



MARIST SCHOOL

Atlanta, Georgia

www.marist.com

START DATE – JULY 2023



THE SCHOOL

Marist School is an independent, Catholic, nonprofit, college preparatory, coeducational day school of the Marist Fathers and Brothers (Society of Mary) serving students in grades 7 through 12. Marist School was founded in downtown Atlanta in 1901 and is the oldest Catholic secondary school in the Atlanta area. The school moved to its current expansive North Atlanta site on Ashford Dunwoody Road in 1962. Marist is accredited by the Southern Association of Independent Schools (SAIS) as well as SAIS/Cognia, and holds memberships in numerous professional and educational organizations.

THE MISSION

The mission of Marist School is to form the whole person in the image of Christ through instruction grounded in religious values, the teachings of the Catholic Church, and the spirit of the Society of Mary. This mission is advanced through communal pursuit of excellence in academic, religious, extracurricular, leadership, and service programs.

SPIRITUAL LIFE

At Marist School, the personal faith of the resident Marist priests, the manner of sharing in the mission of the Gospel, and the association with one another are all shaped by the spiritual way introduced into the life of the Church by Venerable Jean Claude Colin (1790-1875) and Saint Marcellin Champagnat (1789- 1840) and developed by successive generations of Marists. The entire school community models their lives on Mary, our Good Mother, imitating her faith response to God and sharing in her work of bringing Christ's life to birth and nurturing its growth in young people, being with the Church as it comes to be born. The spirituality embedded throughout the Marist culture is marked by a profound experience of God's

FAST FACTS



1901

Founding Year



1,100

students enrolled in grades 7-12



\$37.2M

raised in last capital campaign

abiding presence and love, by trust in God, by a deep personal love of Jesus and his Gospel, by community living in a family spirit, and by a humility expressed through simplicity.

RECTOR AND SOCIETY OF MARY

The Rector of Marist School is appointed by the Society of Mary, is a voting board director, and is the primary liaison between Marist School and the Society of Mary. While the Rector is not tasked with any component of the school's daily operations, the role is charged with the formulation of the principles and values which define the school's uniquely Marist and Catholic identity. The President and Board are assigned and empowered with the work of animating the mission and Marist charism in the life of the school. The President must maintain a close working relationship with the Rector, keeping the Rector well-informed of the school's faithfulness to its mission.



CAMPUS MINISTRY & STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Marist's Catholic identity permeates the life of the school. Whether it's a small morning Mass in the chapel or an all-school Mass in Centennial Center, students are an integral part of the celebration as altar servers, music ministers, lectors, and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. The sacrament of Reconciliation is offered during the seasons of Advent and Lent, and throughout the year, students and faculty are invited to gather in the chapel for Adoration during Friday Activity Period. At Marist, the majority of student leadership opportunities come through Campus Ministry initiatives, with training and formation shaped by the Marist values of service, humility, and hospitality. Whether a student is a peer leader, a retreat leader, or a team chaplain, they are servant leaders who bring these Marist values to life.

Following a six-year cycle focusing on various aspects of the spirit of the Society of Mary, the Marist Way provides vibrant opportunities for students, faculty, and staff to experience and express the school's core values. Additionally, students at every grade level and in every club and team serve the community through a broad range of service opportunities. Every club and varsity team at Marist also performs required community service. Throughout the year, peer orientation programs and several retreat offerings are sponsored by Campus Ministry.



STUDENT ACTIVITIES

The students at Marist keep extremely active. Approximately 87% of the student body participates in 67 different extracurricular clubs and student organizations. There are also strong fine and performing arts programs, encompassing choral and instrumental music, dance, drama, debate, literary activities, and visual arts. On the courts and fields, 84% of students participate in an interscholastic sport. Varsity and/or lower program sports are offered in basketball, cheerleading, cross country, football, golf, lacrosse, soccer, softball, swimming, tennis, track, volleyball, and wrestling.

Marist proudly has regularly fielded award-winning academic teams, including a nationally-ranked debate program and robotics team.

ACADEMICS

The goal of Marist's curriculum is to challenge each student to reach his/her academic potential. Teachers provide instruction in a variety of modalities to reach different learning styles with the goal of preparing students to be successful in college and life thereafter. Their goal is to produce independent, life-long learners.

