



MAY 15, 2021

MARQUETTE MAY MERRIMENT XXXIX

COVER DESIGN: MADISON SNOOK

Madison Snook

WELCOME!



We're thrilled that you're here and wish to extend the warmest of welcomes for this year's May Merriment XXXIX Blue & Gold Gala.

Since the initial meeting months ago, the overwhelming excitement for this year's May Merriment planning committee was all about being able to gather in-person. We couldn't wait to see, visit and celebrate our colors and the spirit of Marquette with each and every one of you - safely and face-to-face!

It's been more than a year now since life as we know it was put to a halt, but we at Marquette are counting our blessings.

In ordinary times Marquette Academy does an extraordinary job. In times of a pandemic, this institution has moved heaven and earth to keep our classrooms open to in-person learning - which is abundantly clear - there is NO SUBSTITUTE. Our administration, teachers, coaches and staff members have worked diligently to continue to provide our kids with top-notch, in-person Catholic education, stellar sports programs and extra-curricular activities that our kids need. It's what Marquette Academy has been known for since the very beginning and we can't thank them enough.

Additionally, throughout the year we were blessed to continue having some new and successful fundraising events, all of which helped support tonight's Blue & Gold Gala.

The MMM fundraising season kicked off late last summer on a beautiful evening under the lights and on the lawn of our lovely courtyard grotto area. Here, we responsibly gathered to enjoy delicious food, lovely cocktails and live music at our own Mini Ravinia. This special event was the first of its kind at Marquette and it certainly won't be the last.

Of course none of this would be possible without the generous support of our sponsors and members of our Marquette family. There are so many contributors always helping - getting together and developing new and innovative ways to promote and raise money, and they have a great time doing it - all for Marquette. Please know how important each and everyone of you are to the spirit and success of this school.

We are thrilled to celebrate Marquette Academy and it's glorious colors tonight at May Merriment XXXIX, the Blue & Gold Gala.

Your chairmen,

Mary and Pete McGrath
Diane and Charlie Mitchell
Amy and Dan Thomas

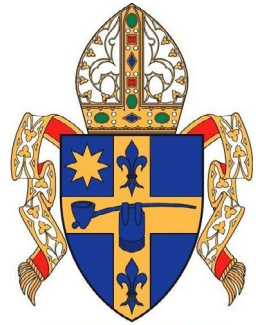


THANK YOU

to our Gold Sponsors:



ST. MICHAEL
the Archangel Parish



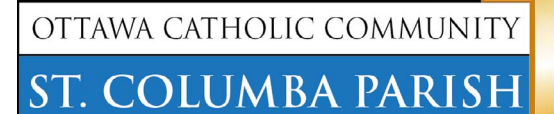
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Our Goal is to Exceed Your Expectations



Council #634





GOULD STADIUM HOME OF THE CRUSADERS



MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Dear Friends of Marquette Academy,

This year has certainly been one for the record books, one that we certainly will never forget. Through the difficulties we have seen throughout the past year we have become refocused on what is most important in our lives. Through the challenges we have faced we have become stronger and more resilient. We made it through all of this with dedication, tenacity and faith. We have come so far because we are Crusaders! I can not think of a better May Merriment theme to celebrate all that we have accomplished this year than the colors and heart of our amazing school. On behalf of Marquette Academy I would like to welcome you to Marquette May Merriment 39 "Blue and Gold Gala".

An event of this magnitude can only happen with the dedication and leadership of our chairpersons and their support staff. Our chairpersons this year Mary and Pete McGrath, Diane and Charlie Mitchell, and Amy and Dan Thomas have our gratitude for their tireless efforts in producing and redesigning this tremendous event. Once again, despite all of the difficulties and complications, our Advancement Office staff; Julie Verona, Danielle Entwistle, and Diane Whalen have gone above and beyond and should be applauded for their creativity and support to our many committees.

In addition, I would like to personally thank all of the hosts and attendees of our various gift-gathering parties for your time and generosity and to those volunteers who have helped not only tonight, but throughout the entire year. We are most appreciative of your time, talent and effort.

As you browse through this year's catalogue, you will find numerous items that have been donated or pur-

chased by various peoples or groups. As you view the many gifts, please give consideration to the many merchants who have so generously made these gifts available to us to make our auction possible. Thank you to our local merchants for their numerous donations and for their support of our efforts over the years, you are essential to our success.

At this time I would also like to acknowledge and thank the faculty, staff and administration of Marquette Academy for their dedication and commitment to Catholic education. I would also like to thank the Pastors Board and the Advisory Council for their continued time, help, support and dedication to the success of Marquette Academy.

On behalf of the students, administration, faculty, staff, Pastors Board and the Advisory Council, I would like to thank all of you whom have made this event possible. The goal of the Academy is to continue to make a difference in the lives of our students. With the help from supporters such as you we will continue to move forward in our mission of providing high quality catholic education for future generations of Crusaders and Knights. Through your generosity, now more than ever, you can help to ensure that every student at Marquette Academy can continue to grow spiritually, emotionally, and academically.

May God bless you and your families. Thank you again for your generous support of Marquette Academy.

Respectfully,

Brooke Rick

AUCTION PROGRAM

BLUE & GOLD Gala MMM39

SATURDAY, MAY 15, 2021 AT MARQUETTE ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL, 1000 PAUL STREET, OTTAWA

Celebrating all things Marquette and the year we missed!

