



Best in class: top three seniors lead academically

Kamron Beal
Kevin Cardinale
John O'Shea



Kelly Hughes



Daniel Murphy



Brian Winstead

Kelly Hughes graduated from St. Catherine in Oak Lawn, and chose to follow in the path of her family members who attended Marist. After shadowing in eighth grade, she felt Marist was a perfect fit.

Hughes believes that Marist not only gave her a great education, but also instilled some values that will last a lifetime.

"I've learned if you put in the work you get a lot out of it," Hughes said. "You kind of get what you give. One thing I always liked at Marist were the retreats that we went on, going out and doing service. It's always been something small, but you help a lot of people."

Determined to make the most of her high school experience, Hughes also took part in many after school activities, which taught her some valuable lessons.

"I'm on student council, student ambassadors, math team, National Honors Society, Spanish National Honor Society and science club," Hughes said. "Math team definitely taught me hard work and teamwork. It's a team sport where you have to learn to work with others smoothly and help each other when needed."

Hughes will attend Northwestern University in the fall and is thinking of majoring in mechanical engineering.

"I liked Northwestern because it felt familiar yet it was still a new environment to meet new people and expand my horizons," Hughes said.

Over the last four years, Hughes found out what it means to be a part of the Marist family. She had one final bit of advice to give to past and future RedHawks.

"Get as involved as you can and make the most of high school," Hughes said. "Obviously because of the pandemic, you don't know what's going to happen, but just get as much done as you can and make the most out of your high school years."

Cardinal Joseph Bernardin graduate Daniel Murphy chose Marist after shadowing his youngest sister and falling in love with the school. The baseball program also motivated Murphy to come to Marist. Murphy said that the Marist community helped him excel as a student.

"The influence of my older sister motivated me to be a better student and push myself," Murphy said. "But I only had one year with her here, so once she was gone it was my classmates and teachers [who motivated me.] It's a rich environment here and you're surrounded by kids who are really smart, ones who are constantly pushing themselves to do the best they can, and being a part of that made me want to be better."

Murphy is planning to attend the University of Illinois-Urbana to study economics. He wants to get a minor or concentration in data science to "integrate those two fields" and get a job in that industry.

Although he will begin a new chapter in college, he said that he will miss the relationships he made at Marist. Murphy shared some advice for fellow Redhawks who also want to excel at Marist.

"I was never the smartest person naturally," Murphy said. "But if you really do want to excel in your classes you just have to put your mind to it. Anyone with the right motivation and determination to get through adversity can be as good as or better than me."

As successful as he has been at Marist, Murphy said he will not miss the early mornings and late nights of doing homework. Overall, he is grateful for all the experiences over the past four years.

"I enjoyed my time at Marist, and I found the academics, the family here, and the sports have all made me a better person and definitely made me some lifelong friends," Murphy said.

A graduate of St. Cajetan, Brian Winstead chose Marist because attending events here made him feel like this was the place where he could grow as a person and prepare him for the future.

"Through my time at Marist I learned it is important to surround yourself in an environment that will help you succeed and a good work ethic is the most important factor in achieving your goals," Winstead said. "The advice I would give to current and future RedHawks would be to get as involved as possible at Marist so you can truly experience the best Marist has to offer and to get help from teachers or your peers if you are ever struggling with anything."

Winstead participated in many extracurricular activities at Marist. As a result, he said that he has learned many lessons that will help him as he takes his next step in life.

"I played football, basketball, baseball, and rugby, and I am a part of the math team, National Honors Society and Spanish National Honors Society," Winstead said. "I learned from these activities how to manage my time to be able to do these things and get my schoolwork done. I also learned the importance of practicing and having the right mentality to improve in anything."

Winstead will be attending University of Illinois Urbana in the fall to major in industrial engineering.

"I chose to go to U of I because they have a superb engineering program that I feel will help educate me on my intended major and offer connections to help me transition into a career after college," Winstead said. "The school's campus, environment and activities looked great while I visited. I also researched the college, which helped me conclude that it would be a great place to spend the next chapter of my life."

Journalists medal at state

Leah Kane
sophomore reporter

The IHSA state journalism competition was held at Heartland Community College on Friday, April 22, with two RedHawk journalists taking medals.

Senior Delaney Powers was state runner-up in copy editing. Last year, Powers advanced to state in the same category but did not place.

"State was amazing," Powers said. "As the top six were announced, I prayed to hear my name. I was surprised when it was announced. I worked so hard and it paid off."

Senior Billy McNicholas placed fourth in sports writing at state. Like Powers, he also advanced but did not place at state last year.

"I'm really proud to have placed and excited to continue with sports media next year in college," McNicholas said.

Junior Emma Fishback advanced to state in news writing and copy writing this year, having advanced last year in copy writing. While she did not medal at state, she won news writing and came in second in copy writing at the IHSA sectional competition held virtually on April 9.

Powers and McNicholas were also sectional champions this year in their respective events.

"Competing at state was an incredible experience, and I am so proud of Delaney and Billy for how well they did," Fishback said. "I know they are going to prosper in college and in their future careers."

This marked the 10th consecutive year that RedHawk journalists advanced to the state finals. No competition was held in 2020 due to the pandemic.

In all, 37 RedHawks have advanced since 2011 and 11 RedHawks have taken medals at state, with one state champion, PJ Cunningham '21 in headline writing.



photo by John Gonczy

(l to r) Junior Emma Fishback and seniors Delaney Powers and Billy McNicholas advanced to the IHSA state journalism finals on April 22, with Powers taking second place in copy editing and McNicholas taking fourth place in sports writing. This marked the second consecutive year these students advanced to state.

