**2020**

**A Year Like No Other**

We thrive on the energy from our students, the commitment of our donors, and the love of our community. While this year was unlike any other — hope brought us together. As we ramped up to leave for spring break, we realized we would not be coming back as a school community, and we planned to ensure that our Marian Girls and families were nurtured — nutritionally, emotionally, and academically.

Our job is to ensure our students have everything they need to be active and engaged learners. That means they are healthy and safe, connected, and ready to learn.

That meant providing them with everything from hot spots and computers, to healthy food, counseling and support, to virtual prayer and Chapel services. Our counselors and Graduate Support Team reached out to students so they could share their fears, maintain their motivation and excitement about applying to college, and everything in between.

We met the challenges of the pandemic head-on — and are planning for the future.

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**OUR MISSION**

Marian Middle School, a Catholic school welcoming adolescent girls of all backgrounds, is committed to breaking the cycle of poverty through education. Marian fosters each student’s spiritual, academic, social, moral, emotional, and physical development from middle school through post-secondary education as a foundation for career success.

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**Marian Girls:**

- **90%** face poverty, traveling from 25 zip codes to receive a life-altering education.
- **100%** graduated from high school in 2020, compared to 73% of students from local public schools.
- **100%** of graduating Marian alumnae attended college or a post-secondary institution in 2020, compared to 64% of students from local public schools.

2019-2020
A Letter from Our Graduate

Marian Helps Me Chase My Dreams

From the day I shadowed another student at Marian, I knew I was home. I was especially excited when I saw how much more hands-on and rigorous Marian’s curriculum was. I wanted to be challenged, and I knew Marian would challenge me.

Little did I realize just how challenging Marian would be! I had been homeschooled before fourth grade, and even though I’d learned advanced math, I needed a math tutor in fifth grade at Marian. By seventh grade, I was back in the game in math — my favorite subject! By the eighth grade, I was getting straight As. Not only that, I scored 100% on my advanced math exams! I’ll always be grateful to Marian for challenging me.

As part of Marian’s Enrichment Program, which empowers students to explore their talents and career interests, I took cooking, yoga, dance, choir, and sewing classes. Marian helped me develop as a person, make friends, and gain self-confidence to go on to pursue my love of theater in high school.

Another major benefit of being a part of the Marian family is the Marian scholarships we receive to continue our academic journey at high performing high schools. Marian also helps us learn how to successfully secure scholarships and financial aid. Marian is the reason I’ve been able to continue chasing my dreams.

Marian is a lifeline I know I can count on to this day. When we didn’t have food in the house, Marian provided whatever food we needed. When I was in eighth grade, my family lost everything in a house fire. Marian took my sisters and me to buy clothes and shoes and bought my high school uniform, as well as books and supplies for my little sisters and me. Even through tragedy, I left Marian on a high note because I knew they were watching out for my whole family.

Today, I am a senior at Nerinx Hall, where I have appeared in seven plays and musicals. Since freshman year, I’ve taken all honors classes in math and science. This year, I’m also taking honors classes in writing and U.S. literature, in addition to classes in world history and psychology. Because of the time management skills Marian taught me, I’m able to balance a rigorous course load and excel academically.

Thanks to Marian, I have a clear vision for my future. Next, I plan to get my Bachelor’s in Psychology at Maryville University. After that, I plan to get my Doctorate in Clinical Child Psychology. Because of Marian, I know I can achieve my dreams. I am receiving an amazing education that allows me to be creative and continue challenging myself. One day, I plan to be a child psychologist. I am so grateful that Marian is helping me get there.

— Lonjay Hemphill, Marian Class of 2017, Nerinx Hall, Class of 2021

Thank You from Our Leadership

Lonjay is an incredible young woman, and we’re looking forward to watching her achieve her dream of becoming a Clinical Child Psychologist! It’s girls like Lonjay who embody the mission of Marian — breaking the cycle of poverty by enabling girls to realize their dreams. Lonjay is one of more than 279 girls who have had the opportunity to receive a life-changing education at Marian, since our founding in 1999.

