



New school year ushers in many changes

Cecelia Gibbons
editor-in-chief

Change is inevitable.

The beginning of this school year brought many changes: a new science wing, using Canvas and Skyward for online assignments and grading and a rotating/cascading schedule.

In an email to the faculty, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Kathryn Baal said, “Change is challenging for everyone. Change can make some people uncomfortable. And more times than not, implementing change can be hard work. But [change] can also allow you to see the grace of God in yourself, in colleagues and in our students.”

One of the biggest differences this year is the addition of the advisory period. Instead of having a 58-minute lunch, the new schedule split the lunch period in half. After conducting research, the administration discovered that an advisory period is popular among many schools in the area.

“During the first cycle, the idea was to introduce students to the deans, their counselors and the testing center to kick off the school year,” Principal Larry Tucker said. “The broadcast students did a great job putting together the ‘Advisory Angle’ videos to help us get the new information out there. But it was probably too much at once. So, advisory periods will continue to evolve. I think next year we will do some things differently. I think like anything, we reserve the right to get smarter.”

The administration originally planned to have advisory consist of one teacher meeting with the same group each day. However, as the schedule was finalized,

they realized this model would not be possible. The administration hopes that this will change next year.

Tucker explained that as a result of human nature, almost everyone is resistant to change. He pointed out that as the year progresses, students will adjust, and if needed, alterations can be made to better suit the student’s needs.

“The impression from when I talked to students early on was that they didn’t like certain aspects of the schedule,” Tucker said. “I told them to give it time and let us set this in place. I feel when you tighten things up in the beginning and loosen them later, it’s more effective.”

Advisory can be used for social time, a study hall, a break for students throughout the day or a way to easily deliver information without disrupting class time. For example, if the guidance department needs to meet with the entire freshman class to discuss an important topic, instead of interrupting a lesson, the counselors can make the announcement during advisory.

“An 11-minute homeroom wasn’t enough time to deliver this type of information,” Tucker said. “Advisory can be a good social outlet as well as a homework outlet. That was an added benefit of advisory, and like anything, we’ll see how it goes.”

After a year of construction, the former monastery was finally transformed into the science wing, known as Monastery Hall, and includes a planetarium, state-of-the-art classrooms and a forensics lab.

“Monastery Hall is so full of new, and hands on ways to learn,” Student Council President Brigid Englehart said. “It’s so much more engaging for students. Getting to work with Hal, the robot in anatomy class, makes things more interesting.”



photo by Cecelia Gibbons

Student council president Brigid Englehart and vice president Caleb Davis meet with Mr. Tucker to discuss upcoming episodes of “The Advisory Angle.” Englehart and Davis host the informational videos produced by the broadcast students.

Englehart pointed out that the Student Council is working harder this year to bring more changes to homecoming and other events this year.

“Student council is getting way more involved in leadership roles this year,” Englehart said. “So far, we’ve had meetings with Mr. Tucker talking about lots of new and exciting stuff for this year. We’re working hard at getting student’s voices heard. Students can expect a big improvement to the homecoming dance and other activities.”

The administration reminds everyone that creating a space here that brings students together and prepares them for a bright future is the main goal.

“I ask each of you to continue to embrace the innovation that is underway at our school, not only for the short-term benefits these changes will bring for our students, but for the future,” Baal said. “By walking together, leaning into each other and trusting in the slow work of God, we will [reach success] in time, so keep pushing yourself and each other.”



photo by John Goncez

RedHawk journalists attend annual conference

Angel Ortiz, Jr.
senior reporter

The RedHawk journalists attended the annual Illinois Journalism Education Association high school media conference at the University of Illinois-Urbana on September 20. After a keynote speech by WLIT-FM morning DJ Melissa Forman (pictured above, center), the RedHawks attended sessions with fellow journalists from around the state.

In the write off competition, senior Cecelia Gibbons took first place in opinion writing, junior Isabella Schreck took first place in feature writing and junior Grace Molenhouse took first place in news writing. The three winners also attended the Indiana University high school journalism institute in July.

“I’m glad I gained the experience over the summer and that both of my friends won as well,” Gibbons said. “It shows that our hard work at camp paid off and we wanted to represent Marist well in this competition.”

RedHawks welcome new administrator

Elizabeth Delehanty
senior reporter

Bringing a love for students into her 17th year in teaching and administration, Dr. Kathryn Baal is very excited to join the Marist family as the new director of curriculum and instruction.

She looks forward to helping students succeed academically and helping teachers grow in the profession.

