



New principal grateful to be of service

Matthew Warakomski
senior reporter

Dr. Kathryn Baal officially took over as principal on July 1. Ironically, her early career dreams had nothing to do with education.

"I thought about becoming a physical therapist or going to medical school," Baal said. "But I volunteered to do service work. I applied to some service programs. One of the programs was at the University of Notre Dame called Alliance for Catholic Education or ACE."

Participating in the ACE program marked the beginning of Baal's journey into the world of Catholic education. It helped her discover her love of helping students and the adults who teach them.

"They put us into different Catholic schools, and I was assigned to Redemptorist High School in Baton Rouge, Louisiana," Baal said. "There I just really fell in love with teaching. So I never applied to medical school and I stuck with education ever since."

Baal returned to Chicago to teach science and math at St. Ignatius High School for five years. She left Ignatius to teach at Maine South and Downers Grove North High Schools, but returned to Catholic education at Loyola Academy in Wilmette, where she served as principal.

"I value education in general but while I was teaching in the public schools, I really missed being in Catholic high schools," Baal said. "I felt really called to be in Catholic education and to be with kids who were focused on their faith and who Christ was calling them to be."

Because of her passion for teaching, she never thought about going into administration.

"I never wanted to be a principal," Baal said. "When I was doing the service program, we received money from the government to be used toward our education. I decided to get my administrative certificate and then someone encouraged me to get my doctorate."

"While I was in the doctoral program at Loyola University, I met a lot of people who were administrators in public and Catholic schools. People started to see things in me which I didn't see. They told me, 'Katie you should move into administration.' So I became a department chair at Downers Grove North High School. From there I kept moving up."

As an administrator, there are parts of teaching that Baal does miss.

"I do miss teaching in some ways but now I get to work with adults," Baal said. "I've never looked at what I've done as a job, I look at it as a vocation. I've felt like this is where I'm called to be and this is where my gifts are being used best."

Baal said she was drawn to Marist because of its reputation for academic excellence and everything else that it has to offer the community.

"There are a lot of things I love about Marist," Baal said. "Reputation is one of the things I have been very picky in choosing where to work. I wanted to be in strong high schools with a wide range of learners, a diverse population, in schools that excel in a lot of areas. I love the academics of Marist, the athletics and the extracurricular activities, as well as

the strong faith component. I'm also a people person, I like the interactions and the relationships that are formed here. After being remote last spring, seeing the kids and the adults back in the building this year is especially wonderful."

Another reason she was drawn to Marist is that it brings her back to her southside roots to serve the community and people she is most familiar with.

"I was born at Little Company of Mary Hospital and grew up in Beverly, attending Christ the King grammar school," Baal said. "I then went to St. Ignatius, did my undergraduate work at St. Mary's of Notre Dame and earned my master's degree from Notre Dame."

In her free time, Baal enjoys swimming, cooking, reading, traveling and spending time with her family. She lost her father in 2013, and remains close to her mother, two sisters and their husbands and her nephews, whom "she adores."

Even as the COVID-19 pandemic continues, Baal refuses to let the virus put a damper on the school year.

"Certainly the pandemic has challenged us, but I'm up for a good challenge. We've had to rethink how education is done and how we function. How do we bring everyone back so that everyone is protected and stays safe? That has been our number one concern and it has been a huge team effort. But it's been worth every ounce of energy and time to open school."

While Baal continues to work hard daily in her first year as principal, she also acknowledges the hard work and dedication of the faculty. She finds their contributions "awe inspiring."

"I really do have to give shout outs to the faculty because they've worked very hard," Baal said. "I think a lot of teachers have had to think differently than they've had to think before. Our teachers have been working diligently to teach in a hybrid schedule and be prepared for all the students this year. It's been a lot of work on the teachers' parts. I have to say hats off to the teachers for getting Marist to where we are now."

Mr. Larry Tucker, who served as principal for 22 years before succeeding Brother Hank as president on July 1, hired Baal as director of curriculum and instruction last year. He quickly saw her as the best candidate to succeed him this year and expressed his admiration for the job she is doing so far.

"Dr. Baal is very well-grounded in Catholic education," Tucker said. "She is extremely intelligent, well-read on the current issues in education and she is always well-prepared. Most importantly, she carries a love for kids with her wherever she goes. Dr. Baal is collaborative in her leadership style yet is decisive when she needs to be. She has done a yeoman's job in researching and reading on the successful implementation of school in a COVID-19 climate. She draws on her experience and is a joy to work with."



photo by Kaylee Frederking

Principal Dr. Kathryn Baal checks a student in before school outside the main office entrance on Sept. 24. Baal took over as principal on July 1 and worked with the administrative team and various committees all summer to prepare for school to reopen on Aug. 28.

Student Council President Jack Harmon also offered his thoughts on Baal's leadership.

"Dr. Baal has many great characteristics that all students can admire as we look up to her as our leader," Harmon said. "Throughout this pandemic, she has shown great leadership and creativity by always trying to make our school experience the best it can be. She also has shown her resilience and great compassion as she really wants the students to get the most out of this school year."

Joining Baal on the administrative team this year are Mrs. Sarah Kolkmeier as assistant principal for academics, Mrs. Beth O'Neill as assistant principal for student services, Mr. Joe Inzinga, as dean of upperclassmen and Mr. Don Pirkle as dean of underclassmen. The team also works closely with the counseling department and the curriculum coordinators in each department.

