



# Tucker shares vision for electives, advisory period

Isabella Schreck  
sophomore reporter

Principal Larry Tucker discussed the importance of taking electives, shared details about next year's new advisory period and reflected on his 21st year as principal at his annual press conference with journalism 1 students on Jan. 16 and 17.

With options including next year's new "Engineer Your World" class, the IDEA class, ceramics, broadcasting and journalism, Tucker wants students to bring their creativity, curiosity and develop their passion as they explore potential career paths.

Tucker hopes the "Engineer Your World" elective will spark students' interest in the field of engineering. For aspiring entrepreneurs, the IDEA class focuses on collaboration and invention.

Art classes like ceramics appeal to a student's creative side. Journalism is available for students looking to develop their writing and reporting skills.

"Being creative instead of just learning something to get a grade, pass a class and get into college is what we focus on," Tucker said. "We want our electives to help students focus on real-life problems because that will prepare them for life beyond Marist."

Tucker emphasized the importance of offering students an education that will prepare them for 21st century jobs, some of which may not even exist yet.

"It is essential that students know how to work collaboratively," Tucker said. "To that end, we want to offer classes that will get students excited, that will engage their curiosity and creativity."

Tucker also noted the importance of providing the proper spaces to help better motivate and prepare students, citing the construction of the new science wing.

"We are very dedicated to offering these classes in state-of-the-art spaces," Tucker said. "This is why we built a broadcast studio and the IDEA classroom. We want to create spaces that really support the curriculum of that elective."

Tucker believes students should choose their electives based on their interests. He said students should not shy away from classes because they may seem difficult.

"I caution against listening to what other students are saying in terms of easy versus hard," he said. "Choose electives that are interesting, that will help prepare you for your future, that will help you get more excited about coming to school and help you explore a passion."

Tucker also explained the new advisory period for next year.

"Advisory will be a time each school day when we establish community and a positive culture through a number of different units," he said. "The first unit will focus on 'Getting to know Marist' and 'Getting to know each other.' Relationships among students and relationships between faculty and students will be strengthened during advisory."

Now in his 21st year, Tucker reflected on what he likes and dislikes about being principal.

"I like talking to students about the best thing that happened to them that day at school, what they learned and what really touched their hearts," Tucker said. "What I like least is sitting in meeting after meeting because these keep me from doing what I really like to do, which is interacting with students and teachers."



photo by Jenna Fessler

Mr. Tucker discusses the importance of curiosity, creativity and collaboration with journalism 1 students during his annual press conference on Jan. 16 and 17.

Tucker acknowledged that not all of the changes have been met with enthusiasm from all faculty members.

"Fifteen years ago, I started studying and talking about how schools need to change, that we have to stop preparing students for jobs that won't exist in some cases when they get out of college," Tucker said. "Of course there were those who questioned it, but that just told me that I needed to do more in terms of sharing and motivating teachers to change."

Tucker also commented on the latest nickname given to him by current students. These days, he is referred to as 'BLT' (Big Larry Tucker).

"I think it's nice that kids think enough to come up with these names for me," Tucker said. "When I started here in 1998, the show 'Superman' was on TV, and the lead character slicked his hair back like I do, so kids started calling me Superman."

"There are, I am sure, far worse things that people could call me."

## RedHawks stand for life in nation's capital

Kaitlyn Klein  
senior reporter

A group of 16 RedHawks along with faculty members Chris Leshner, Brigid Wolff and Theresa Coy marched with thousands of others in Washington D.C. for the 46th annual March for Life on Jan. 18.

"I felt that it was important to march because we have to show that there is a large community being affected by abortion," senior Colette Striepling said. "Since I'm adopted and have such a close relationship with my birth mother, I know that she had choices other than adoption, so I'm beyond thankful she chose pro-life."

The first March for Life was founded by lawyer and pro-life activist Nellie Gray and held on the west steps of the Capitol on Jan. 22, 1974. Gray was joined that year by an estimated 20,000 followers. This year, the crowd was estimated between 200,000 to 300,000. Gray wanted people to recognize the lives that are lost to abortion each year.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), 41 million abortions took place globally in 2018. The March for Life is intended to raise awareness and to lower this statistic.

This was the 12th year the RedHawks have gone to protest the Supreme Court's



photo by Theresa Coy

Faculty members Chris Leshner, Brigid Wolff and Theresa Coy led a delegation of 16 RedHawks to Washington D.C. on Jan. 18 to participate in the 46th annual March for Life. This was the 12th consecutive year that RedHawks participated in the march.

1973 decision legalizing abortion in the United States.

"By participating in the march this year, I developed a greater appreciation for all life and a greater devotion to the life of Mary, our Good Mother," senior Rosemary

Enright said. "I came away from the experience with an even stronger conviction in my pro-life beliefs."

Any student interested in participating in next year's March for Life should see Mr. Leshner.

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# Theatre Guild presents *The Sound of Music* next month

Emma Brown  
managing editor

The RedHawk Theatre Guild will perform *The Sound of Music* on March 28, 29 and 30 at the Bear Theater at Morgan Park Academy.