“I love students and teaching, but by going into administration I get to work with the teachers as well,” Baal said. “Working with others to help the school grow to the best it can be is important to me.”

Baal started her teaching career in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. She went on to teach at three other schools before becoming principal at Loyola Academy in Wilmette.

After taking a break from schools last year, Baal learned about the opportunity here at Marist, and decided she wanted to be back in a high school.

“Working at Marist really interested me because what I like most about education is curriculum and instruction, so I decided to apply for the position here,” Baal said.

Baal grew up in Beverly, so she feels that working here is like coming home.




Dr. Kathryn Baal

“Now I’m connected to an area that is a big part of me,” Baal said. “I’ve always wanted to work at schools that take academics seriously but also have a strong sense of community, and Marist offers just that combination.”

She maintains high hopes for this school year and the years to come.

“It’s important to model Marcellin’s charism and the Marist mission, to love everyone equally and to be brothers and sisters for life,” Baal said. “I want to make Christ known and loved and I want to be an example of that for the students and teachers here at Marist. I’m here to help people, and my door is always open. If there are ways that I can get involved and help or support students in a more direct route, I’m happy to be a part of that.”

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Staring down the barrel of gun violence

Students walk to their advisory, plop down in a back row seat and channel the attention span of a fly during yet another video. Today's Advisory Angle: "New protocols to prevent intruders," a presentation in response to potential threats to student safety.

There is a long list of things that high school students cannot do because they are minors. They cannot (legally) drink, smoke or vape, and until their 18th birthday, teenagers cannot vote in elections.

Because of all the things they cannot do, many teenagers feel especially powerless when it comes to issues like gun violence. Many students believe they lack the power to create change.

Students do have the power to create change. But the solution, sadly, is not as simple as refusing to open school doors for unauthorized people.

While mental health is not the sole contributor to gun violence, 22 percent of the mass shootings last year were conducted by people with severe mental illnesses, according to a 2018 article by the Association for the Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies.

...if high school students get involved, change is possible.

Creating mental health support groups in high schools can help students end the stigma against mental illness. Promoting compassion, kindness and acceptance would increase the chances that people suffering mental illness will reach out for help instead of turning to violence.

In the wake of the recent Odessa, El Paso and Dayton shootings, it is also crucial for teenagers to become politically aware and get involved.

Many teenagers are not active in politics because they feel their opinion will not be valued or they are viewed as "too young"

to engage in political conversation, according to Julianne K. Viola in an article for the World Economic Forum.

Registering to vote and voting itself are low impact forms of participation. To have a greater impact on the gun violence debate, teens should visit www.usa.gov/elected-officials to state their concerns to the local, state and national officials who represent them.

If every student at this high school dedicated just one advisory period to writing letters to government officials, it would make a significant impact.

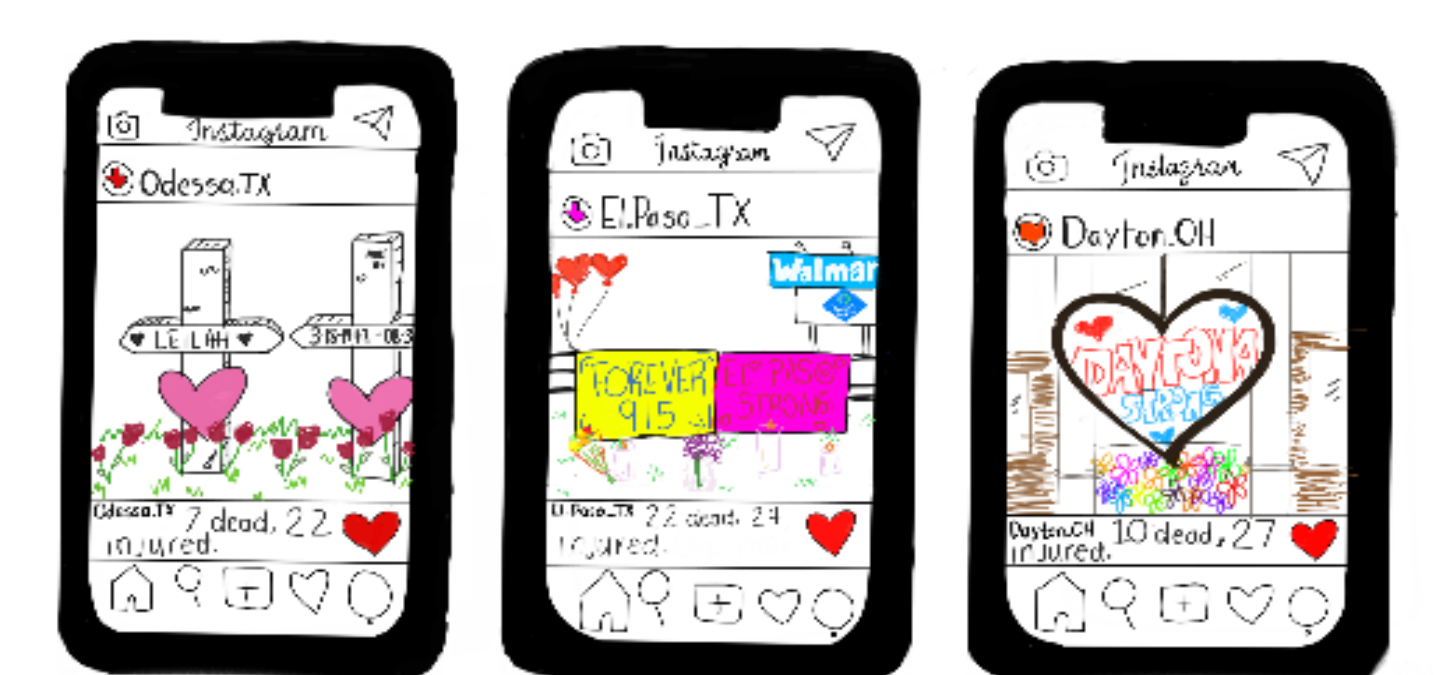
Far too many minors have died in schools.

