

New Beginnings. Renewed Passion.

Marquette's 2017-2018 School Year

End of Year Report

On the final day of the 2017-2018 school, Marquette celebrated a year come-and-gone with an annual water balloon fundraiser. Teachers lined up as students prepared with a balloon in one hand, an arm cocked way back, and a smile across their face. These special moments don't occur at every school... in fact, very few school can bring students across all grades to a single event, much less one that ends with laughter, hugs, and ice cream. This is a microcosm of what it is to *be Marquette*... yet, we are forever Marquette.

Being Marquette is our faith that guides our decisions. We understand that faith shouldn't be hidden under a basket. Faith is as much a part of us as our hands or our eyes and, knowing this, we can use our hands to be God's hands and we can see His beauty in everything. Faith is celebrated, talked about openly, and encouraged.

Being Marquette is educational journey that will prepare children to be academically driven leaders, responsible contributors, and active Christian stewards. It is a journey taken with friends – all sharing the same ultimate goal.

Being Marquette is listening to each other and listening to God – for it is through listening that we may love. It is a partnership between teacher and student. It is a respect that is founded in the knowledge that we are all born in God's image.

Being Marquette is standing up for what is right and to develop the courage to be brave in the face of adversity.

Being Marquette is being an integral part of a special family – and a family that spans generations.

The invitation to visit Marquette is always there. Long has Marquette celebrated tremendous academic accomplishments (as evidenced by Marquette's top 15 ranking of schools in the state by the Advanced Placement Index), we now extend the invitation to *be Marquette* to new families seeking daycare, to families living further away from Bellevue, and to families wishing to get more out of a preschool program.

With an expanding daycare and expanding opportunities available for preschool – along with an expanding bus routes, expanding Student Tuition Organization funding, and expanding class offerings, now is the perfect time to set up a visit.

In 2018, twenty-six young adults set out to learn 'life beyond Marquette' and our world is a better place for it. Our students not only leave our school prepared with an understanding mathematical concepts, scientific reasoning, and knowledge of government – they leave Marquette with a passion for learning, with resiliency and tenacity, with the fire of social justice alive in their hearts, and with the ability to make a difference.

For our graduated seniors – know that Marquette will always be a home for you. You will forever *be Marquette*.

American College Testing (ACT):

The ACT test is designed to measure educational development and an individual's ability to complete college-level work. Research studies have linked a student's ACT score to the probability of a student earning a college degree. We are proud to report that the graduating class of 2018, with 96% of students taking the test, earned an average composite score of 24.2 – far above 2017 state (21.9) and national averages (21.0). In fact, Marquette's ACT average score falls above the 75th percentile of all students that completed the ACT in 2018.

<i>Class of 2018 ACT Averages</i>	<i>English</i>	<i>Math</i>	<i>Reading</i>	<i>Science</i>	<i>Composite</i>
<i>Marquette (25 of 26 Seniors)</i>	24.4	24.8	24.0	24.5	24.2
<i>State Average (2017)</i>	21.2	21.3	22.6	22.1	21.9
<i>National Average (2017)</i>	20.3	20.7	21.4	21.0	21.0

It comes as no surprise then, that the class of 2018 earned more than \$800,000 in accepted scholarships. Education is an investment – but one that pays dividends! We are also proud that all members of the Class of 2018 plan to continue their pursuit of education with 12 students attending State universities, 8 electing to attend private four-year colleges, and 6 electing to attend two year schools. It is understood among teachers and students that college may not be a choice that every learner decides upon - but it is also our responsibility to assist every student in their pursuit of the skills and knowledge that will aid them through all decisions and directions that they should elect to pursue.

While these results are impressive, they are not unusual. In fact, Marquette students have far outperformed state and national averages in each year:

	<i>Marquette ACT Score</i>	<i>State Average</i>	<i>National Average</i>
<i>Class of 2018</i>	<i>24.2</i>	<i>Not Yet Reported</i>	<i>Not Yet Reported</i>
<i>Class of 2017</i>	<i>23.5</i>	<i>21.9</i>	<i>21.0</i>
<i>Class of 2016</i>	<i>23.8</i>	<i>22.1</i>	<i>20.8</i>
<i>Class of 2015</i>	<i>24.4</i>	<i>22.2</i>	<i>21.0</i>
<i>Class of 2014</i>	<i>23.8</i>	<i>22.0</i>	<i>21.1</i>
<i>Class of 2013</i>	<i>24.1</i>	<i>22.1</i>	<i>20.9</i>

It is no secret that performing well on the ACT test allows for additional opportunities and for additional scholarships for those who pursue post-secondary education. Many competitive scholarships require a student to have an ACT score far beyond state and national averages and most automatic scholarships include an ACT score requirement. The rewards for impressive ACT scores are real – it is estimated that a single point raised on an ACT can earn a student between \$5,000 and \$40,000 in scholarships during their time in college.

A Head-Start for College:

Juniors and seniors at Marquette have the opportunity to earn credits that may transfer beyond high school. Marquette offers a variety of Advanced Placement (AP) courses. These courses are taught by teachers on-site trained in the AP curriculum. Three AP courses are now available for students to take at Marquette and our students perform well on the national exam. In the spring of 2018, 26 tests were completed. Of those tests, 20 students earned a score of a 3 or better (77%). A score of three is often the benchmark at many colleges and universities to earn subject specific credits.