Brown and Pochyly announce their retirements

‘We had so much fun along the way’

Olivia Carter

junior reporter

Note to readers: At the time this press conference was held, the retirements of Mr. Don Richardson (physical education) and Mrs. Kerry Mullaney (development office) had not been announced.

With combined service of 39 years, Director of Admissions Alex Brown and Director of Campus Ministry Colleen Pochyly have announced their retirements.

Brown started in 2001 and Pochyly in 2004. They met with reporters for a press conference to reflect on their experiences and share their plans for the future.

Brown had a unique experience of how she started. Brown worked on Wall Street for ten years and took 11 years off to raise her kids. She ended up in Chicago because her husband was offered a job there, so they moved.

“I heard Marist High School was going co-ed,” Brown said. “I am a staunch advocate for co-ed Catholic education. I was doing a lot of work at St. Linus, and I thought I’d see if I could get a job [at Marist]. I started the year when we were still all male and helped with the transition when the girls came.”

Pochyly was working as a decorator for Marist for six months when they asked her to teach. Her initial response was no, but she eventually changed her mind.

“Well, they obviously talked me into it,” Pochyly said. “I really felt like this was an opportunity where God knocked at my door. It just felt right.”

Pochyly and Brown discussed the changes they have witnessed at Marist and how the school has improved over the years.

Some of the changes that Pochyly and Brown mentioned are the IDEA room, the science wing, the installation of artificial turf on Red and White Field and the creation of the broadcast studio.

“I think [the changes] say a lot for the leadership here because they are committing to the future,” Brown said. “They are talking about how next year or the year after will be different. I am very impressed. If you’re not moving, you are standing still.”



Alex Brown

Pochyly shared what she loves about going to work every day and what she will miss when she is gone.

“It’s the kids,” Pochyly said. “You guys are life-affirming and reassuring to me because you’re the future. When I look at all of you, I can take a deep sigh and say it’s going to be okay. Your creativity, your love, your ability to reach out to each other, your intelligence, all of that. You guys are great to come to work to every day.”

Pochyly and Brown agreed that they will not miss getting up in the morning and driving to Marist. Brown shared her hopes to visit her siblings more often and experience more leisure time.

“I will appreciate having time to myself instead of giving it to someone else,” Brown said. “I think that’s what ultimately led me to the decision to retire. As you get older, time is the commodity you have that is the most valuable. So, how do you want to spend it?”

Brown is looking forward to spending time in warm weather. She will initially spend a few months in Florida, and then plan the rest of her retirement from there.

Pochyly is planning to travel and spend time in a variety of different countries.

“I’m going to rent an Airbnb in a different country for a few months every year,” Pochyly said. “I would like to live in Italy, Spain, Croatia, Wales and Ireland.”

Brown, who will retire in December 2022, wants her successor to bring compassion and she also stressed the importance of being open and welcome to change.



Colleen Pochyly

“There’s nothing more important to people than their children,” Brown said. “I think it’s really important that parents feel like their children are taken care of here. I think that having and showing compassion goes a long way toward achieving that.”

Pochyly ultimately wants the new campus minister to be accepting and dedicated to Marist.

“It’s a special place to work,” Pochyly said. “A willingness to work around the clock, strong dedication and just a love of kids that transcends everything is so important. Also, it’s important to accept everyone, no matter who they are, where they came from, what they look like or what their orientation is.”

Brown credits the whole Marist community, especially the students, with achieving the welcoming atmosphere that continues to attract incoming classes of RedHawks.

“I really feel like there’s something for everyone here,” Brown said. “I think that’s what kids [see when they] come in to look at the school. They feel welcomed and they can see themselves here. Not only does the leadership and the faculty do that, but you [students] create that.”

Pochyly said that her goal over the years was to contribute to that welcoming atmosphere.

“I just hope I taught kids to be accepting, to listen better, to see God in each other and to always look for the good,” Pochyly said. “I hope I provided a safety net for kids while I was here. And maybe a little bit of faith to carry with them as they grow.”

Mullaney, Richardson finish after combined 53 years of service

Jenesia Diaz

senior reporter

The 2021-2022 school year will be the last for physical education teacher Don Richardson and the advancement team’s database coordinator Kerry Mullaney. Richardson is retiring after 33 years of service, while Mullaney is retiring after 20 years at Marist.

Richardson graduated from Marist in 1977, but first came to visit the school when he was four years old and his older brothers were attending.



Don Richardson



Kerry Mullaney

Richardson returned in 1989 to teach religion and as the assistant varsity basketball coach.

“I will miss the people here,” Richardson said. “I’ll especially miss those kids who didn’t consider themselves athletes but gave it their all and had fun. There were so many classes and teams over the years where we just had so much fun.”

He leaves with many fond memories of his 33 years teaching and coaching here.

“My favorite memories are of simple times, like dodgeball Fridays with my classes, big wins with our teams and laughs with my colleagues in the athletic office,” he said.

Mullaney came to Marist in 2002 to work part time with Alex Brown in admissions doing data entry. In December of that year, she applied for and got the database coordinator position in the advancement office.

“There’s a lot I’m going to miss,” Mullaney said. “First of all, it’s going to be the people. We’ve had great times and lots of fun over the years.”

Her best memory is giving her four children their Marist diplomas at graduation.

“Allowing the faculty and staff to present their children with their diplomas is a really nice gesture,” she said.

Like many others, Mullaney saw her role here as more than just a job.

“I look back on my time here as a calling,” she said. “I’ve enjoyed every minute of what I was doing. It’s been a great ride.”

Connelly ends epic run as girls’ basketball coach

Billy McNicholas

senior reporter

Girls’ varsity basketball head coach Mary Pat Connolly, who started the program at Marist when the school went co-ed in 2002, is stepping down this year but will continue teaching next year.

