



# A fond farewell to veteran educators

Kaylee Frederking  
Patrick Maxwell  
Delaney Powers  
junior reporters

This month marks the final year of service for five veteran educators who have contributed a total of 147 years to our school community.



**Mrs. Brenda Ammeraal**

Mrs. Ammeraal started teaching here in January 1981 as a mid-year replacement for a teacher who left. She has taught all year levels of academic English, junior and senior honors English and AP language and literature. When it was offered as a language, she also taught Latin.

Ammeraal is retiring after 40 years of service.

"When I leave, I will miss most the people I have come to know and like. Marist has taught me to work hard and be patient, to use the tools available, and to forgive and forget. My biggest takeaway is admiration for religious education as the foundation for Christian living."

Veteran English teacher Mr. Frank Miritello paid tribute to Ammeraal's tenure.

"[She] has taught generations of Marist students with compassion, dedication and erudition," Miritello said. "Her years of experience have been a source of wisdom for her English department colleagues. She will leave her students and colleagues an enduring model of inspiration to follow."

Current English teacher Mr. Alex Karr, who was a student of Ammeraal's, remembers the strong impact she had on him and his classmates.

"Mrs. Ammeraal is one of the most knowledgeable and impressive teachers that I had," Karr said. "I vividly remember Mrs. Ammeraal writing notes in the back of her copy of the grammar textbook, and when one of the students asked what she was doing, she explained that this was where she wrote all the corrections to the mistakes that she found in the book. Mrs. Ammeraal has had such a positive impact on countless students' lives throughout her career, and her absence will leave a void here at Marist that will be difficult to fill."



**Mr. Mark Gervais**

Coach Gervais came to Marist 39 years ago, becoming a major part of the community and family. Over his career he has served as the head wrestling coach, department chairman and teacher in physical education health and as the school's athletic director.

Of all of these jobs he has had at the school, one in particular stands out to him.

"My favorite job I had at Marist has been as a wrestling coach," Gervais said. "I loved the opportunity to be able to coach the students, and not just teach them. Being the head coach is one of the many things that I will remember about my time at Marist."

Gervais wants to be remembered and wants to represent the school in the best ways possible, even after he retires at the end of this school year.

"I have had a lot of meaningful moments since I have been at Marist," Gervais said. "Being able to work with a variety of students and to be a part of the accomplishments they have achieved is truly a special thing. I want to be remembered as a great teacher and coach, but most of all as a great person and representative of Marist."

The school community taught Gervais many things.

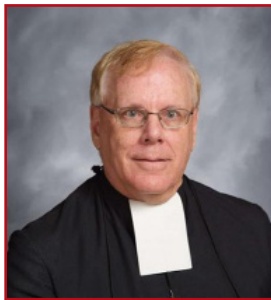
"When I came to Marist High School, I didn't realize how well people worked together," Gervais said. "All the ways in which good people work so well together really does bring out that family part of the school that we talk about all the time."

He is also leaving with many great memories.

"A huge takeaway is all of the fun that I had," Gervais said. "I have worked with so many people, going back to the people who hired me many years ago. The interaction with the other people here is the thing I will miss most about Marist. My interactions with students and the people who work here are two things that I will cherish forever and that I will never take for granted."

Gervais said that he will never retire from being Marist.

"I will still be involved with the school, and will come back for some of the big events," Gervais said.



**Br. Hank Hammer**

Since he first arrived in 1973, Br. Hank has spent a total of 29 years here. This summer he is moving to New York to oversee the mission of all Marist high schools in the country.

"In my new position, I will be traveling to other Marist schools in the United States," Br. Hank said. "What I am going to be involved with will be answering the question 'What makes a school Marist' to all six schools in the U.S."

Br. Hank is excited for the opportunity to travel again to other schools, but will miss his time here.

"Going back on the road will be similar to something I did 25 years ago," Br. Hank said. "If we don't plan for the future, the future will overtake us. I am hopefully going to spend some time back here, too."

Br. Hank shared some of the important things he learned during his time in Chicago.

"One of the things that [Marist-Chicago] has taught me is that the strength of this school is in our families," Br. Hank said. "I felt that when I started here, and I feel that even more now. I am starting to see the children of my former students come to Marist so that their children can have the same experience they once had. Our families are our foundation and strength."

He is also grateful that so many families continue to choose Marist.

"I continue to be humbled by the fact that parents are willing to make the sacrifice to send their children to Marist, given the cost of Catholic education," Br. Hank said. "Catholic schools exist primarily to pass on the faith. We have to make sure that is the priority in every Marist school. Faith is something that will help you for the rest of your life."

Br. Hank also emphasized the importance of the people in this building to him.

"The friendships with the faculty and staff is just one of the many things that I will miss about Marist," Br. Hank said. "I will also miss the kids because they bring such a wonderful spirit to the school. I will miss Chicago and I hope to be able to spend some time here next year, in addition to traveling to the other the Marist schools."



**Mrs. Kim Myers**

College counselor Kim Myers has been at Marist for 22 years and will retire at the end of this year. Through her service, she said she learned many different things.

"I learned to be more compassionate because you never know what someone else is dealing with," Myers said. "I have learned to be more patient and try to live by the values instilled by the Marist Brothers."

Myers plans to spread the message of Marcellin Champagnat after she goes to the next chapter of her life.

"Marcellin Champagnat was very passionate about loving all students and loving them all equally," Myers said. "I take that beyond students to include everyone, from the parents, the faculty and the staff."

Myers plans to keep in touch with Marist.