The survivors have been forced to grow up because of the violence plaguing our country.

High school students have more power than they think. If teenagers begin to use their voices for good and demand the attention and action of elected officials, America can only improve as a country and become a safer place. Ignoring this problem or praying it will go away will not solve anything.

Start speaking up.

Don't just like a post. Do something.



Go to USA.gov/elected-officials. Tell them it's time for a change.

Choosing to open our eyes to the spirit around us

At our opening school Mass this month, we focused on the Holy Spirit and, for me, that's a very complex idea. I never could fully wrap my head around the idea of the Holy Trinity and that whole God, Jesus and Holy Spirit wrapped into one person but they're also their own thing.

It wasn't until I thought of it on a simpler level that I began to understand the Holy Spirit and how it works for me in my everyday life.

All of us experience it in our own individual ways, but as a Marist community it's easy. It's the feeling you're filled with walking down the halls and getting to see your friends every day. It's the energy that fills the gym when we come together to cheer on our brothers and sisters for life as they bring more honor, glory and fame to our Marist name. It's the way we gather together for Mass. It's the way we come together to love and support each other. It's the pride we have in our Marist name.

Brigid Englehart
guest columnist

In my personal life, I see the Holy Spirit work through my grandparents. They are 90 and 92 and have truly been through it all. Together they had 10 children, three of whom tragically died at young ages, but my grandparents never lost hope.

They continued to raise their seven children as well as take in my three oldest cousins after my aunt passed. They have suffered more tragedy than anyone deserves but every day they get up and share their love and their grace with the world through their overwhelming affection, humor and strong Catholic beliefs. They're the two strongest people I am blessed to know and every moment I spend with them I believe is the Holy Spirit being shown to me.

They are daily reminders to me to never give up and lose faith. Unfair and horrible

things happen to greatest of people and sadly that's just life. But bad days and horrible things happening doesn't mean God has given up on us.

It's hard to understand the way God shows himself in our everyday lives, especially through all the stress and drama we go through as high school students.

But it's important to look and to know where to look for God in our lives. It's never going to be a burning bush or a flood that drowns the whole world.

Most of how God shows Himself in our lives is through the Holy Spirit, so look around.

Try to be aware of all the good in life, no matter how small the moment or how short the interaction you have with someone. Those are the times when you'll find God at work.

So open your eyes and see all the good around you and in other people.

There's plenty of good to see.

New brother on the block: Br. Luis Ramos

Grace Molenhouse
junior reporter

At a time when fewer and fewer people are entering religious life, the Marist Brothers welcomed one addition to their ranks this year. Br. Luis Ramos took his first vows last month and has joined the faculty as a religion teacher.

Br. Luis and his younger sister were raised in a Christian household by their parents in New York City. He said they enjoyed spending time together, praying and attending church.

Br. Luis felt a calling to the brotherhood as a high school sophomore at the Marist-founded Mount Saint Michael Academy in the Bronx, New York City.