Mrs. Carrie Spano is the curriculum coordinator for the science department and worked closely with Baal over the summer as a member of the safe return to school committee.

"Dr. Baal is a great leader, and we are lucky to have her at Marist," Spano said. "She has taught me a tremendous amount in her short time here. She brings extensive knowledge and experience with her to her new role as principal. She has a clear vision of how the future of Marist High School should look, and she empowers faculty and staff members to help her plan concrete steps to bring her vision to life."

Spano also admires how Baal combines a solid work ethic with fun and compassion.

"Her long hours and hard work will ensure the learning and growth of all students," Spano said. "I am so grateful for all of her work this spring and summer to allow us all to be here safely with our students during these tough times. Dr. Baal's fun and caring nature might be my favorite thing about her. Her thoughtful handwritten notes, inspiring weekly closer emails and creatively-planned events to build community are just a few of the ways this is evident."

As the school year continues, Baal reminds herself each day that she has come here to do Christ's work and to provide strong yet humble leadership to all RedHawks.

"I'm open to ideas," Baal said. "I love to talk to kids, so I hope they feel comfortable coming in and sharing their ideas. I believe Marist is their home and I want everyone to be a part of the design of that home. I love what I do and I try my hardest to look at things from every angle and through all lenses. I like to have fun and I don't want Marist to just be a place where you come and get information. I want Marist to be a place that's a part of you. I'm grateful to Brother Hank and Mr. Tucker for believing in me and believing I can do this job. I am here to serve you."

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Freshmen readers wins state writing awards

Jordan Mighty
junior reporter

Last fall, freshmen in Mr. Gonczy and Mrs. Cullen’s reading classes chose a novel to read from the annual Abe Lincoln book list put out by the Illinois State Library. Then students wrote a letter to the author of the book they chose, explaining how the book changed their view of the world.

The letters were submitted to the Illinois Secretary of State’s Letters About Literature contest and 12 RedHawks earned certificates for their writing. This was the highest number of certificates earned by RedHawks in this contest.

Jonathan Wagner, Matteo Filippo, Claude Jones, Kevin Kelly, Rose Kelly, Kamari Brown, Marissa Carrillo, Laura Cintron, Henry Nguyen, Margot Thorne, and Daniel Munoz won honorable mention certificates, while Jack Lamb emerged as a semi-finalist in the competition.

Lamb read *Don’t Get Caught* by Kurt Dinan.

“I thought the book was going to be funny because of the cover,” Lamb said. “But the inside of the book was really interesting. I learned lessons about popularity. One thing the book teaches is that you can be changed by what you do, and it doesn’t matter who you are. The book also shows that you can do just about anything if you put your mind to it. I am grateful and honored to be a semifinalist in the competition.”

School librarian Kristen Rademacher notes that the Lincoln book list is important because it helps students find books that truly interest them.

“Teenagers from all parts of Illinois nominate books for the Lincoln list that they think will be the most meaningful for their peers to read and easy for them to relate to,” Rademacher said. “Many students often find it hard to relate to a book that is assigned to them by their teachers, so this experience gives students the ability to choose, which is important.”

Many of the books on this year’s Lincoln list are available in the ARC.



photo by John Gonczy

Sophomore Jack Lamb earned a semifinalist award in last year’s Letters About Literature contest, sponsored by the Illinois Secretary of State’s Office. Lamb was one of 12 students who won awards in the competition, the other 11 taking honorable mentions.



photo courtesy of Ryan Brady

Ryan Brady ‘01 kneels to the right of Cardinal Cupich during his ordination as a deacon at Mundelein Seminary on August 12. Brady will be ordained to the priesthood on May 15, 2021. Deacon Ryan was featured in our September 2016, issue, available at www.marist.net/activities/the-sentinel.

Ordination next for Deacon Ryan

Angel Ortiz, Jr.
senior reporter

Cardinal Blase Cupich ordained Ryan Brady ‘01 as a transitional deacon of the church on August 12 at Mundelein Seminary. In May, Brady will be ordained by the Cardinal as a priest.

There are two types of deacons in the Church: permanent deacons, like Deacon Andy Neu, and transitional deacons who are on their way to becoming fully ordained priests.

Both types of deacons perform the same duties, which include performing baptisms, witnessing marriages and performing committal rites for the dead. A deacon also assists the priest at Mass, and is able to preach the gospel and deliver the homily.

Brady also enjoys the opportunity to evangelize in the community.

“We are ordained to serve and preach the Gospel,” Brady said. “We want people to know Jesus and to love Him, therefore all we do should be done with Christ in mind.”



Acknowledging that this time of pandemic and violence across the nation is certainly troubling, Brady emphasized that times of great turmoil have historically produced some of the greatest saints and heroes. He shares a message of encouragement during these tough times.

“We will begin to direct our lives in ways that change the world for the better,” Brady said. “It will require much effort but by sharing the gospel message we will help the individual to love, then the community, then the state, then the country, then the world. The people who get that ball rolling are heroes. They are saints. That is who you and I are called to be.”

STILL MARIST

MARIST WEARS MASKS

All of our choices affect the Marist family. Let's take care of each other.

In spite of the pandemic, Christmas is NOT cancelled this year! Neither is the Marist Theatre Guild's fall production:

Streaming Performances on: Friday, Nov. 20 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 21 at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 22 at 1:30 p.m.

