

Alumni & Friends **NEWS LETTER**

Spring Edition 2025

FOOTPRINTS

STAY CONNECTED



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PLEASE UPDATE YOUR INFO!

If you or someone in your household has a new address, or you receive more than one copy, please contact Danielle Entwistle with email and address updates.
dentwistle@marquetteacademy.net



Follow us on social media!

DATABASE OVERHAUL BOOSTS EFFICIENCY

We are excited to inform you that we've transitioned to a new database system to enhance our alumni/donor management system. This upgrade will allow us to serve you more efficiently and keep you better informed about important news, events, and giving opportunities.

To ensure that we have the most up-to-date and accurate information, we kindly ask that you take a moment to update your contact details with us, including an email address. This will help us continue to reach you with important information, including newsletters, community events, and other important communications.

Please take a moment to verify and update your information *including your email address* using the following options: *(We will never sell your information)*

- Update your own info at our Online Portal:
<https://marquetteacademy.blackbaudportal.com>
- Phone: Call our office at 815-433-0125 ext 1016 to provide updates
- Email: Danielle at dentwistle@marquetteacademy.net

We greatly appreciate your cooperation in this process. Your updated information and email will help us maintain effective and timely communication with you.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at 815-433-0125 ext 1016.

Thank you for your support. Please bear with us as we navigate this process.



The fourth annual Merry Everything Holiday Home Tour will be held on Saturday, December 6, 2025, hosted by Marquette Academy. If you are in the Ottawa area and would like to showcase your home decked out for Christmas, please contact us! Call Julie Verona with questions 815-433-0125 ext 1017.

MMM XLIII - *Rooted in Tradition*

Save the date for Saturday, May 3, 2025!

'Rooted in Tradition' means something is firmly established and developed from long-standing customs or beliefs that have been passed down through generations. Marquette Academy embodies this — exceptional education rooted in tradition and Catholic values.

May Merriment is our most important fundraising event of the year. Proceeds will directly benefit our students: funding scholarships, enriching academic programs, extracurricular activities, and essential campus improvements that help us maintain a high standard of Catholic education.

ALUMNI LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP

As an alumni, we are excited to invite you to participate in our MMM43 - Rooted in Tradition - Alumni Giving Challenge! As part of a special initiative, alumni from all years are coming together to make a meaningful impact on the future of Marquette Academy and its students. Even though we've raised some significant funds through our May Merriment efforts, we always have students who need financial help in order to attend. Our goal is to raise \$7,000 to cover the cost of one student's tuition - the Alumni Legacy Scholarship.

How It Works:

- **Challenge Dates:** April 1 to May 3, 2025
- **Goal:** Raise \$7,000 to use towards one lucky student's tuition
- **Your Contribution:** Whether large or small, *every gift counts!* Your donation will help shape the next generation of leaders.

Why Participate?

- **Celebrate Your Alma Mater:** Give back to the institution that helped shape your future.
- **Engage with Your Class:** Contact fellow alumni to make a class gift.
- **Create Lasting Impact:** Your contribution will make a difference for students, just like you once were, creating opportunities for generations to come.

Make your donation at www.bidpal.net/mmm43 and be a part of this exciting opportunity to make a difference. You can also mail your donation to Marquette Academy, 1000 Paul Street, Ottawa, IL 61350 attn: Alumni Challenge

Together, we can ensure that Marquette continues to thrive and offer exceptional Catholic education to its students.

Join the Challenge Today!

Donors will receive recognition at MMM43! *We invite you to reserve a table and join us at our biggest fundraiser MMM43 dinner/auction - 'Rooted in Tradition' on May 3.*

Thank you for your continued support of Marquette Academy. We look forward to celebrating this challenge with you!

****Email us a photo of you and your high school sweetheart or friends from your days at Marquette! **Please send photos to jverona@marquetteacademy.net**



This year's committee: Megan & Casey Rick, Amanda & Tony Andreoni, Marline & Leon Backos.

To purchase dinner tickets, BIG Cash raffle tickets, sponsor or donate, and bid on auction items from near or far, please visit our auction website: www.bidpal.net/mmm43.

Celebrate MMM XLIII with us. Don't miss the social event of the year! Marquette Alumni – get your classmates and friends together to support the Crusaders at MMM XLIII - 'Rooted in Tradition'! Contact our office to make a reservation at **815-433-0125 ext. 1017**.