Lonjay inspires us to serve as a beacon of hope for girls with limited resources. We rose to the challenge of serving our community during the global pandemic with the knowledge that we would get through this together and emerge even stronger.

Our Marian family is truly like no other. Thank you for being a part of the Marian family. Together, we are Transforming Lives and Building for Our Future.

With our deepest gratitude,

Mary Elizabeth Grimes
President

Sarah Walker
Principal
Marian Middle School is a leader in providing life-altering education. Marian graduates are accomplished young women equipped to make informed decisions and create enduring, positive change.

OUR VISION

Marian Middle School was founded in 1999 by seven communities of Catholic sisters. We are grateful they shared their dream and vision to establish hope for the future of the St. Louis area. We thank them for their continued guidance and support throughout our history.

• Daughters of Charity, Province of St. Louise (DC)
• Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help (OSF)
• School Sisters of Notre Dame, Central Pacific Province (SSND)
• Sisters of Loretto (SL)
• Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, St. Louis Province (CSJ)
• Sisters of the Most Precious Blood (CPPS)
• Ursuline Sisters of the Central Province (OSU)

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2019-2020
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Marian is grateful for the many people who dedicate their time and talents to advancing and sustaining our mission. For more information on how you can serve on a committee, please contact the Development Office at 314.771.7674.

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Ignatian Volunteer Corps
Doug Schwaab, B.S., M.S., Ph.D.
Ignatian Volunteer Corps
Kate Stroble, M.Ed.
Ignatian Volunteer Corps

*Titles omitted for the sake of brevity.
...to receive a life-altering education.

76% Saint Louis City
18% Saint Louis County
6% Illinois

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

CORE SUBJECTS

MATH

SCIENCE

SOCIAL STUDIES

LANGUAGE ARTS

69 STUDENTS

Students in fifth grade .......... 13
Students in sixth grade .......... 22
Students in seventh grade ...... 20
Students in eighth grade ......... 14

Girls Served

90%

75% African American
16% Hispanic
6% Multiracial
3% Caucasian

qualify for free and reduced-price meals, a national indicator of poverty
FOUNDATION SUBJECTS

- Foreign language, including Spanish I, Spanish II, and Spanish Literacy
- Art
- Computer Science, including Technology and Typing, and Media
- STEM
- Humanities, including Systems Thinking, Women in History, Cultural Exchange, and American Protest Literature

READING

- 86% of all students were meeting or exceeding their expected growth in language arts based on their mastery of rigorous content in quarters 1-3.
- 6th grader Samantha made more than a year’s worth of growth in five months!

Sam is an English Language Learner, and since coming to Marian, her vocabulary, proficiency, fluency, and comprehension have all increased significantly. Most importantly, her love of reading flourished. She loves the Diary of a Wimpy Kid series.

“One of my favorite memories was hearing Samantha quietly giggle during our reading class as she encountered one of the characters doing something funny or silly,” said teacher Sara Mashburn. “On Mondays, she often came to class saying, ‘I’m ready for the quiz!’ because she had finished her book over the weekend.”

FACT:

Marian Girls, who often enter performing two or more years below grade level, leave Marian on or above grade level, prepared to succeed in high-performing high schools.

ATTENDANCE

Pre-distance learning attendance:

94%

Students read

883 BOOKS

Overall attendance for the year, including distance learning:

89%

totaling 435,595,781 words
SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING MATH

Marian prepares students for 21st century careers in STEM through an innovative curriculum that combines multidisciplinary and experiential learning. Students’ fortitude and commitment to discovery enables them to choose advanced STEM classes throughout their high school, college, and career journeys, and pursue higher-paying careers.

Marian provided learning opportunities both in the classroom and through distance learning that engaged students to develop new ways of thinking about science, technology, and the world around them.