Why have you decided to step away from coaching?

I’m retiring after 30 years of coaching, 20 of which have been at Marist. I have different loves in my life now and I would like to enjoy them without having to worry about the program.

What will you miss most and least about coaching?

I will miss going into practices with the girls every day and forming new relation-



ships. I will also miss the camaraderie among coaches. I will not miss having the program on my mind 24/7, 365 days a year.

What are your proudest accomplishments?

When we went downstate in ‘08 and took home a fourth place trophy with a team of hard-nosed, gritty players who never wanted to lose. I’m proud whenever

former players text or call. I’m also proud to see former athletes coaching their own kids and doing well.

Is there anything you wish you could have done as a coach that you were not able to?

I wish we could have given the program a state championship title.

What is your advice for your successor?

Enjoy the girls and treat them like gold. They will always remember how you treated them.

What advice do you have for current and future RedHawks?

Don’t let anyone tell you you aren’t good enough to play at Marist or even the next level. Follow your dream.

Profile in courage: Delaney Keenan

‘You never know what others are going through’

Molly Eklund

senior reporter

Senior Delaney Keenan was diagnosed with a cellular parotid gland tumor in her neck on November 3, 2021.

Parotid glands are two salivary glands that sit in front of the ears on the face. They produce saliva to help chewing and digesting food. The cancer begins in one of the salivary glands and it becomes an abnormal growth of cells that form in the parotid glands.

“It was hard for me to chew,” Keenan said. “I was not getting the right amount of saliva.”

About a month and a half before her diagnosis, Keenan started to feel as though something was wrong.

She had her wisdom teeth removed, and her face was swollen for almost eight weeks. Since her immune system was compromised following the oral surgery, she was unable to fight off the cancer cells she did not yet know were continuing to form.

“I had to go back to the doctor 12 times,” Keenan said. “I noticed a lump, but didn’t tell anyone until I realized it was affecting everything I was doing.”

The doctors did not find anything for a month or so until after she visited the ear, nose and throat doctor. Keenan had two ultrasounds, three MRI’s and multiple CT scans before the tumor was detected and a surgery was scheduled.

Keenan’s surgery was on November 30, 2021 and lasted four hours. When she woke up, Keenan had a drain tube in her neck. When her scar was healed, Keenan had to get an MRI to confirm that the cancerous cells were eliminated.

“The doctors got everything out during surgery,” Keenan said. “I was thankful for the doctors and hospital staff every step of the way. But my doctors cannot deem me into remission for the next five years, since I’m so young,” Keenan said. “I have to get MRI’s every five months and blood tests every three months.”

Keenan says she felt extremely supported throughout her journey. Friends and teachers would reach out. They brought gifts, baskets and treats.

“Mrs. Cozzie, Mr. Christensen, Mrs. Novak, Mr. Vickers and Mrs. Washington came to my house for a visit,” Keenan said. “I even got a video of Mrs. Dunneback going through my classes and my friends saying hi to me.”

Having attended Catholic schools since kindergarten, Keenan says that faith played a major role throughout her journey. Religion teacher Karen Ramirez made Keenan a rosary that she would pray every night.

“Being seventeen and going through this, I was very scared,” Keenan said. “The only thing I could do was pray and that’s what I did.”

As a senior in high school who had things she wanted to do, Keenan was faced with some setbacks from getting to do the things she wanted.

“I was supposed to go on Kairos November 30th,” Keenan said. “I had to push it off since my surgery date was that day.”

Keenan was able to reschedule and attend the February Kairos. That Kairos was cut a day short due to the snow, but Keenan says she loved the retreat.

“I was a little nervous going on it since you have no idea what to expect,” Keenan said. “It turned out that I loved every second of it. I was even asked to come back as a leader for the final Kairos of the year.”

Keenan says she loved leading and met some “really great girls” who are now some of her closest friends. The experience helped her during the healing process of post-surgery.

“I don’t talk about what’s wrong in my life and it just felt easy to,” Keenan said. “Kairos helped me learn to be thankful for everything I have now and think of the past as something I conquered.”

Keenan is also an athlete. She has figure skated since the age of six, and played softball since the age of four.



photo by Faith Harper

Senior Delaney Keenan learned a great deal more about life over the past four years than any high school should have to. She hopes that sharing the story of her courageous battle with cancer will inspire others to be more reflective and thoughtful, especially when it comes to dealing with and how we view other people around us.

“I never would have thought my life would take the turn that it did,” Keenan said. “Having to stop skating was probably the worst thing for me because skating was my life.”

Since Keenan is a senior, she had to miss her last Christmas show on the ice. She has since returned to skating and is happier than ever. Keenan will continue her skating career at the University of Kentucky next year.

She hopes that her fellow RedHawks can benefit from her story.

“I want others to learn from my experience and never give up,” Keenan said. “Teenagers often judge people without getting to know them first.”

Keenan also says that she never would have thought that the friends she has today would have been her friends three months ago because “you have to take the time to get past judging a book by its cover.”

Her experience has also taught her to develop greater empathy for people and to appreciate the simpler things in life.

“I also want people to know that you never know what others are going through until you really take the time to get to know them and learn their stories,” Keenan said. “A simple text, phone call or visit can brighten someone’s day. It sure helped me get through this awful time.”

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

This is not goodbye. This is farewell.

“Enjoy high school, it’s gonna go by quick” are the words I’ve heard countless times from family and elders. I’ve heard those words from the end of eighth grade to the beginning of freshman year. I even remember shrugging those words off, thinking I had all the time in the world to enjoy my high school years, but I was so wrong. High school went by faster than I could ever imagine. It feels like just yesterday I was entering the doors of Marist for the first time in my life, happy for the new journey that awaited.