The musical, the final collaborative work between legendary Broadway composers Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II, centers around Maria Rainer, a nun-in-training who proves to be too high-spirited for religious life.

Maria leaves the convent and becomes a governess for the widowed naval Captain Von Trapp and his eight unruly children.

Set in Austria in 1933 just before the Nazi invasion, Maria (senior Anna Simmons) slowly earns the trust and love of the children while slowly falling for Von Trapp (senior Jimmy Lynch). The two eventually marry.

Upon returning from their honeymoon, the couple learns that the Nazis have invaded Austria and demand that Captain Von Trapp join Hitler’s navy.

The captain is against the Nazi cause but knows that his opposition would put his family in danger. The family decides to flee Austria. During a music competition, the family makes an early exit and has to travel over the Alps to get to Switzerland as World War II breaks across Europe.

The Von Trapps are assisted in their escape by the Mother Abbess (senior Faith Fisler) and a family friend, Max Detweiler (senior James Randolph).

The show is co-directed by Mrs. Erin Kelly and Mrs. Erin Vail with Mr. Robbie Distasio as choreographer and technical director and musical direction by Ms. Charlotte Rivard-Hoster.

Performances on March 28 and 29 will begin at 7:30 p.m. Performances on March 30 will be at 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for students and \$10 for adults and will be available at the door.

“We have a great cast and I know it is going to be a lot of fun,” Lynch said. “I have been in the musical all four years and it is never about what show we are doing. It is always about the group of people we have and performing together.”



photo by Emma Brown

Captain Von Trapp (senior Jimmy Lynch) and Maria (senior Anna Simmons) are surrounded by the eight Von Trapp children, played by students ranging from junior year to kindergarten. The show opens on March 28 at Morgan Park Academy.



photo by Cecelia Gibbons

Senior math team members (L to R) Sean Geary, Ryan Vulich and Edward Stifter practice after school earlier this week in preparation for regionals on Feb. 23 at Crete-Monee High School.

## Math team adds another victorious season

Cecelia Gibbons  
junior reporter

The math team will compete at regionals on Feb. 23 at Crete-Monee High School, following their victories at both Catholic Math League competitions this season. Coach Jeff Nicholson hopes the team will perform well at regionals to secure a spot at state.

“We practice every day after school for about an hour,” junior Nicole Viz said. “We work with each other on practice problems. There are all these different competitions you can [compete in], so we make sure to practice each one.”

The competitions consist of events ranging from single tests to eight-person team tests. There is also a relay style test where students race to complete an individual question and pass their answer along to fellow teammates.

“Everyone takes the individual test which is just a normal, written test,” Viz

said. “Then Mr. Glennon chooses certain people to participate in all of the other competitions. For example, there is an oral competition where you have to do a problem and then present it in front of people.”

Last year the RedHawks won regionals, and Nicholson hopes that this year the team will place in the top five.

“Being able to go to contests and see how our students perform after they have practiced for certain competitions [is my favorite part of math team],” Nicholson said. “They always seem to amaze me and Mr. Glennon in terms of their success.”

Nicholson credits the team’s ability to collaborate well in groups as a big factor in previous successes, noting that when the team performs well as a unit, members do better individually.

“Team members have their own strengths and weaknesses,” junior Benjamin Fanelli said. “Working together, we get to complement those and enjoy greater success.”

## Five advance to sectionals in speech

Jenna Fessler  
senior reporter

The RedHawk speech and acting team competed in the IHSA regionals at Eisenhower on Feb. 2. The team advanced five students to sectionals in six different categories, including seniors Kristen Kolp, Maurice Brooks, Sarah Peck and sophomores Emma Ortega and Una Fortier.

Peck (original oratory) was the only RedHawk to advance to the final round at sectionals, but did not advance to state.

The team is led by captains Kolp and Peck. Both have been on the team for four years and have high expectations for the rest of the season and years to come for their younger teammates.

“This year has been different for me because in the past I looked up to my older teammates, and now it’s my turn to succeed as a co-captain and help lead my younger teammates,” said Kolp. “It’s different because it’s my final season which means having a lot of ‘last’ moments. I am focusing to make this year my best.”

Head coach Samantha Paoletti is grateful for the leadership the captains and other seniors have provided this season, and for the new talent the team gained this year.

“We have so much young, new talent and our senior leaders have been great role models, showing them what’s truly important,” Paoletti said. “We may not have done as well as past seasons from an outside perspective, but this was a really important year for all of us to remember what we love about speech and to come together as a team. The bonds we create together and the skills these kids learn are what will last forever.”

In Catholic League competition this season, the team came in second at the first two meets. The RedHawks will host the third and final Catholic League meet on Feb. 23.

“We have nine students who have consistently placed in the top six and are on track to qualify for nationals in May,” Paoletti said. “[After sectionals], all the kids told me that it is their goal to win this one since it’s our home tournament and our last one before nationals.”



photo by Samantha Paoletti

RedHawk speech and acting team members (L to R) Sarah Peck, Una Fortier, Maurice Brooks, Kristen Kolp and Emma Ortega advanced from regionals to sectionals in six categories. The RedHawks will host the third and final Catholic League meet on Feb. 23, at which the national qualifiers will be decided.



