



## Construction of new science wing begins

by Stephanie Kozlowski  
editor-in-chief

Students returned from Christmas break to a major construction project on campus, as crews began converting the monastery into a state-of-the-art science wing.

The science wing will include two physics labs, two chemistry labs, two biology labs, an AP biology/chemistry lab, an environmental science lab, a forensic science lab with a designated space for crime scenes and one anatomy/physiology lab with a designated space for a diagnostics room.

In addition, the new wing will include a green rooftop learning space, an astronomy dome with the capability to do planetarium-style projection, a large saltwater aquarium with a coral reef and offices for the science, math and social studies departments.

Functioning solar panels and wind turbines will be featured and utilized in environmental science classes.

The science wing study area will include a tribute to all of the Marist Brothers who lived in the monastery over the past 53 years.

Principal Larry Tucker and the administrative team decided to move forward with this project because it will benefit all students.

"The science wing became the priority as we considered what type of addition to our campus would touch the most students," Tucker said. "All students take at least three years of science, some take four and some may even elect to take five classes to better prepare them for college majors in that field."

The administration also took into account the present condition of the existing science labs.

"The current labs are 54 years old," Tucker said. "We are excited about creating new, state-of-the-art labs and repurposing the existing labs."

Fox & Fox Architects designed the science wing and Henry Brothers Construction will build it.

"Once the master plan was complete, we went out to bid," Director of Major Gifts and Planned Giving Tom Inzinga said. "Fox & Fox and Henry Brothers won the process."

Construction of the labs will cost \$12 million. Inzinga notes that funds are also needed to repurpose the old science labs and to address other critical capital needs, so the campaign goal is \$15 million.

Nearly 75 percent of the money for the science labs has already been raised through donations or pledges.

"We are so grateful to the benefactors who came forward right away because they were eager to get this project started," Inzinga said. "Their generosity expedited the process by at least 18 months. We look forward to getting more people involved in this campaign."

Inzinga and the rest of the development team will focus on fundraising over the next two to three years in order to raise the rest of the money needed to complete the project.

The cost of the science wing will have no effect on tuition.

"This project and the campaign to fund it involves a leap of faith," Inzinga said. "We need more people to donate. I don't want people to think that it's done, because it's not. It's just that we have done so well so far."



photo by Emma Brown

**Architecture teacher Ryan Doidge's students gather outside the science wing construction zone last Thursday. These student architects worked with professionals from Fox & Fox to design the astronomy dome for the wing, which is scheduled to open for the 2019-20 school year.**

Science department curriculum coordinator Carrie Spano looks forward to the ability of the department to add new classes once the labs are complete.

"We want to be sure that we are preparing our students to succeed in science, technology, engineering or math careers," Spano said. "The design of our new science wing will certainly allow us to do this and pursue even more cross-curricular applications in all of our existing courses. We are very excited."

Tucker hopes the new labs will give science teachers additional tools to do an even better job of preparing students for the future.

"We want to build a space that makes kids want to do science," Tucker said. "We have to put our students in a position where they are able to learn and do research. I want our students to walk into the labs and be excited to learn."

The wing is scheduled to open by the beginning of the 2019-20 school year.



photo by Karen Ramirez

## RedHawks join March for Life

A delegation of 19 RedHawks joined faculty members Chris Leshner, Karen Ramirez and Theresa Coy, along with nearly 100,000 other participants from around the nation in Washington, D.C. for the annual March for Life on Jan. 19. The rally has been held annually on Capitol Hill to protest the Supreme Court's 1973 decision legalizing abortion. "I saw that although not everyone in the world is with us on this issue, we are not alone," senior David Leonhardt said. "It was an amazing experience."

-submitted by Erin Murphy

## Reidy proves 'if at first you don't succeed....'

by Kathleen Wilkison  
senior reporter

Senior Samantha Reidy is the fifth student in the past 13 years to achieve a perfect composite score of 36 on the ACT test.

Reidy took the test a total of five times between October 2016 and September 2017, earning the perfect score on her fifth test.

"My goal was a 34, but I went from a 32 to a 35," Reidy said. "It just felt so close that I decided to take it again and again."

Among the 2.1 million seniors across the nation who graduated in 2016, only 2,235 earned a perfect score on the ACT.

She credits the math department especially for her preparation.

"Being in honors math definitely gives students the opportunity to do really well on the math portion," Reidy said. "There is nothing on the ACT that we haven't learned at some point."

Reidy also credits the overall curriculum and instruction here for helping her on the other subtests.



She notes that she has never taken an ACT preparation class. Her advice to other students is to take several practice tests and maintain a positive attitude.

"I used to set my test day alarms with names like 'go get 'em, champ' to hype myself up," Reidy said. "You have to walk in thinking, 'Today is the day. I've got this.'"

While she has not yet chosen a university, Reidy hopes to work in the field of chemical or biomedical engineering after college.



# Speech/acting team competes at regionals tomorrow

by Martin Buck  
senior reporter

The RedHawk speech and acting team ended its regular season with first place finishes at all three Catholic League meets and qualified 10 pieces for the national final competition in Washington, D.C. on May 26-27.

National qualifiers include senior captains Morgan Johnson and Cate Hynes, seniors Ashley Kikos, Liam Kelly and junior Kristen Kolp.