Although it has been a very hectic four years of my life, I am proud to be a RedHawk. I wasn’t able to experience most of my sophomore year or any of my junior year thanks to COVID, but I’m glad school was still in session during those times. Because of that, we didn’t have to make up anything and we kept on schedule, but remote learning did take a big toll. My motivation tanked and I remember getting into a bad state of mental health where I cut myself off from the rest of the world. Some days I didn’t attend classes, and I didn’t do any work. I am extremely grateful to all of



Jenesia Diaz

my sophomore and junior teachers who understood my struggles and helped me through it all, especially Mr. Gouterman. And I am grateful to all of my friends, despite my not keeping in touch, for still checking up on me and remaining by my side through all these years.

Despite COVID, I still made the most of my high school experience. I’ve made close friends who make me smile and laugh, and make me comfortable in my own skin. I don’t have to be anyone other

than myself around them. I’ve gone to dances, games and parties. I’ve made memories and have done a lot of things I wouldn’t ever imagine doing back in middle school. Some were responsible decisions and others were plain dumb, but that’s the point of it.

I was able to come out of my shell in high school and go on so many adventures with my friends. I was able to discover myself and become more confident in who and what I am.

I’ve made dumb choices, learned from them and made good choices. These past four years have truly been an experience I wouldn’t ever trade.

As I come towards the end of my high school chapter, the end of senior year, I prepare myself for adulthood. I reflect back on the past four years attending Marist and reflect on my future going to college. My next chapter is a surprise, but I hope it’ll be as fun of an adventure as this one was.

Senior year, despite having its drama, is one of the best years I have experienced, and I am happy I get to spend it with the ones I consider to be my friends and family.

Until we meet again, RedHawks

“High school is the best four years of your life.” It’s not. The people who say this peaked in high school. Don’t be like them. Have a good time in high school and then keep going up. High school is great and all but don’t let it be the best. There is so much more life ahead of us to experience.

I remember when I started high school that I was told these next four years would fly by. Yeah right, four years is such a long time it’s not going to “fly by.” Next thing I know I’m a senior about to graduate and take the next step toward my future. High school was a “blink and you miss it” experience, so make sure you stop and take time to appreciate where you are currently.

High school isn’t all fun and games though. It’s like a roller coaster filled with epic highs and excruciating lows. Everything seems to be going great and then before you know it everything is crumbling before you. You’ll make friends and you’ll lose friends, but keep the ones who count. The ones you’ll laugh with, cry with and, most importantly, learn with.



Katelyn Finley

I was very apprehensive to attend Marist at first. I didn’t know many people going here and the thought of meeting new people freaked me out. When I saw all the classes and clubs offered I felt totally overwhelmed. I just joined what interested me and making friends wasn’t the task I thought it would be. I met plenty of new people and made friends, all of whom I’m very thankful for. I now recognize that the

people who mattered the most stayed and the people who left just weren’t meant to be and that’s okay.

As a freshman I didn’t care very much for my academics, I just made okay grades and I was okay with that. Then, I realized how important my grades were to me. I went from being careless to making the dean’s list. I’m so proud of myself and how far I’ve come and I have the teachers here to thank. I always think back to what Mr. Meyer told my class in our sophomore year. “Do your best, that’s all anyone could ever ask of you.” That has stuck with me all these years and inspires me to do my best.

Try new things. There are so many opportunities presented throughout high school, you’d be a fool to pass them up. I wish I took advantage of more opportunities. There are so many things I wish I did in high school. So please, take my word for it and take these chances. It doesn’t matter if you’re a freshman or a senior, it’s never too late to participate.

Take those risks, RedHawks!

Throughout my time here, I have gone through it all. Five schedules, three principals, two presidents at Marist, two presidents of our country and, most of all, a worldwide pandemic that made me realize how absolutely gross the world is. It still baffles me how we all used to drink from the same water fountains and think nothing of it.

Honestly, I think some good things came out of the pandemic. Of course, I did not want all of the death that came from it, but it opened our eyes. Our eyes opened to the little things that are crucial to our lives like basic human physical interaction. With the streets empty and the grocery stores empty, we were all extremely grateful for finding that one roll of toilet paper in the back of the bathroom closet.

Although the pandemic was a big hit on me, I struggled with my mental and physical health all four years. Freshman year I struggled with my grandmother’s sudden death and other struggles and the people here at Marist were extremely understanding and kind during everything.



Kaylee Frederking

Now fast forward to my senior year, where I needed to be on crutches the whole last semester. I had surgery on my hip for a torn labrum in April. Again, Marist was great with negotiating and helping me with my school work and accommodating to my physical needs.

Kindness was always something that I encountered at Marist. There was always at least one person who could make me smile and feel happy, whether it be in the halls or in the classroom. I also always enjoyed

being part of the *Sentinel*, Relay For Life and SADD.

I joined Marist theatre as a scared freshman. I was hesitant to audition because I felt that I would not have been good enough for the show.

I was about to leave the auditorium when a girl stopped me. My heart froze. She introduced herself as Emma Brown, and she was the stage manager. Emma taught me how to lead, how to motivate and most importantly how to believe in myself. I will never forget what she said to me right before she graduated.

“Remember, kid,” she said, “don’t be afraid to take risks. Don’t be afraid to push yourself and others. I’m proud of you.”

I took what she said to heart and applied it to everything in school and in life. I remember it when I doubt myself and it motivates me to be who I am today.

Lastly, I want to thank one special person who helped me grow academically and morally and became my favorite teacher over the last three years.

