

Alumni & Friends
**NEWS
LETTER**

Fall Edition 2020

FOOTPRINTS



INSIDE:

Salutatorian message Pg 1

Class of 2020 Pg 2

Valedictorian message Pg 3

Accomplishments Pg 3

8th grade Class of 2020 Pg 4



A message from the 2020

Salutatorian Sean Kissel

I am really banking on this sound system working for this whole speech... so here's hoping. Good Evening Family, Friends, Faculty, and most importantly, fellow graduates. It is my honor to be standing here as the Salutatorian of the Marquette Class of 2020. To explain what a Salutatorian is.. I turned to the ever so wise, Urban Dictionary. It defines the word as "the person who just missed being Valedictorian by a few GPA points... also known as the first loser". So...here we are... and here I am... second to Kathryn for the final time. All is as it should be. Well.. almost. The circumstances of this gathering are obviously quite peculiar. I'm pretty sure I don't have to remind everyone why that is and as I was writing this speech on the car ride over here, I thought to myself... how do I deliver a speech to a class that by most definitions didn't exist for a third of the year? And then it came to me. No matter how far apart we are, No matter what things plague our time we have... we are still the class of 2020. We stand together. I know that sounds a little cliché, but I mean it. This class will go down in history as the class that made it through the great COVID-19 pandemic, despite most of us doing a truly terrible job of following the guidelines and regulations put in. We are all here today to celebrate us... which is honestly pretty dope. I for one am not one to usually thrive on this much attention but I feel great for you guys. As I stand here looking out at all of you... a great quote reverberates by the late great Charles Dickens "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." No, I did not read "A Tale of Two Cities" but the quote still slaps. Anyway... I feel that the quote really sums up our days spent in the halls of Marquette Academy. We were the class of survivors... we made it through the last years of a cameraless Marquette... fighting our way through the sea of relentless upperclassmen, struggling to not let our voices crack... and trying not to be pushed down a flight of stairs. Just me? Huh... alright. Then came the age of cameras and a new set of challenges that came with that. Gone were the days napping in study hall. It was a time of Mr. Glade tracking you down with the iPad because we decided to go to the cafeteria to play ping pong or the gym to shoot hoops or play some volleyball. And finally, the age of coronavirus. We made it through the e-learning... no baseball season, no softball season... we even made it through the season of teachers deciding that now that we aren't in class, they should give us MORE work to do online. Despite all that was stacked against us... despite all the obstacles... we pushed through. In a true crusader fashion... we hurdled all these challenges thrown at us and still came out on top. The potential I see in every single one of you is unparalleled to anything I have seen before. I think I speak for everyone when I say we will never truly stop being a Crusader. The ideals and virtues that have been emblazoned in our minds will carry us through college and the rest of life. This is not a solemn celebration of the end of something we can never go back to., it is a celebration of the beginning of something better, a stepping off point into the perilous journey that is the adult world. I am so proud of everything we have accomplished, and at the risk of sounding even more cliché, I cannot wait to see how we conquer the world. To the Class of 2020, I leave you with one last quote, "As we go on, we remember, all the times we, spent together, as our lives change, from whatever, we will still be, friends forever." Thank you.



Marquette Academy
1000 Paul Street
Ottawa, IL 61350
815-433-0125
marquetteacademy.net





MARQUETTE ACADEMY CLASS OF 2020



Seniors from left to right, top to bottom:

William Gabriel Amicon
 Preston Nicolas Aukland
 Caleb Michael Boucher
 David Xiyuan Chen
 Hunter Lee Childers
 Bridget Elizabeth Crouch
 Lennon Ray Daniels
 Eleanor Kathleen Eager
 Philip Lipu Fei

Jalen Calvin Flavel
 Chloe Morgan Garkey
 Grace Marie Jeanblanc
 Aspen Grace Johnson
 Gabe Allen Johnson
 Sean Matthew Kissel
 Anabell Lianne Kribbs
 Austin Matthew Leiteritz
 Sophia Rose Leskanich

Gabriel James Malosh
 Adam Marco Matza
 Madilynn Kathryn Marie McAlpine
 Aubrey Elizabeth McCallum
 Benedict John McGrath
 Hallie Elizabeth Nelson
 Rachael Lynn Obos
 Jersee Dalton Reed
 Grace Marie Rinearson

Joseph H Scott IV
 Yiyang John Shen
 Kathryn Christie Siena
 Andrew Marvin Smith
 Justis Jane Stanley
 Emma Danielle Thomas
 John Matthew Thompson
 Angelo Dean Weyer
 Ellen Victoria Wheatland

A message from the 2020 Valedictorian Kathryn Siena

When you think about high school, what do you remember? I know it's hard for me to see past the great hole that COVID left in our senior year. On March 14th, the Saturday after our last day of in-person school, I wrote, "after the emotions of senior retreat, it felt like the world was ending." And it did. We came back from three days of semi-isolation in senior retreat to see store shelves empty, schools closed, playground equipment taped off, and no masses. In the weeks following, a slow degeneration of our senior year continued, including the canceling of Fine Arts, the musical, sports seasons, and in-person classes for the rest of the semester. I know for me, it hurt so much to think back on all I had missed, all that was stolen from me after anticipating it for four years, that I shut it out. I didn't want to even think about it. But that's not the way we should respond. It's easy to let the sudden and dramatic ending of the school year consume us, but high school has been so much more than that.