# Class of ‘87 alum running in Chicago mayoral race

Georgia Lattas  
senior reporter

With Mayor Rahm Emanuel announcing in September that he would not seek re-election, 14 candidates remain in the race to become Chicago’s next mayor.

Election Day is scheduled for Feb. 26, 2019, and Jerry Joyce’s name will appear at the top of the ballot.

Joyce is not the first member of his family to get involved in politics. His father, Jeremiah Joyce, is a former 19th Ward Alderman and state senator, and his brother Kevin Joyce is a former state representative.

Despite his family’s history in politics, Joyce decided to pursue this career only around a year and a half ago.

“I had been approached to run for political office in the past, but I always declined,” Joyce said. “I don’t see it as pursuing politics so much as putting myself in a position to help make necessary changes to a city that I love.”

Joyce graduated from Marist in 1987 and attended Yale University where he obtained a Bachelor’s Degree in Economics and Political Science. After graduating, he earned his Juris Doctor at Loyola University Chicago School of Law.

After law school, Joyce joined the Cook County State’s Attorney’s office where he worked on the executive staff and as an assistant state’s attorney.

“Marist definitely prepared me for the future,” Joyce said. “Marist provided a caring and nurturing environment, but also a challenging one. I learned the importance of hard work, discipline and compassion.”

Joyce was a member of the football and wrestling teams at Marist and helped football take second in state and wrestling win the state championship during his senior year.

One of Joyce’s favorite memories from his time at Marist comes from that year, when the team wrestled Providence at Marist in front of a standing-room-only crowd. The meet was held on a Friday night in January and Joyce describes the buildup throughout the week leading up to the dual meet.

“Coach Gervais and the assistant coaches were adamant about keeping us focused, so during warm-ups before the meet, we ignored the growing crowd that was filing into the gym,” Joyce said. “The crowd started doing the wave and we could no longer ignore them. I looked up into the stands and the first person I saw was one of my closest childhood friends, Kevin Gibbons, dressed as the mascot chief, getting the crowd going. We then went on to beat Providence as well as every other team we wrestled that year.”

Another one of Joyce’s favorite memories comes from his senior year, when the football team reached the state finals but lost in the championship game. The bus ride back to Chicago was somber because it was their last game. As the team entered the gym, they were greeted by thunderous clapping and cheering.

“It was pretty touching,” Joyce said. “I will never forget that moment.”

“Marist definitely prepared me for the future. I learned the importance of hard work, discipline and compassion”

Joyce’s campaign centers around his desire to keep Chicagoans from leaving the city because of concerns over public safety, quality education and rising costs.

“Residents are asking themselves whether they are making the right decision by staying in Chicago,” Joyce said. “That is not a question we should be faced with. I want people to move into Chicago, not move away.”

Joyce acknowledges that Chicago faces serious challenges, and this motivates him to stay involved in the community. He has been an attorney and a small business owner and has remained involved at Marist as a coach and mentor. He also served as a member of the Marist school board for two terms, helping to work on curriculum, strategic planning and development.

His many years in the Cook County State’s Attorney’s office gave Joyce first-hand experience with Chicago’s criminal justice system through his day-to-day, direct involvement in that area.



photo used with permission by Friends of Jerry Joyce

Jerry Joyce and his family pose for a campaign photo in front of Buckingham Fountain last summer. Joyce, a graduate of the Class of 1987, is one of 14 candidates running for mayor this month.

“I have a fresh look, a lot of energy and the courage and desire to take on this challenge,” Joyce said. “I have well-defined plans to address Chicago’s problems, not just vague promises and platitudes. We have a huge volunteer base of supporters who are in it because they care just as much as I do.”

Joyce’s greatest support for his campaign comes from his family, especially his four children and his wife, Jannine.

His daughter, senior Karina Joyce, believes her father can do great things for the city of Chicago, and attributes his strong work ethic and drive to his success.


“He wants the best for everyone, from children to grown adults,” she said. “I think he will make Chicago a safer place for everybody. I also think that he will help out the Chicago Public Schools. This is really one of his top priorities. He is so invested in Chicago and its citizens and he is determined to make it a better place. We miss him at home while he is out campaigning, but we know he is out there doing great things.”

His son, senior Jeremiah Joyce, has become more familiar with Chicago politics through his father’s campaign. He also said that he has grown closer to his father and learned more about him as a result.

“I’ve always been interested in politics and I’ve learned a great deal during this campaign,” he said. “My dad works so hard and I am proud of all he has accomplished. I believe he will do a great deal to increase public safety. He really listens to people and he will be a mayor for the people. He isn’t a politician, so he will focus on Chicagoans and not on himself.”


While many students might hesitate to get involved in politics due to the public’s low opinion of many politicians, Joyce believes that the only way to change this perception is to have more candidates get involved for the right reasons. He urges students to consider going into public service.