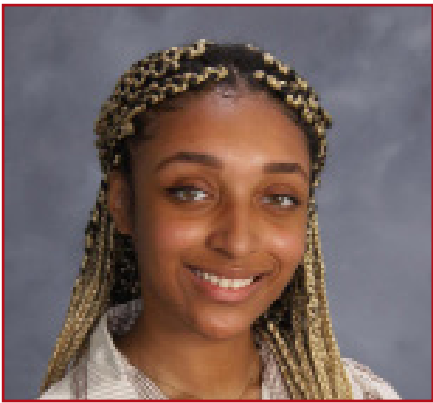
Thank you for everything, Gonczy. You’re not too harsh.

Cut! Scene! Roll the credits!

At moments during my time at Marist, I found myself pointing an accusatory finger toward all television adaptations of what being a high school teen is supposed to be like. There was no grandmother visiting to tell me I was royal, no show choirs that continuously performed tributes to Journey and unfortunately no celebrity pretending to be a student just to escape the horrors of stardom.

However, this does not mean that I missed out on everything a 25-year-old actor in trendy clothing undergoes on the big screen. I was gifted with my most cherished Hollywood teen romcom experience: memories.

For one, I had the typical friend group that ranged from the most flamboyant to the humblest of spirit. When I think back on my freshman year, I recall how my enemy-turned-confidante, Kennedy Tate, and I suffered through countless volleyball practices and tear filled calls over novels we had read. I will always remember collaborating with you on story ideas in Starbucks for hours on end. My time here also allowed me to not only continue old



Faith Harper

relationships but also kindle new ones, and those friendships are ones I hope to hold on to beyond Marist.

As I observe freshmen, I like to recall my days in Mr. Karr's class and continue to be lucky to have had him twice a day my first year. Our class' Romeo and Juliet dueling will forever live in my mind and so will my speech arguments about why child beauty pageants should be banned.

The ARC continues to be a place of peace for me and a time to talk books with

Mrs. Rademacher. This was also marked a place of reverence during junior year when I spent hours memorizing the characters in the game Guess Who with my best friend and Matthew Elenty. Those long minutes were not in vain because now we are skilled professionals at the trivial yet competitive board game. This place also symbolizes my gratitude toward Delaney Powers for dragging me to my first book club meeting a year ago, just for us to now stand as co-presidents together.

I have my journalism family to thank for always keeping our classes interesting and the groupchat names clever. The film "Shattered Glass" repeats in my brain whenever I write something and will permanently traumatize me from committing fabrication as I go on to college to pursue a career in magazine media.

Marist will live on to be the place where I was backlocked, founded my first natural hair club and connected with people whom I send countless TikToks to and who have not blocked my number...yet. I do see the credits rolling ahead, but I sense a sequel next fall, so keep a lookout for an update.

High school is a ride



Delaney Powers

High school was a ride with ups and downs, giant drops and turns. But we were not on this ride alone.

Our families were always there for us when we went on the little rides that prepared us for the ride of high school and helped us after any sharp turn or drop.

Our teachers were the engineers, preparing us for the biggest ride ever: the future. They designed a course they believed we could handle and if we couldn't, they were there to guide us. But they did not just prepare us for the next ride, they taught us lessons on how to be good people in the future.

Don't be afraid of what's around the next turn. Appreciate the steady climb to the top. And don't be surprised by the giant drop on the other side. Help the next person in line by sharing what you learned from your ride to prepare them for their ride.

Some awesome engineers I had were Mr. Butler, Mrs. Rademacher, Coach Sefcik and Mr. Gonczy.

The cart on this ride is not for one person. All 399 students in the Class of 2022 are on this ride together. Everyone can handle the ride with a great group of friends. Some leave and go to another track but true friends stay and even go on the next ride with you.

I started this ride knowing no one, but now, my cart is full of amazing friends that are capable of anything from helping sick kids to writing a best selling book.

Like any ride, there are giant drops and turns that make everyone sick. The biggest down on this particular ride was the pandemic. But it did not stop the ride. We were able to continue our ride and value the smaller ups like seeing each other's smiles.

Also, being able to compete in sports which has its own ups and downs. Baseball was always an up in my life. I started this ride with no friends from junior high. And even though I started this new ride, I still held the insecurities from junior high with me. But, with the help of my amazing journalism and Kairos 166 table besties, I was able to forget those downs and enjoy this ride while it lasts.

Unfortunately, this ride is almost over. This ride ends with graduation. It's bittersweet because it has been a long ride with ups and downs and the next ride is scary and much longer than four years. But our teachers and families have definitely prepared us for it. Our best friends and family will be with us at the top and help us up after the drops.

But no matter the course, we are all on this ride together.

Now, as I prepare to get off this ride, here's my advice for the next person in line: give and ask for help, be kind, appreciate the little things, dream big and above all, use your greatest power: your voice.

The difference four years makes

When I talk about my four years of high school, of course I have to look at my development academically and as a journalist. But the most important development to me through these years was my personal development.

When I walked through the doors of Marist for the first time my freshman year, I was a short, overweight, underdeveloped kid who had almost no direction of what to do through his first year and who to call friends. This is how I remained the rest of my freshman year, which to me now is a complete blur.

My physical state did not change much into my sophomore year, but I started to open myself up some more to my classmates and enjoyed myself in school. The same year came the COVID-19 pandemic which does not need to be talked about for what would feel like the millionth time, but it is important to note that I think this was the point in my life where I changed.

The next school year, I was a changed man both physically and mentally. I grew



Billy McNicholas

taller, slimmed down and gained confidence to make me feel better about myself. It was obviously unfortunate to only have half of the school around for the entire year, but I had more opportunities outside of school now to be social.