Courses Offered:
• Automotive Engineering
• Digital Storytelling
• Furniture Refurbishing
• Gardening and Beekeeping
• Mapping
• Music, Math, and My Story
• Media
• Robotics I and II
• STEM Club

Careers of Interest Include:
Marian students are interested in a variety of careers, especially STEM given our STEM focus, including the following:
- Architect
- Astronaut
- Computer Hardware Engineer
- Dentist
- Doctor
- Endocrinologist
- Engineer
- FBI Agent
- General Surgeon
- Heart Surgeon
- Nurse
- Pediatric Surgeon
- Pediatrician
- Scientist
- Veterinarian

Growing Strong — Math and Science at Marian
Being a returning Marian Girl has its advantages.
• 67% of 7th graders started the year at or above grade level in math.
• 79% of 8th graders started the year at or above grade level in math.
• 86% of all students were meeting or exceeding their expected growth in math based on their mastery of rigorous content in quarters 1-3.
• Marian began offering all 8th grade students Algebra (rather than pre-Algebra) in order to better prepare them for advanced high school curriculum.

“Music, Math, and My Story”
This new class spanned 5th–7th grade, and combined music, math, and technology to deepen students’ number sense, offer an outlet to address chronic stress and trauma, and give students voice and choice in telling their powerful stories. This program integrated community partners and donors, and honored the different cultures, backgrounds, and stories of students.
In Digital Storytelling, students identified an “unsung Black hero” within the areas of science, technology, music, and art; learned about the credibility and reliability of sources; then created an impactful iMovie to learn about digital organization, word choice, pacing, flow, and visual impact.

Science — A Year of Discovery
81% of all students were meeting or exceeding their expected growth in science based on their mastery of rigorous content in quarters 1-3.

In Automotive Engineering, students were hands-on! They mastered hand tools, soldering equipment, hydraulic pumps and automotive spray painting equipment while restoring two motor scooters.

Awards and Achievements:
Students competed at the Clavius Project Robotics Jamboree at St. Louis University High School in February. Marian was one of only four schools that received the platinum award — and the only school to win the honor for three consecutive years.

Science — A Year of Discovery
Students explored careers in the health sciences during field trips to A.T. Still University and the Science Center’s SciFest: Health Expo. One student, Isabella, was interviewed for the local news, and another student, Samira, was selected as the winner of an essay contest through A.T. Still University!

At Microsoft, Marian Girls tried out Virtual Reality and created population maps.

Inspiring Growth
Like many Marian students, Joyce entered her first year at Marian testing well below grade level. But with Marian’s support and one-on-one educational approach, Joyce bridged the gap across all subject areas, including science. In this subject alone, she now ranks in the 82nd percentile among all seventh graders nationally, jumping from only the 6th percentile in fifth grade.
Marian’s Enrichment Program provides students with opportunities for self-discovery, leadership development, and career exploration. These activities foster belonging and connection after students graduate Marian and enter their new high school environments. The skills they build — like leadership and time management, healthy decision-making, and forming positive relationships with others — last a lifetime and help them become even more successful throughout their high school, college, and career journeys.

School Year Activities:

- **Fine and Performing Arts**
  Art, Choir, Dance, Drums, Guitar, Media, Piano, Praise Dance, Sewing & Fashion Design, and Theater

- **Fitness and Wellness**
  Basketball, Culinary Arts, Sports Skills, Step Dance, Track, Volleyball, Yoga, and Zumba

- **Social Awareness**
  Etiquette Club (see photo above), Girls Inc., Girl Scouts, Lean-In Club, Neighborhood Adventure Club, and Service Club

- **Academics**
  Creative Writing, Extra Study Hall, French Club, Korean Club, Media (Digital Storytelling and Yearbook), and Spanish Club

**FACT:** It costs more than $15,000 to provide one Marian Girl with a rigorous academic environment and an array of enrichment activities each school year.
Highlights

Leadership in Action

Madisyn  Zionna

Two 8th grade students, Madisyn and Zionna, created and oversaw a new multi-grade Korean Club based on their interest in learning the language and culture.

Enrichment Classes Continued — Even During COVID-19

Choir Director Eleanor Humphrey facilitated an outlet for students to connect virtually each week. Classes included Maker Monday (crafts), Try it Tuesday (learning a new dance or exercise routine), Theater Thursday (new improv or theater game), and Pop Friday (creating a new song together — including music, lyrics, and beat)!

There were two guitar classes at Marian this year — girls performed a song in the Diversity Program after only being in the class for less than 2 months!

For the Diversity Program, Marian’s choir sang the song “Wild Things” by Alessia Cara while our praise dance class danced to it. Audience members were inspired by the collaboration on this “wild” and creative performance.

Sharing the Arts with Others

6th grader Kaycee has taken piano for several semesters, and even received a keyboard to foster her passion. Her confidence and skills are shining through at Marian, as Kaycee was the only piano performer for the Diversity Program.

For the Diversity Program, Marian’s choir sang the song “Wild Things” by Alessia Cara while our praise dance class danced to it. Audience members were inspired by the collaboration on this “wild” and creative performance.
Our Graduate Support Program, the final component of Marian’s innovative educational model, provides long-term high school, college, and career preparedness support for Marian Girls so they can continue their journey of success.

The program was developed in 2003 after the first six students graduated from Marian, to ensure their success in high school. Marian expanded the program in 2016 to support Marian Girls during their college years and into career success. Today, Marian Girls flourish in the workforce.

During the global pandemic, Marian staff remained connected with our alumnae to ensure they stayed motivated, got the letters of recommendation they needed, and remained engaged in their educational and career journeys.

The program includes academic, social, and financial support, including:

- One-on-one mentoring
- High school scholarships
- Student and parent workshops
- ACT/SAT prep courses
- Pre-enrollment college visits and continued support
- Summer internships and career exploration programs
- Counseling support and referrals when crises occur
- College access programs through Saint Louis University, Washington University, University of Missouri-St. Louis, College Bound, and more

Marian Girls are attending the following rigorous institutions:

- Bishop DuBourg High School
- Cardinal Ritter College Prep High School
- Collegiate School of Medicine and Bioscience
- Cor Jesu Academy
- Duchesne High School
- Hawthorn Leadership School for Girls
- Hazelwood West High School
- Incarnate Word Academy
- KIPP St. Louis High School
- Mehlville High School
- Metro Academic and Classical High School
- Nerinx Hall High School
- Northwest High School
- Notre Dame High School
- Ritenour High School
- Rosati-Kain High School
- St. Joseph’s Academy
- Trinity Catholic High School
- University City High School
- Ursuline Academy
- Valley Park High School
- Villa Duchesne and Oak Hill School
- Westminster Christian Academy

279 alumnae from Marian Middle School

- High school students receiving support..............68
- High school graduates ..................208
- Alumnae in college .................45
- College graduates in the workforce .............47

100% of Marian alumnae graduated from high school in 2020, compared to 73% of others who typically graduate locally.

Once a Marian Girl, Always a Marian Girl!”
**FACT:**

Marian has given over $1.6 million in scholarships to our graduates over the past 11 years!

**Alumnae Highlights:**

- Jamison Jenkins earned an internship with the Army where she is working in a research lab.
- Sandy returned from the Marine Corps and is pursuing a degree in nursing, while holding a part-time job at St. Mary's Hospital as a Patient Sitter.
- Shantajah Anderson graduated this year and was offered a Graduate Assistant position while she pursues her Master's in Management.
- RoNiyah Harris secured an internship at Missouri Appleseed, which develops solutions to problems in communities.
- Taylor Page is publishing a book of poems entitled Divine Love.
- Nyla Green, the talented dancer featured in last year’s report, is also an artist. Her artwork is being showcased at various hotels across the country, which will help her cover her expenses for her senior year in high school and college.
- Alanna Walls was one of the first Marian alumnae to be supported by the extended Graduate Support Program through college. She joined Marian’s team this year full-time to support Marian Girls as College Readiness Officer.

