

Student Leader Brings National Leadership Experience Back to Marian Catholic

By Cara Meskill, Director of Enrollment and Marketing, Diocese of Allentown

This summer, Marian Catholic High School rising senior Brooke Hannis-Miskar represented both her school and Pennsylvania while participating in two prestigious leadership programs that challenged students to grow as servant leaders and make a positive impact in their communities.

Hannis-Miskar was selected as one of only 16 students from across Pennsylvania to attend the 2026 National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) National Student Leadership Summit in Indianapolis. Chosen through a competitive application process, she joined more than 200 student leaders from across the United States and internationally for several days of leadership development, collaboration, and personal growth.

The summit focused on leadership, communication, teamwork, inclusion, and building positive school cultures. Through workshops, discussions, and interactive activities, students explored ways to strengthen their leadership skills and inspire change within their schools.

“It was an outstanding experience to be surrounded by so many other students who are passionate about making a difference,” Hannis-Miskar said. “Everyone came from different backgrounds, but we all shared the same goal of serving others through leadership.”

Following the summit, Hannis-Miskar attended the 2026 Hugh O'Brian Youth (HOBY) World Leadership Congress at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. The international event brought together 298 student ambassadors representing 44 states and nine countries for a week focused on service, leadership, and global collaboration.

She earned the opportunity after representing Marian Catholic at the 2025 Central Pennsylvania HOBY Leadership Seminar. During the congress, students participated in service projects, team-building activities, leadership workshops, and discussions centered on communication, collaboration, and global citizenship.

For Hannis-Miskar, one of the most meaningful lessons from both experiences was the importance of servant leadership. “One of the biggest takeaways for me was that leadership is about helping others feel valued and included,” she said. “It challenged me to think more deeply about how I can use my influence to make sure every voice is heard, not just the loudest one in the room.”

A four-year varsity basketball player and team captain, Hannis-Miskar also competes in varsity track and field while maintaining Distinguished Honors. Her commitment to service

extends beyond the classroom through mentoring, tutoring, nursing home visits, food drives, and community outreach efforts.

As she prepares for her senior year, Hannis-Miskar hopes to share what she learned with her classmates and encourage others to become involved in their communities.

“Everyone has the ability to make a difference,” she said. “I’m incredibly grateful for these opportunities and excited to put these lessons into action at Marian Catholic and in my community.”

Brooke's experience reflects the mission of Catholic education in the Diocese of Allentown: forming faith-filled young people who lead through service, compassion, and integrity. In Catholic schools, students are encouraged not only to pursue academic excellence, but also to discover their God-given gifts and use them to serve others. As she prepares for her senior year, Brooke exemplifies the kind of servant leader Catholic schools strive to nurture, one who is ready to make a meaningful difference in her school, her community, and the world.