The summer after my junior year was the start of what has been the best year of my life. Before then I had some very close friends, but I felt as these were the only true ones I had and the other people I hung out

with alongside them did not see me as their friend. This had been a nagging thought to me for a while, but I finally overcame it and now I have a number of great friends and have the confidence to make more later in my life.

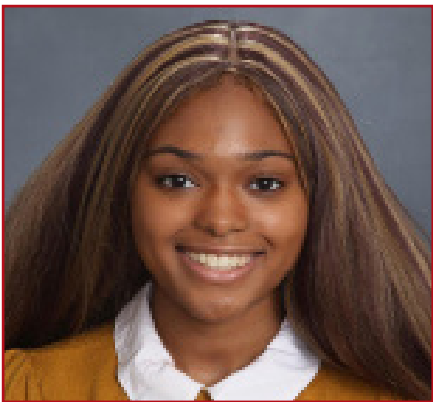
Through my senior year, I have opened up to more people and have found myself enjoying being around them. I have met more people that I would call friends. I have fulfilled my dream to attend Michigan State University and have taken one step further towards my dream job. The point I am at now in my life is not where I thought I would be while I was a freshman, and I am extremely happy about the way people have shaped me to be.

The best advice I could give anyone is never mask your personality. There are plenty of people who will like you for who you are and the others on the side will not be bothered by you. I wish I had been given this advice before high school, but having learned this lesson myself over the past four years has been the reason I am the happiest I have been in my life.

Thanks for the memories

Let me just start off by saying at the time I'm writing this, it still has not hit me that I am graduating and, in a few months, I will be in college. When I first started at Marist a little more than over three years ago, I would have never thought I would turn out to be the person that I am today. I thought I would still be that girl who was obsessed with the High School Musical franchise and Nicki Minaj (I mean, I am still a barb for life, but I am trying to get to a point just give me a second). However, in all honesty, this is what I looked forward to. Not being a whole new person per say, but finding growth within myself. It took four years but I finally found it.

What I will miss most about this school, I cannot say. It was not like my experience was bad, it is just that I have severe memory loss. So I guess my title is kind of ironic. But if I truly had to think about it, it is probably—well, I still got nothing. Maybe the food? No, that's not it. Crushes? Like I had any here. Teachers? Gonczy. Definitely Gonczy. Can't forget my favorite, Ms. Hoffmann. Love you!



Jordan Mighty

To my underclassmen, cherish the time you have to be a teenager. This time of your life goes by quickly. Do not let it be a waste. Go out with your friends when you get the chance, you will appreciate the experience and the memories. I used to be a homebody until I forced myself to do things with others. It made living the high school experience so much better.

To my class, class of 2022, we are up. I hope all of you become successful in life as

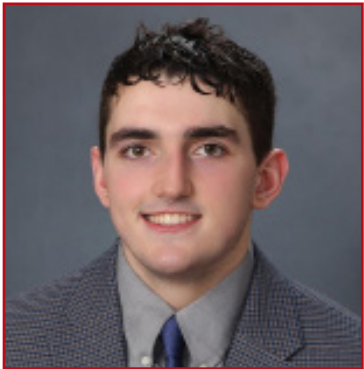
I know I will. Who would have thought we would be the class to have a somewhat normal school year after the pandemic. I will miss some of you. Not all of you though, because I probably do not know 30-40 percent of you.

I mean, the one thing I will say that Marist helped me with is being prepared to move onto the next level of my life. I feel as though I am academically and socially prepared for what is next ahead. So, thank you Marist.

Shoutout to everyone. No I will not call out specific people, because everyone deserves a shoutout. I would feel really bad if anyone felt left out, so congratulations to all of you. Accept this honor with grace, no matter if you are four, 14 or 40 years old.

Did I hit everything? I hope I did as everything I wrote came from the top of my head at 12:03 a.m.

And I am not going to lie to you guys. Do not expect me to show up for a class reunion, as my peak will not be from going to high school. Bye!



best personality (male)
Declan Swistowicz

You voted.
We tabulated.

Here are your choices for this year's
"MOST LIKELY TO"
and
"BEST IN CLASS"
AWARDS



best personality (female)
Bridget Smith



class clown
Jack Cantorna



rowdiest RedHawk
Nora McClorey

*Students
for four
years.*

*Brothers
and
sisters
for life.*



most studious
Brian Winstead



biggest gossip
Jordan Mighty

Fellow seniors,

When you think you are down for the count,
keep on fighting.

With everything we have endured over the past
four years, the pandemic, the highs and lows-
no matter where we find ourselves in life, we
must keep on pushing through those lows...

...because the highs make it all worthwhile.

Gavin Murphy, Student Council President



most likely to become
president of the U.S.
Mark Viz



most likely to be late to
graduation
Chloe Campbell



most likely to teach at
Marist
Mary Englehart



most likely to become a
professional athlete (male)
Jimmy Rolder



most likely to become a
professional athlete (female)
Emily Bojan



most likely never to leave
the southside
William Quinn



most likely to become a
millionaire
Kelly Hughes



most likely to become a
celebrity
Isabella Gorney



most likely to travel around
the world
Devin Guest



most likely to write a best-
selling novel
Delaney Powers



biggest teacher's pet
Kylie Sinal

Congratulations
Class of 2022!

Girls’ varsity soccer faces McAuley tonight

Faith Harper
senior reporter

The RedHawk varsity girls’ soccer team pushed through the season with 10 wins and nine losses. This year’s team had 22 players, including 13 seniors, and head coach Chris Roe explained how matches have made the players improve throughout the spring.