For the first time in 12 years, the team enjoyed “home field advantage” by hosting the third Catholic meet on Jan. 20, where the RedHawks won the Catholic League championship title.

“It feels really rewarding to come in first in the Catholic League, especially at our own tournament, because we work harder than any other team,” Johnson said. “Winning all three competitions really gave our team a confidence boost. Looking back on how well we did in the tournaments offers a lot of reassurance.”

The team competes tomorrow at Reavis in the IHSA regional meet, beginning at 8 a.m. The top three contestants in each category will advance to sectionals on Feb. 10.

Head coach Samantha Paoletti and assistant coaches Robbie Distasio and Laurie Hrad have worked one-on-one with team members since late last summer.

“Right now we have a really solid foundation, so we are just fine tuning the pieces to make our team as competitive as possible,” Paoletti said.

Hynes, who won highly competitive meets at Thornwood and Richards this season in humorous interpretation, feels that the team is confident and ready for regionals.

“We’ve been practicing intensely to prepare for the state series, so we feel ready,” Hynes said. “Our ultimate goal is to advance to sectionals and then state.”

Paoletti is proud of the team’s season.

“The team has proven time and again that they can hold their own against bigger programs, so this should be a really exciting state series for us,” Paoletti said.



photo by Jackie Kolp

The RedHawk speech and acting team, this year’s Catholic League champions, gathers on the RedHawk Theatre stage on Jan. 20 after competing at home for the first time in 12 years. The team advanced 10 pieces to the upcoming national finals. Tomorrow the RedHawks compete in the IHSA regionals at Reavis High School.

## Legendary educators remembered

by Gina Musso  
junior reporter



Br. Vito Aresto

Memorials were added to the halls at the end of last year to honor two late RedHawk educators, Brother Vito Aresto and Mr. Al Brazen.

Br. Vito served as a teacher, soccer coach, guidance counselor, department chairman and academic dean between 1972 and his death in 2010. Br. Vito founded and co-directed the Marcellin Program and started the Peer Leadership Program. His memorial was installed above the entrance to the guidance department.

“Br. Vito was devoted to St. Marcellin’s philosophy that in order to educate children, we must love them all equally,” guidance counselor Holly Cox said. “He created the Marcellin program to give more students who find school challenging an equal chance to succeed. He put love into action every day of his life.”

For 35 years, Al Brazen served as dean of discipline, head football coach and athletic director.

“As Marcellin said, ‘To educate children we must love them and love them all equally,’” Br. Hank said. “Many alumni and parents of current Marist students remember his fairness and consistency toward all students.”

Brazen’s memorial was installed at the Point, the spot at which he was known to stand, strictly enforcing rules with a purpose.

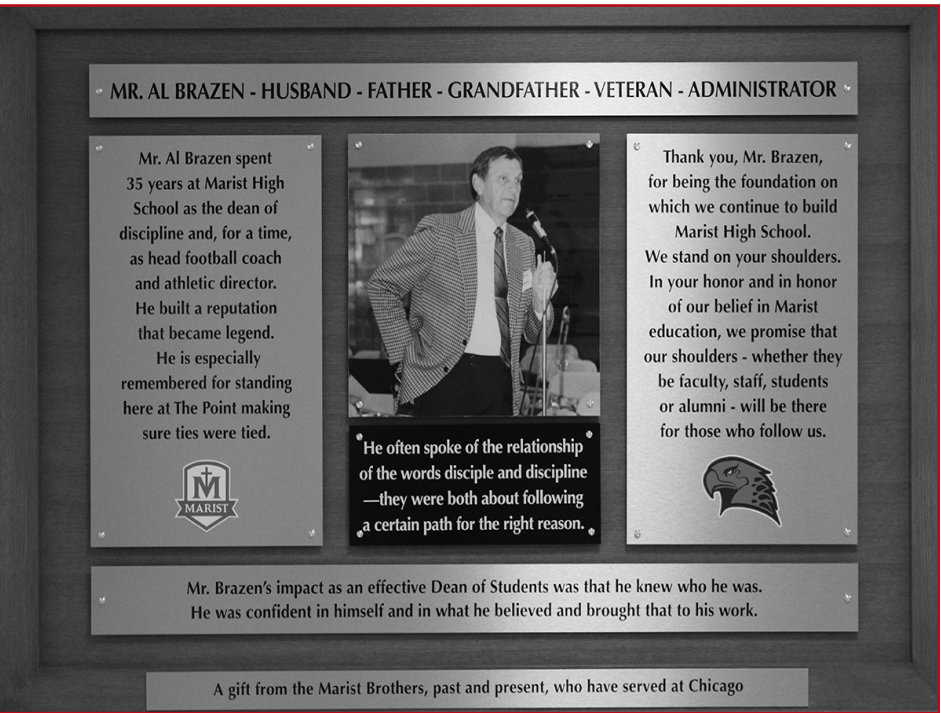


photo by Gianna Miritello

The memorial to Mr. Al Brazen at the Point is one of two added to our halls to honor him and Br. Vito Aresto for their combined 73 years of service to Marist. Br. Vito’s memorial hangs above the entrance to the guidance department.