More information about tickets and the streaming platform will be on www.marist.net soon.

Legendary educator, counselor announces retirement

Haley Fisher
senior reporter

After 45 years of teaching, counseling, coaching soccer and leading retreats, Patrick Hennessy decided to retire before the 2020-2021 school year. He had planned to retire at the end of this school year.

“[Retiring] is the hardest decision I’ve had to make,” Hennessy said. “I wanted to finish this year, but the thought of bringing COVID home to my wife terrified me, so it came down to my family or my Marist family. It tore me in half. It’s still hard, but I don’t have any regrets.”

Hennessy’s Marist journey started after he graduated from Quincy College with a bachelor’s degree in psychology. He was job hunting when he got a call from Joseph Quinn, Quincy’s Admissions Director. Quinn recommended Hennessy as a religion teacher to then principal Brother Kevin Moran.

“After the interview I knew this was what I wanted to do,” Hennessy said. “[Br. Kevin] called me the next day and offered me a job. That was 45 years ago and it’s been great ever since. I really think God wanted me here. God had a plan for me. Out of all the people [Quinn] could have called, he called me.”

Hennessy knew Marist was the right fit because he loved his students and co-workers.

“There were a lot of great people I worked with and I love them,” Hennessy said. “But getting to know kids was the best. The kids kept me at Marist and they kept me young.”

After teaching religion for 10 years, Hennessy had his annual meeting with the principal, Brother Anthony Iazzetti. He encouraged Hennessy to pursue his master’s degree in secondary counseling. After graduating from Chicago State University, Brother John Cummings encouraged Hennessy to become a counselor in 1985.

“I certainly believe in fate,” Hennessy said. “If [Quinn] called someone else, I don’t know what I would have done for 45 years. I wouldn’t have been as happy.”

Hennessy has played a significant role in many students’ lives. Senior Kayla Fox credits him with changing her perspective on school.



photo illustration by Andy Neu

Teacher, counselor and coach Mr. Patrick Hennessy is shown as he was interviewed on Zoom last month. Hennessy announced his retirement in late August after 45 years of service to our community.

“Freshman year I went into his office upset,” Fox said. “Mrs. Gainer wrote him a note saying ‘Kayla Fox upset’ because he wasn’t in. Later he sat me down and I explained everything. He said ‘I’m going to take this note and hang it here so every time you come in, you can see it. By the time senior year hits, you’ll see that note and forget what it was about.’ I asked him why he would do that and he said ‘high school goes by too fast to constantly be bothered by the small things, just sit back and enjoy it before it’s gone.’ Ever since then I’ve lived by that, and it made school a much better experience for me.”

Hennessy has also greatly influenced his colleagues. Marcellin program counselor Holly Cox has known Hennessy since eighth grade when he transferred to Cox’s school. She has considered it a privilege to work next door to her long-time friend for the past 28 years.

“He truly represents what it means to be Marist,” Cox said. “Pat has touched the hearts of so many people over the years

including students, parents, faculty, staff and administrators. I’ve often said that I can’t go anywhere without someone asking me about Mr. Hennessy-the Pied Piper of Marist. Brother Vito, our dear friend and mentor, used to tell the people he cared about that they were ‘wrapped in care.’ Everyone who comes in contact with Mr. Hennessy knows that they are wrapped in care. His compassion, sense of humor, loyalty, charisma, faith and friendship will greatly be missed here, but his tremendous legacy will last forever. He will always hold a very special place in my heart.”

Erik Christensen, the class of 2022 counselor, calls Hennessy his “mentor, confidante and a second father” to him and many others.

Patrick Ryan, the class of 2024 counselor, also says Hennessy has had an impact on his life while he was a student and then as his colleague.

“He challenged me to look at issues through a different lens, encouraged me to go into the field of education and he always

reminded me of the importance of family,” Ryan said. “Mr. Hennessy’s efforts resulted in countless numbers of students having a strong connection to the Marist family.”

Brother Hank Hammer has known Hennessy for 45 years and thinks of him like a brother.

“In a sense we’ve grown up together,” Br. Hank said. “If you spend a few minutes with him, you’ll understand what it truly means to be Marist. He is a part of the fabric here and he will always be remembered.”

Hennessy’s plans for the future include learning tai chi, traveling, doing yoga, biking and taking archery classes.

Looking back, he said his job never felt like a job because he loved what he did. He advises others to follow the same path.

“45 years flew by,” Hennessy said. “Find something you love to do and be passionate about it. Do it for as long as you can. Find someone to love while you’re at it and be happy. I hope everybody will find something to make them as happy as I have been.”

Belated farewell to dedicated Spanish teacher

Grace Molenhouse
senior reporter

Spanish teacher Cathy Chambers announced her retirement last May after 20 years in the classroom.

Chambers, a two-time cancer survivor, emphasizes that her life and career would not have been the same without the vision of the Marist Brothers and St. Marcellin.

“Marist made me a better person,” Chambers said. “I was allowed to practice and share my Catholic faith in my classroom as I tried to help shape students to become moral and ethical adults.”

At the age of 40, after marrying and having children, Chambers decided to go to college and enrolled at Saint Xavier University, minoring in secondary education and majoring in Spanish. She graduated in 2000 and was hired that same year by former principal Larry Tucker.