"I plan to stay connected," Myers said. "I will share my Marist story with people, whether they want to hear it or not. I have enjoyed my time here and I believe in what Marist instills in the students."

Her feelings run in the family.

"My son is a Marist alum and he still has so much passion for this place. I do too and I plan to never stop talking about Marist."

Myers said she will miss the people at Marist the most.

"The students, faculty and staff that I have met has such a sense of community and family," Myers said. "They do more for me than I will ever be able to do. It has been enlightening."

Myers offered some advice for her successor and for all the new educators who will come to teach here.

"Whoever takes my position must remember that we are the student advocates who help the students with everything," Myers said.

"Also, things are not always going to go perfectly in people's lives and, when there is heartbreak, we need to be compassionate and empathetic," she said.

Myers says she is sad about leaving her job, but she is ready for the next step in her life.

"It is bittersweet that I am leaving," Myers said. "I have the best job in the world. My connection to Marist will never end."



**Deacon Andy Neu**

Deacon Andy Neu started at Marist in 2004. His inspiration for becoming a deacon came during a retreat 10 years earlier.

"In the fall of 1994, I attended a retreat at my parish, St. Barnabas, where my entire life changed," Neu said. "I had been raised Catholic, went to Catholic schools, St. Linus and Marist, but like many young people, I had wandered away from God. The retreat opened my eyes and my heart and in a short amount of time I was hearing Jesus call me to 'get off the bench' and work to help build his Kingdom."

For three years, Deacon Neu tried to interpret what he was called to do in service of God.

"All became clear one day at Mass when I was watching one of our deacons and listening to him preach and I heard Jesus say 'You can do that,'" Neu said. "So I began to discern his calling to enter the clergy life and take on the role of a public minister in the church. In the fall of 1997, I was accepted into the Institute for Diaconal Studies at the University of St. Mary of the Lake."

Coming back to work at his high school proved a pleasant surprise.

"When I graduated from Marist in 1978, I never thought I would be back," Neu said. "But I found myself home again, this time to assist the Brothers with their mission of making Jesus known and loved. I owe the Brothers a debt of gratitude for what they gave me of themselves back in the 70s and over the last 17 years as a teacher, Campus Minister, and Chaplain."

Neu will miss the people of Marist most of all.

"Since I walked through the main office doors on my first day, I have been blessed by friendships with people of deep faith," Neu said. "I will always have fond thoughts of them and will hold them in a special place in my heart and in my prayers."

Neu leaves Marist with some good advice.

"Be kind, patient, honest, generous, humble and do not take things or yourself too seriously," Neu said. "In all things, honor Jesus' command to 'let the children come to me.' After all, the Kingdom that I came here to help build up belongs to the children."



# Meet the class of 2021’s top four seniors

Emma Fishback and Billy McNicholas  
sophomore reporter                      junior reporter



Colin Dillon

A graduate of St. Catherine of Alexandria in Oak Lawn, Dillon chose Marist because, in his opinion, it offered the best academic program in the area. His two brothers also attended here, so he already felt comfortable in the Marist community.

“During my time here, I have learned the importance of helping your community. I was able to sit on the Worth Township Peer Jury through the Explore Program. I also participated in volunteer events here at Marist, from Disability Defenders to Relay for Life. I gained a sense of shared responsibility that we have to our community, whether that be in volunteering or helping a friend with a math problem.

Dillon will attend the University of Illinois-Urbana in the fall to major in mechanical engineering.

“My advice to RedHawks is to not be afraid to put yourself out there because you never know where it will lead. Prior to taking AP English Language and Composition junior year, I never found English classes interesting. I developed a strong desire to read and write better. I was able to sign up for AP English Literature and Composition this year to further my goal, which I don’t think I would have done prior to junior year.”



Tommy Kavanaugh

Kavanaugh also attended St. Catherine of Alexandria in Oak Lawn and chose Marist because it is close to his home and its excellent academics. He also preferred to attend a co-ed high school.

“At Marist, I have learned the values of commitment, loyalty, and hard work,” Kavanaugh said. “Walking around the school after classes are over and seeing all the sports and clubs working to be the best they can be is one of the best parts of the Marist experience, and each sport or club I have participated in really felt like a family. I’ve learned a lot about many different people through the work we’ve put in together, and experiencing that shaped me to be who I am today.

Kavanaugh will attend the University of Illinois-Urbana in the fall to major in business.

“My advice to RedHawks would be to enjoy every second of the Marist experience,” Kavanaugh said. “It goes by very quickly, so do things that make you scared and excited at the same time. You’ll feel the best about yourself if you leave Marist with no regrets. Never be afraid to reach out. People will be there to help you, and in a community like Marist, you’ll never be alone. The friendships and memories you make at Marist will stay with you for the rest of your life.



Caitlin McGrath

McGrath, a graduate of St. Germaine in Oak Lawn, chose Marist to follow in the footsteps of her older sister, but also because of its “vibrant atmosphere.”

“After seeing incredible athletes at games and hearing of the high academic achievements of many students, I knew that Marist would be a place where I could learn and grow,” McGrath said.

She is grateful for all she has learned.

“Being in such a supportive and uplifting environment has taught me the importance of love and acceptance,” McGrath said. “We all come from different places and have our own stories, but every student at Marist has something unique to bring to the table. I have learned to see the good in every situation, and be an agent of good when necessary. I have tried to live the Marist mission and mirror the love I am shown, as I see it everyday inside within the walls of Marist.”

McGrath will attend the University of Notre Dame to major in chemical engineering.

“After so much of our junior and senior years were taken away or changed, I would suggest that you appreciate the time you have with your classmates and teachers. Just really take advantage of your time because it’ll be over before you know it.”



Jack Vulich

After graduating from St. Linus in Oak Lawn, Jack chose to follow family tradition and come to Marist. His father, uncles and brothers are alumni. Vulich entered Marist very familiar with the school culture after a lifetime of attending football games with his family and learning about the excellent academic programs offered.

Vulich said he learned just as much outside of the classrooms as he did inside them.

“Not only did I learn a lot in my classes, but I also learned how to work with others through extracurricular activities. I learned responsibility and what it is like to have other people rely on me through activities such as Relay for Life, and the math and wrestling teams.”

Vulich will attend the University of Illinois-Urbana in the fall to major in electrical engineering.

“I would tell students that aren’t graduating to branch out, try new things and spend time with your classmates,” Vulich said. “Take advantage of all the activities offered here. Also, don’t get too caught up in grades. What matters more is how much you learn and what experiences you have. Make the most of your time here because it really does go fast.”

## Congratulations RedHawk Class of 2021!

# In loving memory of Mrs. Cathy Chambers

Grace Molenhouse  
senior reporter

Mrs. Cathy Chambers, a beloved Spanish teacher for 20 years, passed away on April 22 following a long battle with cancer.

Chambers, who retired last spring, was interviewed for an article in our October 2020 issue. At the time of her retirement, she said that she was grateful for the opportunity to practice and share her Catholic faith in the classroom.

She also expressed an awareness of the need for teachers to remember that all students are not alike.

“My ultimate goal was to be patient,” Chambers said. “Not every student learns, retains and understands at the same pace.”

On April 27, several students, faculty members and the administration gathered along 115th Street in front of school as her funeral procession passed.

Countless members of the Marist community have been touched by Chambers’ kindness and dedication.

“Woven seamlessly into Cathy’s persona were the many friendships she treasured and the interactions she enjoyed with the members of our Marist community,” President Larry Tucker said. “Young or old alike, we all felt her compassion, happiness and the love that she modeled after Mary, our good Mother.”

Tucker is grateful for Chambers’ love for Marist and faithfulness to St. Marcellin Champagnat’s teachings, which she emulated through her work with the world language department and dance/poms team.

“When Marcellin Champagnat thought of a Marist educator, he was thinking of Cathy Chambers,” Tucker said. “Cathy embodied the pillars of what it means to be Marist, but it was her heart that stood out above all else.”

Chambers was Spanish teacher Krista Placas’ mentor during Placas’ first year at Marist.

“Her mentorship swiftly turned into a friendship that lasted 12 years,” Placas said. “Many of the lessons she taught me transcended the classroom. I learned important life lessons by having Cathy as an angel in my life.”

Placas shared that the values she learned from Chambers are selflessness and compassion.

“We used to joke that Cathy was our ‘abuelita’ because she treated each of us as if we were her grandchildren,” Placas said. “We will always remember her at Christmas time as we decorate our trees with the beautiful ornaments or hand-made decorations that she gave us in person with a hug, never in our mailboxes.”

Spanish teacher LaToya Hayes remembers Chambers’ kindness and wisdom.



“She always offered the best advice, but I will never forget when I arrived at work frazzled about interacting with my toddlers,” Hayes said. “She noticed my demeanor and said ‘Do what you can, whenever you can, and try not to worry about the rest.’”



# “So long, cherished place”

Faith Harper  
junior reporter and photographer

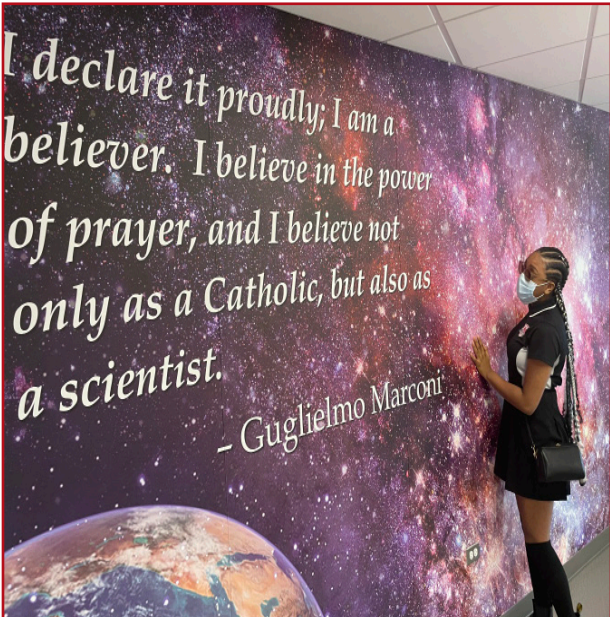


*“The math hallway represents my work ethic and what I’ve done at Marist,” senior Andrew Brooker said. “I spent a lot of my time here, and I’ve always liked Mr. Glennon because he really has been a great teacher. I’ll also miss this place because math was one of the factors that helped me get into most of the colleges I got into—one being Loyola. I’m looking forward to college life and what it has to offer. I want to meet new friends and try many new things in the city. I’m sure a lot of things will come down the line and I don’t want to waste any opportunities.”*



**As their four year journey draws to a close, the seniors will no longer have to walk or run down the hallways to get to classes.**

**Although the upperclassmen are leaving behind past assignments, their clubs, teams and fellow RedHawks, the memories of their high school experience will remain with them for the rest of their lives.**



*“This wall in the Science Wing makes me think about how small we are compared to the size of this planet,” senior Kayla Ivy said. “I will miss this the most because I come over here to stand by this wall and reflect on what college I’m going to, what I am going to end up doing and how I can make an impact on the world. I’m ready to attend Howard University in the fall because it will be a change in scenery and I’ll be around new people. In the future I want to study abroad and train to become a traveling nurse.”*