“Competition was strong as we began the year looking for our identity,” Roe said. “Coaching the girls this year and every year always has its challenges and rewards. We played [well] with injuries and absences to overcome [but] it has made us stronger as the girls stepped in and showed what they were made of.”

Senior captain Rayne Cave noted her experiences from her last season with hopes for better matches to come.

“Since we have been playing the top teams in the state, wins were limited in the first few weeks,” Cave said. “Most of our losses have been close, hard-fought games and I couldn’t be prouder of the girls for stepping up when necessary despite the setbacks we’ve faced.”

The junior varsity RedHawks also faced challenges due to tough competition and weather conditions that interrupted the team’s momentum. Adopting new traditions this season, like going to Flapjacks after practice and playing Taylor Swift or Pitbull on the way to matches, the girls believed in keeping a positive attitude.

“We have played [against] some tough teams but our greatest challenge was Lincoln-Way East,” sophomore Sofia Vazquez said. “They play in ways that our coach wants us to [imitate]. Our greatest challenge has been the weather. We had four or five cancelled games due to lightning or snow.”

The varsity team plays its final regular season game against McAuley tonight at 7 p.m. at Br. Rice’s Little Stadium. The seniors are hoping to finish with a win.

“We are looking forward to our game against Mother McAuley on the seniors’ last day of school because it has always been a meaningful game to us,” Cave said. “I think the greatest thing I’ll take away from this season is to never take anything for granted and to take every moment as an opportunity to better myself.”



photo by Morgan Gonzalez

Junior midfielder Gina Czochara defends the RedHawk girls’ varsity soccer team against an opponent from St. Viator in the home game on April 19. The team’s last regular season game is against McAuley tonight at 7 at Br. Rice’s Little Stadium. The state series begins with regional quarterfinals at on May 13.



photo by Caera Kennedy

Senior lacrosse player Sam Colón battles to score over Mt. Carmel on April 26, with the RedHawks defeating the Caravan 12-6. The boys’ varsity plays at Andrew tomorrow at 4:30 p.m. while the girls’ varsity is at Fenwick tomorrow at 4:45 p.m.

Lacrosse seasons wind down

John O’Shea
sophomore reporter

The girls’ varsity lacrosse team is preparing for the final regular games after a difficult season.

The team took wins against Carmel, Mother McAuley and Nazareth, but lost to Lincoln-Way Central and Saint Viator 14-10 on May 3.

Head coach, José Colón is optimistic about what is to come with the team next year, expressing it was difficult to reach their full potential when the better half of the year was plagued by COVID-19 restrictions. Despite the difficulties the team faced this school year, Colón is very impressed with their dynamic.

“The girls have a very good bond,” Colón said. “They’re good, strong, young core players.”

As the season closes, it marks the end of the seniors’ time with the team. Defensive player junior Abby Vanderwarren said they will be missed.

“Seniors do a lot for the team, and I don’t think a lot of people realize it,” Vanderwarren said. “They always push us in the days where we have a bad practice, or it’s raining outside, or it’s freezing, they’re always the ones pushing us and telling us we’re going to get through it.”

The varsity boys’ lacrosse team went into last Thursday night’s game with an 11-5 record, but lost to St. Viator, 6-10.

Head coach Chaas Collins appreciated how the team worked together this year.

“I think we are emotionally energized, and I think our team chemistry is great,” Collins said. “Everybody really enjoys each other this year.”

With 12 seniors on the team, Collins felt it was fitting to give some parting advice to them.

“Take the lessons you’ve learned and the friendships you’ve made and try to expand on them as you grow older.”

The boys play at Andrew tomorrow at 5:30 p.m. while the girls play at Fenwick tomorrow at 4:45 p.m.

Boys’ relay team breaks record

Billy McNicholas
senior reporter

The girls’ varsity track team is looking to make a push in sectionals on May 18 at Morton West after overcoming challenges that poor weather put on the team throughout the season.

“We have not been able to practice everyday due to it being cold and wet,” head coach Richard Karnia said. “This has been the most challenging year for athletes to run at full speed. Many meets were also affected by cold weather and wind. It’s hard to run fast when it’s cold.”

The team’s goal to win the ESCC conference fell short after finishing third, but the goal to qualify multiple girls for state remains.

“Top individuals with an opportunity are Grace Misiunas in the High Jump, 100 hurdles and 300 low hurdles, Katie Tracy in the 300 and 400, Abby Quinn and Reilly Smith in the two mile, Brenna Dunlap in pole vault and Emma Karczewski in the 800,” Karnia said.

The boys’ varsity team competes at the ESCC Championship meet at Notre Dame at 2 p.m. today, fresh off a first place finish at Br. Rice on May 2. They will join the girls on May 18 at Morton West for sectionals.

The highlight of the season was when sophomore Lucas Parr, senior Tyler O’Brochta, senior Michael Coy and senior AK Agee broke the school record for the 4x100 relay, set in 1984, with a new time of 43.13.

“[Breaking the record] was an amazing accomplishment that my teammates and I were striving for since last year,” O’Brochta said. “When we learned of the time we were ecstatic and couldn’t believe we finally had done it.”

Going into conference today and looking forward to sectionals, the seniors in particular want to finish strong.

“We’re just going to run our race and hopefully improve over what we have already accomplished,” Coy said. “If we can do that, there’s no question about who is winning conference and sectionals.”



photo by Veronica Melo

Varsity runner junior Danny Olsen (shown), senior Brendan Geary, senior Sammy McNamara and senior Kyle Quinn won the 4x400m at the Br. Rice Relay on May 2. The RedHawks also finished first as a team at the meet.