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



Mrs. Cathy Chambers

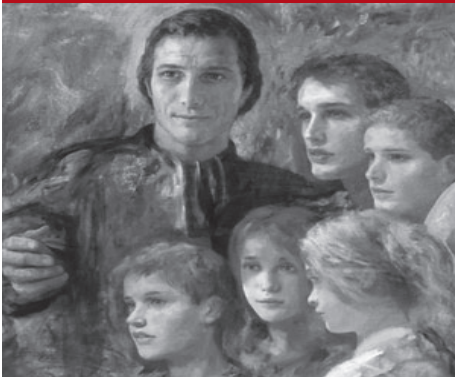
Chambers was the first moderator of the dance/poms team and also coached girls bowling for a few seasons. Among her fondest memories are the experiences she had traveling to Italy, Switzerland, Argentina, Costa Rica, France and Spain with the World Language Department.

Chambers expressed her love for every teacher and administrator she worked with, as well as for the students that she said taught her valuable lessons.

“I am forever humbled that I have been blessed to call myself a Marist-Chicago educator,” Chambers said.



THE
SENTINEL



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

The *Sentinel* reserves the right to deny a letter publication if it is morally or ethically offensive, contains unsubstantiated claims or personal attacks. The *Sentinel* also reserves the right to edit letters and guest editorials for space or clarity. Letters may be sent to the *Sentinel* Editorial Board, 4200 W. 115th Street, Chicago, IL 60655 or may be dropped off in room 126. Letters must be received by the first school day of the calendar month if they are to be considered for publication in that month's issue.

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

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Stay physically distant but stick together socially

A year ago if someone would have said that today people would be unable to attend sporting events, concerts, movies or the theater due to the need to practice social distancing, they would have been called crazy. Yet, this continues to be the reality due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Immediately, citizens of the world were told to practice 'social distancing,' a new term coined to motivate people to keep a six-foot distance between themselves and others. The Centers for Disease Control also advocates wearing masks and regular handwashing.

The use of the phrase social distancing is unfortunate because of its deeper connotation. The implication is that we should disconnect from one another, when in reality, remaining socially connected is one of the most important things we need to do during the pandemic.

Physical distancing, meaning to safely distance to prevent infection, should replace the term social distancing. It is necessary to use precise language because words are powerful.



Dr. Maya Angelou

Among her many teachings, the late Dr. Maya Angelou emphasized that we must be careful with the words we use because of their power and their ability to permeate every part of our lives.

Changing one word in the phrase to convert it from social distancing to physical distancing would greatly impact people's attitudes toward this guideline.

Churches and schools, for example, advertise "socially distant" services and classes, yet attendees are still part of a fellowship, even though they are seated

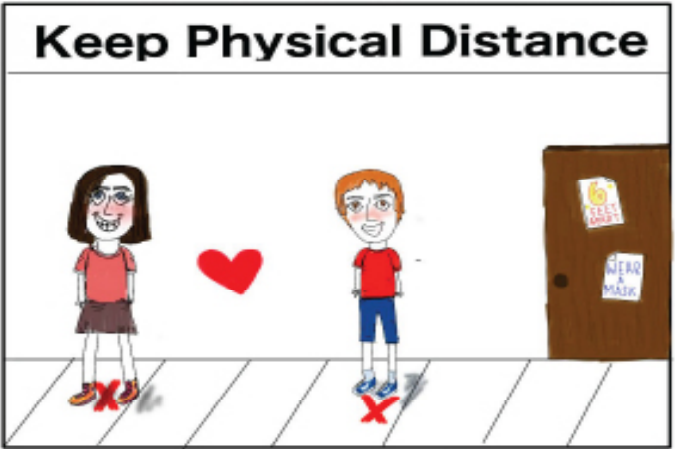
apart from each other. Students in school, whether virtually or in person, are still part of a community.

UCLA sociology professors Cecelia Menjiva and Jennie Brand told CNN last March that the mere idea of social isolation, let alone its practice, negatively impacts mental health. They emphasize the importance of remaining empathetic, compassionate and connected in socially responsible ways.

MIT News reporter Taylor Patsianick notes that it is especially beneficial to maintain social ties through technology.

Families have moved reunions to video conferencing platforms. Schools and universities around the world have transitioned to online learning through those same platforms. Virtual meetings and get-togethers may not be as great as the real thing, but for now they will have to do so we can stay socially connected.

As we continue to try to prevent the virus from spreading while we also try to maintain normalcy in our lives, we must remember that we are stronger together, even from six feet away.



Schools should keep some changes when pandemic ends

COVID-19 has forced schools to make big changes in the ways that teachers teach and students learn. In our hybrid schedule, all classes meet virtually on Zoom on Mondays, followed by alternating synchronous and asynchronous days Tuesday through Friday.

As we look forward to the day that we can return to normal, in-person learning with everyone present five days a week, it is worth considering which changes made in education during the pandemic should be kept and which should not.

All of the changes made by the administration were designed to keep students and faculty as safe as possible and to give students many unique ways to learn. Change is an opportunity for growth. This is a mindset that we should adopt to help us cope, a mindset that would serve us well under any circumstances.

The daily use of the HealthCheck360 survey by students and faculty allows us to self-report how we are feeling. Based on our answers, the program lets us know whether or not we should go to school that day. In a post-pandemic world, it would be

good if people continued to monitor their own health and stay home from school when they are sick to prevent spreading colds and the flu.

In-person classes are limited to 16 students, which makes it much easier to get one-on-one help from teachers. Smaller class sizes also create a more calming atmosphere, which is important for effective learning. The limited number of students in the building also makes hallway traffic and traffic outside a lot less of a hassle. It would be great if we could keep class sizes down like this permanently.

The school day starts later (8:30 a.m.) and ends earlier (1:08 p.m.). Country House, which operates our cafeteria, provides a free lunch for all students at the end of each day. This has been a great change because we are not able to have normal lunches together, and many students hope this will continue as long as we are in this hybrid schedule.

Some changes may not be beneficial once we return to normal.

For example, students need to see teachers in-person more than once a week.

One way staircases makes getting to class take a lot longer. It is inconvenient to have to go up a staircase that is in the opposite direction of one's next class. While all of this is necessary to help keep us safe, we look forward to the day that those one way and social distancing reminder signs go away.

Traditional fall sports like football and soccer have been postponed to the spring, which means that there are limited practices after school. According to the IHSA, these sports will return beginning on February 15. Until then, the challenge for these athletes is to stay in shape and focused without getting bored because of practice schedules that are much different than what they are used to.

One of the best things about getting back to normal after the pandemic will be to put the sports and activity seasons right back where they belong.

We are not going to forget the many changes we went through during this pandemic. Some of those changes have been beneficial. We need to throw the others away as soon as we can.

2020: A summer to remember...a summer to forget

PJ Cunningham
senior columnist

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.”

This iconic Charles Dickens quote, from his 1860 novel *Great Expectations*, applies to many eras throughout history, but none like the Summer of 2020. Simply put, last summer was the canvas for one of American history’s most colorful, conflicted and chaotic paintings.

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the upcoming presidential election, California wildfires and what is arguably the greatest civil rights movement since the 60’s, rarely has there been a more convoluted perfect storm of seismic events, both negative and positive, wrapped up in one summer.

The first jab of an absolute slugfest of world-altering events began in early spring when many states started to lock down in response to COVID-19. To stop the virus’ quick spread, many Americans had to adjust

to a new normal, which included wearing face masks, staying inside under state quarantine orders, postponing sports seasons or having games without fans and a summer largely without crowds at the beaches or usual festivals.

The ongoing pandemic has had devastating effects on our country. According to the CDC, we have now surpassed 200,000 deaths from COVID-19. The United States economy lost over 22 million jobs due to the pandemic, according to an Aug. 7 article on MarketWatch.com by Jeffry Bartash.

While shutting down our economy last spring was a necessary step to try to save more lives, clearly the economic and human costs will be felt for a long time.

Police shootings of Black-Americans added to the summer tension. Even though over 93% of the Black Lives Matter protests have been peaceful, according to a Sept. 4 *Time* magazine article by Sanya Mansour, some acts of violence from groups on both sides of this issue further escalated tension and division among Americans.

The atmosphere of negativity also has been filled with both smoke and rain, as wildfires in the west and a hectic hurricane season in the southeast have caused havoc.

The 2020 presidential race between Donald Trump and Joe Biden has also been contentious, with the pandemic, police brutality/racism and the climate crisis among the major issues.

But this summer was not all gloom and doom.

Over 3 million people have united online to peacefully sign petitions calling for justice for victims of police brutality, according to Change.org.

Jacob Rashgadol of StudyFind.com finds that four out of five parents feel that the pandemic brought their families closer together.

Americans will vote on Nov. 3, proving that even in the most difficult times, we can still exercise our freedoms.

So, while Summer 2020 may have seemed more like a chapter out of Edgar Allen Poe than Dickens, we should strive to let the best of us surface in any crisis.

Doing our part
to stay safe
and in school

Jack Harmon
Student Council President

We have made it to the 2020-2021 school year and it feels great to be back in the building. It’s great to see our classmates, our teachers and the whole RedHawk community. The faculty and administration have done a great job at finding the safest and best way to get and keep us in this building.

Now it is our job to do our parts to stay in this building we call home for as long as we can. I know everyone has a social life and wants to be with their friends on the weekend and I’m not saying don’t do that. However, be aware of your surroundings, wear a mask or, at the very least, be socially distant from each other. I don’t know about all of you, but I would like to stay in the building for as long as we can.

Coming into a new school year is always an adjustment from summer, but this year is an even bigger adjustment. (Especially for you freshmen!) We all have a lot on our plates, but we need to be mindful that the teachers do also. This is an adjustment for them as much as it is for us, so be patient with them they are trying their best.

That being said, we also have to stay on top of our work. Don’t fall behind in the beginning of the year. Start strong so you don’t have to worry about rushing later to get your grades up.

It’s also important to get involved. Obviously there are very limited sporting events or other activities going on here at Marist. However, follow the Marist Activities Twitter because Mr. Brennan is doing a great job coming up with fun extracurricular activities outside of school. A softball intramural program started up. If you didn’t join that in time, don’t worry! There will be plenty more extracurricular opportunities in the near future. Here at Marist we have 47 clubs and activities, so if you have any questions you can ask Mr. Brennan in the Student Life Office in the cafeteria.

Try to get involved in at least one thing, whether it’s band, sports, or a club. Getting involved will open up so many different doors and lead to so many opportunities. You will be meeting new people, doing something that interests you, and you will be doing all this while having tons of fun.