5:00pm

Outdoor Mass by the Grotto

5:30pm

Check-in, appetizers and drinks
Silent Auction & Raffles

7:00pm

Sit-down Dinner

8:00pm

Welcome & Announcements in Bader Gym
Entertainment
Live Auction
Fund-a-Need
Raffle Winners Announced

Appetizers

Antipasto Skewers
Italian Sausage Bites
Bruschetta
Fried Ravioli

Starters

House Salad - Mixed greens,
red onion, cherry tomato, croutons
with Mona's house dressing on side
Dinner rolls

Dinner

Filet Mignon - cooked medium
Shrimp Scampi
Garlic Mashed Potatoes
Mixed Vegetables

Dessert

Eli's Cheesecake

Catered by Bernardi's

THANK YOU

MAY MERRIMENT FUNDRAISERS FOR 2020-21

Mini Ravinia	September 25 - \$2821
Fall Mums Online Sale	September \$1200
Rip's Party	October 10 - \$3930
Gift Gathering Party	October \$1000 (Nelson's)
Wreaths & Greens	November 2020 - \$2000
Alfano's Pizza Sales	November - \$2480
Merry Everything	December - \$22,849
Dress Down Week	February - \$2790 (GS and HS)
Gift Gathering Raffle	March - Blackstone Raffle Donation (Craig)

JOSEPH D. O'BRIEN, SR. VISIONARY AWARD

This annual award is named for the man who initiated and assisted in the development of our annual dinner/auction fundraiser, Marquette May Merriment. There have been countless volunteers who have dedicated themselves to this cause over the last 39 years since its inception.

Mr. O'Brien and other visionaries and dedicated volunteers like him are the soul of Marquette Academy. Recipients are given a personal plaque engraved with the following:

This award is presented to an exceptional volunteer, who has generously shared his or her time, talents, wisdom, and prayers for the continued success of Marquette Academy.

2002	Joe O'Brien, Sr.	2011	Bill & Jo Parrott
2003	Dee Niklas	2012	Pat Whalen
	Dorothy Boisso	2013	Mike McGrogan
2004	Lavina Hellman	2014	Don & Judy Kiesig
	Frances Christensen	2015	Dan Reynolds and Jerry Halterman
2005	Bill Gretencord	2016	Tim Durdan
	Jim Conness	2017	Lori Jesse
2006	Jim & Nancy Fewell	2018	Deanna Crowley
2007	Dee Anderson	2019	Dianne Thompson
2008	Bernie Bingaman	2020	Online Auction - no recipient
2009	Ray Kotek	2021	To be announced at MMM XXXIX
2010	Jim & Alice McGinnis		

RAFFLES

BIG CASH RAFFLE Package #900

Don't miss your chance to win the Big Cash Raffle!! This raffle is an integral part of our May Merriment Fundraiser, with the largest raffle prize give-away in the area! You could win \$25,000, \$5,000, \$2,500, \$1,000 or \$500. Sales will close at 7:00pm on May 15, 2021.

Early Bird drawing will be held Friday, May 7, 2021.

First Prize \$25,000

Second Prize \$5,000

Third Prize \$2,500

Fourth Prize \$1,000

Fifth Prize \$500

Early Bird on 5/7/21-\$1,000

Thank you to our GoClub sellers for your efforts in making the raffle a success!

Chance for a Chance Package #1200

For just \$10 you can purchase a chance to win two chances to win \$25,000 in the Big Cash Raffle! If your name is drawn, you will have two stubs for the Big Cash Raffle filled out in your name and put into the drawing at the end of the evening. Sales will close at 7:00 p.m. on May 15th. Good luck and then Good Luck!

FULL TUITION RAFFLE Package #1000

We are selling 125 - \$100 chances to win a full year's tuition for the 2021-22 school year. Full tuition will be applied to one elementary or high school student's tuition (fees not included). Sales will close at 7:00pm on May 15, 2021.

Blackstone Grill Package Package #1100

Buy your chance to win this awesome Blackstone air fryer/grill package. You can also sear, roast, bake and saute'. Included is a \$300 gift card to Polancics Meat Market so you can stock up. You will also receive \$300 worth of heavy duty grilling utensils and a canvas Marquette grill apron. Chances are \$20 each and only 100 will be sold. Sales will end at 7:00 p.m. on May 15th. Oh what a host you will be! Donated by Paul & Breck Craig, Kevin & Patty Knoblauch, and Jackpot Slots.

SAFETY

Guests are required to wear a mask unless seated at your table.

Please distance from others and do not crowd tables or bar area.
(We have waitresses who can assist you.)

Please notice spacing marks on the floor.

Thank you for your cooperation.

HOW TO USE MOBILE BIDDING

Mobile Bidding for the Silent Auction, Raffles, and Fund-a-Need

1. REGISTER YOUR SMARTPHONE

- All guests must register a smartphone upon arrival at the event or to bid. Couples will be linked to the same bid number.
- You will be asked to register your credit card for easy checkout on your phone.
- Mobile Bidding is used for Silent Auction, Raffles, \$100 Tickets and Fund-A-Need. (Live Auction will be done with your paddle or proxy bid.)
- Once your smartphone is registered, you'll receive an automated welcome text message containing your bidder URL (link). If you don't receive a text message, see any of our help staff for assistance.
- If you do not have a smartphone or need help bidding, notify your waitress, and you will be assigned a bidding buddy to assist you.

2. USE YOUR SMARTPHONE TO FIND SILENT AUCTION ITEMS

- Click the link in your automated text message, confirm your name. If the name displayed isn't correct see a Check-in Staff member.
- Search for silent auction items by number, keyword or category, or find items with no bids.

3. START BIDDING!

- Silent auction items will be on display in the gym, so grab a drink and an appetizer, and browse our fabulous items for bid!
- Silent Booth workers can also assist you if you need help.
- Bid by increment, set a maximum bid or choose "Watch" silent auction items.
- If you are outbid you will be notified by text message.
- Keep an eye on your bids by clicking the **person icon** on the upper right home screen.
- Silent Auction booths will all close at the same time after the Live Auction. The guest with the highest bid will be notified via text.

4. CHECKOUT

- Convenient, checkout is available on your phone; pay with your registered credit card. At auction end, **My Bill** displays all items and charges, previous payments, and the total balance due. To pay the balance with a credit card, click the Express Checkout button, then proceed to checkout area near bleachers to pick up purchased items. To pay by check or cash proceed to the checkout representatives near bleachers.

Please let your waitress know if you need assistance. Our Bidding experts can help you with any issues or questions you may have throughout the evening.