“Whatever you pursue, believe in yourself and give it 100%, even if the goal seems unattainable,” Joyce said.



# PRACTICE SAT TEST

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# Losing a parent and growing up more quickly

Carolyn Yusa  
senior columnist

When in a person’s lifetime are they considered “grown up?” A person is considered an adult at age 18, but people are not always very adult-like at that age.

I grew up much faster than my friends and classmates, starting when I was 11 years old. This is when my life began to spiral down. From that point in my life I would grow up with a sick parent.

Anyone who has gone through having a parent who is ill for a long period of time knows how difficult it is to have freedom. Whether it is the freedom to have people over at their house, or be out of the house a lot or even have time just to be a kid.

Growing up, I had more responsibilities than I could count. The list goes on and on. I was constantly told to do things, to act a certain way or to make sure I did everything perfectly.

Life is always throwing curve balls at you so nothing is ever done perfectly. The biggest curve ball thrown at me was this

past Christmas when I lost the man who was supposed to walk me down the aisle when I get married one day, my father.

I am 17 years old and now I have to live the rest of my life without my father. It is not going to be easy and I know it. Losing a loved one is absolutely heartbreaking. I like to think a piece of my heart went to heaven with him and that I gained a little piece of heaven in me.

The hardest part about the loss of a loved one is going through the “firsts.” For me, some of the firsts that I have to go through are smaller ones that have bigger impacts. Valentine’s Day is an example. Every Valentine’s Day, my dad would buy me flowers. That is something small I will always miss.

I tell myself this every day: “I know it is going to suck for the rest of my life. Some days are going to be harder than others, but eventually I will get little flashbacks of the good times.”

I will hold on to those good memories, because ultimately that is the key to coping with this kind of loss.

For me the hardest part about losing my dad is everything I will not be able to celebrate with him, including my high school graduation, my college graduation and my wedding.

Through this rough patch in my life I have learned who my real friends are and how strong I can be.

If you are struggling with the illness or loss of a parent or loved one, it is not going to be easy at first. But you will start to live your life and not think about the fact that your loved one is no longer with you. Do not worry. That means you are moving on with your life and that is all you can do.

You have to remember that they are happy and safe now. They are somewhere where you will meet them again. But for now, you must live. Do everything you would do if they were still right beside you. They will always be that guiding hand resting on your shoulder.

Your lost loved ones are never gone because as you grow older you only grow closer to meeting them again one day.

# Remembering Mikey

Erin Murphy  
senior columnist

October 24, 2018 is a date that will never leave my heart or my mind.

Mikey McGrath was always the kid with the biggest smile and the smart comeback within seconds like he did not even have to think about it. But he would always help when anyone struggled in any class and make them feel like they were the smartest person ever. That is who he was. He was extremely bright and was one of the most down-to-earth people I ever met.



I remember getting the call. I wish I could say emotions rushed over me but they did not. I sat in my bed and thought “What? No. Not Mike. There is no way the smart, witty, funny, amazing classmate would end his own life.”

That call would change me for the rest of my life. Although Mike and I were not the closest, he was still a friend who I would talk to, laugh with and sometimes even cry with. The days following Mikey’s death were the hardest days of my life.

I do not exactly remember everything from those days. This was the first time I have ever had an out-of-body experience. I was at school, but I was miles away in my mind with a thousand thoughts. Some days I thought I was okay, that I was strong. But then one thing would trigger me and I would break down. I remember seeing the strongest people I know cry their eyes out in the chapel. I lived in the chapel during those days.

Then came the questions. Why did he not come and talk to me or ask for help? Mikey’s death was a huge factor in my life, but it made me see how losing someone to suicide is terrible and how actually lucky I am to have been able to spend the time with Mike when he was here. It made me see how thankful I am for God putting such an amazing person in my life. Mikey was a great person. I miss him a lot. I always will.

One thing we must always, always remember is someone is always willing to listen. There are support groups, hotlines, text lines, teachers, counselors, friends and family who want to listen.

Please never be afraid to go and get help. It is okay not to be okay.

Although Mikey was taken from us way too soon, Mikey will forever be remembered by his friends, family, teachers and loved ones. He will forever be remembered as a Chicago Fury AAA hockey club player, NHS member, 30+ on the ACT and ultimately as a Marist student, friend and brother for life.

I saw this quote on Instagram recently and I think it’s something we should all remember:

“Fight for the sunrise.  
Fight for the silver linings.  
Fight for your life.”  
(author unknown)

You are worth it.

## photo opinion

### What is the best elective course you have taken in high school and why?



Lukas McWilliams  
freshman

My favorite elective was art history this year with Mrs. Washington. I learned a great deal about art that I never knew before. Another reason I liked it so much is that it was a new, hands-on class that was a lot of fun.



Luke Cipriani  
sophomore

Digital art, taught by Mrs. Chlipala was great because you learn how to use Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop and BD Sketch. Also, if you are having a hard time understanding something, the teacher and classmates will help you.



