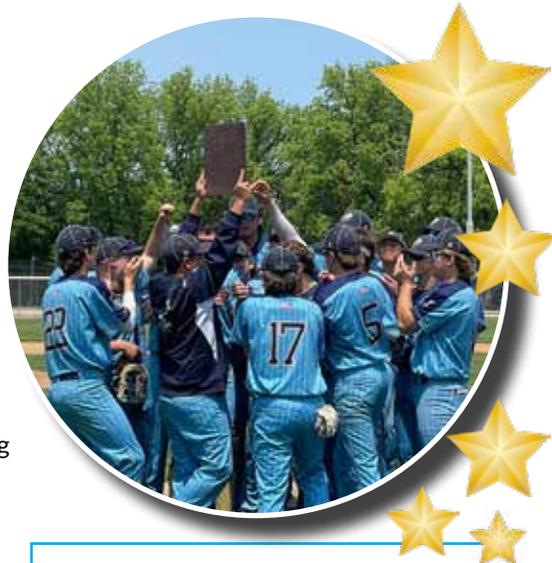


Alumni & Friends
**NEWS
LETTER**

Fall Edition 2025

FOOTPRINTS

MARQUETTE BASEBALL MAKES HISTORY BACK-TO-BACK STATE CHAMPS!



The Marquette Academy baseball team won their second consecutive Class 1A state title in Illinois in June 2025, defeating Father McGivney 6-5 with a walk-off hit in the bottom of the seventh inning. This marks the first time in IHSA Class 1A history that a team has won back-to-back state baseball championships.

KEY DETAILS

Championship Game:

The Crusaders secured the 2025 title by beating Glen Carbon Father McGivney.

Historic Win:

This is the first time a Class 1A team has gone back-to-back in IHSA baseball.

Comeback Victory:

Marquette rallied in the bottom of the seventh inning to overcome a one-run deficit.

Walk-Off Hit:

Senior Sam Mitre delivered the game-winning RBI single to clinch the championship.

THE TEAM

Head Coach: Todd Hopkins
Asst. Coaches: Brad Waldron,
Brian Bressner, Matt Nelson,
Jimmy Deangelo
Stats: Steve Scherer



- 1 Grady Dose
- 3 Beau Thompson
- 5 Caden Durdan
- 6 Connor Baker
- 7 Keaton Davis
- 8 Rush Keefer
- 9 Jaxsen Higgins
- 12 Payton Gutierrez
- 14 Billy Galyen
- 15 Alec Novotney
- 17 Michael Johnson
- 21 Easton DeBernardi
- 22 Griffin Doberstein
- 23 Grant Dose
- 24 Anthony Couch
- 25 Jaxon Rix
- 26 Braxton Nelle
- 32 Sam Mitre
- 33 David Clairmont
- 34 Luke McCullough
- 35 Blayden Cassel



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WE'RE GROWING!



We're excited to announce the newest additions to our Advancement Office team! Please join us in giving a warm welcome to the following individuals who bring an excited energy, a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to strengthen community outreach, with a focus on improving fundraising efforts, growing enrollment, and a shared commitment to serving the mission of Marquette Academy.



Nikki Speirer - Admissions and Enrollment Coordinator

Hello! My name is Nikki Speirer, and I am incredibly honored to introduce myself as the new Admissions and Enrollment Coordinator here at Marquette Academy.

As a Marquette parent myself, I have experienced firsthand the values, faith, and sense of family that make this school so special. I am beyond excited to step into this

role and help more families discover what makes Marquette Academy such a meaningful and welcoming place.

I bring with me over 20 years of experience in marketing, outreach, relationship building, and event planning, along with a deep passion for connecting with families and helping them find the right educational fit for their children. I truly believe in the power of Catholic education and cannot wait to share all the wonderful things happening here at Marquette.

Fun fact: I have always loved planning events and creating welcoming spaces. It brings me so much joy to see families feel excited, informed, and supported from their very first visit.

Whether you are a current or prospective parent or simply curious about our school, I would love to connect. Feel free to reach out, schedule a tour, or stop by to say hello.

Here's to a fantastic year ahead and to welcoming even more amazing families into our Crusader community. I truly believe we have the best students, families, staff, and alumni around.



Kristal Nodland - Alumni Coordinator

Hello! My name is Kristal Nodland, and I'm honored to step into the new role of Alumni Coordinator at Marquette Academy. With a deep appreciation for the power of connection and community, I'm excited to foster and strengthen relationships with our alumni and create meaningful opportunities for engagement, collaboration, and celebration.

I bring with me over 15 years of experience in community outreach, development, and event coordination, and I'm passionate about building lasting relationships that support both our alumni and the ongoing mission of Marquette Academy. My goal is to create programs and events that not only honor the legacy of our alumni but also invite them to play an active role in shaping the future of Marquette. I look forward to hearing your stories, sharing your successes to help inspire current students, and working together to keep our lifelong alumni community vibrant and connected.