AUCTION RULES

SILENT and LIVE AUCTION RULES

1. The Silent Auction booths will be open for bidding at 3:00 p.m. on May 7, 2021 and will continue without interruption until the Live Auction ends on May 15, 2021. All booths will close at the same time.
2. All Silent Auction bidding must be done through BidPal on a phone or device. The highest bid constitutes the winning bid. Winner will be notified via text.
3. You must register your smartphone and provide an email at check-in. After registration you will receive an individual URL (link) to start bidding on the Silent Auction. Couples use the same bidder number.
4. Each item on the Silent Auction has a number and will be displayed in the gym and listed in the online catalog at www.bidpal.net/mm39.
5. In the event of a dispute, the Academy auction official shall act as the final authority and shall determine the winning bidder. The Auction official's decision is final.
6. Live Auction items will be on display when doors open at 5:30 p.m. in order to give you an opportunity to view the various items prior to bidding. Proxy Bids will be accepted for the Live Auction only and must be turned in by May 10, 2021 by 9:00 am in the Advancement Office at the High School. Forms are available in the office, or online at www.marquetteacademy.net.
7. In order to enter a bid on the live auction, a bidder must raise his or her paddle high and attract the attention of the auctioneer or spotter.
8. Use only the paddle number assigned to you to bid. Your number is your identification located on the paddle at your table. Your bidder number is also located on your phone.
9. Payment may be made with cash, check, Visa, Discover, or MasterCard. Payment in full the evening of the auction is mandatory. You may register your credit card at check-in and pay on your device for all Silent and Live Auction items.
10. Auction items will be removed only by Silent Booth representatives after exhibiting a paid receipt to an Academy Checkout representative.
11. All sales are final and there will be no exchanges or refunds on items except where specified.
12. Unless otherwise specified, all auction items and services must be used by May 15, 2022.
13. Any bidder not making arrangements for payment in full to the Advancement Office by May 18, 2021, will forfeit his/her rights to purchase.
14. To avoid disappointment, please contact the donors of trips, dinners, and all other services as soon as possible after the May Merriment Auction to inform them that you have the winning bid and to make necessary arrangements. This is a courtesy which should be extended to all donors.
15. When an item has not been displayed, the purchaser will receive a "Bearer Letter" which can be picked up in the gym.
16. The auction checkout invoice or phone invoice will serve as your official receipt for items purchased. The value set for each item is a good faith estimate for the fair market value as required by the IRS.
17. In cases where more than one bidder shares in the cost of a Live Auction item, the group must have one payer, and square-up on their own terms.
18. Marquette Academy makes no expressed or implied warranties on auction items other than those from the manufacturer.
19. All auction items must be removed from Marquette Academy this evening or on Monday, May 17, 2021 between 9am and 3pm.
20. Decisions of the Auctioneer shall be final.
21. Each person issued a bid number assumes all risks and hazards related to the auction and items obtained at the auction. Each bidder agrees to hold harmless from any liability arising there from Marquette Academy, its elected and appointed officials, members, employees, the auctioneer, the auction company and its agents and employees, the event organizers, sponsors, and or volunteers connected with the auction.

To view auction items and bid,
visit our Auction website at
www.bidpal.net/mm39

SILENT AUCTION

The Silent Auction will open for bidding on Friday, May 7, 2021 at 3:00pm. The Silent Auction will close at the end of the Live Auction at approximately 10:00pm.

All the items are showcased on our auction website at:

www.bidpal.net/mm39

100 St. Xavier - Outings, Experiences, Things to Do

200 Sisters of Mercy - Garden, Flowers, Outdoor Living

300 Knights- Kitchen, Food Stuffs, Crafts, Kids, Women's, Jewelry, Home Furnishings, Electronics

400 Crusaders - Marquette Spirit, Men's, Services, Pets

500 Gold Super Silent - Special Items

750-799 - Grub Grab (restaurant gift certificates)



LIVE AUCTION

NEW! 1. St. Louis Cardinal Getaway in honor of Sandy Kotek

Donated by: *Father David Kipfer, Star Ford Rentals*

For Sandy, the only team that came close to her beloved Crusaders were the St. Louis Cardinals! Think of her when you enjoy an exciting getaway to the Hilton at the Ballpark in downtown St. Louis and then catch a game of your choosing. Hilton St. Louis is close to Ballpark Village, a popular area for sports, dining, and night life and it is 100 yards from Busch Stadium. Marvel at the views from the 360 rooftop bar on the 26th floor or watch the game on the tv's inside as you savor a delicious dinner. This package includes: a \$250 Cardinal Gift Card to use for game tickets, fan gear, concessions or Cardinals Nation Restaurant; a \$250 Hilton gift card to pay for your stay; and a \$200 Visa gift card to use as you wish. You will also receive a certificate from Star Ford Rentals for one unlimited mileage weekend car rental with a tank of gas. Make your own arrangements with this versatile package.

2. Party with the Killelea Family!

Donated by: *Laurie and Steve Killelea ('83) Lisa Killelea ('90)*

Bid high to win this exclusive dinner party in the country home of Steve and Laurie Killelea. Sit down dinner for 5 couples includes pulled pork or rib-eye steak with all of the fixins' and a yummy dessert, plus adult beverages and other fun stuff! Pick a mutually agreed upon date in summer, fall or winter for your down home private shindig!

NEW! 3. Holiday Meat Package

Donated by: *Handy Foods, McGrogan Family*

From local, popular Handy Foods Deli-be the highest bidder and you can enjoy this package of meats for the upcoming holidays:

- Memorial Day- 5 lbs. bratwurst and 5 lbs. Leon's hotdogs
- July 4th-10 lbs. fresh and lean ground beef patties
- Labor Day- 5 lbs. Italian sausage and 5 lbs. Leon's hotdogs
- Thanksgiving-Honeysuckle Turkey (up to 20 lb.)
- Christmas/New Year-Prime Rib Roast (up to 15 lb.)
- Easter- bone-in Ham (up to 10 lbs.)

4. Gourmet Basque Dinner with Father Caster

Donated by: *Father Gary Caster*

The only thing Father Caster loves more than his Birkenstock's is cooking! A group of 8 will join Father at the St. Pat's rectory on a mutually agreed upon date for a gourmet Basque dinner prepared by Father himself. You will enjoy a culinary experience from the south of France including dessert.

