

Alumni & Friends  
**NEWS  
LETTER**

Spring Edition 2023

# FOOTPRINTS

LADY CRU HAVE RECORD  
**BREAKING  
SEASON**



**CONGRATS  
LADY  
CRU!**

**COACH  
McCONAUGHAY  
HAS EARNED 256  
VARSITY WINS!**



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In the fall, Marquette Academy's Lady Cru Varsity Volleyball team bumped, set, and spiked their way to a record breaking season! The girls kicked off the season at a traditional jersey ceremony in the Grotto with good intentions; and with hard work, those intentions eventually became reality. This was Coach Mindy McConaughay's 13th season coaching the Varsity Lady Cru. With 256 career wins, it will be Mindy's 20th season coaching at Marquette (junior high included) this fall. All seasons are fulfilling, but this year was a special for the whole team, and for Coach McConaughay ...

*"This was definitely a season for the record books, not only in wins but also in team chemistry. These ladies genuinely cared about each other; they played every game unselfishly and as a team. It was an honor to be a part of it. They definitely left an impression on the underclassmen and will always have a special place in my heart."*

**PLEASE UPDATE YOUR INFO**

Contact Diane Whalen with email or address updates  
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**TEAM AWARDS**

- Tri County Regular Season Champs (Undefeated)
- Tri County Tournament Champs
- Ridgeview Tourney Champs
- AFC Tourney Champs
- Regional Champs
- Record wins in a season 32-7
- IHSA All Academic Team -
  - Unweighted Team GPA Average 3.82,
  - Weighted Team Average GPA 4.2
- \*Every Single Player on Varsity received the Tri County Academic High Honor Award (Must have a GPA above 3.5)

**INDIVIDUAL AWARDS**

- The Times Player of the Year - Kaylee Killelea
- Tri County Player of the year - Kaylee Killelea
- 1st team All Conference - Kaylee Killelea & Lindsey Kaufmann
- 2nd Team All Conference - Eva McCallum
- 3rd team All Conference - Maera Jimenez & Mary Lechtenberg
- All Tournament Team AFC - Maera Jimenez & Lindsey Kaufmann
- All Tournament Team TCC - Lindsey Kaufmann & Kaylee Killelea



# Faculty Spotlight

## TERESA DITTMER

### Greetings to the Marquette Community & Happy Spring!



My name is Teresa Dittmer, I am the Agricultural Education Teacher and FFA Advisor here at Marquette Academy High School. First, I want to thank the administration, faculty, staff, parents, and students for welcoming me into the "Marquette Family." I feel blessed to have this opportunity to serve God and my students as we all grow together in His name.

My background and faith assure me that this is my vocation. I grew up on a farm and dedicated the last five years of my life to working full-time at Dittmer Angus. My Catholic faith will always be number one in my life. Having the opportunity to openly practice my faith, pray with my students at the end of every class, and discuss God's role in agriculture (as He is the creator of everything) are some of the most fulfilling moments of my teaching career. My classes have been fortunate enough to participate in many onsite demonstrations and field trips. Initially, Sid Devries came and demonstrated sheep shearing and talked to us about the different uses for wool. Additionally, we visited our FFA Ag plot, met with professional Agronomists, seed salesman, and farmers who planted and harvested our plot. We also milked a dairy cow at Dittmer Angus and used the milk for a "Farm-to-Fork" project. To raise money for FFA, we picked pumpkins and corn stalks to sell as holiday decor. Finally, we attended the National FFA

Convention in October and the Dairy Food Products Career Development Event (CDE) where we placed fourth overall.

This spring our students will have many more opportunities to learn and grow. We are looking forward to attending several more CDE events including veterinary science, public speaking, and livestock judging. We also plan to take part in the Women in Agriculture Conference in March, the Illinois FFA State Convention, and the FFA Leadership Camp. Furthermore, we will embark on more Farm-to-Fork projects, hatch ducklings, sell plants, and visit the IVCC Hemp Greenhouse and the Streator FFA Pig Project. In the fourth quarter, we will explore careers in agriculture with featured experts speaking on "Future Fridays."