Moira McGuire  
junior

I have taken chorus each year since freshman year with Mrs. Kelly. It is my favorite because I enjoy taking a break from school during the day and just being able to sing. It is also great to have a deeper understanding of music.



Rocky Mayer  
senior

Broadcasting has allowed me to express my creativity and produce unique content. Ms. Trainor is always encouraging us to do our best and her innovative teaching methods help us become better students and people.



Rocco Bartolini  
freshman

Ceramics is my favorite elective because I really like to work with my hands. Mr. Keane is a great teacher and the class is fun-I had an awesome time with my friends. I also like to put my own individual twist on the projects Mr. Keane assigns.



PJ Cunningham  
sophomore

Journalism is a great elective because I have learned how to write without having to use the same rules we have to use in English. We also take many fun class trips, like to the Chicago convention, where we stayed downtown for two days.



Jenna Ryan  
junior

This year, I took environmental science as an elective with Mrs. Sullivan. She makes the class new and interesting and all of the people in my class are really great.



Nick Quinn  
senior

My favorite elective was mobile app design. I really like that I was able to learn how apps are made and that it’s not as complicated as you would think. Mrs. Fey, who teaches the class, made it easy and interesting at the same time.





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Choosing electives that benefit students in the long-run

The push for STEM-based careers has affected almost every high school across America. Counselors urge students to enroll in multiple science classes to impress colleges. Parents tell their children to plan for jobs that will pay well. Otherwise, students give little serious thought to choosing electives.

At his press conference with the journalism 1 class last month, Mr. Tucker emphasized that students should choose electives that allow them to pursue their interests rather than based off of their perceptions of how difficult the course might be.

Elective courses benefit students both academically and socially and, while they often prove more fun than core courses, students should choose their electives wisely.

Electives can easily boost a student's GPA while providing a well-rounded education. While elective courses are typically not as rigorous as core classes such as calculus or AP English, they provide students with life-long benefits.

According to research conducted at Grantham University in 2014, electives introduce students to subjects that can prepare them for future careers. These courses help students develop areas of interest which, in turn, often helps them to select a major in college more easily.

Enrolling in an elective offers a change of pace and creates balance in a daily schedule.

According to The College Board, electives can also reduce stress because students do not usually receive as much homework in electives as in core courses.

Students gain a lot of freedom when choosing which electives to take. They are not limited to traditional classes such as English, math, science and social studies. Instead, a broad range of subjects can be explored from the fine arts to business courses. Students are able to pursue their passions.

When given the opportunity to choose, students will likely explore their fields of interest. Because they are enrolling in courses they enjoy, the grades earned will reflect the passions and efforts exerted. This

raises a student's GPA, which is beneficial when the student applies to college.

In the Feb. 9 issue of *The Miami Herald*, columnist Laurie Futterman recommends that students visit their school guidance counselor if they are unsure about which electives to take. If a student is aiming to be accepted to a particular college, they should check that the classes they are enrolling in will meet the university's criteria.

There is a common misconception that electives weaken a student's transcript, but college's actually look forward to seeing an applicant's interests. Many colleges require a fine art credit, or at least three years of a foreign language. Seeing the electives a student has taken throughout high school gives universities a deeper look into their personal life.

There are hundreds of positives that stem from elective courses, but in order to reap the benefits, students must determine their interests and then step on the stage, log into the computer or get the paintbrush wet themselves.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

BE YOUR OWN VALENTINE TODAY...AND EVERY DAY



Time to remove the 'like' button

Social media has caused teenagers to depend on likes for self-esteem. Recent studies have shown that teens are increasingly associating the number of likes on their own social pages with their self-esteem.

Social media is not going away any time soon, but the elimination of the 'like' button would be a positive change.

Mirella Dapretto, a professor at UCLA's Semel Institute of Neuroscience and Human Behavior compares the psychological effect of 'likes' to what happens when someone wins money or eats chocolate.

Dapretto explains that every 'like' a person receives sends a shot of dopamine into the brain. Dopamine is a hormone that causes people to seek pleasure and causes very addictive tendencies. Because of dopamine, the more 'likes' people receive, the more 'likes' people want.

Dopamine can cause positive results if one is constantly receiving a high number of 'likes' on social media. But the number of 'likes' one gets, or does not get, can cause teens to make choices. These range from altering their appearance to engaging in age-inappropriate behaviors.

BBC journalist Jessica Brown reports that two different studies involving more than 700 students found that symptoms of depression, such as low mood and feelings of worthlessness and hopelessness, were linked to the quality of online interactions.

Another problem with social media is that the 'like' button causes teenagers to compare themselves to their peers. Constant comparison on the number of 'likes' people receive can lead to unhappiness and can motivate teens to adjust their self-image rather than learn to accept and appreciate themselves for who they are.

In her Oct. 16 article "Do Facebook Likes Affect Psychological Well-Being" at PsychologyToday.com, Dr. Gwendolyn Seidman explains that finding one's sense of identity and purpose is an important part of adolescent development.