Scan with your camera to visit the auction website. www.bidpal.net/mmm43





STUDENT

Spotlights >>>

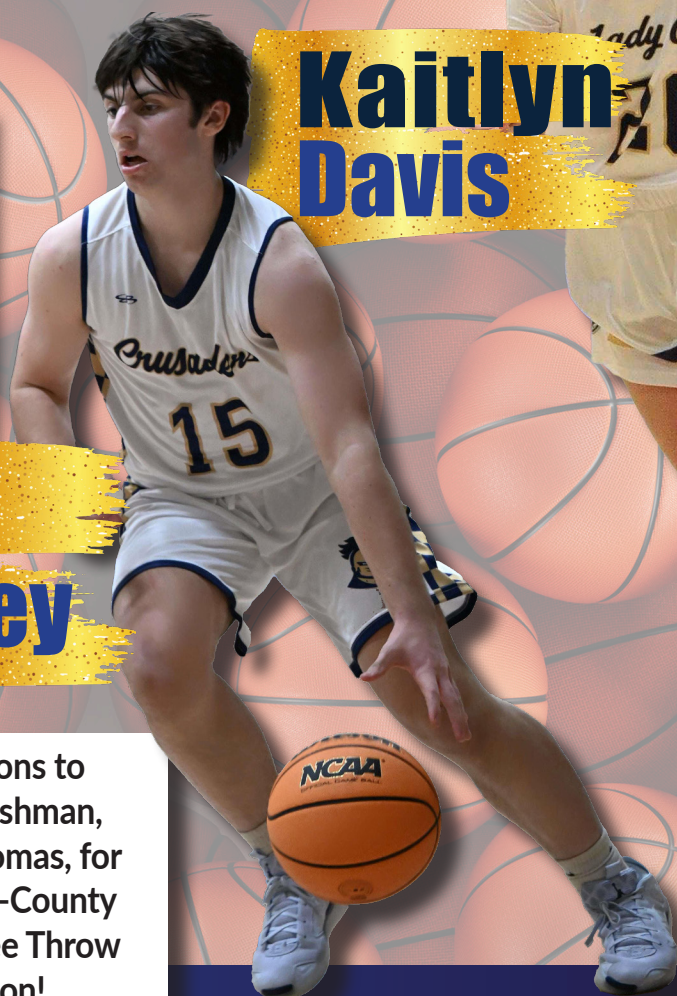


HOOP THERE IT IS!

Congratulations to Marquette junior, Alec Novotney, and sophomore, Kaitlyn Davis, on scoring **1,000 CAREER POINTS** this season!

Alec Novotney

Kaitlyn Davis



Congratulations to Marquette freshman, Neyemiyah Thomas, for winning the Tri-County Conference Free Throw Competition!

Makayla Backos #THRIVING

This hardworking senior, Makayla Backos, is someone who consistently pushes herself to achieve both academic and personal growth. Balancing a demanding schedule filled with challenging coursework, extracurricular activities, and part-time jobs, Makayla shows dedication and perseverance in everything she does.

While at Marquette Academy, Makayla will receive two associate degrees (arts and science) with our IVCC Running Start Program this Spring. She recently received the DAR Citizenship Award, and the John Ourth Award - for her leadership skills and great character. She is currently working as CNA at Pleasant View, Coaches 5-6th grade volleyball at MAES, and loves to read in her spare time. Makayla participated in volleyball, softball, basketball and poms at Marquette. She plans to go on to a 4-year university to become a nurse, with the goal of becoming a nurse practitioner.

Makayla also volunteers at the Ottawa Historical and Scouting Museum and the Adopt a Highway Program. Makayla is not just surviving, she's thriving!



FACULTY *Spotlight*

Marquette Academy Welcomes New Spanish Teacher, Cristina Muruaga



Marquette Academy is excited to introduce Mrs. Cristina Muruaga as the newest member of the school's faculty. A passionate educator with an inspiring journey, Cristina brings a wealth of experience and a deep love for teaching Spanish to her new role.

Cristina's path to becoming a teacher in the United States began in 2019 when she and her family made the decision to relocate from Monterrey, Mexico. Her husband, who had been transferred for work, found a new opportunity in the U.S., and the family embraced the adventure. Since arriving

in the U.S., Cristina took some time off to care for her family, but decided to continue to share her passion for the Spanish language and culture.

Before her move to the U.S., Cristina had a thriving 27 year teaching career in Mexico, where she taught a variety of students. Her background began as a teacher's aid, she then became an elementary teacher, elementary coordinator, then elementary principal and finally head principal. Her decision to bring her expertise to Marquette Academy is rooted in her desire to foster an appreciation for languages

and cross-cultural communication in her students. She is excited to help her students not only become proficient in Spanish but also develop a genuine interest in exploring the diverse cultures where Spanish is spoken.

For Cristina, the move to the U.S. and her new role at Marquette Academy have been both challenging and rewarding. "I'm grateful for the opportunity to teach here and be part of such a supportive school community," she says. "I love Marquette Academy and it has been a blessing beyond my expectations. I was not sure how the transition from teaching elementary to high school students would be, but the students here have been wonderful and a joy to teach."

Stay up to date with info and events online at www.marquetteacademy.net



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