There was a volleyball locker sign this year that always caught my eye. It said, "Beginnings are scary and endings are sad, but it's everything in the middle that makes it worth it." Although our high school years didn't have a strong end, we sure had a great beginning and middle. I don't know what you all remember from freshman year, but I always think of the "freshman group chat" from the summer before. I think of standing in the back of Crazy Cru at sports events, being afraid to approach teachers, and getting lost in a school that has only three hallways on each floor. The beginning was scary. But we moved beyond that. Sophomore year we began to gain our footing. We grew more comfortable with the teachers, the upperclassmen, and each other. We began to notice little quirks that would

mark our years, like how we lost privileges such as backpacks, water bottles, gum, sweat-shirts, phones, coming in the side door, wearing sweatpants for finals, and much, much more. By junior year, Marquette was a second home. Many of us would spend ten or more hours at the school daily, studying for our many classes that suddenly became very intense and participating in sports that we suddenly had a larger role in, but we managed to pull through and made great memories in the process. Then, finally, we were seniors. The leaders of the school. I remember sitting in class in the fall and seeing the football players in their jerseys and everyone else in jeans and a Marquette shirt, and being proud to be a part of such energy. We loved our school and were happy to be there. We cheered loudly at football and volleyball games, we led our respective sports and clubs, and, hopefully, we made high school more fun for everyone there.

That is our middle, our history. Our slow growth from scared, timid freshmen to seniors sprawled on the hard blue floors before school. As we move on from our high school years, don't forget that. Don't forget the obnoxious outfits people would produce for homecoming week and for Crazy Cru. Don't forget the long, uncomfortable bus rides to and from sporting events where there would either be loud laughter or silent sleeping. Don't forget the snowballs and horns of the parking lot. Don't forget Pauli, always there for us, either on the stick in Mr. Hall's room or as a part of our homecoming door. Don't forget that Marquette was your home.

And we have been so privileged to call Marquette home these past few years. Although we didn't always get along, we've made some great memories. We've learned to live with each other and care for each other

and we will always be connected by the years we spent together. We've had extremely supportive parents, grandparents, alumni, and volunteers. Our staff and teachers really cared about us, both as students and as people. If I had a problem, no matter what it was, I knew not only every teacher, but also every staff member, would help me to the best of their ability, which is something truly special about Marquette. Finally, most significantly, we had God present in our school and everything connected to it. Even when not in the forefront of our minds, He was always present, silently guiding us as awkward freshmen, as confident seniors, and as everything in between. In the coming years, remember that Marquette was your home. Remember all the good times we had and how it helped us grow to become the people we are today. We're leaving our home, but it will always be there, a strong, safe place for us to return to. And, as we all go off into the world, never be afraid to reach out for help. We have students in our class going to Virginia and to California, to Minnesota and to Missouri, to Ogelsby and to Utah. No matter where you are, near or far, help really is just a call away. I have no doubt that if any one of us ever needs anything, they will have thirty-five people there for them.

So, as we all go our separate ways in the world, I hope that the community we have at Marquette does not become a distant memory. I hope that you don't let the circumstances of our senior year keep you from staying connected with your friends here. Remember the middle of our high school years and that you will always belong. Remember, no matter how far it is in the future, that the class of 2020 is a second family and Marquette is a second home.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS!

- The class of 2020 accumulated nearly **\$1.5M** in scholarship monies.
- The top 50% of our seniors scored a combined **ACT average of a 24.6**. **With the top ten average of 27.3**. The National average is 20.9.
- Nearly 50% of this class maintained a **3.5 GPA or better**. With 75% of this class maintaining the honor roll or high honor roll all four years.
- The class of 2020 has **19 NHS members**
- The class of 2020 boasts a **National Merit Commended Scholar**
- The class of 2020 has accumulated **5,086 hours of community service**. This is nearly 1,000 hours over and above graduation requirement. The following students had outstanding service: Madilynn McAlpine 199, Hallie Nelson 199, Aubrey McCallum 210.5, Kathryn Siena 229, Emma Thomas 324.5, Grace Rinearson 541.5

Marquette Academy Top 10:

Kathryn Siena
Sean Kissel
Angelo Weyer
Anabell Kribbs
Chloe Garkey
Jalen Flavel
Grace Rinearson
Aubrey McCallum
Benedict McGrath
Hallie Nelson



Illinois State Scholars:

★ Sean Kissel
Kathryn Siena

National Merit Commended Scholar:

Kathryn Siena



CONGRATULATIONS!

We're proud of You!

The 8th grade Class of 2020, from MAES celebrated graduation on July 21.

Shean Alix, Aislinn Aussem, Will Carlson, Lilly Craig, Grace Dose, Sara Duchon, Natalie Dyche, Andrew Hamm, Katie Hardin, Daniel Hoffman, Lindsey Kuykendall, Mary Lechtenberg, Maisie Lyons, Henry McGrath, Peter McGrath, Charlie Mullen, Ava Paris, Katarina Pullara, Emma Rinearson, Nora Rinearson, Dalton Ryan, Mia Serna, Stefen Swords, Gwyneth Verona, Madison White, Claire Witthuhn, Carson Zellers

Visit www.marquetteacademy.net for schedules and all things Marquette!

www.marquetteacademy.net 815-433-0125 Follow us on Social Media



Marquette Academy
1000 Paul Street
Ottawa, IL 61350

NON PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
OTTAWA, IL
PERMIT
NO. 322

RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED