

Top seniors share secrets of their academic success

PJ Cunningham
sophomore reporter

The top three seniors in the 2019 valedictorian race came together before school on April 12 to participate in a panel discussion, during which they answered questions about their academic success, study habits and experiences at Marist.

Ed Stifter, Jill Borza and Michael Cosentino currently have the highest GPAs in their graduating class, reflecting outstanding performance in daily classwork and on tests and exams.

Stifter knew he would be a RedHawk from a young age, as two of his siblings and his father are Marist alums. His family also considered Marist to be the top local school for academics.

Stifter has always been attracted to the challenge of academic rigor. He eagerly joined the highly-ranked math team, coached by Mr. Glennon and Mr. Nicholson.

As an incoming freshmen, Stifter was excited about the rigorous math class and team, taking it as a challenge.

"The honors math program is unparalleled, and the math team is the top Catholic school in the state," Stifter said. "I heard stories before I entered high school about all of the schools in the area, and Marist seemed to have by far the most rigorous homework."

While many top students get stressed about work and grades, Stifter believes the key to his success has been the opposite. He strives to keep on an even keel during exams and work and he tries to avoid getting stressed. He feels that staying calm is the key to coping with the pressures of being in the valedictorian race.

"Once you get to the top, there's pressure to stay there," Stifter said. "It comes from everyone, from family and peers. But I'm not a stressed individual, so it's not that bad. I'm someone who doesn't get stressed or pressured easily. I like to go with the flow."

While Stifter may not be stressed about classes, this does not mean he does not take his classes seriously.

He studies hard, but believes that one of the most important ways to maintain good grades is being curious and interested in what you are learning along with hard work. He consults teachers and resources to maximize his knowledge of a certain subject.

"You have to be curious if you don't understand," Stifter said. "You have to actively find out yourself whether it be asking a peer or teacher or researching online."

Stifter's curiosity has led him to a passion for electronics and technology for as long as he can remember.

"I have been taking things apart and fixing them since before I entered school," Stifter said. An old quote I love is 'I can fix anything given enough time and money.' I can't explain why I gravitate toward electronics, but my best guess is that it's because most people look at a circuit board and have no idea what is happening."

This curiosity ultimately led him to Notre Dame, where he will major in electronic engineering next fall. While he considered other prestigious colleges, Stifter felt Notre Dame fit him the best.

"ND is the only top academic school that has a large DI sports program, specifically football," Stifter said. "I am a huge football fan, so I look forward to going to games and being a part of the community. There is also a strong sense of community at ND created by their dorm system, so I look forward to that."

Stifter shares the credit for his success with many of his teachers, particularly Glennon, who has taught at Marist for over three decades.

"Mr. Glennon pushes us the hardest, with at least an hour of work every night," Stifter said. "His style isn't the modern style, but rather focuses on practice and drilling it into your head, and it definitely helps us remember."

While not every student may have the same opportunities he had, Stifter believes persistence can help any student.

"Stick it out, because as you get older you get more mature," Stifter said. "It's not even always a conscious choice, but it happens."

"Cross country and track showed me you don't have to be a natural athlete to be successful as long as you're willing to work hard, so I learned in the classroom that even though something may not come easily at first, if I keep on working hard, I will reach my goals."

Borza's older brother and sister both attended Marist, so she knew she would follow in their footsteps.

As a freshman coming from St. Alexander, Borza quickly learned that a strong work ethic would be the key to her success.

Borza strives to put hard work into everything she does, whether it is in the classroom or the racetrack. She is not only motivated by success, but also by the process of working to achieve a goal.

"It's not about the [GPA]," Borza said. "Cross country and track showed me you don't have to be a natural athlete to be successful as long as you're willing to work hard, so I learned in the classroom that even though something may not come easily at first, if I keep on working hard, I will reach my goals."

This work ethic has helped Borza excel in very difficult classes, such as Glennon's math classes, AP humanities, and her most difficult class, AP physics. Like Stifter, she credits her teachers for helping her work hard.

"AP physics with Mr. Leshner is very challenging but he still teaches us that even though something may not be easy, you can still work hard and find success," Borza said.

While pressure can be tough on students as they try to maintain high grades, Borza's family has never put any undue pressure on her.

"I'm very lucky that my parents never put pressure on me to get a certain GPA, but they have always encouraged me to do my best in school," Borza said. "My main pressure comes from within myself."

Borza will bring this hard-working spirit to the University of Notre Dame, along with Stifter. Of her top three college choices-Georgetown, Northwestern and Notre Dame, she felt Notre Dame fit best.

"I ultimately picked Notre Dame for the unique community at the school," she



photo by Cecelia Gibbons

Seniors Michael Cosentino, Jill Borza and Ed Stifter have the three highest GPAs among the Class of 2019 and two of them will emerge as this year's valedictorian and salutatorian.

said. "I feel that the Notre Dame students share a special bond and school spirit that is truly unlike any other school I visited."

At Notre Dame, she plans to major in computer science and engineering. She has had a lifelong passion for technology, which she said probably resulted from her success in STEM classes.

Borza has cherished her four years as a RedHawk. While in the beginning she was challenged on the field and in the classroom, her work ethic transformed her into a top student. Her advice is simple but important.

"The classes get more challenging as you progress, but you get more comfortable learning to balance everything better," Borza said. "As long as you're doing your best, that's all you can really do."

Like Stifter, Michael Cosentino came to Marist from St. Linus. Like Borza, Michael's family always told him to strive for success. Because of this, Cosentino works very hard to make his family proud.

"My family always told me to do well so that's just what I've been trying to do," Cosentino said. "I like to make my family proud."

Cosentino pointed out that being an intelligent student comes with significant challenges.