### Hawk Talk

### Choosing a College

February 13th 7pm  
@ RedHawk Theater  
Sponsored by the Explore Program

*What should I be looking for in a college?  
Do I want to go somewhere far away? Public or private?*

*Marist alums who have recently graduated from colleges all over the country will discuss how they choose their college / university and where they are now. After discussing their experiences, they will field questions from the audience.*

All members of the Marist community are welcome.

Dan Hickey '11

Pat Watson '12

Jake Doman '12

Kiera Ferguson '12

Questions? Contact Mrs. Kathleen McArdle  
[mcardle.kathleen@marist.net](mailto:mcardle.kathleen@marist.net)  
(773) 881-5357

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For more information see Mrs. Pochlyly  
or Mr. Meyer in Campus Ministry



# Theatre Guild presents “West Side Story” this spring

by Emma Brown  
junior reporter

The Marist Theatre Guild will perform *West Side Story* on March 22, 23 and 24 at the Baer Theater at Morgan Park Academy.

The musical, a retelling of *Romeo and Juliet*, features Tony and Maria, two young lovers trapped between enemy gangs, the Jets and the Sharks, in the Upper West Side of New York City in the late 1950s.

Tony (junior Jimmy Lynch) is an ex-member of the Jets and close friend of the gang’s leader, Riff (senior Philip Duda). Maria (senior Maddie Curtin) is the sister of Bernardo (senior Abram Camarena), the leader of the Sharks.

The Jets hate the Sharks because they have “invaded their turf” after emigrating from Puerto Rico. The Sharks, in turn, hate the Jets for their racism. Both gangs attend a neighborhood dance, where Tony and Maria meet and fall in love.

The couple plans to run away together, but tensions worsen between the gangs, with the threat of serious violence erupting.

This stalls the lovers’ plans as Tony and Maria try to put an end to the violence among the people they care about.

The rest of the cast features both experienced student actors and students new to musical theater.

“We have so many new faces this year and I can’t wait to see all the talent that they bring to the stage,” Camarena said. “We have all worked so hard and made so many memories and I can’t wait to see it all pay off in our final production.”

The show is co-directed by faculty members Erin Kelly and Erin Vail, and choreographed by alum and assistant speech coach Robbie Distasio.

Performances on March 22-23 will begin at 7:30 p.m. Performances on March 24 will take place at 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for students and \$10 for adults and will be available at the door.

“The music in this is so beautiful, it’s hard not to fall in love with the show from the very first note,” Curtin said. “It’s a fantastic story with a heart-wrenching message to choose love over hate.”



photo by Emma Brown

(from left) Riff (senior Philip Duda) stares threateningly at Chino (sophomore Joe Crisp), while Maria (senior Maddie Curtin) and Tony (junior Jimmy Lynch) remain unaware of the looming danger as they rehearse *West Side Story* in the RedHawk Theatre.



photo by Emma Brown

Jacob Mozdzen, Sam Reidy and Jake Rahn work on perfecting their problem-solving strategy at math team practice. The RedHawks placed first in all three Catholic League meets this season and will compete next at regionals, hosted by Lincoln-Way East, on Feb. 24.

## Math team preps for regionals

by Jocelyn Diaz  
senior reporter

The RedHawk math team won the championship in the third and final meet of the Catholic League season at Mother McAuley last Saturday.

A total of 46 RedHawks from all four grade levels competed in 12 different competition categories.

The team placed first at the season’s first two Catholic League tournaments on Nov. 4 at home and on Dec. 9 at Nazareth Academy.

In preparation for the upcoming regional tournament at Lincoln-Way East on Feb. 24, the team has been focusing more on individual questions to increase its speed.

“At practice we switched from eight-person team questions to individual questions,” junior Nick Brown said. “These questions tend to require more speed and focus on central topics that we need to know for the competition.”

The team also practices by using tests from prior competitions to expand their critical thinking and learn new ways to approach problems.

“We work through the problems and tests, making sure we all understand how to do all of them,” senior Elise Viz said.

Team members credit their success to a balance between individual talent, teamwork and good coaching.

“The secret to our success is our togetherness,” senior Martha Kowalski said. “We function as a team, but we depend on each person to calculate his or her part. We literally count on each other and on our great coaches.”

The team is coached by math teachers Owen Glennon and Jeff Nicholson.

“The credit goes to the students for spending so much time after school at practice,” Nicholson said. “They are dedicated and diligent. Mr. Glennon and I can guide them, but if they don’t show up, then it would be a different story. They are the ones who do it, not us.”

## Students can vote on March 20

by Gianna Miritello  
senior reporter

Cook County Clerk David Orr urges 18 year olds and students who will be 18 years old by Nov. 6 to register to vote in the upcoming Illinois primary election on March 20.

This means that students who are currently 17 years old can also register to vote if their 18th birthday falls on or before the Nov. 6 general election.

Standard registration ends on Feb. 20, but online registration continues until March 4. Voting can take place by mail or at polling sites. Voters can vote between March 5-19, or on Election Day.

In the March 20 primary, registered voters will choose either a Republican or Democrat ballot and vote for one of the candidates running for office.