Marian Girls are attending the following colleges and universities:

- Alabama A&M University
- Columbia College - Chicago
- DePauw University
- Dillard University
- Eastern Gateway Community College
- Fontbonne University
- Franciscan University of Steubenville
- Georgia State University
- Harris Stowe State University
- Howard University
- Jackson State University
- Maryville University
- Lindenwood University
- Mississippi Valley State University
- Missouri S&T
- Missouri State University - Springfield
- Missouri Western University
- Ranken Technical College
- Saint Louis University
- Southern Illinois University - Edwardsville
- Southeast Missouri State University
- St. Louis Community College
- Tennessee State University
- Truman State University
- University of Evansville
- University of Missouri - Columbia
- University of Missouri - St. Louis
- Washington University in St. Louis
- Webster University
- Xavier University, Louisiana

Watch On YouTube!

The Impact of Marian: Alanna Walls
FINANCES

Statement of Financial Position • June 30, 2020

Assets

- Cash and Cash Equivalents: $935,262
- Cash and Cash Equivalents - Capital Campaign: $1,740,541
- Investments: $2,050,564
- Grants and contributions receivable - net: $188,856
- Contributions receivable - Capital Campaign: $1,286,436
- Note Receivable NMTC: $3,419,337
- Prepaid Expenses: $3,948
- Property and equipment net: $2,585,673
Total assets: $12,210,617

Liabilities and Net Assets

Liabilities
- Accounts Payable: $55,023
- Accrued liabilities: $31,741
- Payroll Protection Loan: $205,384
- Long-term debt: $4,995,912
Total liabilities: $5,288,060

Net Assets
- Without donor restrictions: $4,339,306
- With donor restrictions: $2,583,251
Total net assets: $6,922,557

Total liabilities and net assets: $12,210,617

Statement of Activities • June 30, 2020

Support and Revenue

Grants and contributions
- Capital Campaign: $610,234
- Other: $1,473,742
- Fundraising events: $549,445
- Tuition: $26,633
- Lunch program: $38,557
- Net Investment income: $90,403
- Gain on uncollectible grants and contributions receivable: $42,083
- Other: $21,361
Total support and revenue: $2,852,458

Expenses

Program services
- Academic: $857,674
- Social services: $134,678
- Graduate Support: $378,345
Total program services: $1,370,697

Supporting Services
- Management and general: $217,136
- Fundraising: $404,141
Total supporting services: $621,277

Total expenses: $1,991,974

INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS
- Net assets at beginning of year: $6,062,073
- Net assets at end of year: $6,922,557
Net increase (decrease): $860,484

OUR GUIDING VALUES

- Faith-Filled Life
- Quality Education
- Family and Community Spirit
- Respect for the Uniqueness of the Individual
- Service to Foster Justice, Peace, and Equality
Marian thanks the following donors for their generous gifts made between July 1, 2019, and June 30, 2020. If we have omitted or misspelled your name, please help us correct our records by calling the Development Office at 314.771.7674.

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- James Lord
- Patricia McGuire and Robert Sciorino
Thank you TO OUR

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Many donors make recurring gifts to Marian through monthly or quarterly credit or debit card payments. Recurring gifts provide a convenient way to spread gifts over a period of time and have a big impact. If you would like to set up this special gift, contact the Development Office, or visit our website.

Gifts of stock are also great ways to give. To make a gift of stock, please transfer securities directly to Marian’s broker. (Please inform Dianne Decker, Business Manager, if you make a gift of stock.)

Detalus
Mr. Jeff Holley
314.997.1351
DTC #: 0443
Account name: Marian Middle School
Account #: AIH001182

Donors also shop on AmazonSmile to ensure a part of their purchase goes back to the community. Simply select Marian Middle School as your charity partner of choice.

Your contribution, no matter what size, provides a quality education for girls who face the obstacles of poverty.

TOTAL GIFTS

1,344

NEW DONORS THIS YEAR

214
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In-kind gifts are essential to our fundraising program. We appreciate your support!

