



Marian Catholic News

September 24, 2026

[Noticias Marian Catholic](#)

MISSION OF MARIAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Marian Catholic High School, rooted in the Dominican tradition, inspires students through prayer, study, community, and preaching to grow in faith, achieve academic excellence, and become compassionate, courageous leaders committed to Christian Service.

A Message from Dr. Zampillo

Hello Marian Parents and Guardians,

Last Friday we reached the midway point of the first quarter of this school year. This is a good time to check in with your student to see how they are doing, and to do a check of their grades in PowerSchool. Teachers may be reaching out to you to let you know how your student is progressing, and you are always welcome to email teacher with any question that you may have. Thank you for supporting your students as we move through this first semester!

Coming up in less than two weeks, on Tuesday, October 6, we will have our annual ACT testing day at Marian Catholic. All of our freshmen, sophomores, and juniors will be administered some type of the ACT test. Freshmen and sophomores will be taking the Pre-ACT test, which

will give us a baseline score and an indication of their predicted ACT score. Juniors will take a practice ACT test this day. Just a reminder that there is no school for seniors this day. Please make sure your student gets a good night's sleep, and eats a healthy breakfast on ACT Day, so they can put forth their very best effort!

The results of the Pre-ACT test will be mailed home to you several weeks after the test, so you can see how your child scored. Juniors will be automatically enrolled in Analyze Ed, an online program that will give them questions to work on in areas in which they may need to focus more. In the spring, the Pre-ACT will be administered again, and results mailed home, so we can measure student growth in these areas and you can check student progress. Juniors will take the actual ACT test in the spring as well. By having students take the test during a school day in March 9th, and not on the national test day in April, the cost is lower.

This week is also the kick-off of our annual Spartan Gold Raffle! Please be sure to review the information sent home with your student and their ten raffle tickets. Thank you for supporting this only mandatory all-school fundraiser! The student who sells the winning grand prize ticket will receive one semester of paid Marian Catholic tuition!

I hope everyone has a chance to get outside and enjoy the nice autumn weather this weekend, and as always, Go Spartans!

Sincerely,
Dr. Joe Zampillo '89
Principal



ACT Testing Day: Tuesday, October 6, 2026

On **Tuesday, October 6, 2026**, we will be following our **Half-Day Schedule** so that freshmen, sophomores, and juniors can be administered some form of the ACT test at Marian Catholic. Freshmen and sophomores will be taking the Pre-ACT test, which gives us a baseline score and an indication of their predicted ACT score, and juniors will take a practice ACT test. **There is no school for seniors this day! The testing will take most of the morning, with students being dismissed around 11:30 a.m. Please note there will be no lunch service and no after school supervision this day.**

Following the practice ACT test, all juniors will be automatically enrolled in Analyze Ed, an online program that will help them to focus on areas of the ACT where they had the most errors. Juniors will be encouraged to work in Analyze Ed during their Emmaus class and at home in preparation for the actual ACT test which

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will be administered at Marian Catholic on March 9, 2027. By taking the school day ACT in March instead of the national test date in April, the cost is lower. Juniors will only need to sign up for a Saturday ACT if they wish to retake it later in junior year and/or the fall of senior year. All juniors are required to take this test.

ACT Testing Day

- **Freshmen:** Dismissal at 11:30 a.m. Will take the Pre-ACT test this morning. This test gives us a baseline score and an indication of the predicted ACT score.
- **Sophomores:** Dismissal at 11:30 a.m. Will take the Pre-ACT test this morning. This test gives us a baseline score and an indication of the predicted ACT score.
- **Juniors:** Dismissal at 11:30 a.m. Will take a practice ACT test.
- **Seniors:** No School for seniors this day!



Spartan Gold Raffle!

The **2026 Spartan Gold Raffle**, our only mandatory all-school fundraiser, kicked off yesterday with ticket distribution to students during their Emmaus class. **Each ticket is \$25.00, and each student is required to sell ten (10) tickets for a total of \$250.00.** Ticket stubs and payment will be collected during Emmaus classes on the dates listed below (cash, money orders, and checks made payable to Marian Catholic High School are accepted). Please take a few moments to read over the information and instructions that were given to students with their raffle tickets. The cost of any unsold tickets will be added to your students FACTS account and withdrawn in December.