*“The fish tank was always my little getaway before school,” senior Caitlyn Hisson said. “I’m actually really attached to the fish. I would meet up with friends here. All of us would name one fish and we had a great time creating stories about their lives. Mine was named Apollo. When I’m in college, I will be looking forward to meeting new people. I’m super excited to get to know others who pursue the same career I am. Also, I am ready to join a few clubs in college. I just know the people that I meet are going to make the experience awesome.”*

**Journalist Casey Imafidon of Lifehack reports that people who were friends in high school are most likely to stay close after they graduate because they grew up together. As the seniors move on, they will continue to remember happy times, sad times and challenging times-like those embarrassing moments that happened in fourth period English. Casey goes on to report that the people with whom we graduate can help us to retain a sense of hometown pride, which may cause RedHawks to remember the Fight Song shouted at all the pep rallies.**

**As our seniors prepare for graduation, they recall their most memorable spots in this cherished place they called school for the past four years.**

**Congratulations to all of our graduates. May your future be bright.**



*“The dome of the planetarium represents a new part of Marist,” senior Jonathan Rivera said. “There are a bunch of good memories here. The dome also overlooks the spaces where students do athletics, and I have done a lot of athletics, including track. When I get to college, I know I will be making new friends and learning more about the world around me. I’ve learned a ton of things here at Marist—my friends are here, and we’re all going to different places. That’s why I’ll miss this place.”*



THE  
SENTINEL



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

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

Summing four years into one word: happy

*"I wish there was a way to know you're in the good old days before you've actually left them."* --Andy Bernard, "The Office" season nine, episode 23

As I sit here attempting to put the last four years into words, I find I struggle to do them justice. The problem with words is that, in the end they are nothing more than vessels, we use to try to convey our thoughts, emotions and experiences.

If there's one thing I am certain about when it comes to my high school years, it is that I have grown a lot since I came in as a wide-eyed freshman. Marist has shaped me from the boy I was into the man I am proud to be today. The nervous young boy who almost cried when he somehow managed to forget his entire backpack on his second day of freshman year grew into someone who managed to make it through a pandemic without losing his sanity.

My growth could not have happened without the support of the Marist community. From the outset, Marist welcomed me with open arms.

Little did I know that the boys I met during my first freshman soccer practice, especially Max Lacey, Michael McClorey,



PJ Cunningham

Brody Doyle and Troy Olrich, would become my brothers for the next four years and beyond.

Whether I was on the stage with the theater guild, in Mr. Nicholson's classroom for academic team practice, at a D.C. convention hall with the speech team, at Roosevelt University for a journalism contest, or simply in the cafeteria eating lunch with my friends, I felt welcomed.

There are so many people I want to thank for this sense of community. Thank you to the administrators for creating a school

environment that allowed me to fall in love with learning. Thank you to my teachers, who taught me to believe in myself, my intelligence and my writing. Thank you to my theater directors Mr. Distasio, Mrs. Vail and Mrs. Kelly for allowing me to express myself on stage. Thank you to counselors Mr. Hennessy and Mrs. Buford-Howell, who helped me through difficult times. Most of all, thank you fellow Marist students, especially my three-year journalism comrades Izzy Schreck, Grace Molenhouse and Angel Ortiz, Jr.

Most of all, I cherish the excitement that is synonymous with being a RedHawk. When I think of Marist, I think of the pride that comes with singing the fight song, the euphoria of hitting a note in the musicals, the blitz of finishing an A+ essay and most of all, the love present in its hallways.

Indeed, these really are the good old days, and to those of you returning next year, I urge you to enjoy every second, because trust me, it goes by fast.

While there indeed are no words to properly describe my four years at Marist, there is one that comes pretty darn close: happy.

The epic highs and lows of high school football

After my first semester at Marist as a freshman, I questioned whether or not I truly belonged here. The more time I spent here though, the more I realized that this is exactly where I was supposed to end up.

Freshman year was a shaky start. High school was a huge change that I was not ready for, and my academics suffered because of that. The most notable part of my freshman year was taking Italian with Ms. Zulato, and now I can say that I am part of the first graduating class to take it all four years. I met a few friends, and I started playing lacrosse. I still felt like I didn't really fit into the puzzle of Marist.

Sophomore year was hard for a lot of reasons, and I honestly felt like giving up. One of the highlights of sophomore year was having Ms. Cozzie as a teacher. I always looked forward to seeing her, and in the years following our chats after school became great memories to look back on. I thought about transferring, but I did not want to have to learn a whole other school and make new friends. I am so glad that I decided to stay.



Hannah Finnegan

Junior year was when the fog seemed to start lifting.

I joined theatre as the makeup artist, and it was a blast hanging out with my friends and watching them perform.

I started journalism, and found something I am truly passionate about and would consider a possible career in the future. I grew even closer to old friends and I was starting to understand where my place was at Marist.

Even though senior year was not what I thought it would be, I wouldn't trade it for the world. Despite the stress of applying for college and figuring out how to learn during a global pandemic, I still think that this was the best year of high school for me. I continued to develop my relationships with old friends and made new ones. After being overwhelmed by the college application process, I have found a path that excites me and makes the most sense for my life after high school.

I am also so grateful to the administration for making the end of this year feel as normal as it possibly can. Prom is something I am looking forward to, and graduation at Soldier Field is an incredibly cool opportunity. Our class will have experiences that we can brag about.

