

# Alumni & Friends NEWS LETTER

Spring Edition 2021

# FOOTPRINTS



## INSIDE:

A Look to the Future ..... Page 1

SEED ..... Page 2

Faculty Spotlight ..... Page 2

Marquette Life ..... Page 3

Student Spotlight ..... Page 3

May Merriment 39 ..... Page 4

## A LOOK TO

# THE FUTURE



With all that's happening in our world today, a safe place for your child's education should be the last of your worries. Marquette Academy is an environment which is moral and value based in a society that needs it now more than ever. As a result of the pandemic, our children have been largely impacted and have missed out on numerous activities and milestones that are crucial to their social, educational and spiritual growth. We've been working very hard to maintain as much normalcy as possible, all while keeping safety as our top priority. MA teachers selflessly care for our students, beyond just grades and attendance; and have made sure that they are learning every day, whether it be in person or virtual. Sports have returned, and we are able to have small crowds to support our athletes. The senior class is preparing for a modified version of their much anticipated spiritual senior retreat.

Due to Marquette Academy's attention to detail, our students are better prepared for each next step in their education. Our Preschool programs are play and learning based, which means that in Kindergarten, students are reading entire books, writing and doing math. Junior High students are prepared for High School through the use of STEM based learning, focusing on problem solving and analytical thinking, as well as accelerated Math, English and Science classes. With a 100% graduation rate, and an emphasis on community service, our high school seniors are more prepared for college and the real world. We are the only school in this area who offers the Running Start program to earn an Associate's Degree from IVCC while in high school. We also offer Dual Credit Courses, and the IAI program which both help students earn college credits. Google classroom helps facilitate learning at every grade level, even our youngest students are using technology via Chromebooks, iPads and the computer. All these things combined, puts our students ahead of the game!

Looking towards the future, we are working towards some goals that will benefit every student at Marquette Academy. One is to continue upgrading our technology and the second is to provide every student with their own personal Chromebook.

No matter what lies ahead, we are confident in saying that Marquette Academy is the best choice for a quality catholic education. Visit [www.marquetteacademy.net](http://www.marquetteacademy.net) to take a virtual tour of either campus. For questions, or to help support our efforts, please contact our main office at the High School 815-433-0125.

### PLEASE UPDATE YOUR INFO

Contact Diane Whalen with  
email or address updates  
[dwhalen@marquetteacademy.net](mailto:dwhalen@marquetteacademy.net)



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*Follow us on social media!*



# SEED

*Students Evangelizing Every Day*

Many of our Marquette Academy high school students participate in SEED (Students Evangelizing Every Day), the Ottawa Catholic Youth Group. It's a great way for them to safely have fun with their peers while growing their faith. The group meets monthly to play games, share meals, and serve the community - all while learning about God's love and about the Catholic faith.

SEED enjoyed a relaxing afternoon together in February, creating, serving and competing. High school students learned how to create rings - and then made their own. Members also served our local homeless shelter, PADS, by placing encouraging scripture verses on their favorite snack items and then decorated Valentine bags for each client. Students also enjoyed competing in some fierce Wii games. Marquette Academy Chaplain, Fr. Mattingly, spent time with the group and taught our youth about what virtue is and how we can grow in developing good habits that bring joy and help those around us.

## Faculty Spotlight

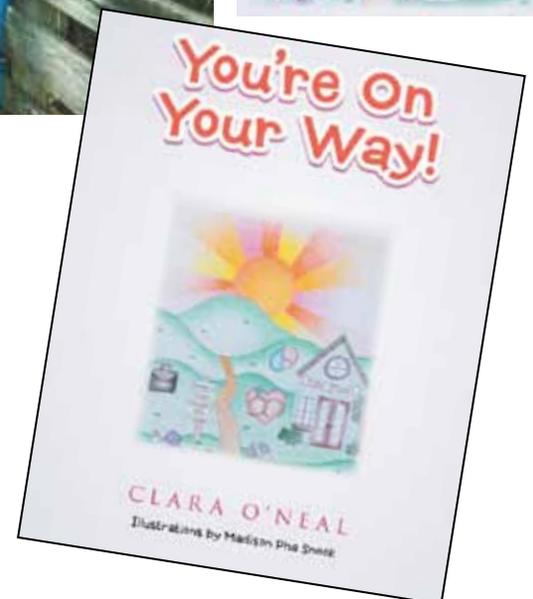
# Clara O'Neal

**You're on your way ... Today is your day!**

Marquette Academy Preschool teacher, **Clara O'Neal**, has published her first book! ***You're On Your Way*** is the perfect "gift book" for those many milestones in people's lives. Whether you are celebrating a graduation, engagement, career move, moving to a new home, or welcoming a new little one; this is the perfect book to celebrate great accomplishments along the journey of this life. The book was illustrated by Marquette Academy senior artist, **Madison Snook**.

