammates I’ve been with since freshman year. I think that no matter how good or bad you are at bowling, you will learn to improve and have a lot of fun if you join. The coaching staff is great. Coach Brennan definitely knows what he is doing and helps us improve our throws.”

O’Brien was the only RedHawk to defeat his St. Rita opponent last night, finishing with a score of 224.

After competing tomorrow in Addison in the Club Champions League North vs. South tournament, the RedHawks will play in the first round of the Chicago Catholic League Championships at Bluebird Lanes in Chicago beginning at 4 p.m. on Dec. 14.



photo by Billy McNicholas

Junior Brendan McDermott delivers the ball in a match against Mt. Carmel at Lawn Lanes on Dec. 1 en route to a 3-0 victory for the RedHawks. The team travels to Stardust Bowl in Addison tomorrow to participate in the Club Champions League North vs. South double header beginning at noon.

Building culture on the court

Kevin Cardinale
junior reporter

The boys’ basketball team is off to a 4-2 start this season, as new head coach Brian Hynes focuses on forming a winning culture and instilling good morals in his players.

“We have two players who recently transferred in, so this is a group that is still coming together,” Hynes said “I want them to feel what it is like to be a team and see that translate into success on the court.”

Another aspect of his philosophy is how the team reacts to losing.

“Everyone’s happy when you win,” Hynes said. “But what does the locker room look like the day after we lose? Do we become tighter or do we fall apart?”

Playing for the RedHawks are seniors James Murphy, Sebastian Drag and Ryan Winstead, juniors Leirre Collier, Mason Ross, Xavier Sulaiman, Kaden White, Dermot Smyth, Jack Prendergast, Matt Drag, Justin Lang, Hunter Holley, Eric

Lewis, sophomore Ron Smith and freshman Achilles Anderson, in the starting lineup.

Hynes wants the winning culture he is trying to build to help players grow outside of basketball as well.

“We believe in acting like adults, carrying yourself with class and caring about your teammates more than yourself,” Hynes said. “This is just another outreach of what Marist stands for”

The team, on board with their new head coach’s philosophy, looks forward to working and winning with Hynes over the rest of the season.

“Coach Hynes is by far one of the best coaches I’ve played for,” Anderson said. “He understands that we are students and people before we are players and he is trying to teach us important lessons to prepare us for life.”

Drag agrees.

“You can see that [Coach Hynes] really cares and wants to improve the culture of our program,” Drag said. “He always tells us his door is always open to us, even if it has nothing to do with basketball.”



Senior Sebastian Drag dribbles around his Perspectives Academy opponent on the way to a 44-42 victory on Nov. 22. The RedHawks host Marian tonight at 7 p.m. in the Red and White Gym.

photo by Emma Fishback



photo by Katelyn Finley

Junior forward Elise Ward dribbles past her opponent in the home game against Lincoln-Way Central on Dec. 1. The RedHawks won, 50-37. After a series of tournaments away in December, the RedHawks next home game is against Marian on Jan. 12 at 7 p.m.

Girls’ basketball team learns from loss

Olivia Carter
junior reporter

With a 69-54 win against McAuley at home last night and an overall record of 7-1, this year’s RedHawk girls varsity basketball team has big expectations for the season with the help of senior captains Mary Clare Brusek, Le’lani Harris and Kira Chivers.

The team’s head coach is Mary Pat Connolly, assisted by Kate Ferguson.

“Our strengths are our seniors,” Connolly said. “We have six seniors who are really good basketball players and great leaders.”

This year’s varsity roster also includes seniors Casey Flynn, Cencere McDaniel and Emily Bojan, juniors Elise Ward, Katherine Tracy, Isabelle Harmon, Megan Flynn and Maggie Farritor, and freshmen Breanna Hanik and Gabi Novickas.

The team started off the season with two wins at home, winning 67-38 against Crete-Monee and 64-34 against Simeon.

“This has been an exciting season, especially coming off our ESCC title last year,” Chivers said. “I think we have a great shot at going to state this year.”

The team’s loss 46-67 to Bolingbrook on Nov. 30 proved to be a great learning experience, according to Coach Connolly.

“Believe it or not, the best game was our loss to Bolingbrook,” Connolly said. “Even though this team was better than us, we figured things out by the third quarter and got a little tougher. [The team] realized what it takes to be at the elite level. I was really proud of them.”

With plenty of time between now and the IHSA Class 4A Regional semifinals on Feb. 12, the team will be using upcoming tournaments the rest of this month to prepare and improve.

“This year is totally different from last year because we are hungry for the state title,” Harmon said. “During the COVID year, state playoffs got cancelled, so we feel like every team is coming for us this year. But we are ready to compete and win that title.”

Football team fights to the finish

Kaylee Frederking
senior reporter

The Redhawk varsity football season ended on Nov. 20 when the team lost to Maine South in the semifinals with an extremely close score of 33-35.

The team finished 9-4 for the season, with the other losses to Mt. Carmel, Loyola and Brother Rice.

This was the first “normal” season after COVID moved the last season’s games to March and April. Last season there were no state playoffs, so the team’s goal was to win the class 8A state championship this year.

Senior defensive end Sam Colon expressed how he is proud of his team through everything.

“It was a very memorable season,” Colon said. “My teammates and I put in a lot of hard work during the season and in the offseason to try to achieve our goal. Even though we did not, I could not be prouder to have been a part of this team.”

Senior team manager Jack Esselman also expressed his pride in the RedHawks and their performance.

“This season went great,” Esselman said. “We did not get the ultimate goal of getting a ring and putting up a banner, but we had a great team. Losing in the semifinals to the fourth best team in the state by 2 points [is nothing] to scoff at.”

Head coach Ron Dawczak considers this season as a success.

“While we did not achieve our ultimate goal this season, the team accomplished a great deal,” Dawczak said. “Making it to state semifinals for the third consecutive year is a great accomplishment.”

Senior runningback Michael Coy said that he is happy with the outcome of the overall season, even the results of the game against Maine South.

“I think both teams played a great game [in the semifinal],” Coy said. “It’s just that Maine played slightly better. The RedHawks had a great season and we played some amazing games. I feel good about what we did and we had fun.”



photo by Delaney Powers

In what would be the RedHawks’ final game of the season on November 20, junior wide receiver Ryan Sims (#4) dives for the football in hopes of a touchdown. The RedHawks lost the 8A semifinal game against Maine South, 33-35.