NEW! 5. Dalhousie Golf Club Overnight

Donated by: *Dalhousie Golf Club*

Golf like the pro's! Ranked #1 in the state of Missouri, Dalhousie features 18 holes designed by Gary Nicklaus. Dalhousie Golf Club is tucked away from all of the commercialization of Cape Girardeu, MO which provides for breathtaking scenery. This fully private golf course provides many amenities. With a Scottish flare and luxury cottages, it's a golfer's dream! Four people will enjoy 2 rounds of golf and an overnight stay in two of the cottages.

6. See items numbers: 519, 520,521 on Silent Auction to place your bid.

7. Sunset Dinner Cruise

Donated by: *Andrea and Tim Barker*

Enjoy a surf-and-turf dinner for six at Lake Holiday. After a relaxing meal, fill your glass and watch the sun set as your captain, Tim, ferries you around the lake. Date to be mutually agreed upon.

NEW! 8. Tennessee Whiskey Adventure

Donated by: *Past MM Chairmen*

Two of you will greatly enjoy this long weekend getaway! You will receive three (3) nights at the Loews Vanderbilt Hotel in Nashville. Your experience will include an immersive, guided tour by a whiskey expert. You will salute Jack Daniels at his gravesite, receive an elevated tasting of premium whiskeys, and then have lunch in Lynchburg! Travel must be completed within two years from the date of purchase.

9. 1/4 Black Angus Beef

Donated by: *Dittmer Farms*

One quarter of the whole purebred Black Angus steer. 100% naturally fed without the use of antibiotics. Custom cut at the Earlville cold storage. This is approximately 200 pounds of fresh freezer beef cut to your specs. Contact Dittmer's in early June.

NEW! 10. Ghost Hunting ... if you dare!

Donated by: *Tara ('99) and Paul DeMink*

Save the date. December 4, 2021 from 6-8 p.m., 8 of you will be very spooked at an overnight ghost hunt at the historic Randolph County infirmary in Winchester, Indiana. Bring your own bedding and sleeping gear to stay inside, or get a hotel nearby. During your stay enjoy pizza, snacks, and soft drinks. The asylum was built in 1899 to serve the poor and indigent in the area. It was later used as an orphanage, homeless shelter, foster home, mental institution and rehab facility. It has been legitimately haunted by all of these souls. The location has been featured on Ghost Adventures, Paranormal Lockdown and Destination Fear.

NEW! 11. Cancun Paradise Vacation

Donated by: *MM Past Chairmen*

Visitors seeking a relaxing beach vacation will delight in Cancun’s unparalleled tropical beauty. This beach-front property is located just steps from the world’s second largest coral reef-one of Cancun’s best spots for snorkeling and scuba diving. The Westin Resort offers a private white sandy beach, four pools, lighted tennis court, fitness studio and spa. Two people will receive round-trip airfare from any US airport, daily breakfast and 5 nights at the Westin Resort. Travel must be completed within two years from the date of purchase.

12. Room Refresh

Donated by: *Your Interior Motives*

We’ve all spent a lot of time at home this past year. Is your home ready for a Re-Do? Re-Imagine, Re-Arrange, Re-Design! Your favorite design firm, Your Interior Motives will come to your home and do as much as you and your room deserve. From furniture re-arranging for a whole new layout or a plan for new furniture, picture hanging or paint consultation. The decorators will finish your new room with a ‘piece de resistance’ from their fabulous home interior store to help you live with what you love!

13. Destination Kohler - 5 Star Resort

NEW! Donated by: *THE BLUE AND GOLDEN GIRLS: Alice McGinniis ('54), Mary Alice Hughes ('57), Deanna Crowley, Dianne Thomspon ('66), Dolores Anderson, Louise Harmon ('66), Sue English ('68), Peg McGrath*

Kohler, Wisconsin is just 3.5 hours away. There’s no place like it in America. From a 5-star resort hotel, to rustic cabins, to a 3-star hotel, you can choose your stay and activities at this beautiful resort near Lake Michigan. You’ll feel like you are in Ireland as you admire the Championship golf courses. Visit the spa or shops, experience indoor or outdoor dining, go hiking, hunting or kayaking to connect with nature. Or, golf like the pros on this rugged sculpted course along 2 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline. This trip will be a definite treat for wellness of mind, body and soul. You will receive a \$1,000 gift card to plan your experience as it suits you.

14. Custom Painted Marquette Art

NEW! Donated by: *Madison Snook - MAHS senior*

One-of-a-kind painting of the Marquette Shield done by senior student Madison Snook. This painting was created using oil paints over mixed media. It is inspired by The Marquette crest and Crusaders! 24x30”

15. Joie de vivre - The Joy of Living

NEW! Donated by: *Dan & Amy ('90) Thomas, Pete ('86) & Mary McGrath, Charlie ('82) & Diane Mitchell, Phyllis & Bill ('56) Durdan, Maria ('85) & Andy ('85) Durdan*

8-10 couples will enjoy an afternoon of adult beverages and fun by Durdan’s pond, then will gather around the table for a classic, American seafood boil. This boil will feature fresh from the coast shrimp, clams, oysters, crabs and other seafood options-with potatoes, corn, smoked sausages-and of course plenty of butter, lemons and a unique variety of southern inspired hot sauces. Prepared by master-griller, Doug. You’ll think you are in bayou country! Date to be determined by winning bidder and donors.

FUND-A-NEED

In “normal” times, we already ask a lot of our teachers. We ask them to provide an exceptional education, be a good role model, and engage in our students’ lives. Our teachers rise to the challenge in a remarkable way, despite having less resources and lower salaries than their public-school-system counterparts. Their dedication, hard work, and generosity is a sign that something special is taking place at Marquette Academy.

This year, of course, has been far from normal. More than once, they were asked to transition from in-person to virtual learning on short notice. To make the leap, our teachers had to use new tools and strategies and learn how to master them very quickly. Even when we were in-person, our teachers maintained a virtual classroom for students choosing to stay home, increasing their workload to better serve our students. In short, more has never been asked of them and they did it.

As we look forward to a new year and the hope of the pandemic ending, we cannot forget to say thank you. The hard work and dedication of our faculty is what allowed us to continue to take care of our students in the face of enormous challenges. As a token of our gratitude, this year’s fund-a-need is to provide bonuses for our faculty and staff. The amount we give them will not be close to what they deserve, but hopefully it expresses the heartfelt gratitude of Marquette Academy for their service.