“We are a Christian family, so I grew up going to church regularly,” Br. Luis said. “Prayer was a big part of my family life and sitting together for dinner was an important ritual. Thanksgiving and Christmas are really important holidays and every summer we try to get the whole family together just to hang out, at least once.”

At Mount Saint Michael Academy, Br. Luis first encountered the Marist Brothers and became curious about entering the brotherhood. He was interested in connecting with God for the rest of his life.

“I was curious about the brotherhood as a sophomore,” Br. Luis said. “I wondered ‘could that ever be me’ and I became more serious about the brotherhood my second year of college. I decided to pay more attention to the Brothers and look more into [their lives].”

Br. Luis attended Iona College, in New York, earning a bachelor’s degree in religious studies. During college, he went on a pilgrimage to the Hermitage.

“In 2014, I went on a pilgrimage to the Hermitage in Saint-Chamond, France, which Marcellin Champagnant and his brothers built to be a center of work and formation,” Br. Luis said. “There was something really inspiring to me about going there and actually seeing the places I heard about during prayer and my classes.”

After graduating from college, Br. Luis entered the Marist Brothers Postulancy in 2016, where he learned about the lifestyle and the commitment of the Marist Brothers. He went through this ministry experience in order to decide if he wanted to follow religious life.

“When you come to a point where you are ready to dive into the brotherhood, you go through an initial formation process which is called postulancy,” he said. “You live like a brother, without actually being one, for a year. At the end of that year, if you still feel called and the other brothers feel it is right for you, you can go into what is called the novitiate.”

The novitiate is a two-year experience where novices study what the life of being a brother entails. During this time, they gain practical ministry experience, learn a new language and continue to pray while living closely with the other brothers.

At the end of the novitiate, the novices decide if they want to make their first vows.

“The most enjoyable and challenging aspect of postulancy and the novitiate is living with the other brothers under the same roof,” Br. Luis said. “It is a beautiful thing. I find it to be fun because we work, cook and clean together, almost like a family. It is challenging too, because you have to get to know each other and figure out what you like and don’t like, so it’s a blessing and also an opportunity to grow as an individual.”



photo by Isabella Schreck

Brother Luis Ramos works with his freshmen students in Understanding Catholic Christianity class on September 11. Br. Luis took his first vows and became a Marist Brother this summer on August 10.

Br. Luis also reminds young people that life in a religious order is very rich and fulfilling.

“For anybody who’s interested in but is not sure about [entering religious life] I’d say to be open,” he said. “Be open to what God might be asking you to do, don’t say no right off the bat and talk to people. Talk to those living the life, discuss their challenges, and, most importantly, pray about it.”

Members of the Marist community shared their gratitude regarding Br. Luis’ arrival.

“Br. Luis’ being at Marist sends a good message to young people that there are

other young people who are attracted to religious life,” Marist President Br. Hank Hammer said. “He is personable, enthusiastic, compassionate and a great listener, all qualities that St. Marcellin wanted from his brothers.”

Freshman Margot Thorne appreciates Br. Luis’ teaching style.

“I like him very much as a teacher,” Thorne said. “We pray together daily, he goes over things thoroughly, keeps the daily schedule on the board, gives us five minute breaks between activities and he is always very helpful. He really cares about students, so Br. Luis really models the Marist image perfectly.”

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varsity football

RedHawks look for win against Fenwick tonight

Angel Ortiz
junior reporter

The varsity football team opened the season with a 42-0 win over Dunbar on Aug. 31 at Red and White Stadium, followed by a 24-17 win in overtime against Lake Zurich on Sept. 6

Head coach Ron Dawczak hopes to take his team to the state championships this year. Last year the team made it to the playoffs, but did not go all the way.

“Our guys know that in order to [get to state] they need to be at the top of their game and work hard,” Dawczak said. “Only one team can win the championship at the end of the year and we hope it is us.”

Key players from the class of 2019 have graduated and are continuing their careers in college, but Dawczak and the team are adjusting to the roster changes.

“Last year’s senior class was really good,” Dawczak said. “They were very talented, very smart and a tight group. But our goals remain the same this year with the players we have.”

The RedHawks are led by five senior captains this season, including quarterback Hayden Mikesell, offensive lineman Sean Quarterman, wide receiver A.J. Markett, linebacker Colin Bohanek, and defensive back Kivonte Houston.

“We are depending on the seniors to be great leaders,” Dawczak said. “They have stepped up into those roles and are showing the way for the younger guys on the team.”