We have gotten through our first month of school and everyone has settled in. That being said, if you have questions don’t hesitate to ask. Every person in the building, from the students all the way up to our president, Mr. Tucker, wants to help you in any way they can.

Last but not least, we need to keep our faith. We take great pride in our faith here at Marist and now, more than ever, we need to hang on to it.

We have faith in our administrators and faculty to keep us safe and to make sure we experience the best school year possible under the circumstances.

We also have to have faith in God. In our world and in our nation today, there is a lot of unrest and a lot of question marks regarding our future. Placing our faith in God to guide us through these tough times will comfort us. Staying together as one RedHawk family and continuing to support each other is also very important.

Let’s all do our part and keep our community strong.
Go RedHawks!

photo opinion

compiled by Hannah Finnegan and Angel Ortiz, Jr.

What do you see as the pros and the cons of the RedHawk hybrid schedule this semester? What would you change for next semester if the COVID-19 pandemic continues?



Leticia Guzman
freshman

I am in the Marcellin Program and I love coming to school every day. I also like that we Zoom on Mondays for 30 minutes in each class. The only con I can think of is that we have to use certain entrances. Sometimes I am in the science wing and I have to walk all the way around to the main gym entrance to leave at the end of the day.



Helen Dauros
sophomore

I don’t see many cons, although some students might not like seeing their teachers every day. I like the hybrid schedule better than the remote schedule we used last spring. I have more time to process what I am learning and I don’t have homework in every class every day, so I don’t feel overwhelmed.



Emma Higgins
junior

I like the schedule because it leaves more time for activities and teachers seem much more flexible with assignments and deadlines. I wish that the deadline on asynchronous days was 7 p.m. instead of 5 p.m. to give us more time for after school activities. I would rather take my time on an assignment to fully understand it.



Angelina Corcoran
senior

This year’s schedule provides us with a nice break every other day. However, there is little to no motivation to turn in work when at home. Next semester, I would like to see more events similar to the drive-in movie so that students can hang out in a COVID friendly way.



Bubba Ludwig
freshman

I really like learning when I am not at home. I prefer being at school because I feel like I learn better when I am here. If Marist was to continue with this schedule next semester, I would want teachers to try to make Zoom days a lot more engaging.



Jamel Howard
sophomore

One of the pros of this year’s schedule is that we have fewer classes each day and more time to do work. For me, this takes away the stress factor. Some cons are that there are a lot of due dates and some teachers won’t take late work. Also, some sports are postponed and can only work out or practice.



Elias Krupa
junior

I like that the schedule is evened out. On the days we are in school we learn a lot, and on the days we are home we have a lot of time to get the work done that is connected to what we are learning in class. So the schedule is nicely balanced. I think the Zoom Mondays are helpful because it still feels like we are in class. But Mondays seem longer than the other days.



Nyherowo Omene
senior

I believe that this hybrid schedule has been really good for breaking up the monotony of going to school every day. However, it has also increased my workload and stress levels due to the influx of assignments I have and because we have less class time. It’s been an ingenious plan given the current circumstances, but I hope we can go back to a more normal schedule soon.

Fall sports postponements bring greater spring anticipation

Isabella Schreck
senior reporter

Fall 2020 was not the season any high school coach or athlete could have imagined.

On July 29, the Illinois High School Association (IHSA), in conjunction with guidelines from Governor Pritzker regarding “medium and high-risk” sports restrictions amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, announced that the football, girls’ volleyball and boys’ soccer seasons will be postponed until the spring, running from February 15 until May 1.

“Our Board of Directors provides regional representation of the state and also represents a good cross section of private and public schools, both small and large,” IHSA Assistant Executive Director Matt Troha said. “The Board first reviewed the potential plans and discussed the pros and cons of each until they felt like they had a consensus on what was the best option. They then voted unanimously to having four abbreviated seasons, which will allow all sports the opportunity to participate while not limiting two- and three-sport athletes.”

Athletic Director Eric Simpson and head football coach Ron Dawczak fully agreed with the decision.

“I was extremely happy with the decision because I was not confident that we could have safely played football in the fall,” Dawczak said. “I don’t believe we would have been able to play anything close to our full schedule without interruptions or cancelation due to players or coaches contracting the virus. Postponing the season gives us the best chance to play the greatest number of games.”

The IHSA has allowed teams whose seasons are pushed back to have 20 days

of practice time between Sept. 7 and Oct. 31. Open gyms and weight room activities are permitted throughout the school year.

The struggle is adapting to physically distant practices while maintaining continuity. With sports being an integral part of the school community, coaches are striving to find new ways to boost team morale despite the absence of pep-rallies, tournaments and weekly games.

“As a staff, we are focusing on mental toughness and patience,” head soccer coach Sean Maxwell said. “This period has tested us far more drastically than just postponing the sports seasons. If we move forward into the coming months and keep finding ways to have fun through this, we will come out stronger on the other side.”

While team connection is stressed during practice, coaches and their athletes work together to build cohesion off the field through online Madden football games, Zoom meetings or group activities.

“Our team has stayed in close contact throughout the summer through online chats,” senior attacking midfielder Jimmy Valek said. “We’ve been fortunate enough to have workouts twice a week and now scrimmages. Beyond just soccer, we got together over the summer for bike rides to reconnect and even played a round of golf together to keep our camaraderie going.”

Senior outside hitter Ewelina Gacek said the volleyball team also focused on building relationships with new players even without the face-to-face court time.