Since adolescents are still finding their identities and purpose during these years, they may be especially prone to taking feedback to heart and to place far too much importance on approval from others on social media.

Turning to feedback on social media to help build one's self-esteem just adds to the pile of stress that teens already face every day.

In this issue's editorial cartoon, Ryan Griffin includes quotes from Mother Teresa, Louise Hay and Maya Angelou reminding students that true self-esteem is established when we work on loving and approving of ourselves.



# Answering God's call: Bishop Robert Casey

Gina Musso  
editor-in-chief

After celebrating Catholic Schools Week in January, we continue to acknowledge the lasting impact that Catholic schools have on students' faith and education.

Catholic education can also empower individuals to hear and better understand their callings in life.

For Bishop Robert Casey, a 1985 alumnus, Marist helped him seek his vocation to enter into the priesthood, eventually leading to his appointment as an auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of Chicago.

"I went to a public grade school, so Marist was the first time I was in a Catholic school, and I think having that faith element to my education did impact me," Bishop Casey said. "It helped me see how important faith is in my life. As a young person to be instructed not only with academics, but also with the teachings of the Catholic faith, gave me a strong foundation for my life."

Growing up in Alsip, Bishop Casey was a member of St. Terrence Parish and attended Prairie Junior High. As he started high school, Bishop Casey did not have any specific career plans.

"I was a junior at Marist, and for religion class we had to interview a priest, a brother or someone in religious life," he said. "I went to interview the pastor of my parish, and at the end of the interview, after asking about his life as a priest, he said to me 'Have you ever thought about being a priest,' and I said no, because I really hadn't thought about it."

"That thought sparked something, and I began to think about what's coming next after graduating from Marist," he said. "I was involved in my parish, I worked in the youth group there, church was a big part of my life and I started to think the priesthood could be a good thing for me."

He told his parents about his aspirations to enter the priesthood in a letter when he was a senior coming home from the Marist Encounter retreat.

"My parents were awesome because they didn't push me, but they supported me," he said. "They said, if this is what God has called me to do, if this is what's going to bring me joy in my life, then they're behind me. They just wanted to make sure that I was paying attention to God's call."

After high school, Bishop Casey earned his B.A. in English at Niles College, before attending University of St. Mary of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein.

He was ordained to the priesthood by Cardinal Joseph Bernardin on May 21, 1994.

"This has been the path that God laid out for me, and it's the path I followed," Bishop Casey said. "My faith reminds me that we are in God's hands and so I trust that God knows what God is doing."

After 24 years in the priesthood, God had a new plan for Bishop Casey. During the summer of 2018, he was invited by Archbishop Blase Cardinal Cupich to become an auxiliary bishop.

"I had no plans to be bishop, but when the invitation came this summer, the only answer I had was yes," he said. "In my priesthood so far, God has always been so good to me and has sustained me in my service to the church. I trusted in God that this would also be a good thing for me."

Casey was ordained as a bishop on Sept. 17, 2018 and is now responsible for overseeing 58 parishes.

"Going from a priest to a bishop is a big change in life," he said. "It's a change to not be a pastor of one parish, where you walk with people day by day, pray with people day by day and every Sunday you gather with the same community. Now I am in charge of an area of the Archdiocese. It's a call to deepen my service and it has really been a beautiful thing."



photo by Patti Arvesen

Deacon Andy Neu, Bishop Robert Casey and Brother Hank Hammer met during the bishop's visit on Jan. 28. Bishop Casey is a 1985 alumnus who has served the Church for 25 years.

Even with declining numbers of young people entering religious life, Bishop Casey remains excited and optimistic about what God has in store for the future of the Church.

"I think if young people see us, priests or bishops, and think, 'Wow, he's happy,' they'll be more inclined to consider that vocation," he said. "I think as priests, bishops and people in religious life, we have to share our joy so that more young people will want to follow that path."

"I always think of three things when you're considering a vocation. You have to look at, is this what God is calling me to do, is this something I can say yes to and do the people around me affirm and say yes to this. You need those three to know that you are on the right path."

Bishop Casey also has advice for the students who currently sit in the same classrooms that he did 34 years ago.

"As a high school student, you have your whole life ahead of you, and it's filled with mystery," he said. "When I think about my life since I was a student at Marist High School, I think about how God has surprised me time and again, and you have to be open to be surprised. Sometimes you think you know, but you'll be surprised at how life is revealed to you."

"Sometimes we can be a little out of touch with really feeling and recognizing God's presence in our lives," he said. "Once you start to know God, it opens up the door for some real excitement and hope for the future."

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# RedHawk cheerleaders make fourth consecutive trip to state

Kaitlyn Klein  
senior reporter

The RedHawk cheerleaders finished another strong season at the IHSA state finals Feb. 2 and 3 at the Grossinger Motors Arena in Bloomington.

This marked the fourth year in a row the RedHawks advanced and the second consecutive year that the team finished as runners-up.

“I think we started out the season pretty well,” senior Elizabeth Davidson said. “Since our first competition we have improved so much and we were very prepared for state.”