In Christ,
Father Ryan Mattingly
Chaplain
Marquette Academy



Package # 800
Donate online!

CHALLENGES AND REWARDS OF VIRTUAL LEARNING FROM OUR TEACHERS' PERSPECTIVE.

Andrew Noble

The biggest challenge has been the switch from in-person to remote and the uncertainty involved in the timing. This, paired with also supporting remote learners while in-person, has been the largest challenge.

The most rewarding aspect of this is seeing students becoming more comfortable using technology. While many students already were proficient with computers and proper usage before this crisis, now almost all students display a knowledge that they just didn't have before. In this day and age, knowing how to use technology is arguably the most important skill, and thus, I think this was the most rewarding.

Clara O'Neal

The biggest challenge of teaching/working through the pandemic is trying to hear the little ones speak through their face masks and not being able to reach everyone virtually during the shutdown periods.

The most rewarding part of teaching/working through the pandemic was learning how to maneuver through Google Classroom, Google Meets, and Zoom meetings! I think this past year all of us educators became first-year teachers again, learning the ins-and-outs of teaching virtually. We ALL got an education this year!

Michelle Jewett

Teaching three-year-old preschool was more challenging than I expected. I would post recorded videos of myself singing, doing calendar time, letter time, and story time (My aide posted a story time, too!) everyday. I have students who come to school three days a week (MWF), some who come two days (T/Th), and some who come every day! I had to create three different classrooms for each of these groups of students. We would post every day, plus we would add in our worksheets, a fully prepped craft project, extra fun (experiments or online games), gross motor activities, name work, letter work, music/dance, etc. We also did multiple Google meets for the students to see us and their friends and visit. When we were face-to-face, I would have the online students join us for calendar time and story time, seeing that we are constantly moving in the classroom.

I think the most rewarding part of teaching through the pandemic was being so involved with the parents of children at

this young of age. Being able to work hand-in-hand with parents or grandparents in order to get my students where they need to be, not only made me more confident and comfortable...it made the students more confident and comfortable when we came back face-to-face.

Stacy O'Dell

The biggest challenge is the extra cleaning; the rewarding part is working with such a great group of people and seeing the kids have fun being in school!

Heinz Suppan

Here are a couple of things I experienced in the past year to survive the pandemic as a dedicated teacher who was able to keep my students involved and wanting to continue to learn. I knew I was a prime target for the Covid virus, but I wanted to continue to do what I like doing best, teaching my students and encouraging them to continue with their studies while having to be exposed to a whole different world of lockdowns and threats of being isolated from members of their families and friends.

As I see it, the most rewarding part of teaching is to watch the students learn and be able to use what they have studied and learned to apply themselves as useful citizens, who are willing to share their education and experiences with others. During this pandemic and virtual learning what I felt was personally rewarding was the fact that I was literally forcing myself to learn new technology in order to communicate lesson plans to my students, and I also felt blessed to know many of my colleagues who were so willing to show me what to do to become efficient with this new technology. Again, watching the students via distance learning, attending regularly scheduled sessions and doing well with completing their homework assignments and doing well on their tests was really rewarding enough for me. After serving thirty-eight years at Marquette, I have seen so many changes and watched older teachers and staff work and depart for other experiences as they were being replaced by new teachers and staff and doing whatever I could to be of assistance to them. Again, that was enough reward for me. There must have been some reason why I have been with Marquette so long, and I think it was the feeling of belonging and feeling like a member of the Marquette family that was my own personal reward. It did not take a virus to give me that feeling.

Emily Reardon

At first, the biggest challenge of teaching during this pandemic was having to figure out how to transfer my curriculum to an online setting and teaching exclusively online, which was something I had never done before. It was kind of like a "trial by fire." However, when we came back to in-person learning, I faced many challenges. I was, and still am to an extent, constantly worried about not only my own health and safety, but also the health and safety of all my students and my high-risk family members that I could potentially expose if I brought the virus home. I couldn't bear the thought of losing a loved one, or having one of my students get sick and never return to class. I would lay awake at night worried that there was a chance that I would be attending another one of my student's funerals, or even worse, plan a funeral for one of my family members. Furthermore, when we came back to in-person learning, I knew I was going to be fighting the battle of people thinking that my students were "behind", and I wanted to do my best to help them catch up, but not overwhelm them in the process. I knew I had to guide these learners and help them reach their goals, but I also knew that the effects of the pandemic meant that I wouldn't be my best, because I was still learning and adapting to all the changes, rules, and regulations, too. There have been many, many times during this school year where I have sat, alone in my room, with tears in my eyes, because the whole situation was so overwhelming that I felt like I was completely failing them as a teacher. In the past twelve months, I have dealt with some of the worst anxiety and depression that I have ever faced, and I have tried my best to be the teacher my students need me to be in spite of all of it - but there are still times when I wonder if I am doing enough, if I am giving them the education they need and pay for, while taking their mental and physical health into account. It has been hard to deal with all of these feelings. Sometimes, I feel like David going up against Goliath, but at least I am still here - and I am healthy. For that, at the very least, I am thankful.

For me, the most rewarding part of teaching/working during the pandemic has been seeing my students every day. This pandemic has opened my eyes to something I used to take for granted - but never will again. All too often, teachers (myself included) get into a routine with our students. We see them at their desks, we grade their work, but how much do we really know them? When they smile, do we notice? When they laugh, do we hear it? When they are having an off day, can we tell? The most rewarding part of this pandemic for me has been getting to know my students in a way I never had before. This is something I know I will never take for granted again. The icing on the cake, though, has been watching my students commit to their education and work just as hard as they usually do - in spite of everything that's been thrown at

them. This has given me a new sense of pride in my students. I celebrate their achievements just as much as they do. Getting to watch them grow, not only as learners, but as young adults despite this situation has been such a wonderful experience. Most days, my students are what keep me going. They make me want to come to work. They make me want to do better. They make me believe in a better tomorrow. Because of them, I haven't lost hope. They don't know this, but sometimes, I look in their eyes as they watch me teaching them, and I just feel like - as bad as it is right now - it's all going to be ok.