Outside of work, I enjoy traveling with family and friends, tending to my vegetable garden and creating vibrant outdoor flower gardens and containers highlighting each season. I look forward to collaborating with students and families, staff, and the alumni to celebrate the Marquette legacy and shape the future together.

Please don't hesitate to reach out, I'm always happy to connect.

We are thrilled to have them on board and look forward to the incredible impact they will have on our school and community.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT *What they're up to now!*

In 1984, **Walter Scherer**, a Marquette grad (class of '55) escaped the frigid Illinois winters and moved his family to the "Sunshine State" for better weather and more opportunities for his children to play the game he has cherished since the age of 12. He made his home in Martin County where he has been coaching the high school girls' tennis team for over 30 years. Now 86, the legendary coach is still a fierce competitor, ranked No. 10 in the nation in the 85-and-over singles and No. 2 in doubles. A lifelong player, Scherer credits tennis for keeping him fit, quick, and young at heart. While many his age have turned to pickleball, he proudly sticks with tennis: "I can still run, get the ball, and stay competitive."



His career record stands at 339-107 with seven district titles and six trips to the state final four. He doesn't want to stop there, he has his eyes set on milestone win No. 350 - and another run at state. (stats are from his 2024 year)

MMM43 Raises Over \$322,000 for Marquette Academy!

We couldn't be more excited to share that thanks to YOU - our incredible Marquette community, MMM43 - Rooted in Tradition was a huge success! From the bottom of our hearts, thank you to everyone who donated, volunteered, sponsored, attended, or helped in any way. Whether you gave your time, your talents, or your resources - it all added up to something truly special. Thank you!



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Hats Off to these Graduates!



Congratulations to these MAHS seniors who graduated from IVCC this Spring with dual credit degrees!!! (From left to right) Liliana Bernabei and Kim Perez completed the IAI program. Makayla Backos (Summe Cum Laude) and Caleigh Rick (Magna Cum Laude) both recieved their Associate in Art and in Science. Well done ladies!!!

ALL-AMERICAN HONORS FOR 6 OF OUR OUTSTANDING CHEERLEADERS AND 1 CRUSADERETTE!

We are proud to recognize the outstanding achievement of some of our very own who were selected as All-American by the Universal Cheerleaders Association and the Universal Dance Association during their summer conditioning camp each held in July. This prestigious recognition celebrates their incredible skill, spirit, and leadership. We are so proud of these girls for representing our school with energy, passion, and pride. **Congratulations, All-Americans!**

Cheerleaders Pictured (left to right): Carissa Blood, Giada Patelli, Greysyn Carrier, Eliana Parker, Serenity Guzman, Gracie Hicks

Crusaderette: Aubrey Myers



BUILDING STRONGER CONNECTIONS...

Visit our website and send us your news! We want to stay up to date with our alumni and all their happenings. Please submit information like weddings, births & reunion info at www.marquetteacademy.net under the **ABOUT** tab - **Alumni Life Updates**

Our Alumni and Donor Database Gets an Upgrade

This past spring we transitioned to a new and improved alumni and donor management database - designed to help us serve you better with more relevant updates, smoother communication, and enhanced engagement. If you have not done so already, we encourage you to take a few minutes and update your profile in our new database.



What this means for you:

- More personalized updates tailored to your interests and history with the institution.
- Access to exclusive news, upcoming events, and giving opportunities - delivered more efficiently.
- Streamlined processes for communication, event planning, fundraising and support from our generous donors.

Help us ensure accuracy by updating your contact details, including your email address. *More and more information is being shared digitally!*

- Online: www.marquetteacademy.net under the **ABOUT** tab - **Donor Portal**
- Phone: Call the Advancement Office at **815-433-0125 ext. 1018**
- Email: **Kristal Nodland** at knodland@marquetteacademy.net



Why it matters:

Clean, accurate data means we can stay connected with what matters most to you - and you to us. It ensures you don't miss event invites, newsletters, or opportunities to engage and support the Marquette students, present and future.

Need help or have questions?

Please do not hesitate to contact the Advancement Office, we're here to help! Reach out to us at 815-433-0125 ext. 1018. Thank you for your cooperation and patience during this transition - we look forward to building stronger and more meaningful connections ahead.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 1, 2025
6:00pm Homecoming Parade
Downtown Ottawa

October 3, 2025
4-6:30pm Homecoming
Alumni & Family Tailgate
7pm HOCO Game

October 26, 2025
Annual Rip's Party
Knights of Columbus

November 19, 2025
MAHS Open House
High School Campus

December 2025
Merry Everything Raffle 12/1-25
Holiday Home Tour Dec. 6



Friday, October 3 - *Calling all alumni & fans!* Tailgate with the Marquette family across from Gould Stadium starting at 4pm. Then watch some Crusader Football! The CRU take on the Seneca Irish at 7pm. Great food, drinks, raffles and Marquette spirit! Make sure to follow our Facebook page for this year's Hoco Court announcement and other news!

To sponsor an event, donate, or view the full calendar of events and athletic schedules visit:
marquetteacademy.net

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



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