The team placed second out of 25 teams after fighting its way to the second day of the state finals.

“We went from seventh to second place in less than 24 hours because the girls decided they were not finished,” assistant coach Antonia Steinmiller said. “They did not succumb to fear or failure. They used their mistakes to fuel and propel them onto the podium.”

In order to get to state, the RedHawks competed in the IHSA sectionals on Jan. 26, coming away with their first sectional title since 2014.

“Our routine was complex this year, the hardest routine Marist has ever thrown,” Steinmiller said. “This year, we included three different stunt entires, three trick dismounts and a full team, three-trick basket toss.”

Steinmiller also noted that even though the girls faced a few tough competitions this season, they were able to pull through and succeed.

“Once the girls focused on their mental toughness and the details of the routine, they were set,” Steinmiller said.

The team had strong leadership from 12 seniors this year, each of whom was excited to perform well during their final year as a RedHawk.

“It’s bittersweet that it’s our last year, but I wouldn’t want to do it with any other team,” senior Anna Frieling said.

The remaining cheerleaders are already excited about next season and hope to walk across the state podium once again in 2020.



photo by Jenna Fessler

The RedHawk cheerleaders perform their routine at the IHSA sectional competition at Niles West on Jan. 2, finishing with their first sectional title since 2014.



photo by Emma Brown

Bowling team captain Alyssa Lang practices at Arena Lanes on Jan. 31 to prepare for IHSA Regionals at Skyway Lanes Feb 2. Lang was one of the best bowlers on the varsity team season with an average of 185.

# Lang advances to bowling sectionals

Elizabeth Delehanty  
junior reporter

The RedHawk girls’ bowling team finished its season at IHSA regionals Feb. 2, taking 11th place, with senior captain Alyssa Lang qualifying for sectionals.

In her first game at sectionals, Lang earned a lifetime high score of 246, but ultimately did not advance to state.

“When I scored that 246, my energy went through the roof,” Lang said. “But after I had to keep switching lanes, I just couldn’t find my spot and nothing was working for me.”

Lang, who started bowling in third grade, is one of the top players on the varsity team, bowling five strikes in a row against Trinity on Jan. 22 at Burr Oak.

“I was ecstatic,” Lang said. “Burr Oak is our home court and, knowing it was my last time bowling there, I wanted to finish strong.”

The RedHawks also took third in the Girls’ Catholic Athletic Conference (GCAC) on Jan. 26 at Brunswick Zone Niles Lanes.

Varsity coach Jeff Nicholson is proud of and impressed by the team’s performance this season.

“Our conference season is not based on wins and losses, but on positioning in the conference tournament where the pressure is immense,” Nicholson said. “[We were] not expected to finish in the top three, so this was quite an accomplishment.”

Individually, junior Rocky Davis of the junior varsity team took first place in the GCAC.

“One goal I set for myself this season was to become more comfortable bowling and increase my average,” Davis said. “I wanted to get first in conference as an individual bowler because I took second last year. I was very happy to achieve my goal.”

# Dedicated poms team finishes season

Joy Gabala  
senior reporter

The RedHawk varsity poms team finished its competition season at the IHSA sectional at Geneva High School on Saturday, Jan. 19. In order to qualify for state, teams must place in the top six at sectionals. The varsity poms team placed 10th out of 14 teams.

Before sectionals, the team won first place at the Eisenhower High School Dance Invitational on Dec. 1. The RedHawks also placed third in jazz and fourth in poms at the Lockport High School Dance Invitational on Jan. 12.

“This poms season has been the best one yet,” senior Dominique Antonelli said. “I have never seen a more dedicated team than this one.”

Head coach Krista Placas is also proud of the dedication the team members put into this season.

“I am so proud of how hard the girls worked and how much they pushed their limits at practice and on the performance floor,” Placas said. “The greatest feeling for

me as a coach this season was to see such an amazing sense of unity that developed among the girls. The practices leading up to sectionals showed how much they believed in one another and supported one another on this journey, which resulted in one of the best teams that Marist has seen.”

The senior members on the team played a key role according to Placas, especially those who have spent four years on the team.

“I have been on the team for four years and every year has gotten more intense,” senior Margaret O’Gorman said. “I try to encourage my fellow team members by having them think about and appreciate how this program has improved over the years. I also always tell my teammates to leave the floor with no regrets.”

Although they are sorry to see their days as RedHawks poms members over, the seniors will take many good memories with them.

“We got so close this season and I am grateful to call this team my second family,” Antonelli said. “We pushed ourselves and our teammates to be the best we could be. This season couldn’t have been any better.”



photo by Jenna Fessler

The RedHawk poms team performs during the boys’ varsity basketball game against St. Viator at home on Jan. 25. The team won the Eisenhower Invitational in December and finished its competitive season with a 10th place finish at sectionals on Jan. 19.



varsity wrestling

# RedHawks compete in state finals today

Mia Thorne  
senior reporter

The RedHawk varsity boys’ wrestling team turned in a strong season with an overall record of 16-10. The team wrestled at the IHSA individual sectional meet on Feb. 9, with five members qualifying for individual state finals.