I couldn't be more excited to experience my first year teaching at Marquette Academy High School. With its family-oriented environment, it truly feels like home here. I am very devoted to my Catholic faith, so to have the opportunity to express my love for Catholicism, along with my passion for the Agricultural Industry is truly a blessing. At the end of the day, the purest joy I have teaching here at Marquette will always be for my students. The opportunity to grow and learn together with them will always be one of the greatest blessings of my life.

## CRUSADERS *for Life*

### MAHS students attend the March for Life 2023

This year Father Bosse and Father Wilson traveled with MAHS students to Washington D.C. to participate in the March for Life, held on January 20, 2023. Jenna Gamons, a junior at Marquette Academy had this to say about the trip; "We got to Washington D.C. a few days before the March took place, so we were able to do a lot of sight seeing. We saw numerous monuments and visited quite a few museums. The March for Life was definitely one of the highlights of my high school experience so far. It was very comforting and inspiring seeing so many other people who feel just as strongly about the same cause as I did. Definitely an experience I would do again!"



CONGRATS!



**CONGRATULATIONS** to MAHS junior, Rylee Giffin, 3rd Place winner in the VFW Voice of Democracy essay competition. Rylee won 3rd out of 1500 applicants for the state of Illinois. She won at the Mar-silles VFW, and then for District 9. From there she made it to State. She traveled to Springfield on February 11, 2023, where the State of Illinois VFW celebrated its 77th Annual Voice of Democracy/ Patriot's Pen Banquet at the Crown Plaza to receive her \$1,250 Scholarship award.



# CRUSADERETTES PERFORM AT THE CITRUS BOWL!

The Crusaderette dance team traveled to Orlando, Florida to participate in the Pre-Game Performance of the Citrus Bowl on January 2, 2023. The team qualified for this experience of a lifetime at the UDA Camp last summer they attended at Northern Illinois University.

The team raised money for the trip via **Crowd-Funding\*** online and with 50/50's at football games. With their flights canceled, the Crusaderettes set off for Florida in vehicles driven by Coach Sarah Bullock and two other team moms. The girls worked hard at rehearsals, and had some fun at Universal Studios, in Orlando, before their performance.

"This all started early last summer. The team worked so hard in June and July to prepare for camp and the hard work continued once we were there at NIU. They literally danced from sun up to sun down. As one of the smallest teams at camp, we were thrilled to earn a superior trophy and an invitation to the Citrus Bowl. The trip itself was so much fun and a once in a lifetime experience. Being down on the field and performing for a packed stadium is something I know the girls will never forget. I'm just extremely proud of them!" *Coach Sarah Bullock*

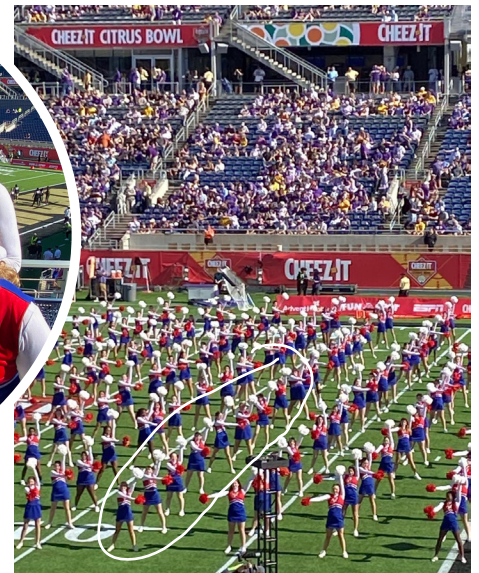


Crusaderettes: Back row - Coach Sarah Bullock, Caleigh Rick, Jenna Gamons, Grace Dose, Front row - Sarah Duchon, Katie Hardin, Gwyneth Verona (Not pictured: Darby Morganflash, Eva Paris, Ella Vanwiggeren)

## PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS 2022:

- \* 4th Place Home Routine
- \* Superior Trophy
- \* Blue Ribbon Team Performance Routine
- \* UDA Nationals Qualification
- \* Officer invite to Walt Disney World Varsity Spirit Spectacular
- \* Team invite to Citrus Bowl Pregame Performance

\* **Crowd-Funding:** This Spring, our goal is to raise funds for Interactive Smart TV's for all classrooms at both campuses. These will replace existing smart boards that are outdated. You can donate to this cause at [www.bidpal.net/mmm41](http://www.bidpal.net/mmm41).