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Invest in Her Future

Marian Middle School families commit to supporting students based on their financial capacity. The typical family pays $400 annually. However, the actual cost of educating one Marian student is more than $15,000 annually. It is through the generosity of our donors that we are able to succeed in our mission to break the cycle of poverty by Educating Girls for Life.

Marian Middle School would like to thank Laura Kangrga of Kangrga Design for volunteering her time and talents to create this annual report and several other marketing materials during the 2019–2020 school year.
Foundation, Corporate, and Organizational Giving

Marian Middle School thanks the following donors for their generous gifts made between July 1, 2019, and June 30, 2020.

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Kristin Gumper
Development and Communications Director
4130 Wyoming Street
St. Louis, MO, 63116
Email: kgumper@mms-stl.org
www.marianmiddleschool.org

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Founder’s Circle Sponsors:

20 years ago when the Foundresses came together to create Marian Middle School, they never could have predicted we would be celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the school during a global pandemic. Our donors, partners, and school community came together to virtually celebrate our 20th anniversary and show their support for Marian Girls in an unprecedented time in an unconventional way.

Over 200 supporters invested in Marian Girls! Together, we raised more than $420,000 and quickly secured the $50,000 gift from our matching gift donor! Thank you for your support.

May 1, 2021

14TH ANNUAL WOMEN’S EVENT

Girls Night Out 2020

A VIRTUAL EVENT LIKE NO OTHER

Thursday, October 15, 2020
Speaker: Lisa Nichols, CEO and Co-Founder of Technology Partners

“I was honored and delighted to be the keynote speaker for Marian’s Girls Night Out. I had attended this event in the past with a friend, however, I didn’t fully understand just how special and unique this middle school was until I met with the leadership team and learned more. I absolutely LOVE Marian’s model and feel that their philosophy of education is exemplary and could very well serve as a standard to improve education for other schools. Marian not only educates these young ladies holistically with the skills needed for tomorrow’s careers, but supports and nurtures them for the rest of their educational journey with mentorship and coaching, on into their careers. Being well-educated will not only improve the future for each student but can be the catalyst for a brighter future for every generation thereafter. As is commonly stated by the graduates of Marian, ‘Once a Marian Girl, always a Marian Girl!’”

— Lisa Nichols, CEO, Technology Partners

3RD ANNUAL

Young Friends Trivia Night

Saturday, November 14, 2020 • Marian Middle School

“The opportunity to help provide the outstanding, alternative, and faith-based education that Marian is known for, is both empowering and rewarding. As Trivia Chair, I was able to support a school that could not be more meaningful to me, while also enjoying the event with my family. Marian has enlightened and done more for me than I could ever hope to repay.”

— Tyler Dunn, Senior Credit Analyst, Stifel Bank and Trust

19TH ANNUAL

Marian Magic 2020

A Virtual Event!

APRIL 16 - 26, 2020

Founder’s Circle Sponsors:

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Save the date! May 1, 2021
Invest Now, and Help Us Build for Our Future!

While we have made a dramatic impact on Marian Girls with limited resources and facilities, our capital campaign is the next step in realizing transformational change. Our two-pronged campaign funds Capital Improvements and the increasing need of our Graduate Support Program.

To learn more, call Marian at 314.771.7674.

Thank you to our donors who have already joined the campaign!

OUR EDUCATION MODEL

- Our **Academic Program** enhances student learning by challenging students to think beyond the boundaries of traditional academia and develop critical thinking, problem solving, leadership, and life skills in preparation for high-performing high schools.

- Our **Enrichment Program** offers students additional opportunities for learning, empowerment, character growth, and leadership development.

- Our **Graduate Support Program** assists alumnae in finding success during their high school and college years by providing academic, social, financial, and career readiness support and by connecting students to internship and job opportunities.

For more information or to arrange a tour, contact us!

314.771.7674

www.marianmiddleschool.org

info@mms-stl.org