Wrestling at state in Champaign today at the State Farm Center are freshman Owen Dunlap (106 lbs.), senior Mike Laveille (113 lbs.), sophomore Mateen Taylor (126 lbs.), senior Jacob Dado (138 lbs.) and senior Kendric Nowling (182 lbs.)

The team finished in second place on Feb. 2 at regionals after winning the ESCC Conference tournament at St. Viator on Jan. 25. The win at the ESCC tournament put the Redhawks neck-in-neck with Marian Central who had a record of 22-0.

“We knew that if we wrestled well we would be right there with them,” head coach Brendan Heffernan said. “We always tell our guys that this is what we train for so that we are ready to meet strong teams.”

Heffernan sees senior captains Jacob Dado and Leveille as the pillars of the lineup for the past three seasons.

“It has been a good season and the team is really excited about the five of us getting out of sectionals,” senior captain Michael Leveille said. “This team has what it takes to get the job done. If everyone performs like I know they can over the next three days, we will place.”

Both Leveille and Dado will continue wrestling in college, at Purdue and the Citadel, respectively.

“I am going to bring to college everything my coaches have taught me, everything from wrestling to my everyday life,” said Dado. “This sport has taught me everything I need to know about becoming the man I am today.”

Heffernan is also optimistic about the team’s future.

“There is a good mix of youth and upperclassmen,” Heffernan said. “The tough schedule we keep helps get the guys battle tested and ready to face the competition at this time of the season.”



photo by Emma Brown

Senior Jacob Yelland and sophomore Jack Hawkinson practice for IHSA individual sectionals held on Feb. 8-9. Five RedHawks compete in the individual state finals today through Saturday.



photo by Jenna Fessler

Junior guard Joshua Morris attempts to move past his St. Viator opponents during the home game on Jan. 25. The varsity team hosts Carmel High School tomorrow at 7 p.m.

## Boys’ basketball readies for regionals

Ryan Griffin  
junior reporter

The varsity boys’ basketball team continues an energetic season after winning against Marian Central Catholic on Feb. 8. This was the RedHawk’s first win since their 56-46 victory at home against Joliet Catholic on Jan. 11.

Head coach Tim Trendel points out that the team continues to work hard as they prepare for their final regular season games, the next of which is at home tomorrow night at 7 against Carmel.

The team is also preparing for the IHSA regionals.

“[Our] goal is always to win a regional plaque at the end of the season,” Trendel said. “Our goal hasn’t changed since the start of the season and I think we have a good chance at it.”

As the RedHawks aim for a regional victory, the players have grown individually and as a team.

With a current record of 13-13, the players continue to stay positive as they work toward their goals.

“There is always room for improvement and I work every day to get better,” junior guard Joshua Morris said. “Our record may not show it as of right now, but we have grown and learned so much this season.”

Sophomore guard Alexander Knight has seen the improvement in the team throughout the season and is confident about going into playoffs.

“The camaraderie on the team has improved tremendously over the season and we have started to play a lot better together,” Knight said.

Senior guard Nile Hill also notes the development of chemistry among teammates and overall team improvement under Trendel, who is in his first year coaching the RedHawks.

“It’s exciting to see how much we’ve continued to grow since the beginning of the season,” Hill said.

## RedHawks looking to make postseason noise

Elijah Ikezoe-Jones  
senior reporter

The RedHawk girls’ varsity basketball team aims to end the season strong after a 51-35 win against Marian Central on Feb. 4. The victory marked head coach Mary Pat Connolly’s 400th career win.

The RedHawks are hosting the IHSA regionals this week. Results from Tuesday and Wednesday were unavailable at press time.

Coming into this week with a regular season record of 18-7, Connolly attributes much of the team’s overall success to the captains, seniors Abby Callahan and McKenna Kallianis and sophomore Sydney Affolter.

“Abby is the glue of our team,” Connolly said. “McKenna is more of a silent leader, and Sydney’s actions on the court make her a great court leader. Put all 3 of our captains’ leadership qualities together and you have the makings of a pretty great team.”

Connolly notes the girls’ passion and drive to help one another, and feels the comradeship among players is what makes this year’s team great.

“The biggest change I have seen between this year’s team and last year’s team is that the chemistry is so different,” Connolly said. “This team is a lot of fun and they have a great chemistry that carries onto the court during games.”

The RedHawks’ consistency and attitude also contribute to their efficiency on the court.

“The highlight of the season has been the work ethic they bring each and every day to practice,” Connolly said. “They come every day and really want to do some spectacular things for each other, not just themselves.”

Connolly also notes that half of this season’s roster consists of underclassmen.

“Even though we are a young team, the expectations are very high going into the state playoffs,” Connolly said. “Of course, our ultimate goal is to make it down to state.”



photo by Alyssa Lang

Senior team captain Abby Callahan (#2) plays tough defense, helping the RedHawks dominate Marian Catholic, 52-19 on Dec. 7. Results of Tuesday’s IHSA regional game were unavailable at press time.