Incumbent Governor Bruce Rauner is facing a challenge from Republican Illinois State Representative Jeanne Ives. The winner of the Republican gubernatorial primary will face the winner from the Democratic Party.

Running for the Democrats are J.B. Pritzker, Daniel Bliss and Chris Kennedy.

Other choices on the March 20 ballot include candidates for U.S. Representative, Illinois State Representatives, State Senators and other key statewide and county offices.

Clerk Orr’s office reports that 83 percent of age-eligible high school and college students did not vote in the 2014 election.

“I think schools need to do a better job of emphasizing the importance of voting to students,” Underclassmen Dean of Academics Joe Inzinga said. “It is vital to our nation’s future that young people become aware of and have intellectual conversations about issues, because it allows them to understand both sides.”

Students can also serve as election judges, which pays \$190. Juniors and seniors who judge at polling sites will be responsible for helping voters and overseeing polling place activity. Election judges must complete a training class and serve on Election Day.

Students can apply to be an election judge at [cookcountyclerk.com/students](http://cookcountyclerk.com/students).

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Science wing will allow RedHawks to soar higher

The new year has brought changes to our campus, beginning with the start of construction on the new science wing.

The science wing is set to be completed in time for the 2019-20 school year. To accommodate for the construction site, the west faculty parking lot was shut down and all traffic on campus is now westbound only.

While the new driving procedures and parking may take some getting used to, the resulting science wing is a critical step in making science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education a priority at our school.

Science's applications influence nearly every aspect of our lives. According to the U.S. Department of Commerce, science, technology, engineering and math jobs are growing at 17 percent, compared to the 9 percent growth rate of other occupations.

STEM jobs also pay more. Science is the key to staying ahead of the new global marketplace, yet the U.S. lags behind other countries in this area.

The problem stems from how we educate our students about STEM.

According to the National Assessment of Educational Progress, only 21 percent of American high school seniors perform at or above national proficiency standards in science.

By the time many students reach high school, they describe science as being boring and useless. The new facilities and equipment in our science wing will improve the way science classes are taught and get students more interested in learning.

Victor Pereira, Jr., a lecturer at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, advises teaching science as more than an academic subject. He argues teachers should approach science as acquiring skills, not memorizing facts. Pereira advises that classes should focus on the "scientific process of discovery."

The 10 new science labs will get students out of regular classroom settings to experience science lessons that are more engaging and impactful. Additionally, our science teachers and students will take a much needed step away from memorization of facts and focus on the acquisition and application of skills.

While learning science for science's sake is important, it is not the only benefit of the new science wing. Science is about making observations, asking questions, gathering evidence and drawing conclusions.

The scientific method helps students think critically and logically, skills that can be applied to many areas of study beyond STEM. Students practice problem-solving and error analysis when they design experiments to test hypotheses.

Through experimentation, students learn to eliminate errors, analyze data and look for relationships between theories and evidence to draw conclusions.

Science helps students develop and practice crucial collaboration skills. Scientists working in teams get better results. Lab work also requires written and oral communication skills to share findings with other scientists.

The new science wing will put Marist at the forefront of science education in the 21st century among area Catholic schools and even many public schools. Its completion in 2019 will give RedHawks yet another reason to fly higher academically.



Open your heart...not your wallet

Valentine's Day is widely known as the day we express our love, especially to our significant others, through roses, chocolate, jewelry and other gifts.

The Roman Catholic Church established Feb. 14 as the day to commemorate St. Valentine back in the 400s. It was not until the 1300s that Valentine's Day started to become associated with love and romance.

Over the years, the true purpose of this holiday, like many others in the United States, has been lost to materialism.

CNN News reports that Americans will spend an estimated \$18.6 billion on Valentine's Day-related purchases. People will spend \$4.4 billion on jewelry alone, while another \$2.7 billion will be spent on flowers and chocolate.

The amount of money that Americans spend on Valentine's Day is absurd. Showing love to a person should not come with a price tag.

Diane Brice, director of the Suicide Prevention Service, reports that there is a spike in calls to suicide hotlines around and on Valentine's Day. People feel that if they do not have a significant other, they are missing out and feel isolated.

To help single people feel better on Valentine's Day, the focus needs to shift toward acknowledging and celebrating all the people in one's life who bring them love, not just their significant others. The day is an opportunity for all of us to give back to the ones we love and show our appreciation for them in non-materialistic ways.

Gratitude is linked to happiness. Studies conducted by Dr. Robert A. Emmons of the University of California and Dr. Michael E. McCullough of the University of Miami support this. In their experiment, one group of people wrote down things they were grateful for once a week for 10 weeks.

At the end of the 10 weeks, those who kept these weekly gratitude journals reported that they had a more optimistic outlook and felt much better about their lives.

Valentine's Day, then, is a chance for us to show gratitude toward others through notes, letters or phone calls. One does not need to buy a card. Homemade, handwritten notes and cards will be much more appreciated because they require more thought and time.

Homemade and personal demonstrations of gratitude benefit both the sender and receiver, bringing greater happiness to both.

Valentine's Day serves as a great reminder to all of us to express our love to those around us, not just our romantic partners.

We should remember to cherish our loved ones every day, not just on Feb. 14.