## Student Spotlight JACOB WITTHUHN

Senior, Jacob Witthuhn has made the most of his four years at Marquette Academy, he has gained confidence and is a model student. We are so proud of all his achievements!

"Before I came to Marquette Academy, I was not the greatest student. I never really thought I was that smart, either, which didn't help. My parents told me I was smart, but I knew that's what most parents told their kids. I remember signing up for freshman classes a few weeks before school started. Mrs. Fiesel told me that my placement scores were exceptional and that I needed to try accelerated classes. I was hesitant at first. Before this, I told myself I would take just enough basic level classes to graduate.

I hesitantly signed up for the class and I remember at the end of the two weeks taking the first test. I was insanely nervous. After school, my father picked me up and we drove half an hour back to Morris. I remember pacing around my room, anxiously waiting for the grade to be posted. Finally, I saw it; a 94. I think that was the turning point for me, everything kinda clicked in my head. Because of that, I continued to push myself further and further. Since then, I've taken just about every accelerated and honors class that Marquette offers. I've also taken dual credit classes through IVCC. The staff and teachers here have pushed me to excel, they truly care about my success."



SCHOOL OF  
**MECHANICAL AND  
AEROSPACE ENGINEERING**  
College of Engineering, Architecture and Technology

**Clubs:** Drama/Theater, Key Club, Choir, ACES Team, Fine Arts, National Honors Society, Science Club, Student Ambassadors, Golf, March for Life, retreat leader for freshman, sophomore, junior and senior retreats.

**Illinois State Scholar**

**Future plans:** I will attend the Honors College at Oklahoma State University to earn a bachelor's degree in Aerospace Engineering.



Save the date for Saturday, May 6, 2023, for Marquette May Merriment XLI - Heaven or Hail!

At Marquette Academy, education goes far beyond textbooks and classrooms. Marquette has been able to offer our students exceptional academics, strong moral values, athletics and extra-curricular programs provided by our outstanding faculty and facility. Thanks to the generosity of our alumni, families, parishes, community and businesses we continue to thrive.

This year, we will be hosting our 41st annual May Merriment dinner/auction, themed 'Heaven or Hail', on May 6, 2023. To help with operating costs and respond to the financial burden that many of our families face, we must rely on our community that believes in Marquette. We invite you to support our hard-working students by attending May Merriment, and/or donating to our cause. We've got some exciting things planned for MMM41 and hope to make it the best year yet, with a special performance by Wreckin' Dixie Band!

To attend, contact the Advancement Office, invitations will be mailed out soon.

Don't miss out on our **\$25,000 Big Cash Raffle!** (With 5 other cash prizes available) Tickets cost \$100. The Early Bird drawing will be held on April 28, for \$1,000. **If you would like to be an event sponsor, or donate to MMM41, please call us at 815-433-0125 ext. 1017.**



This year's committee is as follows: (Back row) Terry & Amanda Muffler, Dan Patton & Michelle Pattelli, and (Front row) Don & Judy Kiesig (Honorary).

To preview the fabulous auction items ahead of time, sponsor or donate, get all the details on our auction website: [www.bidpal.net/mmm41](http://www.bidpal.net/mmm41).

Celebrate MMM XLI with us. Don't miss the social event of the year! Marquette Alumni - get your classmates and friends together to join us for a night of heavenly blessings! Contact our office to make a reservation for MMM XLI at **815-433-0125 ext. 1018**.

Read Footprints online at [www.marquetteacademy.net](http://www.marquetteacademy.net) under the ABOUT tab.



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