My connections here with teachers and students have genuinely changed my life and I am grateful for them. Overall, my time as a high school student was full of many highs and lows, but I believe that I made the best of it and I could not ask for anything else.

Cherish your time here...it goes by so fast

At the beginning of freshman year, I vividly remember Mr. Hennessy telling the class of 2021 to cherish our time here, that it will all go by so fast. I didn't believe him, nobody did. Now, almost four years later, I am a senior and he is already retired.

I talk about how old I feel and my parents make fun of me for it because I am still so young, but I feel like I was just a freshman. I came to Marist knowing only four people, only two of them from my middle school. I had never gone to Catholic school before, let alone church. I thought I would be an outsider, but during my time at Marist, I met many people who made me feel accepted and like I was their own family.

There are too many people who have influenced me during my high school experience that I could never thank enough. My sophomore year lunch table gave me an outlet to talk about whatever I needed to and became some of my best friends. My favorite religion teacher, Br. Luis Ramos, gave me a different outlook on religion, even though I was not raised religious. Mr. Hennessy changed my perspective on life and helped me with every obstacle I was



Haley Fisher

facing at home or in school. My grandma always took me out to eat and would talk to me about everything for hours at a time. Lastly, I could never thank my parents enough for paying for my education and supporting me in everything that I do.

When quarantine started in the middle of my junior year, I thought it was the end of the world. I missed my school friends and eating the best wraps with them at lunch, but looking back, I think it was a blessing in disguise.

Due to the pandemic, I have learned how to be more self sufficient, less reliant on others, and able to adapt to my life changing. It also made me appreciate being in school more than I ever had before. I wish I had realized how much I would miss being in the classrooms, lunch room, and hallways before it was too late.

My last four years as a Redhawk have shaped me into the person I am today. I am a more determined, hardworking, and loving person after my high school experience. As I continue into the next chapter of my life, I will hold onto the relationships, lessons, and knowledge that I made during my high school experience.

I hate to admit it and would never tell him to his face, but Mr. Hennessy was right and I should've listened to him sooner. I wish I could have told my freshman year self to listen to him, appreciate my time at Marist, and get more involved in the Marist community. Even though my high school experience was nothing like I had imagined it, I will forever be grateful for my time spent at Marist and the relationships I have made.



## My graceful departure

I remember my first day at Marist. I woke up really early and lie in my bed just staring at my ceiling, wondering how the next four years of my life would unfold. Later, as I sat in the main gym for the first time, I imagined myself four years in the future, sitting in the very same seat for the last time.

While the setting might have changed, that day is quickly approaching and I have been reflecting on every memory from the most eventful years of my life.

Personally, I do not really believe in regrets. I think that things happen for a reason and the place I am at right now is exactly where the universe wants me to be. I used to struggle with thoughts that I wasted my time here, not joining enough clubs or making enough friends.

Quality over quantity wins over those thoughts though, and I am grateful for my time on the *Sentinel* and Marist Youth, as well as my closest friends who I would not trade for anything.

The *Sentinel* has allowed me to express my creativity and realize my strengths, as well as meet awesome people like PJ, Izzy



Grace Molenhouse

and Angel. I am so grateful for you guys and every class you tolerated my incessant talking and hilarious jokes.

Marist Youth was by far the most impactful club I was a part of and I learned a lot about the world around me and how I could help. Mr. Brennan and Mrs. Pochyly, who run Marist Youth, are so amazing and I will always look up to your positivity and the carefree way you live life while simultaneously making an immense difference in every student's life.

With Marist Youth, I attended a conference in New York. I became very close with two of my best friends, Sarah and Jassmyne. I am so grateful you guys bullied me after I nearly died choking on pizza and for all the other memories of that weekend.

I do not think I would have survived the hardest parts of high school without the greatest person I know, Leah. You have brought immense joy into my life and I cannot imagine life without you.

There are countless others who have shaped my life and each member of the Class of 2021 have shown me the sanctity of time and perseverance. We have not had the smoothest years, but we made it. I am so glad we navigated through these tough times together. Go us!

Enjoy every moment and do not dwell on things you wished you had done. Rather, look forward to the better days ahead of you.

Marist is a truly wonderful place and it is so hard to think that May 21 will be my last day as a RedHawk. But all good things must come to an end eventually!

## Never say goodbye



Matthew Warakomski

Mr. Hennessy once said to enjoy your four years as it is going to be over in an instant. I remember just committing that thought to the back of my mind for use at a later date.

Now that school is over for seniors, I think to myself just how right Mr. Hennessy was.

The world sometimes works in funny ways, and I have found that when you look hard enough, the things you hope for find their way into your life. When I was younger, I spent my time escaping to an imaginary world because I never really felt at home in the real world. I always wished for friends who I knew I could depend on and prayed that someday I would leave my mark somewhere. I said that prayer when I was 10 and never thought it would be answered until I was 21 at least.

How wrong I was.

Coming to Marist helped me find myself and strengthen my connections with other people in real life.

I have met so many wonderful teachers and students here that it would be impossible to name them all. So many have believed in me even in my darkest times. They taught me lessons that will never leave me until the day I close my eyes for the last time. These faculty, staff, and students are the ones who have made my experience at Marist worthwhile.

Being at this school is like being in the arms of a loving family, and looking back now I realize that God really did answer my prayer from all those years ago. He opened the doors and I stepped on through, sometimes without even realizing it.

I found my place in the Theater Guild and on the *Sentinel* with the honor of being mentored by Erin Vail, Erin Kelly, and Mr. Gonczy. They helped me not only realize but appreciate my skills as both a writer and an actor. Thanks to their teaching, I am going to study journalism and acting in college, something I would never have done had I not met them.