Now is the time for all good men and women to come forward

Megan Alagna  
senior columnist

In light of the numerous men and women coming forward with allegations of sexual harassment, Americans must take this moment in our history to enact change in our culture and education about the dangers of sexual harassment and assault in our society.

Multiple celebrities and other public figures have come forward to speak publicly about being victims of sexual harassment or assault.

In many cases, their courage has rightfully brought an end to the careers of the high-profile politicians, actors and journalists whom they accused.

In a report published by *Psychology Today*, sexual harassment includes inappropriate contact, exposing body parts, showing graphic images, unwelcome sexual emails and text messages, being offered a benefit for a sexual favor or being denied a promotion for refusing to go along with someone’s advances.

The magazine defines sexual assault as any unwelcome or forced physical contact against someone who is conscious or unconscious.

Sexual harassment and assault are not just major issues in Washington, Hollywood and the workplace. They are also prevalent in American middle and high schools. According to *Al-Jazeera* reporter Claire Gordon, 58 percent of students from grades seven to 12 have experienced some form of sexual harassment.

*Psychology Today* also notes that the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission reports receiving 12,000 allegations of sexual harassment every year, with women accounting for 83 percent of victims and men accounting for 17 percent.

However, that figure does not cover the countless cases that have not been reported.

Many victims remain silent because coming forward can often be intimidating for both men and women who find it difficult to recount such a horrific experience from their lives.

The reason for this fear of speaking out stems from the fact that society historically tended to dismiss, ridicule or not believe the women and men who did.

These societal responses contributed to the normalization of inappropriate behavior in our culture. In order to transform our culture, we must implement better educational programs within schools so that the generations to come will learn the importance of respect for one another.

If someone is being sexually harassed, witnesses or friends must speak up when victims find themselves unable or unwilling to do so themselves.

Stanford University’s sexual harassment policy provides guidelines so that students can be more vigilant. The common-sense policy includes providing support to victims, educating everyone about the rights of the individual and guidelines for reporting harassment or assault to the authorities.

A willingness to follow these simple steps might just save someone from a lifetime of adversity.

DACA:  
Do Americans  
Care  
Anymore?

Martin Buck  
senior columnist

Most Americans know DACA as the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, but I think DACA should stand for ‘Do Americans Care Anymore?’

For me, DACA indicates that Americans do not care about separating families and do not feel remorse about forcing undocumented immigrants to go back to dangerous and impoverished countries.

DACA was created by the Obama Administration in June 2012.

According to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services website, DACA allows immigrants that entered the U.S. illegally before the age of 16 a chance to remain in the U.S., as long as they renew their DACA permits on time.

Last year, President Trump gave Congress until March 5 to “fix” DACA. Congress needs to figure out a solution and alleviate the fears that have been struck into the hearts of undocumented people by the president.

President Trump has made it abundantly clear that he wants to put an end to illegal immigration. But in doing so, he is failing in an area in which President Obama succeeded: giving children of undocumented immigrants in the United States a fair chance.

Many of us believe that immigrants, both documented and undocumented, actually strengthen our country.

Both parties in Washington need to work out a compromise that will lead to a path for citizenship for those already here.

As long as these children and their undocumented parents are contributing to society in positive ways, we should allow them the chance to work, study and have the opportunities that they came here seeking.

Some of my own Irish ancestors came to this country and remained without documentation for years. Yet they were some of the proudest and most patriotic Americans I have ever met.

According to a 2014 study by the Center for Immigration Services, immigrants, legal and illegal, make up 13.3 percent of the nation’s population, a highly significant number of people.

As Catholics, we have been taught that it is our Christian duty to accept everyone regardless of their faith, class, race or lifestyle. We should treat others the way we want to be treated.

If I were a DACA recipient, I know that I would be very nervous right now about whether or not my family was going to be kicked out or taken away from me.

If President Trump and his supporters in Congress want to work on ways to keep more people from coming to the United States illegally, then that’s one thing.

But the president and his supporters are misplacing their focus by targeting the families in the DACA program who are living, studying and working here meaningfully and peacefully.

As Americans, we need to exercise greater compassion when it comes to DACA.

We need to forgive.  
We need to support our immigrants to make America truly great again.

photo opinion

by Emma Brown and Erin Hohl

What is one thing you would change about our bell schedule/school day?



Imani Roberts  
freshman

I would like every student to get a free period or study hall. The reason for this is that it will make it easier for us to stay on top of our work, to catch up on homework or even to talk to teachers.



Morgan Flynn  
sophomore

There is nothing I would change about our current schedule. I like that we have time to talk with our friends during passing periods. I also like having a late start once a week, allowing us extra sleep on Fridays.



Lucas Pennix  
junior

I would change the start time to 8 a.m. I personally know a few people who take multiple trains and buses to get to school. A later start time would help them. It would also give students like me more time to talk to teachers before school.



Ricky Cave  
senior

I personally would not change anything about our bell schedule. I believe that classes are the perfect amount of time for teachers to get their lessons completed without students losing interest. I also like the consistency of the schedule and how it doesn’t alternate.



Mrs. Laurencell  
administrative assistant

I would bring back the early dismissals and alternate between them and late starts on Fridays. This would give students a little more variety in their schedule from week to week. It would also bring the weekend that much closer for them every other week.