Naomi Pickens

The biggest challenge of teaching/working through the pandemic is:

Engagement/motivation from the students. It's difficult when everything is changing to get up the motivation to plan a project or an event if you think there is a chance it might not even happen.

The most rewarding part of teaching/working through the pandemic is:

The students' resilience. From the beginning of the pandemic we've worried about what this is doing to our students, and I think, in lots of ways, it is making them stronger and more resilient. It's encouraging to see that in our future generations.

Rob Thompson

Biggest Challenge: Getting through the stress of changing the way we teach.

Most rewarding: Our principal fought hard to keep our school running as normal as possible, five days a week, when we could have taken the easy route like many other schools.

Pat Sullivan

I think that the biggest challenge during this pandemic is to make sure that kids are getting the same curriculum and learning that they would get if they were attending in-person classes. The most rewarding part is that the kids are glad to be back in class, learning and socializing with their classmates.

Cally Diss

The biggest challenge of teaching/working through the pandemic and the most rewarding part of teaching/work-

ing through the pandemic... My response may be longer than what you were looking for, but I feel like I could write a book on this, lol! Wow it has certainly been a crazy year!

As far as my biggest challenge through this experience, not only did I have to endure teaching through a pandemic, but it was also my very first year teaching right out of college! Talk about a hectic welcome to the world of teaching! It has certainly kept me busier than a bee. One challenge of teaching through this time, considering my very first year of teaching was during a pandemic, was that I missed out on some aspects of the first year excitement. I missed a lot of highly anticipated opportunities with my students. In a normal year, we would have attended numerous FFA events like competitions, leadership conferences, career development events, community service events, and national conventions. It was so sad to see my FFA seniors not being able to attend these events one last time, and my freshman who don't know much about these events missed out on their first, exciting year for attending these events. Besides missing FFA events, I feel that I missed out on many of the Marquette traditions that I was looking forward to as well, such as watching the home football games on a fall Friday night, the excitement of a fall homecoming parade, or supporting the girls at a basketball game, etc. However, the biggest challenge was the emotions that came when we were sent home in November to go virtual. I know most of our students have very good home lives, but there are schools out there where their students find their happiness, safety, and only meals at school. As a teacher, it was heartbreaking to think about all those children sitting at home and not being able to attend school. Although I could still see my students through a computer screen and talk with them every day, it just was not the same; I missed being in the classroom with them.

Although I faced numerous challenges throughout my first year teaching, I discovered many more rewards of teaching through the pandemic. First, I realized how fortunate I am to be at Marquette through this experience. Seeing how the staff reached out to me and offered help through my first-year teaching in a pandemic was very heart-warming. I am so happy to be at Marquette and could not imagine teaching anywhere else. Secondly, I saw first-hand the impact that I can have on my students. This has certainly been a trying and difficult time for many of our students as they were facing new challenges in a school year and missing many of their favorite, usual activities. However, when we did get to do something with FFA or in class, the students really appreciated and enjoyed getting to do something special, and they were very thankful about it. It has also opened up their eyes to be more appreciative of everything they took for granted

before the pandemic, and I enjoyed reflecting about this with them and helping them to see how fortunate they really are. Overall, the pandemic brought many challenges, but one of the best rewards from it was to see all the good that still exists in our world, and especially at Marquette!

Jane Zollars

The biggest challenge of teaching during the pandemic, for me, was my lack of experience using educational technology as a tool for my delivery when instructing.

That being said, the most rewarding part of teaching during a pandemic was learning how to implement, and now permanently incorporate in my classroom curriculum, a variety of technology resources. I am also sooooo glad that the entire class is back together again!

Heather Miller

The biggest challenge is keeping a good balance between the virtual kids and the in-person kids throughout the day.

The most rewarding part is seeing the kids thriving in school both academically and socially!

Alyson Cass

The biggest challenge of teaching during this pandemic is always making sure that I am meeting the needs of every student in my class while teaching in-person and to virtual learners.

The most rewarding part of teaching during this pandemic is being able to say that the majority of our students are learning in-person and have stayed healthy. The kids love being together, and their interaction with one another is so important right now.

Wendy Frick

The biggest challenge was the technology curve required almost overnight in order to keep our students online via e-learning. Another challenge is the lack of deeper connections made through our pep rallies that foster school spirit and energize our students, teachers and staff. What I miss most is seeing everyone's smiles.

The most rewarding part of working with children through the pandemic is seeing how adaptable our students have been. Our students have been exceptional during this pandemic. We have asked so much of them: from wearing a mask, to social distancing at lunch, in church and in gym class, as

well as the incredible amount of technology we required of them to quickly become adept as e-learners.

Kathryn Ewers

The biggest challenges of teaching/working through the pandemic were concerns about transmission of the virus. Not only did I worry about bringing it home to my family, I also worried about the transmission among the students. I was apprehensive about coming back to school, but my students were so receptive and respectful and made sure we had a safe learning environment for all. The students were very receptive and respectful of their peers and my feelings. In addition, I felt the constant struggle trying to be "as good as I used to be." Oftentimes I would beat myself up about not providing for the kids what I "used to." I believe part of the challenge was the fact that this year is just mentally exhausting.

The most rewarding part of teaching is that we all have learned to appreciate the little things. I love being with my kids and hearing about how they are no longer taking for granted what they once used to expect. I love chatting with them about their hopes, dreams, and fears. I love talking about what's happening in the world and most importantly relating Covid back to science. The pandemic has given me real world teaching opportunities.

At Marquette I have been blessed with the best students! I feel so fortunate to be back with them all!

Jeff Newbury

The biggest challenge for me was being able to provide the same or similar experience for the students that were virtual learners compared to the in-class students. I had to search for innovative ways to have them experience science in a virtual environment.

The most rewarding part during the pandemic was the fact that we were able to be in school as long as we were. I can't imagine how much more the students would have missed out on if we were not in school.