"One of the challenges is definitely the work load and time, and you have to know how to balance all of that," Cosentino said. "The classes don't become easier as you take more challenging classes. You get more work, so you have to learn how to balance classes with extra-curricular activities and sports."

Cosentino also cited the college application process as a significant challenge.

"You want to get into a good college and a good program, so you have to push yourself to do well," Cosentino said. "It goes away once you find out that you've been accepted, but getting up to that point there is definitely pressure from wanting to get in."

"Northwestern will challenge me because I will be among other students who share my academic standards, and the curriculum for engineering requires time and dedication to get through the physics, chemistry, and calculus behind the subject," Cosentino said.

Cosentino wants to use this advanced curriculum to better his future in the medical industry.

"I would like to work with people who have prosthetics," he said. "I am very interested in how the nervous system works, and how it could be possible to connect nerves to a prosthetic limb. I would also like to work in research discovering new ways cells and tissues can be used to heal, or to create new organs to cure diseases."

Cosentino is confident that what he learned in high school will help him achieve these goals.

With common traits of intelligence, drive, curiosity and a love for Marist, these top seniors have shown they have what it takes to be valedictorian.

Soon we will know which of them earns that honor.

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THE SENTINEL



GINA MUSSO
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

EMMA BROWN
MANAGING EDITOR

ELIZABETH DELEHANTY

JENNA FESSLER

JOY GABALA

CECELIA GIBBONS

RYAN GRIFFIN

ELIJAH IKEZOE-JONES

KAITLYN KLEIN

GEORGIA LATTAS

ERIN MURPHY

MIA THORNE

CAROLYN YUSA

BROTHER HANK
HAMMER, F.M.S.
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

MR. LARRY TUCKER
PRINCIPAL

MR. JOHN J. GONCZY, CJE
FACULTY ADVISER

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RedHawk journalists have “write” stuff

Isabella Schreck
sophomore reporter

Two second year RedHawk state journalism competitors earned high honors at the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) journalism state finals at Heartland Community College in Normal on April 26.

Senior editor-in-chief Gina Musso won second place in copy writing and fifth place in news writing, while senior Georgia Lattas placed second in copy editing.

“I have been writing for as long as I’ve been able to hold a pen, so competing at sectionals and state this year was something I will never forget,” Musso said. “I definitely wouldn’t have been able to get this far without the help of my parents and all of the teachers I’ve had from St. Alexander through Marist. I am especially grateful for Mr. Gonczy who has constantly pushed me to do my best and who has recognized and fostered my potential even when I didn’t, along with the rest of the *Sentinel* staff for being like another family to me and supporting me.”

Since 2011, 29 RedHawks have advanced to the state finals, seven of which have medaled in eight categories. Musso is the first RedHawk journalist in program history to win two medals at the state journalism finals.

For the third consecutive year, Marist finished fourth overall at the IHSA sectional journalism competition at Homewood-Flossmoor on April 13. The top three finalists in each category advanced to state.

For the first time in RedHawk program history, four students emerged as sectional champions. Musso became the second journalist in program history to finish as a dual sectional champion when she placed first in copy writing and news writing.

Senior Carolyn Yusa placed first in sports writing, while Lattas placed first in feature writing and second place in copy editing.



photo by Kaitlyn Klein

(L to R) Journalists Grace Molenhouse, Cecelia Gibbons, Emma Brown, Carolyn Yusa, Georgia Lattas, Jenna Fessler and Gina Musso gather in Champagnat Square after their outstanding showing at sectionals on April 13. At the state finals on April 26, Musso took second place in copy writing and 5th place in news writing and Lattas took 2nd place in copy editing. Musso is the first RedHawk to win two medals at the state journalism finals.

“I was so excited when I won awards for copy editing and feature writing at sectionals, and I was even more excited when my classmates won awards as well,” Lattas said. “We prepared for sectionals and state by completing writing prompts and receiving feedback on our stories to make them better, and none of this would be possible without the commitment and dedication that everyone brings to the team. Last year I took first place at sectionals in copy editing but did not place at state, so placing at state this year was a huge accomplishment and made me feel even more confident about my knowledge.”

At sectionals, senior Jenna Fessler took second place in photography, junior Cecelia Gibbons took fifth in editorial writing and sophomore Grace Molenhouse placed fourth in advertising and editorial cartooning.

Senior managing editor Emma Brown has been named as a member of the Illinois Journalism Education Association (IJE) 2019 All-State Journalism Team and will be honored at the IJE luncheon in Springfield on June 1. She is the third RedHawk in program history to be named to the IJE All-State Journalism Team.

“I am extremely happy and I honestly did not know there was an All-State team for journalism,” Brown said. “I work very hard and dedicate a lot of time to the newspaper and receiving this honor made it all feel worth it. I could not have gotten here without the support of my friends, my family and the faculty and staff.”

This year, the *Sentinel* was also named Most Outstanding Private School Newspaper by the American Scholastic Press Association, in addition to winning its eighth consecutive first-place rating.



Brother Dan: 'It's about connecting as many Marist people as possible'

Emma Brown
managing editor

Small gestures often make a significant impact.

Giving a dollar to the collection at Mass helps the Church serve the community.

Donating a children's book gives a child a chance to read.

Handing out food at a shelter or a soup kitchen nourishes the less fortunate and helps keep them on their feet.

Young people today need to remember the power of simple contributions.

Brother Dan O'Riordan wants to remind all young people just how much of an impact they can make.

O'Riordan has been a Marist Brother for 27 years. He currently serves as vice provincial under former Marist President Br. Pat McNamara.

Seeing how his fellow Marist brothers lived St. Marcellin Champagnat's dream and really impacted the lives of so many young people inspired O'Riordan to join the order.

"I wanted to share in the Marist mission," O'Riordan said. "I am so grateful for the many opportunities to work with so many amazing young people in my years with the brothers."

One of the young people O'Riordan met was Ellen Van Cleef. O'Riordan taught at Roselle Catholic, a Marist school in New Jersey, where Van Cleef was a member of Roselle Catholic's Marist Youth group.

"[Ellen] was very committed to the Marist mission," O'Riordan said. "When she graduated high school she told me she was really going to miss all the service stuff. I told her she would always be a part of Marist."

O'Riordan also encouraged Van Cleef to join the Marist Young Adult program which offers young adults opportunities to do service work all over the country.

"At that point I had left Roselle Catholic and was working for the province and would connect with the Marist Young Adults fairly often," O'Riordan said. "At that time, Ellen was running retreats and acting as a presenter in those programs and she stayed very involved during those years."

After Van Cleef's time at college, O'Riordan went to visit her to provide her with some more guidance on continuing her service work.

"Ellen wanted to continue her volunteer work and said she wanted to do something impactful," O'Riordan said. "So we looked around and she ended up deciding to be a volunteer in Senegal in West Africa for two years. She did amazing things and made a huge impact in that community."

After Africa, she moved to Chicago to finish her education and met Joshua Van Cleef. They married and took jobs as parish life directors at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Jackson, Kentucky.

The Jackson area is known for its challenges of poverty and addiction. The Van Cleefs have been serving there for two years now through outreach, evangelization and children's programs.

"Both of them were very committed to doing mission work," O'Riordan said. "They are reaching out to meet the huge needs of this community."

Last year the Van Cleefs purchased a 50-acre wooded farm near the church to begin living as members of the community. Today, their property is known as the Magnificent Catholic Worker Farm.



photo courtesy of Br. Dan O'Riordan

Ellen and Josh Van Cleef, Brother Dan O'Riordan and parishioners gather outside of Holy Cross Church in Jackson, Kentucky. The Van Cleefs are dedicating their lives to helping others and Brother Dan wants Marist students to get involved.

Simplicity, humility and modesty are three virtues often represented in the Marist world by three violets. The Violet Chapel, named in honor of living these values and of Saint Marcellin, will be built in June on the Van Cleef farm.

The chapel will benefit local community members and ministers who will come there for contemplation, and those who come for retreat, a hot meal or just to talk a walk in the surrounding woods.

O'Riordan and a group of 20 volunteers from Marist schools across the country, including Erin Stapleton from the class of 2018, will be going down this summer to help build the chapel.

"One of the folks coming is John Allen," O'Riordan said. "He is a contractor from New Jersey so he will drive his truck down

with all the tools and such and really has enabled us to do projects we would never be able to do without his help."

With the labor taken care of, the Van Cleefs need to raise at least \$16,000 for materials alone, which the RedHawks will be contributing to. O'Riordan sees an opportunity for us to impact the Jackson community but also impact ourselves.

"Collectively it is not about how much we raise, but about connecting as many Marist people as possible," O'Riordan said. "I want to have one Marist project a year that all of our schools can work on. Next year we will be looking at the issue of refugees. Hopefully, particularly for the younger kids, we can look at one project with solidarity and come together to help as one."

2019

MARIST 2019 SUMMER CAMPS

KIDDIE CAMPS FOR BOYS AND GIRLS
1st through 4th grades

ALL-DAY CAMP
Includes Basketball, Volleyball, Lunch, and More!
Session 1... June 10-13
8:30 am to 2:30 pm
\$175

BASKETBALL
Session 2... June 10-13
11:00 am to 12:30 pm
\$80

Session 3A Boys...
June 24-27
10:00 am to 11:30 am
\$80

VOLLEYBALL
Session 4... June 10-13
9:00 am to 10:30 am
\$80

SOCCER
Session 5... July 8-12
4 yrs old - 4th grade
8:30 am to 10:00 am
\$90

SOFTBALL
Session 6... June 24-27
K - 4th grade
8:00 am to 9:30 am
\$80

CAMPS FOR BOYS -- Various age levels

BASKETBALL
Session 7 -- Fundamental Skills June 17-20
5th - 8th grade -- 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm -- **\$80**

Session 8 -- Fundamental Skills June 24-27
5th - 8th grade -- 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm -- **\$80**

Session 9 -- Fundamental Skills June 17-27 (M-Th)
Incoming Freshmen -- 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm -- **\$115**

Session 10 -- Shooting Skills July 15-18
5th - 8th grade -- 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm -- **\$80**

BASEBALL
Session 11 -- Skills Camp June 10-12
5th - 8th grade -- 9:00 am to 12:00 pm -- **\$80**

Session 12 -- Skills Camp June 17-19
5th - 8th grade -- 9:00 am to 12:00 pm -- **\$80**

Session 13 -- Skills Camp July 22-24
5th - 8th grade -- 9:00 am to 12:00 pm -- **\$80**

Session 14 -- Skills Camp July 22-24
Incoming Freshmen -- 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm -- **\$80**

FOOTBALL
Session 15 -- July 15-18
5th - 8th grade -- 8:00 am to 9:30 am -- **\$80**

Session 16 -- Quarterback Camp July 15-18
5th - 8th grade -- 9:30 am to 10:45 am -- **\$50**

Session 17 -- Speed Camp June 10-12
5th - 8th grade -- 8:00 am to 9:00 am -- **\$60**

Session 18 -- June 17-27 and July 8-18 (M-Th)
Incoming Freshmen -- 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm -- **\$115**

LACROSSE
Session 19 -- June 17-20
5th - 8th grade -- 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm -- **\$80**

Session 20 -- June 24-27
Incoming Freshmen - 12th grade -- 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm -- **\$80**

RUNNING -- DISTANCE/CROSS COUNTRY
Session 21 -- June 10-14
6th - 12th grade -- 8:00 am to 10:00 am -- **\$55**

SOCCER
Session 22 -- June 24-28
Incoming Freshmen -- 8:00 am to 10:00 am -- **\$90**

Session 23 -- June 24-28
5th - 8th grade -- 10:00 am to 11:45 am -- **\$90**

VOLLEYBALL
Session 25 -- July 8-11
5th - 8th grade -- 8:30 am to 10:00 am -- **\$80**

Session 26 -- July 8-11
Incoming Freshmen -- 10:00 am to 11:30 am -- **\$80**

WRESTLING
Session 28A -- All Skills June 10-12
Session 28B -- All Skills June 17-19
Session 28C -- All Skills June 24-26
8-18 yrs old -- 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm -- **\$60 each session**

Session 28D -- All 3 Sessions June 10 - June 26
8-18 yrs old -- 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm -- **\$150**

RUGBY
Session 29 -- June 3-6
5th grade - Incoming Freshman -- 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm -- **\$80**

CAMPS FOR GIRLS -- Various age levels

BASKETBALL
Session 3 -- Girls Fundamental Beginners Camp June 24-27
1st - 4th grade -- 10:00 am to 11:30 pm -- **\$80**

Session 30 -- June 17-27 (M-Th)
Incoming Freshmen -- 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm -- **\$115**

Session 31 -- Shooting Skills June 17-20
5th - 8th grade -- 11:00 am to 12:30 pm -- **\$80**

Session 32 -- Shooting Skills July 8-11
5th - 8th grade -- 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm -- **\$80**

LACROSSE
Session 33 -- June 24-28
3rd - 8th grade -- 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm -- **\$90**

RUNNING -- DISTANCE/CROSS COUNTRY
Session 34 -- June 24-28
6th - 12th grade -- 9:00 am to 11:00 am -- **\$55**

SOCCER
Session 35 -- June 24-27
5th - Incoming Freshmen -- 3:00 pm to 4:45 pm -- **\$80**

SOFTBALL
Session 37 -- Defensive Skills June 17-20
5th - 8th grade -- 9:30 am to 11:00 am -- **\$80**

Session 38 -- Incoming Freshman Skills June 24-27
11:30 am to 1:00 pm -- **\$80**

Session 39 -- Offensive Skills June 24-27
5th - 8th grade -- 9:30 am to 11:00 am -- **\$80**

Session 40 -- Pitching and Catching June 17-20
3rd grade - 8th grade -- 11:00 am to 12:30 pm -- **\$80**

TENNIS
Note: The Pay-As-You-Go Fee for the Girls Tennis Sessions below is **\$10 per day**, paid at each Summer Camp Session (not online).
Session 41 -- June 3-28 (M-F)
9th - 12th grade -- 9:00 am to 10:30 am

VOLLEYBALL
Session 43 -- Hitting/Blocking July 15-18
5th - 8th grade -- 8:30 am to 10:00 am -- **\$80**

Session 44 -- Setters/Defense July 15-18
5th - 8th grade -- 10:00 am to 11:30 am -- **\$80**

Session 45 -- All Skills July 22-25
5th - 8th grade -- 8:30 am to 10:00 am -- **\$80**

Session 46 -- July 22-25
Incoming Freshmen -- 10:00 am to 11:30 am -- **\$80**

CHEERLEADING
Session 47 -- July 1-3
K - 5th grade -- 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm -- **\$60**

Session 48 -- July 1-3
6th - 8th grade -- 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm -- **\$60**

GO-ED CAMPS -- Various age levels

ART CAMP
Session 49 -- June 9-12
3rd - 5th grade
9:00 am to 11:30 am -- **\$100**

Session 50 -- July 9-12
6th - 8th grade
12:00 pm to 2:30 pm -- **\$100**

BAND CAMP
Session 51 -- June 17-21
M-Th 8:00 am to 10:00 am
F 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm -- **\$100**
Concert on Friday, June 21, in the Marist Theater at 6:00 pm

CHESS CLUB
Session 52 -- June 17-20
5th - 8th grade
12:00 pm to 1:00 pm -- **\$40**

DANCE CAMP
Session 53 -- June 10-13
4 - 8 yrs old
1:00 pm to 2:30 pm -- **\$65**

MEDIAEVAL FENCING
Session 54 -- June 17-21
Incoming Freshmen - 12th gr
10:00 am to 11:00 am -- **\$65**

Session 55 -- June 17-21
5th - 8th grade
11:00 am to 12:00 pm -- **\$65**

FORENSIC SCIENCE
Session 56 -- June 17-19
3rd - 8th grade
1:30 pm to 3:30 pm -- **\$65**

LEADERSHIP CAMP
Session 57 -- June 24-27
6th - 8th grade
10:00 am to 12:00 pm -- **\$80**

Session 58 -- July 8-11
Incoming Freshmen
10:00 am to 12:00 pm -- **\$80**

POLE VAULT
Session 60 -- June 24-27
11:00 am to 12:30 pm -- **\$80**

TECHNOLOGY CAMP
Session 61 -- June 24-27
6th - 8th grade
8:30 am to 11:30 am -- **\$100**

THEATER CAMP
Session 63 -- June 17-27 (M-Th)
3rd - 8th grade
9:00 am to 11:30 am -- **\$100**

TRACK & FIELD
Session 64 -- July 15-18
5th - 12th grade
9:00 am to 10:30 am -- **\$75**

SOCCER GOALIE CAMP
Session 65 -- July 8-10
4th - 8th grade
10:00 am to 11:30 am -- **\$75**

BROADCASTING CAMP
Session 66 -- June 24-27
5th - 7th grade
9:00 am to 11:00 am -- **\$100**

Session 67 -- June 24-27
8th - 10th grade
12:00 pm to 2:00 pm -- **\$100**

SPEECH AND ACTING SKILLS CAMP
Session 68 -- June 17-27 (M-Th)
5th - 8th grade
12:00 pm to 2:00 pm -- **\$75**

Register online at

www.marist.net

Details about specialty camps are available at www.marist.net

Turning the page on high school

I remember being a freshman and hearing “enjoy high school because it goes by fast!” and of course 14-year-old me would roll my eyes and nod because I already heard that statement about a million times.