Mr. Fritsch  
science teacher

I would like to see us go to block scheduling because then activities that would normally take two mods/days could be completed in a single day. It would benefit the science classes, especially with doing labs. It would also give me more time to help students.



# Answering God's call: Br. Hank Hammer

Stephanie Kozlowski  
editor-in-chief

Brother Hank Hammer has found himself back at Marist Chicago many times during the 40 years he has been a Marist Brother.

Br. Hank grew up in Seaford, New York, where he attended St. William the Abbot for grammar school. He attended public high school and then was accepted into Marist College in Poughkeepsie, New York.

"It was there that I met the Marist Brothers," Br. Hank said. "Joining the brotherhood wasn't necessarily on my mind when I entered college, but I always knew I wanted to be a Catholic school teacher. I got to meet a lot of them and saw that they were very warm and welcoming people. That's where my interest in becoming a brother began."

Br. Hank also notes that turbulent events in our nation and world during the late 1960s and early 1970s motivated many Americans to get involved in service work.

"That was a very interesting period to live through," Br. Hank said. "When I was in 7th grade, President Kennedy was assassinated. Then in 1968 Bobby Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. were assassinated. The Civil Rights Movement was going on, as well as the Vietnam War and Vatican II, so it was a time of great upheaval. Doing service work to help other people became very popular at the time."

Br. Hank also felt a strong urge to help others in need.

"I went to college with five guys who joined the brothers when I did because there was this prevailing sense that we should give of ourselves, whether to the Church or to organizations like the Peace Corps. It was probably the end of that era, because not long after we started to see a downward trend in vocations."

Before entering the novitiate, Br. Hank was given the opportunity to see if being a brother was something he really wanted to pursue.

"I first came to Marist Chicago in 1973," Br. Hank said. "I was here for two years as a teacher and lived in the monastery. There were 36 brothers living here, including four of the guys that I entered the brotherhood with. The average age of the brothers was 26, so it was nice that we were with our peers."

After two years at Marist, he went back to New York to receive the official training to become a brother, then returned to Chicago.

"I was lucky enough to come back here from 1976 to 1981," Br. Hank said. "I was then sent to a Marist school in the Bronx for five years, Mount Saint Michael Academy. I was sent back to Chicago from 1986 to 1996. From 1996 to 2009 I lived in Chicago, but I worked with all the Marist schools in the country."

"In 2009, I returned to Marist Chicago as the academic dean for five years, and then four years ago I was asked to become president. So most of my adult life has been here as a brother. It is very unusual to keep coming back to a place because most brothers have been in several different schools. I've only been in two."

Br. Hank stresses the importance of knowing that God still calls young people to religious life and hopes that they will learn more about vocations.

"It is important for young people to speak to a brother, sister or priest because we all have ideas of what something is like," Br. Hank said. "It's important to talk to someone who really knows and who can help guide you."

He also pointed out that there are key differences between the priesthood and brotherhood.

"Brothers and sisters are lay people who take vows," Br. Hank said. "Priests are ordained. The vocations for each group are truly different. Marist brothers



photo by Gianna Miritello

**Brother Hank Hammer gathers with students before Monday's Mass celebrating Catholic Schools Week. This year marks Br. Hank's 40th year as a Marist Brother.**

focus on education and young people. We live in a community with each other, and this is a very important part of our life."

Br. Hank acknowledges that the number of people entering religious life is dwindling and admits that he does not know what the Church will look like in 25 years.

"That will be interesting to see," Br. Hank said. "I think people don't join what they don't know. When I was in grammar school, many of the classes were taught by nuns, and guys that went to Catholic high school saw brothers. People liked what they saw. Today it is very different because if people don't have an experience with a sister, brother or priest they are less likely to join religious life."

He points to the growing number of Marist Brothers in other parts of the world, and feels certain that the mission of the brothers in the United States will continue to focus on the charism of St. Marcellin Champagnat and on young people.

Br. Hank also emphasizes the humanity of those who do choose to enter religious life.

"People should see brothers, sisters and priests as human beings," Br. Hank said. "We are not better than anyone else, it is just the way we have chosen to live our lives."

"I am not a saint. I am not necessarily holy. I am not necessarily closer to God than you are. It's not about being perfect, but about being the best version of yourself you can be."

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To learn more, talk to Br. Hank, Br. Sam, or Deacon Andy



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# RedHawk cheerleaders compete at state today

by Erin Hohl  
senior reporter

The RedHawk varsity cheerleaders will compete in the state finals at Illinois State University today, after finishing second out of 15 teams at sectionals last Saturday. This is the third consecutive year the RedHawks have qualified for state. Competition season began on Dec. 3 at Crystal Lake Central, where the squad came in second place. The RedHawks went on to first-place finishes in competitions at Joliet West, Lincoln-Way Central and Oak Forest High School, finishing the season with a third-place finish at Huntley on Jan. 21. “Although we are humbled and grateful we won three invitationals, our main focus is the IHSA State Finals,” head coach Jordan Miller said. “We often use the first-place trophies from the local invitationals as motivation to keep pushing for the larger trophy [at ISU] at the end of our competitive season.”