Then there are my friends. They are the cement which holds together the foundations of my Marist experience. By just being who they are, I have found out so much about the person I know I am. Whether it be talking about philosophy, singing and dancing together, jamming out to AJR during a ride home, skateboarding, going out to the mall, complaining about homework or just laughing at my jokes during theater rehearsals, the memories I have will never leave me.

Freshman year I thought I would never make any friends, let alone get to know almost half the faculty and staff by name. The time in these walls was not always easy, but I will profess every step has been worth it.

Now it may be time to move on, but I will never say goodbye.

My time at Marist will always live on within me.

## The last dance



Angel Ortiz, Jr.

I have looked forward to high school graduation since freshman year. This was not the way I expected to graduate in the middle of a pandemic, but I'm grateful to say I graduated from here. Marist has certainly made the best of the COVID-19 situation and safe for students. Going to school every day in a pandemic is something I am grateful for in my senior year. Being able to see friends and learning in person is much better than e-learning, I honestly did not believe that we would return to school full time back in August.

My parents would always tell me that "time goes by in a flash in high school" and they were right. Looking back four years, if someone would've told me then that I would have a college picked out and a career I wanted to pursue by now, I wouldn't have believed them. I would've called them crazy. As a freshman, I could never have imagined that I would be the person that I am today. I will certainly miss the teachers and classmates I've come to know during my four years here.

I remember freshman year debating about whether I should do cross country and volleyball. I'm glad I decided to participate on both teams. Making new friends in sports and bonding as a team is certainly memorable and those are moments I will never forget.

Also during freshman year, I had the pleasure of having Mr. Gonczy for reading and then for journalism the last three years.

All the teachers I've had over the course of my high school career have made me the student I am today. Without them I wouldn't be continuing on with my education. I'm thankful that I've really grown and changed into a different person at Marist. I'm grateful for all the counselors, teachers, staff and friends at Marist. These four years are years that I will never forget. Lastly, I am truly grateful for my parents and I would like to thank them. They sacrificed a lot for me to come to Marist.

To current and future students: spend your time wisely in high school, respect and listen to your teachers, do your work on time and make memories with classmates and teachers. High school is a once in a lifetime experience where you also set up your future. School may be rough at times but it will be worth it in the end.

On my last day here, I dread hearing the school bell ring for the last time because then I'll know that high school is really over, but I will always be a RedHawk.

## Thanks for the memories

I never understood the whole "high school flies by" thing, and I still don't.

These past four years have felt like, well, four years. It really feels more like eight when reflecting on just 2020 alone, which seemed like an eternity.

Despite how slowly time seemed to pass by, I am extremely grateful to my parents, teachers and friends for my time at Marist. I have been able to witness state-winning games, make life-long friendships and learn new, sometimes confusing topics, like in chemistry or analyzing poems in English.

It's harder than it sounds, okay.

I've also been fortunate enough to make countless memories, some of which I look back on and think "why was I like that?"

Nevertheless, I will carry all those experiences with me as I enter college.

While academics are important, of course, my friendships are truly what I am most thankful for. It's crazy to think that people I met causally as a freshman, like just randomly meeting someone at my first high school football game, have brought me so much happiness.



Isabella Schreck

Freshman year was also when I realized my peers actually had plans. A lot of them wanted to be doctors or nurses or do something in engineering with a long name. I, on the other hand, had no idea what I wanted to be.

When deciding class schedules for the next year, I decided to take journalism 1. I thought writing was fun and also noted that Rory from "Gilmore Girls" was also on her high school newspaper, and she looked like she had a fun time. Sort of.

I am so thankful for the help and encouragement from Mr. Gonczy and the inspiration from my talented fellow reporters. They have helped me realize that journalism is something I am truly passionate about.

There are some things that I would have done differently during these four years, but I learned from all the cringey, heartbreaking and stress-inducing moments. They have formed me into a person today who is hopefully better than my pre-high school self.

My advice to students is to live genuinely and be authentic. No matter what you believe people are thinking of you, it is important that you are happy and that you make the people around you happy too.

Now it's onto another much more intimidating four years of school, this time away from home and with probably worse food (man, were those wraps from the caf good.) However, now another door opens for new friendships, laughter and learning. So, here's to the end of this long, fulfilling chapter. May the next be filled with just as many memories.





best personality (male)  
**Jack Harmon**

You voted.  
We tabulated.  
Congratulations Class of 2021!  
Here are your choices for this year's  
"MOST LIKELY TO" and "BEST IN CLASS"  
AWARDS



best personality (female)  
**Sarah Hughes**



best smile (male)  
**Gavyn Domico**



best smile (female)  
**Delaney Ryan**



class clown (male)  
**Bobby Gaylord**



class clown (female)  
**Shannon Bauer**



most likely to become the  
next Bill Nye  
**Jack Vulich**



couple most likely to get married



**Sarah Skalitzky and Pat Coogan**



most likely to make the 30  
under 30 for entrepreneurship

**Angel Ortiz, Jr.**



most likely to be a contestant  
on the Bachelor

**Morgan Lyons**



most likely to be a contestant  
on the Bachelorette

**Nico Beltran**



most likely to become  
president

**PJ Cunningham**



most likely to become  
a celebrity

**Morgan Bagus**



most likely to live in Europe

**Julia Reedy**



most likely to never leave  
the South Side

**Matt Rolek**



rowdiest RedHawk

**Annie Gainer**



most likely to come back to  
teach at Marist

**Katelyn Clifford**



most likely to be late to  
graduation

**Edward Carroll**



most likely to become a  
professional musician

**Derek Dunterman**



most likely to become a  
millionaire by age 30

**Jack Beeson**



most likely to become a  
professional athlete

**Noah Smith**



# RedHawk baseball dominates ESCC this season

Delaney Powers  
senior reporter

After yesterday’s 7-2 victory over Stagg., the RedHawk varsity baseball team stood 18-2 overall, with an 8-0 record in the ESCC.