Well, I hate to admit it, but they were right. It flew by.

My four years at Marist were filled with thousands of memories, both good and bad. These years have taught me so many things including the obvious book smarts that I kind of have (on a good day when I remember my coffee) and more importantly life lessons.

High school is rough. You’re thrown in a building filled with 14-through 18-year-olds and expected to get good grades and form into a proper young adult. Parents pressuring ideas about the future, fellow peers are starting pointless drama about something that would not be remembered the next week, and teachers make sure you have your mind swirling with homework. Even though that sounds like crap, fun does appear quite often.



Kaitlyn Klein

High school is fun! You’re a teenager! So that means you’re too young to know better, but you’re old enough for some freedom. Embrace it! Get out of your comfort zone. Reach out to people, meet new friends and get involved. That is something I wish I did more.

Find your people. High school is funny in this way. You start out as a freshman and you want as many friends as possible even if they aren’t the best at times. Then you get to senior year and you get wiser. Some-

thing major that I realized was that I don’t need 100 pennies, I just need four quarters. I found my people who I genuinely love and appreciate. I’m not saying I only have four friends, I just have a select group of people I consider my family.

Be kind. Do not let yourself get caught up in drama even if it seems to surround you. Don’t be that one mean person that ruins a fellow peer’s day. Choose kindness. You never know what a person is going through or how they’ll take in what you do/say. Have an open mind, try not to let yourself judge others. In the end, we are all brothers and sisters here.

Marist is something that I am proud to call myself a part of. These four years have molded me into a person I am proud to be. I know that the experiences here have prepared me for what lies ahead. Even though my time here had some rocky patches, I know that those moments were the things that impacted and molded me the most. Everything happens for a reason. It’s sad that my time here is ending, but I am ready for the next chapter in my life.

Growth and gratitude



Gina Musso

“Beeeeeep!”

Seventh grade me, a Marist shadow, shifts around in my seat a little as I realize that the bell to switch classes isn’t in fact the fire alarm. This was the beginning of what would turn out to be the most awkward, unexpected, challenging, yet memorable four years of my life.

By August 2015, other aspects of high school alarmed me. While I felt well-prepared from grammar school, I did not know what to expect coming from a graduating class of 17, where we walked to class in two straight lines, ate lunch at our desks and had much quieter bells.

Throughout the next four years, I struggled, cried, laughed and learned, but most importantly, grew. I’ve grown, a lot, and not vertically (unless reaching 5 foot 2 inches counts), but all because of the non-textbook lessons that Marist has taught me.

Here’s the SparkNotes version:

Ask for help often. Asking for help doesn’t make you weak, it makes you human. Drag a friend with you if you need to talk to a teacher, or ask classmates for help. But don’t be scared of teachers, they’re humans too.

Get to know the teachers, administrators, and coaches. People who work in Catholic education make sacrifices to be here. They are here because they truly want to be, not for the paycheck.

Try something new. Before high school, I never touched a tennis racket or threw in any track and field events, and you should have seen my face when they told me that a shot put weighs almost 9 pounds, but that is what high school is for: finding yourself and growing up through trying new things.

Learn outside of class. Nothing immerses you in a foreign language like letting a stranger from across the world live in your house for 12 days. In addition, school trips to Texas, California, Iowa, Indiana and Spain prove that our education is not limited to the classrooms on 115th Street.

Work hard. Take the harder class if you can. Maybe get a job. While I probably wouldn’t recommend taking six AP classes and having three different jobs in a span of two years, I learned a lot about responsibility and time management.

Always be grateful. I am especially grateful for my parents who have sacrificed so that I could attend Marist. I am also grateful for the teachers from St. Alexander and Marist who impacted me. They believed in me and enabled me to reach my potential. Lastly, I am grateful for my friends who have taught me a lot about myself and always had my back.

Soon enough, I’ll be listening to the same bell that alarmed me as a shadow at the end of my final class at Marist. I am so thankful for the growth that Marist fostered in me over the last four years.

I’ll never forget it.

Fly high and goodbye

FINALLY!!!!

We made it, everyone. It’s time to graduate!

Four years have flown by. I remember shadowing Marist and thinking the school was huge. I thought I would never find my way around the school. I remember the crowded hallways and how every single seat was filled in the cafeteria. I thought about how loud the hallways were, filled with sounds of the Fight Song, freshmen laughing at inside jokes and the bell ringing. The energy was vibrant.

I was unsure of what high school life would bring me. I went to a small grammar school and went to school with the same kids since kindergarten. Coming to a school with 1,800 kids was a huge change.

I was also uneasy about the fact that I am not Catholic, but after a while I knew it wasn’t a big deal. I mastered the Hail Mary, I learned more about rosaries and finally understood the part in the Mass where people shake hands and say “Peace be with you.” I was totally not used to the



Georgia Lattas

singing and guitar-playing, but after a few services I would catch myself humming to “Taste and See.”