“I’m glad we have the opportunity to play later in the spring because it gives us more time to work and prepare,” Gacek said. “Besides improving our skills, we are trying to stay connected and have better chemistry than our competition.”

Head boys’ and girls’ volleyball coach Jordan Vidovic anticipates a busy spring, especially if both teams enter the playoffs at the same time.



photo by Patrick Maxwell

Head varisty soccer coach Sean Maxwell guides junior midfielder Marc Carreon during a shooting drill at an all-levels workout on Sept. 22. The IHSA postponed the boys’ soccer, girls’ volleyball and football seasons until spring due to the pandemic.

“Hopefully the teams will even get to play in back-to-back matches on the same night which would be exciting,” Vidovic said. “If the seasons do end up overlapping, we will be more driven than we have ever been.”

Troha is unsure if this year’s postponements will affect the college recruiting process or impact scholarships.

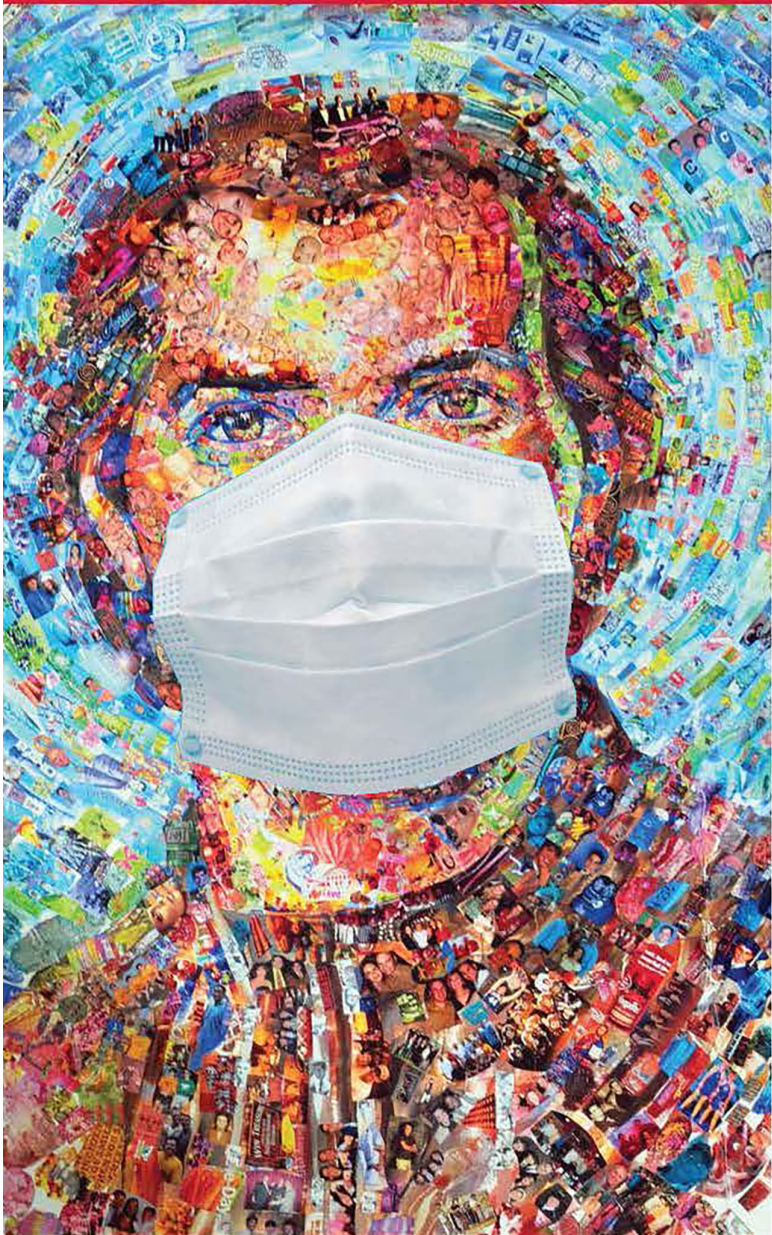
Last year’s recruits, including senior offensive lineman Pat Coogan, who committed to the University of Notre Dame, were challenged by the state-wide quarantine that began last March.

“I wasn’t able to make as many college visits as I had planned, so I attended a lot

of Zoom meetings and virtual tours,” Coogan said. “I knew I wasn’t going be able to make those visits anytime soon, so I thought to myself ‘why wait?’ I am glad I committed when I did on March 15.”

As the uncertainty surrounding sports continues, Simpson remains confident that coaches and athletes will continue to work hard.

“Our students, faculty and staff are resilient,” Simpson said. “I have no doubt that our programs will continue their long tradition of success on the courts, fields and in the classroom after the pandemic. Look for the RedHawks to shine as we wait for life to get back to normal.”



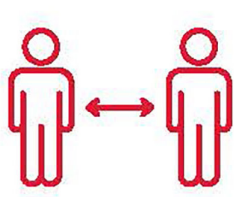
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Ready...set...masks down...GO!

Delaney Powers
junior reporter

The girls’ cross country team started its season with a win against Mother McAuley, followed by losses to Benet and St. Ignatius.

Senior Cecelia Light took first place in 19:34 against Mother McAuley and junior Nora McClorey won in 19:39 against St. Ignatius.

This year’s juniors have a lot of experience to help the varsity team including McClorey, Emma Karczewski, Nora McNicholas and Abigail Quinn.