Collection Days (collected during student Emmaus)

- **Tuesday, September 29**
- **Wednesday, October 7**
- **Tuesday, October 13**
- **Tuesday, October 20**
- **Tuesday, October 27**
- **Tuesday, November 3**

The grand prize drawing will be held on Friday, November 13th live on the Marian Catholic Facebook page! The student who sells the winning top-tier ticket will receive one semester of paid Marian Catholic tuition!

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Drive-In Movie Night!

The weather is looking perfect for our Drive-In Movie night tomorrow, **September 25th at 6:30 p.m. in Spartan Stadium for the showing of *The Michael Jackson Movie*!** Bring your own lawn chairs and blankets; concessions will be provided (pick up your concessions ticket at the concessions stand in the stadium). Gates open at 6:00 p.m. and the movie will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m. Admission is FREE and is open to all Marian Catholic students and their families. Hope to see you there!

Amazon Gift Card Drawing

If a student sells more than ten (10) tickets, their name will be entered into a weekly drawing for a \$25 Amazon gift card! (Students can only win the drawing once, but have a chance to win in all six weeks).

Requesting Additional Tickets

If your students would like to sell additional tickets, **a parent or guardian must email Mrs. Michelle Brown at mbrown@marianchs.com** to request them. Please note that **telephone requests for additional tickets will not be accepted**. The student must sell and submit the first ten (10) tickets before we will distribute additional tickets.

Thank you for supporting this important school fundraiser! We greatly appreciate your cooperation in making this year's Spartan Gold Raffle a success! Go Spartans!



Open House for Prospective Spartan Families!

Help us spread the word about our **Open House** events for prospective Marian Catholic families!

Our first **Open House** is **Monday, October 5 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.** Each family will receive a student-led tour of the campus, meet our teachers, and be able to visit with coaches to learn about our athletic programs!

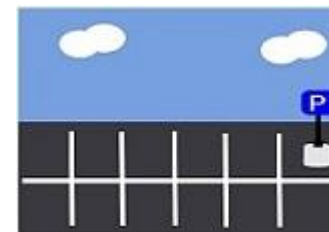
We will also be hosting a second **Open House** on **Sunday, November 22, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.**, offering the same opportunities as the October event. [Click here](#) to register for either Open House event!

Current 8th graders may also [register](#) for our Super Shadow Day on Monday, October 12th.



Financial Aid for College Night

All parents/guardians of juniors and seniors are encouraged to attend a presentation on **Tuesday, September 29th at 6:30 p.m. in the Leadership Center**. Yvette M. McGhee, Assistant Dean of Financial Aid at Prairie State College will talk about financial aid for college and completing the Free Applications for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). We hope to see many parents here for this presentation!



Student Parking Permits

A reminder that all students who drive to school are required to purchase a parking permit. Our security team will begin checking for this year's stickers in the student parking lot on Monday.

The application form, signed by a parent and the student, along with the \$80 fee, and a copy of the current license plate registration card containing the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) and license plate number, are to be turned in to the Main Office. [Click here](#) to download and print the form. Automobiles without this year's parking permit will be subject to receiving a ticket. Thank you for your cooperation!

And our Entrance Exam for the Class of 2031 will take place on Saturday, December 5th. Pre-registration is necessary for the Entrance Exam and the link will open in mid-November.

Visit our [Admissions webpage](#) for more information! Please refer prospective families to our Admissions Team if they have any questions or would like to receive information:

Mrs. Samantha Rivera: 708-756-4645 (srivera@marianchs.com)

Mr. Dave Letourneau: 708-756-9770 (dletourneau@marianchs.com)

Mrs. Sue Browne: 708-756-9452 (sbrown@marianchs.com)

Student Life



College Fairs

Fall is the season for College Fairs! Here are a couple of local college fairs coming up in the next few weeks! Due to our West Gym being out of commission, Homewood-Flossmoor is hosting the College Fair on October 19th that is usually hosted at Marian Catholic.

NACAC College Fair at Navy Pier: Saturday, September 26 from 11:00am to 3:00pm: Students from all years are welcome to attend. Over 250 colleges and universities are scheduled to participate at this fair. Students and parents planning to attend are encouraged to register beforehand at **Strive Fair**. For more information, to register, and for a list of participating college and universities, please **[click here](#)**.

College Fair at Homewood-Flossmoor High School: Monday, October 19 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Marian Catholic will participate in this college fair and students from all years are encouraged to attend. Save time by registering ahead of the fair at **Strive Fair**. After registering, a barcode will be emailed to you. The college reps will scan it to send more information to you about their schools. Strive Fair is free and saves you time!