The pep rallies, homecoming week, the field trips, the dances, the retreats, even the parking lot... I will miss it all. I am so grateful for the friends who have made these such great memories.

I have grown a lot since freshman year (and changed my hair a lot too.) I have seen myself go from unsure and uneasy to exuberant and lively. I have seen myself

develop new interests and passions. I have gone from 2009 Justin Bieber bangs to dark red hair to caramel-colored hair that made me look like the packaging that Rolos come in.

To all of the teachers, friends and administrators, thank you for giving me a wonderful education and for instilling in me the principles and lessons I will take with me for the rest of my life.

To this newspaper, thank you for letting me write about stories that matter. Thank you for allowing me to give a voice to people that deserve to be heard. Thank you for the trip to San Francisco and thank you for the twelve other people on this staff. It has been a pleasure writing for this paper.

I am beyond excited to announce I will be attending John Carroll University. I am excited for the new opportunities, friends and memories.

Let’s all pray that my ID picture at JCU will turn out better than my last four at Marist.

Fly high and goodbye!

Saying farewell after four years

I know it’s cheesy, but when people tell you that high school flies by fast, they are not kidding.

It seems like just yesterday I was walking into the main gym with my cousin, trying to figure out how to get to room 126. I remember thinking that these four years would be the best and hardest years of my life.

Dear freshman,

Congratulations on making through everyone shouting “go home freshman” at every assembly. Try not to think too highly of yourselves next year cause you’re still the babies of the school.

Some advice I would like to give you is find a club or sport you love while you’re still an underclassmen. Next year, make sure you get involved. Don’t be afraid to branch out and make new friends. Make sure you enjoy every football game, dance and retreat. Live in the moment and relax while you still can.

Dear sophomores,

Good luck next year. Study hard for the ACT and start looking into the colleges you’re interested in. Junior year is truly the



Mia Thorne

hardest year of high school and you will regret not doing your homework no matter how many times you think you won’t need to know it. Enjoy the rest of sophomore year and the summer because next year is the time to crack down.

Dear juniors,

Congratulations on finishing junior year. I know it wasn’t easy for most of you. By now you’re all probably ready to become the kings of the school, but slow down. You’re not there yet. Senior year will definitely go by faster than you think, so

make sure you live in the moment, don’t worry about the future too much, and try to be involved in everything you can. Trust me when I say you will regret not getting involved when all the chances are over and you see what you missed.

However, this is not a blow off year. Your grades still matter and it gets pretty tough. Don’t do anything that will keep you out of senior activities. You’ll regret it. Have fun, work hard and get to know all your classmates you’ll be graduating with.

Dear seniors,

I would first like to say thank you to everyone for making this year truly unforgettable, and a very special thank you to the small handful of you that brightened my day every year.

I wish nothing but the best to my fellow graduates and I hope they live smart and fun lives out on their own. I am proud to be a member of the Class of 2019 and I wouldn’t picture my senior year any other way.

We are all going our separate ways and, from the absolute bottom of my heart, I will miss you all.

Farewell for now



Emma Brown

After writing stories for three years, knowing all the tricks and tips to an editorial, a news story or a feature piece, this farewell column was the hardest to write. It is extremely bittersweet.

I am excited to move on to the University of Wisconsin in Madison to study new subjects, explore a new city with new opportunities and generally be on my own. At the same time, I am so happy this year I almost don't want it to end.

I remember freshman year as a bit overwhelming. About a third of my grammar school graduating class had chosen to become RedHawks so I figured I would have a few familiar faces to lean on but I was so wrong. A new environment and a lot of new people and new teachers I had never heard of before. It was a great year though where I made new friends who are now old friends.

Junior year was absolute hell. I was in classes I did not care for and my personal life was rough to say the least. I was with the wrong people and made some stupid decisions.

My only solace that year was being on the newspaper. That class at the end of the day was a life saver. I had to work a lot but it was always a class I knew I was needed in with people I loved.

Mr. Gonczy taught so much about journalism and about life, but he is not the only one. Almost all of the staff and faculty I have encountered throughout my years have given me something to prepare me for life.

I am taking this next step into college knowing from Mrs. Pochly how important it is to have fun or how important is to tell the truth from Dean O'Neill.

In addition to my teachers, I cannot thank my friends enough for all the happiness they have given me and how much they have helped me to become the best version of myself.

I did not know who I was walking into the main gym doors for MOD A gym class freshman year. Now walking out of those doors, I am proud of who I am, what I like and how I act. It took a while but thanks to all the people in my life from Marist, I can honestly say I love who I am.

To those of you still around next year, I have some advice. Work hard at everything you do because I promise it pays off.

At the same time, have fun and let things go. Do not hold onto the petty drama. Let it go and have fun. Do something spontaneous and go to the volleyball game with some friends.

I cannot express enough gratitude to my friends, my K142 and K144 sisters, my teachers, and this school in general.

I know that many of us are ready to move on but I hope that you all realize what I have realized-that we truly are brothers and sisters for life.

More than four years



Jenna Fessler

People tell you high school is the time to find yourself. These past four years have been crucial to who I am and what I want to be.

High school has been the place that I've found friends who are really my family, which is rare and through the drama seems impossible at times. These family members who I've gained have inspired me to become the best version of myself and have decided we're all getting a lake house when we're older, so that means I'm stuck with them.

Also, every friend or person I've come across here has changed me for the better or taught me a valuable lesson for which I cannot express enough gratitude.

Marist has given me so many things to appreciate, from the teachers who have changed me for the better to opportunities like tutoring.

I started tutoring my freshman year and that hour a week with a third grader turned out to be one of my most influential experiences in my life. The family wanted

me to tutor outside of the program and this is where I got my first job. This not only helped me to find my passion for helping others but showed me the career I would be the most fulfilled with, teaching.