The team competed in the Bajenski Tournament, held April 12-17. After losing back in 2019, this year, the RedHawks won the tournament in a hard-fought game against Brother Rice, 5-3.

“It was a great feeling to win the tournament,” head baseball coach Kevin Sefcik said. “In 2019, we made it to the championship but lost to Andrean from Indiana. It is the best tournament with the top teams from the area. It was our first win after six tries since 2015. I’m so happy for these seniors, especially after missing last season.”

Due to the pandemic, last year’s season was cancelled just a week before the first scheduled game. The players are grateful to be back on the field this season.

“It feels great to finally be back on the field with my teammates,” senior pitcher Jonathan Crowel said. “Most of us played

summer baseball last season, but I’m sure my teammates agree that there’s nothing like playing against our rivals from other high schools in the area.”

Baseball is full of traditions and tributes. When choosing their jersey number, players have different reasoning behind their choices, whether it is because it is their favorite player’s number or to pay tribute to someone important to them.

“I wear number one on my jersey,” senior shortstop Noah Smith said, “because my favorite player, Carlos Correa, also wears number one.”

Crowel chose his number because of his father.

“I chose 13 because it was my dad’s number in college,” Crowel said. “He’s always been someone I’ve looked up to and tried to model my game after.”

The seniors are having the time of their lives as they make up for lost time.

“My advice to the seniors is to enjoy every day,” Sefcik said. “I think they realize what they missed last year and you can see how much fun they are having. These guys hang out together away from the field and you can tell they have a special bond.”



photo by Matthew Warakomski

Junior pitcher and right fielder George Bilecki rounds third on a single by senior Mark Brannigan to break the tie against Lockport in game one of the doubleheader on May 8. The RedHawks won both games, 9-6 and 3-0.



photo by William Schreck

Junior Andrew Kerlin comes up behind his opponent as he runs the 4X800M relay race at the Norte Dame Classic on May 5, where the RedHawks came in second place.

## Track teams sprinting toward strong finishes

Angel Ortiz, Jr.  
senior reporter

The boys’ RedHawk varsity track team started off the season 3-0, with a huge win at home at the Brian Ferguson Invitational, 159-66.

That streak came to an end on May 5 when they placed second at the Notre Dame classic. The RedHawks had five athletes finish in the top six, scoring 20 points in the 100M dash.

Head coach Jon Gordon emphasized this year was difficult because football and soccer ended their seasons at the end of April, so all of his runners were not immediately available.

“We didn’t have a full team at the start of the season,” Gordon said. “But we are glad to have all of our runners back and ready to go. Our goal is to bring home the state trophy. We also look forward to hosting the ESCC championship at Marist [on June 2 at 2 p.m.]”

The girls’ RedHawk varsity track team, coached by Richard Karnia, opened with a 2-0 start, beating St. Ignatius and then Marian Catholic, St. Viator and Nazareth in the team’s second meet.

Junior Emma Karczewski had a personal best of 5:49.7 in the 1600-meter race on April 30.

“We are using all the meets as a way to gear up for the conference championship race and IHSA sectionals,” Karnia said.

Karnia notes that preparing for this season was different and posed a few challenges.

“We have a lot of girls returning from last year and we hope we can win meets through great team effort,” Karnia said. “We have had the distance runners keep an off-season log of their times each week. The sprinters and field event runners meet twice a week to work on strength training when we have access to the weight room or gyms.”

The girls will compete in the ESCC championship meet on May 26 at Benet.

## Girls’ soccer rebounds after lost season

Patrick Maxwell  
senior reporter

After Covid took away their season last year, the varsity girls’ soccer team began this season with a 4-4 record.

Head coach Chris Roe is glad his team has the opportunity to have a season this year.

“In a normal season, we would normally play 22 games, but since it is an unusual year, we are playing 16,” Roe said. “We are very fortunate for the opportunity to play because the schedule was very tough to get.”

Roe remains confident that his team will continue to improve as the season continues.

“There is still a lot to figure out this early, but our strength is definitely our offense and our weakness is goalkeeping,” Roe said. “We recently hired a goalie coach to remedy that, and we have already seen the rewards.”

Coach Roe is optimistic that the team will win more games this season.

“My hope is that the team could go on a run and win several games in a row,” Roe said. “We have more talent than we have had in the past five years. I am hopeful that we are strong enough to come together before the state playoffs.”

Senior Ciara Bridges hopes to lead the team to additional wins.

“This team is filled with a great group of girls who work so hard, so I hope we are rewarded with a playoff run,” Bridges said. “I am grateful for this season. I’ve missed the team and the work ethic a lot during the pandemic,” Bridges said. “I found that sense of pride when putting on a jersey and representing Marist.”

Roe is looking forward to the rest of the season and is happy that he is with the team after the long hiatus due to the pandemic.

“It is amazing to be back with the team after not being with them for almost two years because of COVID,” Roe said. “I love being able to coach the team and have fun with them. I missed coaching a lot during the pandemic. It is an exciting time.”



photo by Ricky Cave

Senior Catherine Kennedy dribbles the ball past Lincoln-Way Central's defense in the April 14 matchup at Olympic Park. The RedHawks lost, 1-4. The team hosts Nazareth this evening at 6:30.