The school places a curriculum-wide emphasis on strong writing skills. In addition to its 23 AP courses, Marist also supports an ambitious commitment to STEAM and global education initiatives. Its AP Summer Institute offers professional development for educators from around the region to learn best practices from current and former Marist teachers.



FAST FACTS



85%

of faculty hold advanced degrees



100%

college acceptance



\$2M

awarded in financial
aid each year



ARTS

Building on a long tradition of theater productions, the arts department offers extensive curricular and extracurricular opportunities for all students. Students are provided a place of support and encouragement for both beginners and those seeking specialization as they pursue a degree or career in the arts. While the department strongly emphasizes fundamental skills in the arts, the curriculum is always progressing in order to prepare students to understand new technology, global issues, and contemporary ideas in the discipline. This nationally recognized theater program performs three to four productions annually. Marist hopes to grow student participation in the various arts disciplines in the years ahead.

ATHLETICS

Marist Athletics is an important component of the school's mission to "form the whole person." Since the school's founding in 1901, thousands of Marist students have learned sportsmanship, teamwork, dedication, personal responsibility and leadership on the playing fields. Today, 84% of Marist students participate in at least one of the school's 71 interscholastic athletic teams, receiving lessons in responsibility to their school, their teams, and themselves.

A commitment to excellence is shown by the administration, faculty, coaches, parents, and student athletes. Marist has been awarded the GADA Director's Cup in 21 of the last 22 years in recognition of outstanding overall performance. In 2021, Marist was recognized as the Best All-Around High School Sports Program in the State of Georgia and the United States by MaxPreps.com. MaxPreps Cup rankings are compiled by giving schools points for finishing 1st or 2nd at the state competition level. Also in 2021, Marist received the GHSA's Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Award. In 2004, Sports Illustrated named Marist School the #15 athletic program in the country of more than 38,000 high schools in the U.S. Their criteria emphasized all-around excellence during the prior ten years, including state titles won and college athletes produced.

FAST FACTS



11:1

student:faculty ratio



17

average class size



THE POSITION

It's an exciting time to become part of greater Atlanta's premier Catholic college preparatory school community. Marist School now seeks a faith-driven, experienced leader to serve as the school's next President beginning July 2023.

In the school's collaborative leadership model, the President works closely with an experienced cabinet of senior leaders, including the Principal, Vice President for Enrollment and Operations, Vice President for Institutional Advancement, and Vice President for Finance. The President reports to the Board of Trustees. The President's main charge is to strengthen and sustain the mission of Marist by upholding the school's tradition of excellent academic and spiritual formation, competitive athletic, artistic and educational extracurricular pursuits, and a focus on humble service and faith in the spirit of Mary. Essential duties include the following:

- Serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the school and as such acts as the primary steward of the school's personnel and fiscal resources
- Ensures Marist School's Catholic and Marist identity and character, and its faithfulness to the mission
- Supervises mission-related programs and activities embedded throughout the school such as Marist Way, Reach for Excellence, and Centro Hispano Marista
- Performs all duties and responsibilities assigned by Board of Trustees, consistent with the President's role as the chief executive of the school
- Acts as the public face of Marist School, including leadership in future capital campaigns

- Exercises a ministry of visible presence at Marist School functions, including alumni and parent groups, student activities, and faculty gatherings – further building a sense of community and animating Marist spirituality
- Executes contracts in the name of Marist School as outlined in the governing legal documents
- Leads the development of Strategic Plans (in conjunction with the Board of Trustees), execution of the Strategic Plans in conjunction with the Management team, and evaluation of progress against the Strategic Plans
- Defines the hiring process, orientation and retention of an appropriate level of staffing in each functional area of Marist School, with the support and cooperation of the heads of each functional area
- Maintains ongoing communication with the Rector in order to review Marist School's overall progress in implementing the mission of the Society of Mary at Marist School
- Supervises the area heads and for the performance of their functional areas: the Principal, the Vice President for Finance, Vice President for Institutional Advancement, the Vice President for Enrollment and Operations, and Directors of each of Admissions, Communications, Technology, and Alumni