Many of my teachers helped me to discover who I want to be as a person.

Mr. Butler taught me to be a good person and to be passionate about what I do because it might motivate others around me to act the same way.

Mr. Gonczy taught me that no matter what you are struggling with in life with perseverance you will get through it. Finally, Mr. Dawczak who showed me that you must advocate for what you stand for yourself to get what you want.

Never did I expect to get so much out of a school besides just an education. I got a group of sisters who shine like the sun. On my Kairos this group of girls made me realize my self-worth and that I deserve only good things.

I know some people hated high school, but I believe you get out as much as you put in. So my advice is to get involved and take everything this life has to give you as a positive or a learning experience. Don't get me wrong, there were many bad days throughout my time here, but with the family I have created here I'm not scared of taking them on alone.

As my four years here come to an end, I want to say thank you for giving me memories that will last longer than four years.

Peace out, RedHawks



Joy Gabala

I didn't come to Marist like most students. In fact, I showed up two years late. My previous high school, Queen of Peace, announced it was closing January of my sophomore year. I had to quickly say goodbye to my home and find somewhere new to finish high school.

The first time I walked into Marist I knew it was the next chapter of my life. My intuition told me it just felt right. I shadowed Mother McAuley earlier that day, and it didn't feel right to me the way I hoped it would.

Coincidentally, Marist had an open house that same night for Peace students and parents. At that point I had nothing left to lose so I went. It was one of the best decisions of my life.

Transferring to Marist wasn't easy. Marist is a huge school compared to Queen of Peace. I came with only one close friend. I was scared about standing out, or that I wouldn't be accepted. I thought friend groups had already been formed over the past two years and I was just stumbling in.

Marist has definitely changed my life for the better. I'm so thankful to have been a reporter on the Sentinel. I'm thankful for the people journalism brought into my life. I love and cherish all my fellow reporters and wish them the best of luck in their future.

To the class of 2022, I've always thought of sophomore year as 'freshman year-part two.' Now you have the knowledge and experience of freshman year. Use it.

To the class of 2021, have fun being upperclassmen. I'm going to be honest I don't remember much of my junior year, so make it memorable. And don't wait until September of senior year to take the ACT.

To the class of 2020, don't focus on rushing to the end. Do the things you missed out on before. Find the people you love and trust and want to keep in your life. Go on Kairos. Remember that you get out of it what you put into it.

To the class of 2019, thank you all for welcoming me into your class. Senior year has definitely been the happiest year of my education. I hope you're happy wherever you may end up.

High school is truly what you make it. If all you focus on is grades, then that becomes all that matters. If you only focus on your social life, that becomes your priority. Learn to balance the two and you will be a successful happy student.

As we said at Peace when signing off, "Peace out pride." Now I say, "Peace out, RedHawks."

On to the next chapter in life



Erin Murphy

Marist will forever be my home away from home. It is hard to think my four years here are coming to an end. Without this school I would never become the person I am today. If I were to put into words what this school, staff and the environment has done for me, we would be here all day.

Coming here freshman year, joined by only three other students from my grammar school, I was terrified. But within weeks I knew I made the right choice.

Friday nights under the lights, cheering loud for the football team or when the gym would be packed for volleyball games. Whether it was Mr. Billone's speech class freshman year, Mr. Murphy's forensic science class sophomore year, Mr. Vickers' chemistry class junior year, or Mrs. Cozzie's English class senior year. I felt like I was supposed to be here at Marist.

As a freshman, I was very shy and hardly spoke, but during that year I became more vocal. I found my voice here and I believe it is the reason I am doing and willing to keep doing things in my life. I owe a lot of who I am today to the staff.

We are so blessed to have so many people who care about us and want us to do well. It may seem like sometimes the faculty members aren't pulling for us, but they always are. And if you feel like they are being hard on you, it is because they see something in you. Marist is a high school filled with amazing teachers, staff, and just people.

I went through a lot of rough stuff, but every staff member proved to me that I was not alone. They were also there for

all the best moments, too. I am blessed to have a high school I enjoy going to everyday and loved. Walking down the hallways with my best friends, I was on cloud nine every day.

Leaving Marist will be one of the hardest things I will do, but if I had any advice about high school, here it is: Know that these four years will be the best and worst years of your life. You will find yourself in more ways than one. One year will be better than the others. The math test you failed will not send you to summer school; just remember you have to do better next time.

The last piece of advice I have is take in the little moments. Marist is a school where we have and do a lot of things that other high schools do not. Try and enjoy every second of it because before you know it, it will be over.

Marist has prepared me for everything I will deal with in life and taught me no matter what I go through I will get through it and I am stronger because of it.



best personality (male)

Marty Jepsen

**You voted.
We tabulated.
Congratulations Class of 2019!
Here are your choices for this year's
"MOST LIKELY TO" and "BEST IN CLASS"
AWARDS**



best personality (female)

Amaya Knoll



best smile (male)

Will Shanahan



best smile (female)

Olivia Gaidas



class clown (male)

Jason Martin



class clown (female)

Megan Kirkwood



worst driver

Brian Ward



couple most likely to get married

Declan Ryan and Makenna Farrelly



most likely to have a kid born addicted to Starbucks

Ashleigh Hughes



most likely to be too involved in her kid's sport

Abby Callahan



most likely to trip at graduation

Delaney Dorsch



most likely to become the next BLT

Rocky Mayer



most likely to become famous

Jason Hodges



most likely to work at Marist

Brooke Yurisich



most likely to never leave the South Side

Michael Reilly



most likely to marry for money

Mia Mesmer



most likely to win the lottery and lose the ticket

Ryan Dunphy



most likely to end up living in his/her parents' basement

Nick Stack



biggest flirt (male)

Nile Hill



biggest flirt (female)

Mia Gillespie



most likely to get carded at age 30

Vinny Messino

Varsity baseball talent includes underclassmen

Elizabeth Delehanty
junior reporter

The RedHawk boys' baseball team continues to fight tough opponents and uncooperative weather this season. Coming into this week, the team is 12-6 after winning at the Stevie Bajenski Tournament against Lemont on April 26.