The team’s two-game winning streak was broken in week three after a 24-17 loss to Notre Dame.

The annual and highly-anticipated Pulaski Showdown against Brother Rice on Sept. 20 also ended in a 17-14 loss for the RedHawks.

“Our offense has gotten off to slow starts, so we are focusing on coming prepared and playing our very best straight out of the gate,” Dawczak said. “We want our guys ready to go and our opponents to feel the pressure.”

After an away game at Fenwick tonight, the RedHawks will host Mt. Carmel for homecoming on Oct. 4 at 7:30 p.m.



photo by Brendan Wolff

Defensive back Jovan Marsh tackles his Brother Rice opponent on September 20, when the RedHawks ultimately fell, 17-14. The team travels to Fenwick tonight for a 7:30 kick off.



photo by P.J. Cunningham

Senior winger Brendan Raftery tries to gain control of the ball from Benet on Sept. 25. The team travels to Kentucky this weekend and will host Nazareth on Oct. 2 at 6:30 p.m.

Seniors seek to lead soccer squad

P.J. Cunningham
junior reporter

The varsity soccer team came into this week with a 7-4-1 record. Led by senior captains John Kennedy (goalkeeper), Aidan Gleeson (mid/forward), and Joey Shannon (midfield), this year’s team mixes experienced upperclassmen with a number of promising underclassmen.

The senior players in particular are embracing their roles as mentors to the rest of the team.

“We try to be good leaders and keep our composure and confidence in touchy situations,” Shannon said.

Head coach Sean Maxwell is impressed with the team’s depth.

“I feel like I’ve never, in all my years, had what we have this year,” Maxwell said. “We can bring a lot of very strong players off the bench, I can shift starters around and I have even brought up JV players who have contributed.”

Good rapport among the players seems to be another asset.

“I think this team definitely has the most chemistry compared to the other two teams I’ve been a part of,” Kennedy said. “Everyone gets along even though we have a team composed of players in all four classes.”

Maxwell and his players are focusing on starting games stronger and making sure not to underestimate any opponents.

“As the season continues, we would like to keep improving our possession and finishing,” Gleeson said. “If we can improve on these things, we should have a lot of success going forward.”

The team heads to Kentucky this weekend to compete in the River Region Rumble for the second year in a row. The team reached the semi-finals of the tournament last year. After Kentucky, the team’s next games are an Oct. 2 match up against Nazareth and Oct. 5 against Marian Catholic, both at home.

Volleyball team serves up success

Isabella Schreck
junior reporter

The girls’ program defeated McAuley 26-24, 25-22 last night on the Mighty Mac’s home court. This success comes on the heels of another two-set victory against Nazareth on Tuesday, improving the team’s record to 16-2.

The team started its season with a 25-18, 25-22 triumph against Providence on Aug. 27, followed by a three-win tournament sweep in Florida.

Even with wins rolling in, head coach Jordan Vidovic keeps expectations high.

“We try to find a middle ground between being intense and enjoying the experience,” Vidovic said. “Our goal is to push ourselves to work harder than any other team, and focus on ourselves, not on anything else going on. We feel if all the little details are taken care of, the wins will be a byproduct of that.”

Led by senior captains Maddie Arundel, Camryn Hannah, Mairead Boyle and Avery

Jedry, the girls maintained a busy road schedule early in the season. After a victory against Wheaton-St. Francis on Sept. 4, the teams fell to Carmel after three sets on Sept. 10.

Back at home the following week, the girls beat Oak Park-River Forest, going 25-17 in two sets and Marian Catholic, 25-20 and 25-11.

The team fell to Benet in a close battle last weekend, taking second in the Wheaton Classic, but junior outside hitter Ewelina Gacek believes her team will continue to improve with some minor adjustments.

“Volleyball is a game of errors, so there is always room for improvement,” Gacek said. “As a team, we all trust each other and our training, but the game is not always about skill, improving our mentality is important too.”

The team travels to Joliet Catholic Academy on Oct. 1. for a 6:15 p.m. game and then hosts Notre Dame Academy from Kentucky on Oct. 3, St. Viator on Oct. 8 and Whitney Young (senior night) on Oct. 9. Both of the home games are at 6:15 p.m.



photo by Isabella Schreck

Junior middle blocker Ellie Kurpeikis sets up to hit against Oak Park-River Forest on Sept. 12 in the Red and White Gym. The RedHawks won 25-17 in both sets.