Clara is a wife and mother of two children. She has been a Christian educator or more than 25 years, and it has been her passion to share the love of her faith with others through teaching. This is Clara's first book, and she hopes that it becomes an heirloom book for children and young adults going through personal milestones in their lives.

Thank you Mrs. O'Neal for being a bright light to so many young people in these difficult times. *You're On Your Way!* may be purchased at Prairie Fox Books in Ottawa, IL, or on [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).



**Be a Champion for Catholic Education!** Here are just a few areas that benefit from your gift: Scholarships, WYSE Team, STEM, Athletics, Fine Arts Club, Tuition Assistance, Sponsorships, or shop with SCRIP. Contact the Advancement Office at 815-433-0125. Or make a donation online: [marquetteacademy.net](http://marquetteacademy.net)

# MARQUETTE LIFE



*"No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another."* Charles Dickens

A light pole at Gould Field that was destroyed by the storm this past summer, and was replaced with the help of some Marquette alumni. Our thanks to Durdan Electric, B & G Electric and Charlie Mitchell. The football season is scheduled to resume in March. Go CRU!!

Marquette Academy FFA took a field trip to the Think OINK facility in Verona, IL. Thank you to the Streator High School Agricultural department for welcoming our Intro to Agriculture classes for a visit to learn about their Think Oink program. The students learned about production practices in agriculture through hands-on activities and were very excited to be able to pet and hold the piglets!

Marquette Academy 2nd grade student, Jordan, begins her day of virtual learning with a prayer led by her teacher, Mrs. Melody. All of our teachers worked to make the days of virtual learning as consistent as possible for students. Marquette Academy completed full day, in-person learning until the Thanksgiving break, and resumed in-person learning on January 11.

## Student Spotlight **Madison Snook**

**Marquette Academy senior, Madison Snook, has signed with the University of Oklahoma and will be a part of the D1 Women's Gymnastics team!**

"I started gymnastics when I was around five years old. It has been a huge part of my life. I was of being a college gymnast. During this time I would be of the afternoon. I was in the gym from about 12:30- everyday. Because of my crazy schedule, I childhood like my twin Although our lives at the unusual childhood for any-

I was so excited to get the "high school experience". Throughout my time at Marquette I have taken art all four years with Ms. Mills. She has been a huge help in guiding me through my art aspirations. Last summer, Ms. Mills contacted me with the idea of illustrating a book for one of Marquette Academy's grade school teachers, I could not have been any more thrilled! I met with Mrs. O'Neal and we began working on the ideas for the book, and sketched out a few pages at a time. Once the book was completed, we sent it in for final printing. After illustrating this book, it has shown me that my art can be more than just a hobby. In the future, I will be attending University of Oklahoma to continue my gymnastics career. Oklahoma is ranked number one collegiate gymnastics and I couldn't be any more blessed with the opportunities I have been given. At Oklahoma, I will also be continuing to work on my artistic skills, majoring in Art with a minor in Business."

**Madison Snook**



SAVE THE DATE! - MAY 15, 2021

# BLUE & GOLD Gala

MARQUETTE MAY MERRIMENT XXXIX

On May 15, 2021, Marquette Academy will be hosting its 39th annual May Merriment dinner/auction - "The Blue & Gold Gala" to celebrate all things Marquette! Even with the uncertainties of the pandemic, we are optimistic and hopeful that we can again hold an in person event. We will follow safety guidelines and have back-up plans if need be. Last year's online auction was a successful alternate option, and we're so grateful to everyone who supported us through 2020.

Our children have been largely impacted by the pandemic. They've missed out on numerous activities and milestones that are crucial to their social, educational and spiritual growth. At Marquette Academy, we've been working hard to maintain as much normalcy as possible, all while keeping safety as our top priority. MA teachers selflessly care for our students, beyond just grades and attendance; and have made sure that they are learning every day, whether it be in person or virtual. We hope you will join in our efforts to invest in our students' present, so that they may have amazing futures! Thank you to all of our generous sponsors, donors and families. Event details will be shared when more information is available.

**If you would like to sponsor, donate, or attend May Merriment 39, please contact the Advancement Office at 815-433-0125 Ext 1017 or 1018.**



Committee Chairpeople are: (from left to right) Charlie & Diane Mitchell, Pete & Mary McGrath, Amy & Dan Thomas

Get in on the **\$25,000 Big Cash Raffle!** With 5 other cash prizes available. Tickets cost \$100, Contact Diane Whalen today at 815-433-0125 ext 1018. **For the most current updates visit [www.marquetteacademy.net](http://www.marquetteacademy.net).**

Visit our auction website to preview the auction items ahead of time, buy tickets and donate to our cause securely online at [www.bidpal.net/mmm39](http://www.bidpal.net/mmm39).

For more information and all things Marquette, visit [www.marquetteacademy.net](http://www.marquetteacademy.net)



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