EXPECTED QUALITIES AND CHARACTERISTICS

- Proven professional experience in high-level, executive leadership in nonprofit and/or for-profit arenas
- A passion for Marist's mission to form the whole person in the likeness of Christ, setting a personal and professional example
- An openness to embrace the tenets of the Society of Mary and continue to uphold Marist School's Catholic tradition
- Highly collaborative yet decisive approach to leadership, exhibiting a quiet, humble confidence
- Comfort with being highly visible, both internally and in the broader Atlanta community
- Experience to uphold Marist's tradition of excellent academics, strong spiritual formation, competitive athletic, artistic and educational extracurricular pursuits, focus on service to the community, and the importance of faith and family
- Visionary approach that balances current needs and tradition with future needs of the school and its constituents
- Excellent communication skills with both internal and external audiences
- Firm understanding and appreciation for the diplomacy required to work with various constituent groups
- Financial savvy
- Experience with building strong relationships with donors/potential donors and success in philanthropic pursuits
- Highly relatable to teachers, staff, parents, students, and alumni
- Pastoral approach to leadership



OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

As the school approaches its quasquicentennial, the next President will be in a unique position to build on the school's rich and storied traditions of the past, while positioning the institution for innovation and strategic development. Doing so will require the President to protect and promote the Catholic identity and Marist core values that uniquely define the school. Since the school's founding, the Society of Mary has staffed the President's position. The incoming President must understand and appreciate this new moment in Marist's history, while bringing a sense of urgency and intentionality to serving as the "spiritual leader" for the community. In this capacity, the President must communicate and actualize that the preservation of mission and charism is the responsibility for all in the school community. This will require deliberate focus on the continuation of formation in Marist spirituality for the different stakeholders, particularly with faculty and staff.

As with many schools across the country today, the next President will be met with a passionate group of dedicated stakeholders committed to advancing the school's inclusion and diversity efforts. The President must bring competence and confidence to this area and seek to unite stakeholders around Catholic, Marist values which foster a respectful, diverse, and inclusive community.

In 2016, Marist completed its largest capital campaign of \$37.2 million, exceeding its goal by over \$2 million. The next President must bring a strategic vision and fundraising acumen which will enable the successful completion of the school's current strategic plan and lay the groundwork for its next one and subsequent philanthropic efforts. While leading at this level, the next President will need to communicate effectively about Marist's core values and remain mission-focused while charting a future course in an increasingly competitive school marketplace.



ABOUT ATLANTA

Atlanta has been dubbed everything from the “capital of the new South” and “the next international city” to “the best place to do business.” It’s not only an exciting place to live, but also a great place to visit. Atlanta has grown rapidly in recent years to a metropolitan population of over six million people. This growth has been fueled by a business-friendly environment with the prosperity of local mega companies like The Coca-Cola Company, Home Depot, and UPS (16 of the Fortune 500), the prestige of hosting the 1996 Summer Olympic Games, and the energy of young upwardly mobile types who have migrated to the city in droves.



From world-class restaurants and a myriad of cultural attractions to sporting events galore, the city is cosmopolitan in every sense of the word. But Atlanta has also managed to maintain its historic character and has a growing, vibrant Catholic population and culture, with 50 parishes in metro Atlanta, churches and schools that are full and an easily accessible retreat house and monastery.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The search committee is on a fast-track to identify and secure the next President. All inquiries and applications will be treated with the highest degree of confidentiality and with the greatest respect.



The successful candidate will be expected to assume the responsibilities of the position in July 2023. Do not delay. Connect with us today!

- To apply, please submit the following four documents, confidentially and as separate PDF attachments.
 - » Letter of Interest that aligns your experiences and skill sets with the current needs of the school as you understand them.
 - » Statement of Catholic educational leadership philosophy.
 - » Current resume with all appropriate dates included.
 - » List of five references with names, relationships, phone numbers, and email addresses. References will not be contacted without your knowledge and approval.
- Please include “Marist School - President” in the subject field.

Assemble all of the application materials in one email to:



Kyle Pietrantonio, Partner

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Partners in Mission School Leadership Search Solutions, LLC

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