



The Academic Program

Marian's unique educational model combines three necessary components to educate the whole child: Academics, Enrichment, and Graduate Support. Marian's rigorous Academic Program focuses on the development of the whole child through a holistic approach that combines academics and wraparound services like health screenings, counseling, and the provision of tuition, school supplies, and uniforms.

For 10 months a year, 10 hours a day, Marian leverages evidence-based approaches to ensure students' get the time and attention they need, including:

- Small class sizes
- Longer days and years
- Looping — where teachers spend each year with the same group of students
- Project-based learning
- A complete STEM program with more than 10 courses
- Integrated math and literacy support
- Academic Saturdays, field trips, and special events
- Career luncheons, career events, and networking opportunities

All students receive instruction each morning in social studies, language arts, math, and science. The afternoon classes are mastery-based, *enabling students to advance when they are ready—not when the rest of the class is ready*. Afternoon courses include: STEM laboratory, religion, Spanish, computer programming, robotics, and physical education. Additionally, students participate in daily 40-minute periods of independent reading to help them build fluency, vocabulary, and a strong foundation for future learning.

The academic day concludes with study hall and each Friday students are given extra time to read, work on homework and projects, and speak with teachers. This practice is imperative given the challenges students may experience outside of school.

When students enroll at Marian, they are often testing two or three grade levels behind. Through talented teachers and individualized attention, Marian students are able to thrive. Last year:

- 30% of students made more than 2 years of growth in reading.
- 46% of Marian Girls either tested at the highest grade level in math or made more than 2 years of growth.
- 73% of eighth graders made significant gains in science from their first year at Marian to their 8th grade year.
- In science, one 7th grader grew from the 6th percentile to the 82nd percentile in just one year -- advancing multiple grade levels.

Clearly, Marian's Academic Program provides a strong foundation for learning and empowers Marian Girls to achieve success at the high school and college levels. In 2019, 100% of alumnae graduated from high school, compared to 74% of students who attend local public schools.

About Marian Middle School: Marian Middle School was founded in 1999 to provide a life-altering education to girls with limited means, but high potential. In 2000, Marian opened with 14 fifth and sixth grade students. Today, Marian supports up to 70 fifth through eighth grade girls and more than 265 alumnae. Marian is the only all-girls Catholic middle school in St. Louis serving urban adolescent students. Marian's students face significant socio-economic challenges: 91 percent qualify for the free and reduced fee meals program, a national indicator of poverty.