Sarah Giffin

I can honestly say that I love my job. I don't know too many other people who can say that. I love my kids, I love my co-workers, and I love what this institution represents. I am not sure that I realized how much I loved my job until I was forced to do it from home. The biggest challenge that arose from virtual learning for me was the ability to connect with students and gauge comprehension. First, "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care." This is especially true of teens. Relationship building is a cornerstone of the learning process, and I found it difficult to make sure that every learner

felt known, valued, and engaged. Next, so much of communication is nonverbal. (Wearing masks has certainly taught us that lesson.) I found it difficult to "read" the faces of my learners on a computer screen. I found myself asking, "Does that make sense?" more frequently and sometimes left meets wondering if my audience grasped the new concepts I presented. Additionally, "best practice" was nearly impossible. Generally, we begin with a focusing event (usually intended to activate prior knowledge), followed by guided practice, and end with independent practice, (and eventually, assessment). Google meet made this model difficult to follow. As a side note, my eyes are basically shot from constant grading on a screen. (Yes, I tried the "UVA blocker" glasses.) The greatest reward that arose from virtual learning involved improved tech literacy and a greater appreciation of all things Marquette. We learned from the dinosaurs that we must "evolve or perish." This pandemic forced me to embrace technology, be it Google classroom, Google meet, digital cameras, or mountains of email. (In case you were unaware...teachers are terrible students!) Finally, definitively, and conclusively, I missed being at Marquette Academy High School, 1000 Paul Street, Ottawa, IL, 61350. How did I miss thee? Let me count the ways... First, our students are phenomenal! I have learned more from them than I will ever teach. I believe we have some of the finest young men and women the world has to offer. They truly give me hope for the future. I see God in all of them. I get a "snapshot" of their lives over four, transformational years. Surely, "my cup runneth over!" Second, our faculty is incredible:

- Rob Thompson and Michael Hall are getting it done in the "West Wing." They provide a great model of what it is to be a man, father, and son of God for our students on a daily basis. The small sacrifices for the greater good do not go unnoticed.
- Next, if Curtiss Johnson did not choose to come "home" to Marquette, our students would probably be forced into constant "digital learning" for Spanish. Also, I hear he's a pretty good ball player. Good coaches are hard to find.
- Moving on, how about Jane Mills and Mark Vickroy? I truly believe that they give a voice to students who otherwise wouldn't have one. The countless hours spent in rehearsal making pennies per hour are a true example of dedication.
- Speaking of pennies per hour, I almost forgot our athletic director, Mr. Todd P. Hopkins. Between grounds-keeping, book-keeping, lifting, practicing, bus-riding, and coaching, I am certain that his job is a labor of love. To witness the culmination of a man's life's work is truly inspirational. (State Champions, baby!)
- Next to him, at least part of the time, sits Jeff Herkelman, a man who truly practices what he preaches, who has probably forgotten more about basketball than some will ever know. Five miles runs, a healthy diet, and a regular workout routine are modeled on a regular basis for our kids.
- Heinz Suppan. Need I say more? If I ever decide to search

for “the fountain of youth” I will only have to search within a two-block radius (between here and his house). The man is so incredibly intelligent that he writes books in his spare time!

- Cally Diss is a steal! She brought renewed energy to the classroom and the FFA. She got students thinking about career paths and gave them hands-on opportunities to learn and network outside of the school while following “COVID protocol.” Impressive. We will be lucky to keep her.
- Kathryn Ewers is taking the W.Y.S.E. team to state, redecorating her daughter’s bedroom, teaching dual-credit classes, and flashing that million-dollar smile every day! How truly fortunate we are to have her as the head of the science department.
- Let’s hop across the hall. Hello, Naomi Pickens! What a great blessing she is. She is a child of God, mother of three, wife, and nurturer to all of her students. I don’t think I have ever seen her negatively impact any situation. I wish I could say the same about myself.
- Cynthia Frost-Murphy teaches a foreign language (to me), math. She has been holding down the math department since my debut tour. I sometimes forget that she is there because she is always in her room grinding. She sent brilliant children through MAHS. I was lucky enough to teach one and another continues to give back to MA by coaching volleyball. She posts independent videos on her Teacherease website for each of the skill sets she teaches so that kids can access these mini-lessons at home. Wow!
- Down the stairs and to the right we find Emily Reardon. I have had the great pleasure of watching her become a truly impactful teacher. She pushes rigor, relevance, and relationships on a regular basis. I thought that Mr. Myers would be impossible to replace as director of Fine Arts. Emily proved me wrong.
- If holidays had a secretary, she would be Debbi Snyder. Debbi brings positive energy and a loving heart. Her love for her students and life in general is inspirational. I know that she will welcome me with open arms and ears anytime I have a problem.
- Dorothy Fiesel juggles placement testing, transcripts, student-of-the-month responsibilities, eligibility issues, and always has a phone on her for students who might not survive (literally) without her guidance and support. She does this while caring for her own family, trying to rescue her mother, and being a supportive friend. The burden is heavy, yet she manages to carry it with a light heart.
- Msgr. Halfacre was the chaplain at Marquette High School during my debut tour. He has been told many times that he could not continue to teach while holding certain positions within the Church. He chooses to follow his heart and his calling. His ability to reach and convert the most stubborn hearts is remarkable. He is a true example of Christ working

through man.

- Father Mattingly seamlessly transitioned into the role of chaplain and teacher. He insists upon weekly Masses and offers students a chance for redemption through confessions. His door is always open. He continues to build rapport with our students and faculty.

Third, at a time when people were frightened, weak, and isolated, we could no longer attend church. I finally found Father Jeremy Dixon (Marquette Hall-of-Famer) on a YouTube broadcast.