This year's varsity roster includes two sophomores, shortstop and second baseman Noah Smith and catcher Jonny Crowel.

"It is exciting being on the varsity team," Crowel said. "There is pressure to take advantage of every opportunity because, if you do not, you might sit on the bench for a couple of games."

Smith agrees that playing on the team excites and humbles him.

"Being a sophomore on a varsity team is a blessing and a great achievement," Smith said. "There is pressure no matter what level you are playing at but it is more intense and exhilarating on the varsity team."

The varsity baseball team is also unique because there are no captains. Head coach Kevin Sefcik believes in putting leadership responsibility on all of the seniors.

"I do not do captains because I like to have the seniors take control of the team," Sefcik said. "I do not like to single players out, we have a great senior class and I feel I can rely on them."

Despite a tough start to the season, Sefcik remains confident in his team's ability to finish the season strong and do well next year.

"What makes our team good is that we have experience," Sefcik said. "Most of our players have been on varsity since freshman or sophomore year and we have 12 juniors and 2 sophomores coming back to the team next year."

After rain forced the cancellation of games earlier this week, the team is scheduled to play at St. Patrick tomorrow at 10 a.m.

The next home game, at which the senior players will be honored, is a doubleheader against St. Rita, scheduled for Sunday at 3:30 p.m.



photo by Jenna Fessler

Senior Jason Hodges, nicknamed 'All-Star' by his teammates, slides into third base during the April 23 game against Stagg. The game went into extra innings and the RedHawks won, 10-7. Hodges will continue his career next year at the University of Arkansas.



photo by Alyssa Lang

Senior outside hitter Marty Jepsen hits against the Minooka defense in the Red and White gym on April 23, helping lead the RedHawks to a 25-20 and 25-21 victory. The team hosts St. Viator on May 7 at 6:15 p.m.

Volleyball team sets sights on playoffs

Isabella Schreck
sophomore reporter

As the regular season winds down, the boys' varsity volleyball team continues to rack up wins as it heads to the postseason.

The RedHawks' win against Carmel Catholic on Tuesday and first-place victory at Lafayette High School in St. Louis last weekend brought the team's overall record to 27-2.

Senior night for the RedHawks is May 7, where they will host St. Viator at 6:15 p.m.

With playoffs approaching, head coach Jordan Vidovic remains hopeful that his players will continue to hone their skills.

"Our team's strengths this season are depth and versatility, meaning our team has a lot of options to use depending on the team we are playing," Vidovic said. "We are working on our cohesiveness and continuity as we play more matches and our goal is to simply find different ways to improve each week."

The team started the season with a 5-0 win in the 17th Annual RedHawk Varsity Invitational March 22-23, followed by a second place win in the Wheaton Classic a week later.

After consecutive wins against Neuqua Valley, Oak Park and Notre Dame College Prep, the RedHawks fell to Lincoln-Way West on April 11, but fought back with a first-place victory against Glenbard West the following week.

Sophomore middle hitter Nyherowo Omene attributes this success to the team's commitment under the tutelage of Vidovic.

"Our work ethic is our greatest strength," Omene said. "Vidovic breaks down each drill so we know its importance and how it will translate into a game scenario."

Senior outside hitter Marty Jepsen believes that the team's goals are much bigger than just regular season success.

"To win our conference and then the state championship is the ultimate goal, but we know we have to put in a lot of work."

Softball team motivated to win

Grace Molenhouse
sophomore reporter

With an overall record of 18-2 as of April 26, the girls' varsity softball team is optimistic for the rest of the season.

The team, led by head coach Colleen Biebel, hopes to continue winning and working towards competing in the state championships in June.

"Our goal is to continue to come together each game as a team," Biebel said. "This will hopefully put us in the best spot to be able to compete for a state championship at the beginning of June."

The RedHawks secured a winning streak of 15 games after defeating Plainfield East High School 11-1 on April 26. According to Biebel, the team's biggest accomplishments so far include the wins in Crown Point, Lockport, Downers Grove, Joliet Catholic Academy, Lincoln-Way Central and Lincoln-Way East.

Senior Angela Zedak, who plays infield, outfield and pitches, feels the team's success is due to the strengths each player brings to the group.

"Our strengths include our energy, our chemistry and our commitment to getting better," Zedak said. "Each of us works hard every day and we push each other to get better."

Biebel also says the group dynamic and her players' many strengths has helped the team dominate this season.

"We have a great group that is extremely focused and determined with a team first mentality," Biebel said. "Although we have a really great offense, I think our defense has been the most exciting to watch and coach this year. The girls are leaving it all on the field and it is fun to watch."

Sophomore outfielder Kali Case says that constructive criticism from Biebel and fellow players also keeps the team motivated to reach its goals.

"We want to win conference and state, and just have to give our all every game," Case said.

The team is scheduled to play a doubleheader today at Benet Academy beginning at 10 a.m.

The next home game is on May 7 against Carmel High School in another doubleheader starting at 4 p.m.



photo by Jenna Fessler

Teammates line up to congratulate senior catcher and infielder Cassandra Lindmark after she scored a home run and helped secure a 12-0 win against Joliet Catholic Academy on April 24.