Other College Fairs in the area during the upcoming weeks can be found in the **[Fall College Counseling Newsletter](#)**.



Parent-Teacher Conferences

For our families' convenience, we will be holding our Parent-Teacher Conferences remotely this year, using Google Meet. The benefit of having conferences remotely is that parents who may be working during the day do not have to travel to school for the conference. The conversations will still be face-to-face, just not in the same physical location. Conferences are intended to be a brief check-in between faculty and families so that everyone has a clear understanding of what the student needs to do to be successful. Students are welcome and encouraged to attend conferences with a parent, as they are the most important factor in their own success!

Conferences will take place on Wednesday, October 14 during three time blocks: 11:00am-1:00pm / 2:00pm-5:00 pm / 6:00pm-8:00pm

Parents will schedule their conferences with the students' teachers through the electronic scheduling program Pick-A-Time. **You will be receiving a special Parent Newsletter in early October which will contain more information about the conferences, instructions on how to schedule your conferences, and the link to the portal to schedule your conferences.**

Campus Ministry News

Sophomore Class Retreat

Our sophomores will be having their class retreat next **Wednesday, September 30th from 11:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.** Students will begin their retreat with a pizza lunch in the Leadership Center and then build on the experiences of their freshman class retreat and explore how they are using the gifts the Lord has given them to build the Marian Catholic community toward heaven!

Freshman Class Retreat Experience

The first class retreat of the school year was welcoming the freshman class to our school community! Our freshmen learned about Dominican spirituality and participated in such activities as a "teaching Mass," and writing "Future Letters" to themselves, which they will receive at the end of their senior year!

Prayer Before Meals

To deepen the Dominican Pillar of Community, every day at the beginning of each lunch period, our Dominican Preachers invite students to join them in saying Grace: *Bless us, O Lord, and these thy gifts which we are about to receive from thy bounty, through Christ our Lord. Amen. Bless those who prepared this meal and those who go without. Amen.*

Prayer Corner

Here are some practical tips to keep faith in the center of your home:

- Pray together as a family. Have a scheduled weekly time when your whole family comes together for a few moments of prayer; pray the Rosary or reflect on a scripture reading.
- Decorate your home to reflect your faith: crosses, statues, banners, statues, and spiritual books.
- Set up a space in your home where your family can sit, pray, reflect, and journal.
- Make Sunday worship a regular practice.

Mass of the Holy Spirit

We came together in prayer as a school community last Tuesday to celebrate the Mass of the Holy Spirit. Our Dominican Preachers shared Gospel reflections, emphasizing how students and staff can ask the Holy Spirit for guidance throughout the school year. We are grateful to Rev. Robinson Ortiz, pastor of St. Augustine Parish in Midlothian, and Deacon Robert Gromala '97, for celebrating with us!

While all-school Masses are usually celebrated in the West Gym, with that area out of commission due to the storms in August, we gathered in the East Gym, for two separate liturgies. While Mass was going on, the other group of students were busy writing letters and creating cards which will be delivered to local senior citizen care centers. Students were asked to share a little bit about themselves and offer words of encouragement to their new "friends" at the senior centers. Below are just a few of the heartfelt and creative letters and cards our students created. We are sure those receiving the notes will appreciate learning about our school community and know that they are appreciated, being thought of and prayed for!

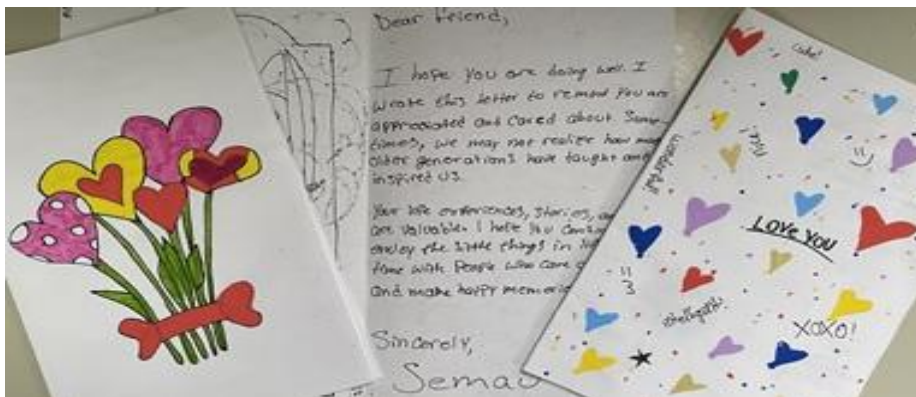


Policy Handbook Reminder!