Fourth, our staff is wonderful:

- Who works harder or laughs more than Nadine Vicich? Most days you can see your reflection on the floor. Plus, she handles the summer crew (a.k.a. herds cats) like a champ! I missed seeing her smiling face in the morning.
- If I don’t make Lisa laugh or Barb angry every day, I feel like something is missing. When they were asked to take on the additional title of “Great Keeper of the Thermometer” to keep all of us safe, they never even complained. (Honestly.) I could tell you great stories about Barb, but she has ammo on me, as well.
- Ms. Liz mans the other temp-check station, walks kids to the grade school every day, and holds down the study halls, which are sometimes overflowing with students from other classes. Yet, she still manages to remain positive...“I’ll have what she’s having?”
- My sweet, sweet Jaci Miller. I have been given the unique opportunity to coach her and then watch her coach. (Think about that!) Hey, Jaci, we need a JV softball coach; hey, Jaci, we need a JV basketball coach. She has overcome more obstacles than most face in a lifetime and keeps marching forward for her children, her family, and our Marquette family. I love her and am proud of her, (but I could probably not tell that to her face because neither of us are comfortable talking about our feelings).
- I still feel Sandy Kotek in the building (and maybe see her try to fly in, occasionally). She and Diane Whalen were here when I began teaching. Sandy was in the development office and told me that she heard that I was the meanest teacher in the building. When I smiled at her and said, “Really?” she was confused. I told her that I guessed I could probably take it down a few notches. Diane was the secretary in the main office. I would have to place copy requests with her, and often she would ask me to sub when the religion class was unmanned and the kids were in the room playing the piano. These women have devoted their lives to God and Marquette. What a tremendous gift!
- List Tenut has a certain glow about her (usually on payday)! She still has her first-communion money. If she doesn’t, Mary Roberson might. Can you imagine the amount of paper they have to sort through on a regular basis? Spreadsheets,

a hundred different accounts, and payroll are tasks that would baffle the average person. The Diocese is always watching! No pressure. Then I show up and ask for dental information! Students and teachers can make mistakes, but they are not afforded that luxury.

- Julie Verona and Danielle Entwistle are always on the hustle in the Advancement Office. Danielle also doubles as an assistant to Mary Mann (as if she needs it). Julie managed to pull off successful fundraisers during a global pandemic. Also, she gladly helped me set up a fundraiser in the middle of planning May Merriment, and let’s face it... that girl has style!
 - Brandi Peters is heavily vested in Marquette. She shares her talent and heart with our athletes. She documents their successes (and failures) and could be a professional photographer. Marquette’s most eligible bachelorette!
- Fifth, the administration is dedicated and stretched thin. There were three administrators at my child’s grade school (town of 2300); there are six at her high school. We have one per campus. God bless them!
- I will begin with the Dean of Students, Mr. Glade. Let’s face it: if you are good at this job, you are often not well liked. Mr. Glade started here as a football coach and P.E. teacher years ago. He then became our super-sub and eventually an administrator. He maintains a good rapport with students and manages to survive in an office full of women. (That is not an easy task, even for the women.)
 - Next, I have to give credit to our unnamed Vice Principal and Administrative Assistant, Mindy McConnaughay. To be clear, teachers, students, and administrators can be absent and the day continues smoothly. When the administrative secretary is absent, operations come to a screeching

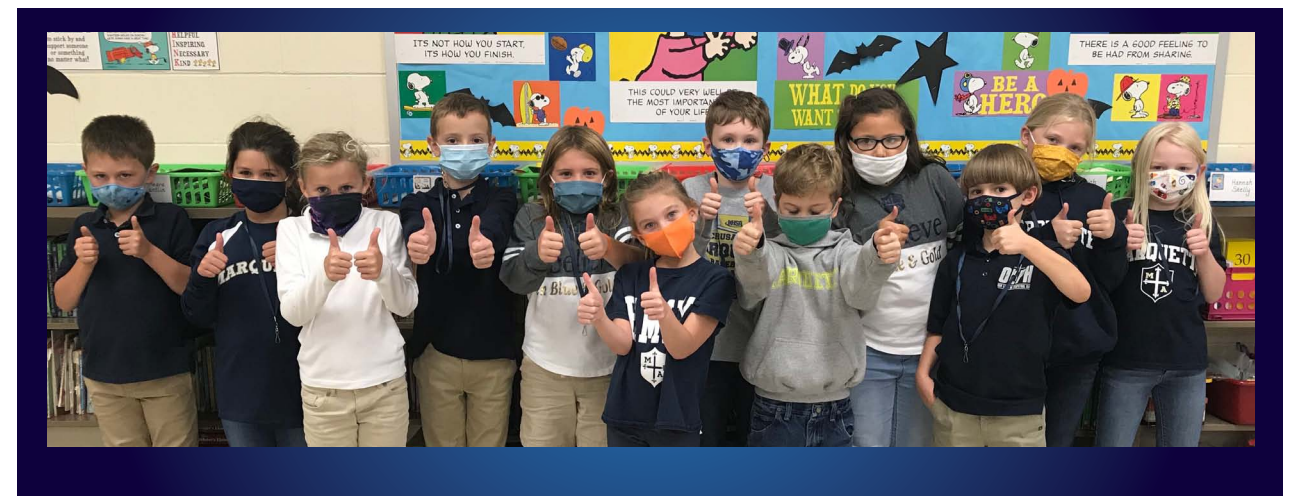
halt! (Shout out to Mary Mann!) Mindy answers phones with a positive attitude that I believe is genuine; this is quite a task considering the amount and nature of the calls she fields. Also, she runs student council and any other club or organization that lacks sponsorship. Athletic secretary, coach, sponsor, mentor, mom, wife...she does it all with style! When I started teaching here, she was a junior in high school. What an impressive woman you have become!

- Speaking of impressive women, I do not think that I could walk in the shoes of Principal Brooke Rick for even one day. She walks around with a fire extinguisher in one hand and a phone in the other! She regularly attends meetings in Peoria, meetings in Ottawa, athletic events at both campuses, coaches her own kids’ teams, keeps a clean house (for at least a few hours at a time), and cooks healthy meals. I almost forgot that she gets up at 4:30 a.m. to go to kettle-bell classes. God must be on her side! (Now that I typed all that out, I am thinking she makes the rest of us look bad.)
- COVID quarantine took a lot away from all of us, but it gave me some time to think. Marquette Academy survives because it is a great family / team. That is why so many choose to come back home. We are not here for the glory or the money. We choose to play a humble role on a great team, following the plan that the Ultimate Coach / Manager dictates. The hours are long, the years fly by, and the legacy moves forward. God, please continue to bless Marquette Academy!

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Giffin

Don’t even get me started on the elementary campus!

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