This year’s varsity squad includes seniors Julianna Dabrowski, Mary McKenna, Carly Turcich, Abigail Arvesen, Hannah Hart and Meagan Loranger. Juniors include Jhadia Adams, Mia DeMonica, Makenna Farrelly, Emily Gillespie, Cailin Stevens, Maggie Bojan, Elizabeth Davidson, Anna Frieling and Molly Sullivan. Underclassmen include sophomores Alyssa Hartley, Caitlin Richter, Emily Egan and Molly Mongan and freshmen Kelly Arvesen, Mattingly Malczewski, Ella McGrath and Delaney Ryan. In order to advance to tomorrow’s championship competition and vie for the state title, the RedHawks must place within the top 10 teams today. Dabrowski, a four-year member of the squad, credits the team’s passion for making this season unlike any other. “Every girl on the team gives it her all at competitions and at each practice,” Dabrowski said. “If we make a mistake, we just stay positive and push through with a smile.”



photo by Carolyn Yusa

The varsity cheerleaders perform during halftime at the basketball game against Br. Rice on Jan. 16. The squad competes in the first round of the state finals today at Illinois State University.



photo by Emma Brown

Junior Alyssa Lang warms up during practice on Jan. 15 for the team’s match at the Brunswick Zone in Niles on Jan. 18. Lang is one of the top scorers on varsity with an average of 170.

## Bowlers aim to spare none at regionals

by Kathleen Wilkison  
senior reporter

The RedHawk girls’ bowling team will compete at the IHSA regional meet tomorrow at Castaways Bowl in Calumet City at 9 a.m. Varsity is currently in fifth place in the Girls Catholic Athletic Conference (GCAC). The team is small this season, consisting of juniors Alyssa Lang and Allison Graff, sophomore Mikayla Flanagan, freshmen Kate Zeller and Rebecca Sanfratello and led by senior Ashley Iraci. “The biggest difference for me is that last year varsity included a bunch of seniors and I was a sophomore,” Lang said. “This year the team consists of students from all grade levels, so it proves that anyone with talent can make varsity.” Lang, who started bowling in third grade, is one of the RedHawks’ top scorers

this season, averaging 170. Head coach Cathy Chambers expressed hope that Lang will make it to sectionals in the individual category. “Alyssa has been an asset to the team,” Chambers said. “She has certainly paved the way for underclassmen on how to achieve excellence through her bowling skills, especially consistency with her shots.” If the team advances tomorrow, sectionals will be held next Saturday, Feb. 10. The team continues to work toward its ultimate goal of making it to the IHSA State Final on Feb. 16-17 at Cherry Bowl Lanes in Rockford. Chambers also aims to continue building the team. “Bowling is a sport to be involved in if you want to have fun and make new friends during high school,” Chambers said. “It is becoming a more popular sport because of the girls’ positivity.”

## Poms looks back on fun season

by Gina Musso  
junior reporter

The RedHawk varsity poms team finished its competition season on Saturday, Jan. 20 at a very tight sectional at Geneva High School. To qualify for state, teams must place in the top six at sectionals. The RedHawks placed eighth out of 16 teams, missing sixth place by just 1.2 points. “The girls have been practicing for their moment at sectionals all season long,” head coach Krista Placas said. “With every comment that we received from the judges at previous competitions, we would adjust our routine to try to perfect it. Everyone worked extremely hard to perform her very best for the team.” Missing the qualification for state did not discourage the team, especially the four-year seniors. “This season is one I will never forget,” senior captain Jenna Wilmot said. “We pushed ourselves so hard to make sure we were a team that will be remembered.”

Leading up to sectionals, the team placed first at the Eisenhower competition on Dec. 2, took third at Oak Forest on Dec. 3 and fourth out of 18 teams at Bremen on Dec. 10. On Jan. 14, the team competed in the Catholic League Dance Championship at Loyola Academy, placing eighth overall. Along with Wilmot, the team is led by five other senior captains, Miriam Lynn, Sara Mesmer, Lily Ryan, Megan Solana and Amy Tracy. Placas notes that the captains help lead the team through injuries, tough practices and last-minute routine adjustments. “The seniors provided the leadership and motivation that pulled the team together and helped us be so successful,” Placas said. “They wrote motivational quotes before each practice and competition, remained positive throughout practices, gave critiques and guidance to younger dancers and helped maintain the team’s strong work ethic. I don’t think this season would have been quite as successful without their dedication to their teammates and to the program.”



photo by Emma Brown

The RedHawk junior varsity poms squad performs at the Jan. 19 basketball game at home against Benet Academy. Both JV and varsity poms will perform at the basketball games against Notre Dame College Prep at home tonight at 5:30 and 7.



# Catholic League rivals fall short against RedHawks’ strong bond

by Raini Eldorado  
senior reporter

The RedHawk varsity boys’ basketball team entered this week with a 19-2 record, with big January victories over Catholic League rivals Marian Catholic (53-47), Joliet Catholic Academy (62-31) and Brother Rice (52-42).

The neighborhood rivalry between the RedHawks and the Brother Rice Crusaders is highly anticipated each year, a game that brings both communities together in force. This season the teams faced each other in the Red and White Gym on Tuesday, Jan. 16.

Senior Jack Ellison transferred from Chicago Christian for his senior year and experienced his very first rivalry game against Brother Rice.