Thank you to all of the parents who have completed the online policy handbook acknowledgement process! Parents and students are responsible for being aware of all of the information contained in the handbook which is available to parents/guardians in a PDF digital format in both Parents and Students portals of the Marian website. (To download and/or print the 2026-2027 Marian Catholic Policy Handbook, please [click here](#).)

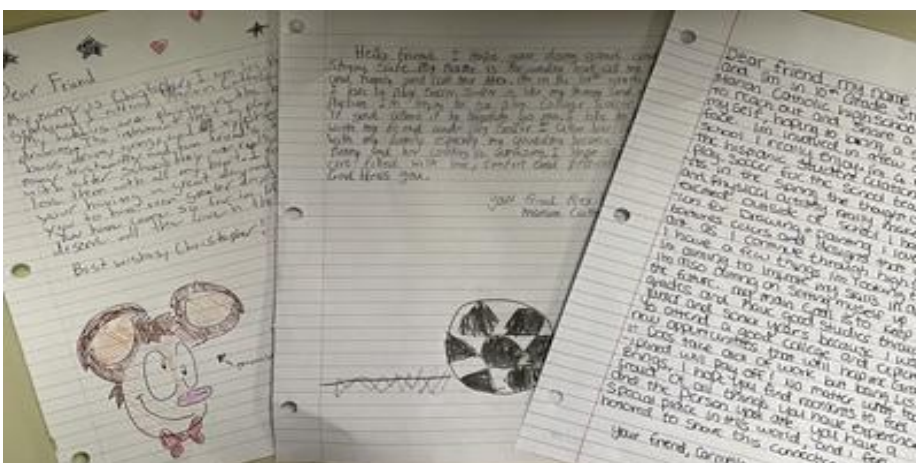
The policies and procedures outlined in our policy book are a vital component to student success at Marian Catholic. From our Mission Statement (above) and Student Honor Code, to attendance, discipline, cellphone, and dress code, many policies and guidelines are in place to ensure student safety and to help them develop and grow into young adults of fine character.

By their enrollment in Marian Catholic, students and parents agree to abide by the policies of the school and the spirit of its philosophy. The school reserves the right to require withdrawal of any student who fails to meet Marian's standards of conduct at any time whether on or off campus.



Please [click here](#) once you have reviewed the Marian Catholic Policy Handbook to submit your acknowledgement that you have viewed and understand its content.

Parents who are not yet in compliance have been receiving a weekly reminder to complete this process. Failure to complete the Policy Handbook acknowledgement process by Thursday, October 1st will cause you to lose access to PowerSchool as well as receiving your student's report cards.



Upcoming Dates

September 25: Drive-In Movie Night 6:00 PM

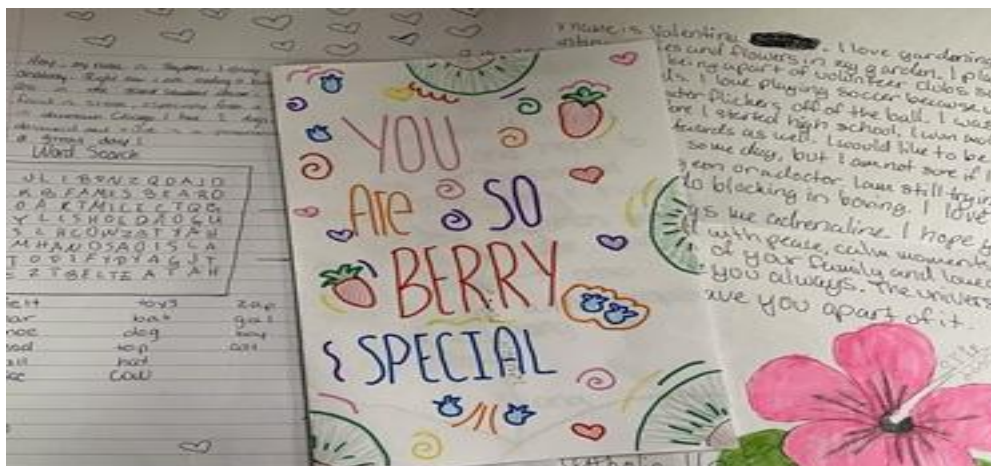
Spartan Stadium; Athletic Booster Club BINGO
Night 6:30 PM Leadership Center

September 26: Marching Band at Andrew High School

September 29: Spartan Gold Raffle Collection Day!