# Varsity softball team knocking season out of the park

Matthew Warakowski  
senior reporter

The RedHawk varsity girls’ softball team held on to their undefeated record with a 13-0 shutout against Lockport last night.

The team has shut out opponents in 15 games so far. Highlights include the 11-0 shutout against McAuley at home on April 22, followed by a 16-0 and 10-0 victory against Carmel in the doubleheader away game on April 24.

The team’s record stands at 21-0 as of today and the RedHawks are ranked fourth in the nation.

“Every single one of our hitters are getting the job done,” head coach Colleen Phelan said. “Our slappers do a great job of creating chaos on the base path and scoring when the big hitters come up.”

An outstanding pitcher does not hurt, either. Senior Abby Dunning has thrown four no-hitters so far this season, against Bishop MacNamara, Nazareth, Marian Catholic and Joliet Catholic. Dunning struck out all 15 batters on the Bishop MacNamara and Nazareth teams.

“My goal is to help the team any way I can during each game as we work toward the state championship series,” Dunning said. “Our team’s chemistry is amazing. We have so many great players and they are all contributing to the team’s success this season.”

The RedHawks travel to Crown Point for a game at 5 p.m. tomorrow.

The team’s next home game is a double-header against Benet Academy starting at 10 a.m. on Saturday.

The team will continue to play regular games through the end of the month leading up to the IHSA state playoffs.

The state series begins on June 1 with the Class 4A regional game at home against an opponent unknown at press time.

The RedHawks won state titles in 2012 and 2015 and both the state and national titles in 2017.

The team hopes to build on this season’s momentum to make it all the way to the top once again.

“I don’t think I have coached such a balanced team here at Marist,” Phelan said. “These girls love each other, which has made for a really enjoyable season.”



photo by Katelyn Clifford

Varsity RedHawk softball players Maggie O’Brien, Easton Lotus, Kali Case and Abby Dunning pose on the field during the senior photo shoot on May 5. These veterans of the team have led their fellow RedHawks to a 4th place national ranking this season and an overall record to date of 21-0.



photo by Kaylee Frederking

Junior quarterback Dontrell Jackson gets ready to drop back in the pocket against the Loyola Ramblers on April 23 at home. The Redhawks lost the game 14-43. They ended the season 4-2 overall, with victories against Notre Dame (34-14), Brother Rice (20-16), St. Pat’s (48-13) and a shutout against Nazareth (13-0).

# Football team ends abbreviated season 4-2

Faith Harper  
junior reporter

The RedHawk varsity football team ended its abbreviated spring season with an overall record of 4-2, losing the last game of the season at home against Loyola, 14-43.

Head coach Ron Dawczak noted the effects of the shortened season on the players.

“Everything we did took a heightened importance because we didn’t have as much time as we usually would have,” Dawczak said. “So because the boys had the opportunity to play, they really seized it and tried to have as much fun with the time they’d been given while also trying to focus on being successful.”

Dawczak also credits the seniors on the team with helping younger players play this season and prepare for greater success next season.

“In a year where nothing went according to plan, the example that the seniors set for

the younger players has taught them how to be adaptable and how to prepare for something on short notice.”

The team was led by senior captains Deandre Archer, Patrick Coogan, Santonien Flowers, Jack Harmon, Jalen Hill and Triston Shultz.

“I’ve been cherishing every moment because of this being my last high school season,” Flowers said. “I always look forward to competing with the best of the best on the field. The thing I’m most anticipating is college football which is my next chapter.”

With no state playoffs this year due to the pandemic, the team used this season to work on being successful as a team and individually.

Senior defensive back Thomas Wollenberg expressed his hopes for future players.

“I hope that incoming freshmen who like the game will join the team,” Wollenberg said. “You begin to make friends before the school year starts and you learn great lessons for the game and for life.”

# Volleyball team strives for success

Jordan Mighty  
junior reporter

The RedHawk boys’ varsity volleyball team came into this week with a 13-0 record, defeating strong public and Catholic school rivals alike.

Head coach Jordan Vidovic has focused on the team’s structure this year, since the pandemic forced the cancellation of last year’s season.

“These guys have not played for two years,” Vidovic said. “It’s [the seniors] first year on the [varsity] team, so they are getting their first taste of what it is like training this hard every day and paying attention to details. They are also keeping in mind what we did not get done last year and enjoying every single day while being grateful.”

One of the major adjustments the team has had to make this season is not playing to large crowds. Pandemic guidelines continue to limit the number of spectators at each game.

“It is still not completely normal for us,” Vidovic said. “The guys are still dealing with little schedule changes and not getting full stands at the games like they are used to, but they are trying to make it up in other ways. [What is important is that] we got to stick together as a team. Otherwise, we are pretty excited about what we are getting to do and not focus on the other.”

Senior hitter and third-year varsity player Nyherowo Omene says that the team’s main focus is keeping their strength up.

“In our program we try not to have too specific of goals for the season,” Omene said, “Our philosophy is that through pushing ourselves day in and out in practice and the weight room, other successes will follow. As far as strategy, I try to have a positive mindset whenever I’m on the court and just to take one point at a time.”

The RedHawks will host Carmel Catholic tomorrow at 6:15 p.m., travel to Marian on May 18 for a 5 p.m. game and then return home for a game against Providence on May 19 at 4:30 p.m.



photo by Jordan Mighty

Sophomore hitter Michael Uldrych (#20) goes for an approach against Brother Rice on May 5. The RedHawks won in two, 25-14 and 25-17. The team will host Carmel Catholic tomorrow night at 6:15 p.m.