RedHawk varsity baseball alumni make coach proud

Delaney Powers
senior reporter

The varsity baseball team has a record of 13-11 as of today, with a roster of 11 seniors, 10 juniors and one sophomore. The seniors are stepping up to lead teammates with little varsity experience.

“After losing in the playoffs last year, we decided to adopt a leadership mindset” senior pitcher, outfielder and first baseman George Bilecki said. “I took it as my role to teach these sophomores and juniors everything I learned from my past teammates.”

Coach Kevin Sefcik and the team are also proud of former players who are enjoying success after high school.

Jack Snyder ’16 was signed on February 25 to the Tampa Bay Rays minor league team.

“I’m very excited for him,” Sefcik said. “I remember the first day we tried telling him that he was going to be a pitcher and he was upset that he wasn’t going to bat

again. It’s cool when your ex-players are doing really well and still love playing.”

As for this year’s MLB draft, Sefcik hopes to see additional RedHawks chosen.

“The hope is to get three alumni drafted this year,” Sefcik said. “Jack Brannigan ’19 from Notre Dame, Kendal Ewell ’19 from Eastern Kentucky University and Justin Janas ’19 from University of Illinois all have a chance. Those guys were all good players here and they’re having great college careers.”

As the seniors play their last high school games, they are reflecting on how much they have changed in four years.

“Since freshman year, I learned that putting pressure on yourself makes the game harder,” senior pitcher Collin Amsden said. “I try to play loose and win every pitch. Becoming a better teammate also has been very important to me.”

The team plays away at Carmel Catholic tomorrow at 4:30 p.m. and hosts Br. Rice on Sunday, May 15 at 1 p.m. The last regular home game will be on May 23 at 5 p.m. against Andrean (Indiana).



photo by Katelyn Finley

Sophomore Frankie Bilecki pitches for the varsity RedHawks against Notre Dame High School on April 23. The RedHawks won 1-0. The team’s next home game is against Br. Rice on Sunday, May 15 at 1 p.m.



photo by Kylie Brosius

The boys’ varsity volleyball team gets ready for a serve from their Benet opponent in the Red and White Gym on April 19. The RedHawks won in two, 25-17 and 25-13. The team hosts Glenbard West tomorrow night at 7:30 p.m. and Br. Rice on Monday at 6 p.m.

Boys volleyball team stands 30-2

Jenesia Diaz
senior reporter

After the pandemic affected the team’s last two seasons, boys’ varsity volleyball coach Jordan Vidovic and his team are enjoying a normal and winning season.

“We had a great shot to win a state championship in 2020 but did not get the chance to play which was difficult,” Vidovic said. “But we have gotten back to our normal routine this year and have gotten off to a great start.”

The team opened the season on March 23 with a win over Sandburg and continues to rack up victories as the playoffs approach.

With the season almost over, and the seniors on the team leaving for college, head coach Jordan Vidovic shares his goals for this season.

“We have a mix of all ages and a very cohesive group” Vidovic said. “This team sets a great tone in practice everyday and players support one another as we strive to understand what it takes to play at the highest level with discipline and detail.”

Vidovic also noted how the team’s toughest competitors is themselves, as well as how the team will be like when the graduating seniors are off to college and no longer on the team.

“We need to push each other and compete with each other every day in practice to make playing feel easy and comfortable,” Vidovic said. “We will prepare the returning players by taking what they learned from the current seniors and letting them put their own spin on it.”

Senior outside hitter and team captain Kellen O’Keefe looks forward to a strong finish.

“I want to help lead the team to a conference championship win and hopefully a state championship,” O’Keefe said. “Our willingness to succeed and our closeness as a team has allowed us to hold a winning record thus far, and I want to perform my best going forward.”

The team hosts Glenbard West tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. and the final home game of the season will be on Monday at 6 p.m. against Br. Rice.

Softball team sets sights on state

Olivia Carter
junior reporter

With an overall record of 19-4-1 as of today, the RedHawk varsity girls’ softball team is having a strong year and the girls remain optimistic about the rest of the season.

The team, led by head coach Colleen Phelan, hopes to continue to win games and get another state championship title by the end of the season.

“We have the same goal every year and it is to put us in a position to compete for a state championship [title]” Phelan said. “We work everyday towards that goal, and are making strides in the right direction.”

The RedHawks started off strong with wins against Shepard (10-0), Andrew (12-2) and Huntley (2-0).

The fourth game was a tie against Lincoln Way Central with a score of 5-5. Senior captain Kylie Sinal shared her thoughts on the LWC match.

“I believe this was the best game of the season because it showed how much grit

and fight we have,” Sinai said. We started the game from behind, but each inning we battled our way back until we tied in the last inning. We ended up in extra innings and tied in the eleventh inning when it got too dark to play. I loved this game because we had so much energy and passion from start to finish.”

Senior captain Sierra Sass said she loves the team and looks forward to every single game.

“Everyone is constantly motivating each other or picking one another up after a bad at bat or an error on the field,” Sass said. “Reminding each other that we can come back if we are losing is a huge way to keep everyone locked in and competitive.”

The RedHawks host the next four games, beginning with Nazareth Academy at 4:30 p.m. today, followed by Crown Point tomorrow at 4:30 p.m. On Saturday, the team faces Riverside-Brookfield at 1 p.m. and then Lake Central on Monday at 4:30 p.m.

The team also will enjoy home field advantage for the first round of the IHSA regionals on May 24 at 4:30 p.m.



photo by Rita Hoffman

Senior Kaitlyn Wright defends the RedHawks against Antioch from third base at the varsity girls’ softball game at home on April 19. The RedHawks won 7-2. The teams hosts Nazareth Academy today at 4:30 p.m.