“Playing Brother Rice was a great experience,” Ellison said. “I wasn’t really nervous, just more anxious to play. The thing I like best about RedHawk basketball is our chemistry and how much we support each other on and off the court.”

This year the team is led by Ellison and fellow seniors Morgan Taylor, Tristan Ach, Conor Coyne and David Daniels.

“It feels great to lead with the other seniors and to leave a great example for the upcoming players,” Daniels said. “I am sad that the season is almost over, but I’m excited for what we have accomplished and what we have yet to accomplish.”

The team also includes juniors Dylan Hill, Nile Hill, Kyle Jennings, Jimmy Porter, Ethan Field, Dorion Pendleton, Ricardo Vazquez, Trey Affolter and Jimmy Knight and sophomore Joshua Morris.

“Being the youngest player is an honor,” Morris said. “The guys accepted me and they treat me like a younger brother. Our bond is great and that’s what has really helped lead us to our success so far this season.”

Head coach Gene Nolan continues to push his team to work hard as they prepare for playoffs at the end of February.

“The senior players have really set the foundation,” Nolan said. “This team’s strong work ethic in practices has really paid off this season in our games.”



photo by Gina Musso

**Senior point guard Morgan Taylor (center) takes possession of the ball from Brother Rice on Jan. 16, helping lead the RedHawks to a 52-42 victory. The team hosts Notre Dame College Prep tonight at 7 and plays at St. Ignatius tomorrow at 4 p.m.**



photo by Christine Bradshaw

**Senior Nathan Bednarczyk tries to take down his opponent at the Jan. 12-13 Lincoln-Way East Illini Classic. The RedHawks host the IHSA Class 3A Regional tournament tomorrow at 9 a.m. in the Red and White Gymnasium.**

## Wrestlers head to regionals tomorrow

by Jillian Okelman  
senior reporter

The RedHawk varsity wrestling team ended its regular season on Jan. 26 after competing in the ESCC Individual Varsity tournament.

Senior Frank Doyle, juniors Collin Bartolotta and Tim Maher and junior captain Mike Leveille were named all-conference wrestlers. Junior captain Jacob Dado was named conference champion.

“We’re working on improving ourselves [for regionals] by working on conditioning, getting stronger and trying new positions,” Leveille said.

Since the team has only two seniors actively wrestling, head coach Brendan Heffernan looks to the team’s two junior captains, Leveille and Dado, to lead the team.

Dado, who will continue wrestling in college, is grateful for the opportunity to help lead the team this year.

“As captain, I try to improve myself and the team by working harder in practice every day,” Dado said. “Being captain has been a great opportunity, especially as colleges start looking at me. I would really like to wrestle at West Point or Old Dominion.”

Heffernan sees Leveille and Dado as assets because they will return as seniors next season and continue to provide leadership for the rest of the team.

“We’re looking forward to them coming back next year and learning from what they’ve done this year,” Heffernan said. “They’ve advanced to the championship match of every tournament we’ve had.”

Leveille points out that although wrestling is an individual sport, each wrestler works to benefit the team.

“We all work to help each other,” Leveille said. “Being on this sport is an awesome experience. The team has taught me that you have to think beyond yourself to help the whole team succeed.”

## RedHawks face Benet, then semifinals

by Gianna Miritello  
senior reporter

As the regular season comes to a close next week, the RedHawk varsity girls’ basketball team started this week with a 19-5 record after Monday night’s 68-50 loss to Maine West.

Junior guard Stef Schied and freshman forward Sydney Affolter led the RedHawks with 16 points each.

Head coach Mary Pat Connolly credits the team with hard work and dedication to the game, recalling an exciting 52-51 win against St. Ignatius on Dec. 3.

“We were down by 11 points at one time, chipped our way back into the game and were able to pull out the win with 12 seconds left on the clock,” Connolly said. “It shows our team has a lot of grittiness. We have a lot of fighters on our team.”

This season, Connolly plays five guards on the floor at a time, something she has never done before. Doing this gives the team more speed, which helps in making stronger defensive plays.

“Playing five guards allows us to spread the floor on both sides of the court,” junior captain and forward Abby Callahan said. “We are able to be more effective on defense with constant, full-court pressure. Offense can present more challenges if we play bigger teams, but our speed can normally wear teams down.”

Connolly feels that the team is well prepared for playoffs, which begin on Feb. 13.

“We lost to exceptionally good teams, but we are right where we want to be for this time in the season,” Connolly said. “Everyone works extremely hard every day, so by playoffs we should be peaking at the right time.”

Senior captain and point guard Ally Corcoran realizes the importance of hard work and practice, and hopes to instill these values in the rest of the team for the future.

“The way you practice is the way you are going to play in games,” Corcoran said. “I try to show the team a good work ethic and teach them what I was taught by past teammates, to stay confident and always remember the next play.”



photo by Emma Brown

**Junior team captain Abby Callahan makes a shot against Morgan Park on Jan. 8, contributing to the RedHawks’ 54-50 victory. The RedHawks’ final regular season game is on Feb. 7 at home against Benet at 7:30 p.m. The IHSA Class 4A Regional semifinals begin on Feb. 13, with the location and time to be announced next week.**