September 30: Half-Day Schedule; Sophomore Class Retreat

October 3: Marching Band at Downers Grove South Music Bowl





Marian Catholic Theatre News!

Marian Catholic Theater Presents: *These Shining Lives*

Performances are scheduled for October 23-October 25, but before those performances can happen, we need your help with set design, set building, and set painting! Students and parents are invited to join us for our upcoming Set Building Days! No previous construction or theatre experience is necessary - we have projects for every skill level! Whether you can stay for the entire session or lend a hand for an hour, every bit of help makes a difference. **Dates are the following Saturdays: September 26, October 3, and October 10 from 9:00am-Noon, 1:00-4:00pm, and 3:00-6:00pm.** Sign up by [clicking here](#)! We will even provide lunch if you work the first shift and beyond! Hope to see you there!



Spain Summer 2027 Trip: Information Meeting!

Families are invited to learn more about an unforgettable **EF Educational Tours adventure to Barcelona and Madrid in the Summer of 2027!** This trip will be led by our World Language Department teachers Ms. Sarah Grauvogl and Ms. Katie O'Brien. All Marian students are invited to participate whether they are currently taking a World Language class or will be taking one next year. Students will explore Spain's art, architecture, language, and culture, including the Picasso and Prado museums, a flamenco dance lesson and show, and more! **Please come to the one-time informational meeting on Tuesday, September 29th at 7:00 p.m. in the Study Hall** (please enter Door 5, Main Office entrance on Ashland Avenue). Learn about the itinerary, academic opportunities, trip cost, limited spots, and how to save \$500 through early enrollment. Families who RSVP may also qualify for additional trip scholarships! [Click here](#) to RSVP to the informational meeting now!

October 5: Open House for Prospective Families

6:00-8:00 p.m.

October 6: ACT Testing Day - Dismissal at 11:30

a.m.; No School for Seniors

October 7: *Spartan Gold Raffle Collection Day!*

October 12: School in Session! 8th Grade Super

Shadow Day! *Columbus Day Observed*

October 13: End of First Quarter; *Spartan Gold*

Raffle Collection Day!

October 14: No School; Parent-Teacher

Conferences

October 15: No School

October 16: No School

October 17: Marching Band at Illinois State

Marching Band Competition

October 20: *Spartan Gold Raffle Collection Day!*

October 22: Early Release Schedule

October 23: Bands of America Super Regionals -

St. Louis, Missouri; *These Shining Lives 7:00 p.m.*

October 24: Bands of America Super Regionals -

St. Louis, Missouri; *These Shining Lives 7:00 p.m.*

October 25: *These Shining Lives 3:00 p.m.*

October 27: *Spartan Gold Raffle Collection Day*

October 28: Half-Day Schedule; Junior Class

Retreat



Boo! at the Zoo!

Luv'n' Paws, Marian's animal care club, invites students to Brookfield Zoo! We'll be going on Saturday, October 24 for Boo! at the Zoo! We'll meet in front of the Leadership Center at 9:30 a.m. and return to Marian at 4:00 p.m. Students may see Ms. Keller in the Library for permission slips. The fee is \$55 and the permission slips and payment **deadline is 2:30 p.m. on Monday, October 19th. Please be sure to complete the permission slip legibly, and make sure it contains both the student and parent signature before turning in the completed form to the library.**

October 29: Academic Award Breakfast 7:30 a.m.



Marian Catholic Tuition Policy Reminder

Thank you to all of our families who are in full participation with the FACTS system and are current with their tuition payments. As a reminder, during the school year, if any family misses three payments or is not in full participation with the FACTS system, the student will be disenrolled from Marian Catholic High School. This means that the student will not be allowed in class nor will they be able to participate in any extracurricular activities. If a family is behind in tuition payments or not in full participation with FACTS, and they are receiving a scholarship or tuition assistance, in addition to the late payment fee any scholarship and/or tuition assistance they are receiving will be reduced by 1/10th for each monthly payment that is missed. This means that the amount owed to Marian Catholic will increase. Please make sure your FACTS account is set up and your tuition payments are current. **Please note there is a 3.05% credit/debit card transaction fee. An alternate payment method such as ACH, is available at no additional cost.** If you need assistance, please contact Mrs. Harrison, our business manager, at: mharrison@marianchs.com so she may assist you.