“Our juniors have really stepped into the varsity team,” head coach Patrick Quinn said. “Their experience as sophomores has been helpful since many were varsity runners last year. They will be the core of our success.”

To prepare for the season, the RedHawks worked hard over the summer. They have also been at school practicing every day.

“Our runners have put in the time and effort this summer to prepare for this crazy season,” Quinn said. “They also have to be here every day, even on the days they are

learning at home. We owe a big shoutout of gratitude to the parents who make this happen.”

The team is greatly looking forward to regionals on Oct. 17. The IHSA also announced that cross country will have sectional competition added to the postseason on Oct. 31.

“We have a great team of runners this year,” senior co-captain Sarah Hughes said. “So we are looking good for regionals.”

Senior co-captain Madelyn Smith notes that this sport is about much more than running fast over long distances.

“Cross country has taught me how to be a teammate on and off the course,” Smith said. “It has given me a community of people who are there for each other and push one another to be their best. Over the past four years of running, I have been able to meet so many amazing teammates and some are my best friends. Cross country also teaches you that you’re capable of much more than you think you are and pushes you towards your goals. It’s nice to have the girls and coaches to help encourage you and help achieve your goals.”



photo by Patrick Quinn

Senior Cecelia Light and junior Nora McClorey race towards the finish line in the meet against Benet on Sept. 18. Both RedHawks finished with their personal best times on the course at St. Casmir Cemetery. The RedHawks host Joliet Catholic, Marian Catholic and St. Viator today at 4:30.



photo by Brendan Geary

Junior Jake Phillips competes in the first meet of the season at home against Br. Rice on August 29. Phillips came in first place in 16:01, helping the RedHawks defeat the Crusaders, 23-33. The RedHawks host Marian Central and Notre Dame at 10:15 a.m. tomorrow.

Boys unfazed by smaller meets, shorter schedule

Kaylee Frederking
junior reporter

The boys’ cross country team has started the season with strong showings in the first five meets of their abbreviated season.

The first was the Thomas Leonard Invitational at home on Aug. 29. All levels competed against Brother Rice. Varsity runner Jake Philips came in first place with a time of 16:01. Junior Andrew Kerlin, senior Kevin Bugos, senior Tommy Kavanaugh, senior Tommy Wagner and sophomore Danny Olsen also finished in the top ten.

The RedHawks won all but the freshman race to win the invitational.

Next came the Matt Wagner Invitational at home on Sept. 5. All levels competed against Saint Ignatius. Philips came in first again in 15:25 and Kerlin came in eighth in 16:35, but the RedHawks lost the competition.

The third meet was the Benet Academy Boys Five-Team Meet at Benet on Sept 19.

The RedHawks came in third place in five of the six races. Philips once again came in first with a time of 14:48, while Kerlin placed fifth in 15:42.

The RedHawks hosted Joliet Catholic and St. Patrick on Sept. 26, with the RedHawks winning two of three races. Philips, Kerlin, Bugos all came in first, second and third place respectively.

The RedHawks’ most recent race was on Sept. 29 at Schiller Woods against Marian Central and Notre Dame, where the team came in second place.

In addition to the shortened season, cross country meets are much smaller than usual this season due to the pandemic. Junior runner Brendan Geary said he and his teammates do not mind.

“We have to wear masks and socially distance, but it does not change the sport itself and we are glad that we can compete,” Geary said. “The only disappointment for us is that we are not able to participate in larger meets and face our usual competition.”

Girls’ golf team knows how to bounce back

Patrick Maxwell
junior reporter

The RedHawk girls’ golf season began in late August, with wins against Joliet Catholic and St. Viator and losses to Benet and Mother McAuley.

More recently, the team won the last two tournaments, including a 175 win over Marian Central at Boone Creek Golf Club on Sept. 23 and a 195 win in the Caroline Griffin Tournament at Ridge County Club on Sept. 24.

This past Tuesday, the team placed third overall at the ESCC Conference Championship.

Head coach Ryan Doidge, who is in his fourth season as girls’ head coach, is optimistic about how the girls are playing. He notes that senior co-captains Lauren Insley and Margaux Burns have consistently been shooting in the low 40s since the start of the season.

Doidge thinks the team is very good at bouncing back after tough losses.

“We had a tough loss to McAuley, but we played very well against St. Viator the

very next week,” Doidge said. “Last year during conference play, we lost to St. Viator by one stroke, so it was nice to get the win against them this year.”

Doidge also mentioned that the team needs to work on shots close to the hole and putts.

“The putts can determine a few crucial strokes in the game,” Doidge said. “It can be the difference between winning and losing.”

In the Sept. 24 tournament, junior Mallorie Clifton shot a 45, taking home a first place medal. Junior Delaney Bullington shot a 47 and junior Devin Guest shot a 50.

Doidge was particularly pleased with these juniors’ contributions toward the team’s win.

“This is a meet that everyone looks forward to annually,” Doidge said. “We won it in my first year of coaching, but lost the last two, so it is great that we got the win this year.”

The girls look forward to the IHSA regionals on Oct. 7, with the time and location to be announced.



photo by Joe O’Brien

Senior Margaux Burns winds up her swing during the ESCC conference meet hosted by Joliet Catholic Academy this past Tuesday at Inwood golf course. The RedHawks placed third with a combined score of 356.