Marquette students also may choose to enroll in online, face-to-face, and in hybrid classes taught by the faculty at Eastern Iowa Community College. This partnership provides undergraduates with an insight to online education, allows students to study in areas beyond the curriculum offered by the faculty at Marquette, and allows learners to earn credits that may transfer to a college or university of their choice. During the 2017-2018 school year, ***half of Marquette’s juniors and seniors enrolled in classes offered by Eastern Iowa Community College and 90 credits were earned in this manner.***

Preparing for the Future:

The class of 2018 has admirable plans as they prepare for life beyond the walls of our school. Eight students went on to attend a 4-year private college, twelve began their college careers at 4 year public institutions, and the final six members decided to attend community colleges or trade schools.

Attending 4 Year Private College or University	Attending 4 Year Public College or University	Attending 2 Year Colleges
8/26	12/26	6/26
Total Accepted Scholarships: \$800,275		

It is well understood that attending college is an investment – of time, money, and efforts. Students are challenged to prepare for life after high school by focusing on academics, by learning to balance extracurricular activities with coursework (over 96% of the student body in grades 7-12 participate in at least one extracurricular), through Marquette’s work study program, and by participating in service opportunities in and throughout the greater community.

The quality and value of a Marquette education shines forth in our graduates. Not only are our students prepared to attend the schools that they apply to, they are also financially assisted in their future endeavors through earned scholarships. Across the entire class of 2018, an average of \$30,779 in scholarships was accepted *per student!*

Tradition Starts Young:

It is in accordance with our Catholic Mission that every student be provided the sincere opportunity to succeed at Marquette. To assist students in their growth, our own special needs teacher meets with individual students with small groups to work on fundamentals in math, reading, and other core subjects. Spanish lessons begin in preschool and Marquette is prepared to assist families and students, even if English is not a first language. A speech therapist and Title I teacher provide additional services to our students within our school. Our elementary classes average 15 students; this allows all students in grades K-5 to be carefully observed throughout the year so that progress can be monitored and interventions can be made immediately.

In the fall, winter, and spring, all students from kindergarten through 5th grade are measured using the Formative Assessment System for Teachers (FAST). The test evolves throughout the year, just as students evolve in their understanding. 83% of Marquette’s elementary children demonstrate proficiency on the FAST test by the year’s end (statewide proficiency: 67%).

In order for teachers and students to better understand and track their growth in core subjects, students are evaluated using the Iowa Assessments beginning in 3rd grade. Grades 4, 8, and 11 are years where schools have traditionally reported scores for public comparison. Not only do Marquette students shine in their performances, students continue to improve throughout their time at Marquette – performing more impressively even as the assessments become more advanced.

Iowa Assessment Data (Percentage of Students Demonstrating Proficiency)			
Grade	Reading	Math	Science
4	52%	67%	62%
8	83%	83%	83%
11	100%	100%	100%

A Vision of the Future: A Note from Mr. Kaiser

Marquette Catholic School, in partnership with the parishes of St. Joseph, Sts. Peter and Paul, St. Donatus, and St. Catherine, under the guidance of Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Kim Hermsen, and under the leadership of the Marquette Catholic School Board, look toward the future.

For more than 60 years, Marquette has provided a holistic and faith based education to hundreds of young people each year. New facilities reflect the commitment of the Marquette family as well as the promise to provide Catholic education in our communities. New families share the same excitement that has been long-recognized. New challenges provide opportunities to move our school forward in new and positive ways. Our future demands creative leaders grounded in a personal code of ethics; Marquette is committed to helping learners develop into individuals that cannot only explain how mountains are formed but who also have the confidence to move them. We strive to create individuals that understand the composition of a star but also understand that they are called to reach for them. Our world needs leaders that respect life, respect each other, and love all.

Those with the opportunity to work closely with the children at Marquette share an optimism for the future of our parishes, our school, our community, and our country. Past graduates share a common pride with all of those currently growing into their best version at Marquette. Our optimism starts in our daycare expanded to serve 98 children – but already with a waiting list. This excitement extends into our 4-year-old preschool that is currently at capacity (two sessions, serving a total of 30 children) – and this excitement shines on into our kindergarten classes - each year with more than 15 children since 2015.

For the 2018-2019 school year, an emphasis will be placed on our school community. Full school activities and Masses are planned for each month. Teen Masses will be a welcomed addition to our liturgy schedule. We also look to seriously investigate Marquette's future as we investigate surveys taken by Marquette's teachers, students, and parents during the previous school year.

Please, connect with a student, speak to a graduate, or share stories with members of the Marquette family and you will better understand this hope.

Visit Marquette and you will likely be greeted with a smile from a child in our elementary school, enjoy a conversation with a middle school learner, or share plans for life beyond high school with a young adult. You will see that there is so much potential in each student. There is so much potential in our school. There is so much potential in our future.

As so, we now continue forward – fully understanding the importance of our school's mission. We carefully evaluate the needs of our community so that Marquette may continue to serve those who have served here and all of those who continue to sacrifice for the betterment of Bellevue. Great things are on the horizon. I'm thankful that we may move forward together. United. We are Marquette.

May the Lord continue to bless our towns, the children and teachers in our schools, our country, and our world,

Geoffrey Kaiser

Principal

Marquette Catholic Schools

Average ACT Score for Accepted Students at Regionally Popular Colleges (for reference):

While a single test does not tell the entire educational journey of any student, it does provide colleges and universities with insight to a student’s understanding of core subjects. The information that follows is based on some popular destinations for Marquette students following high school graduation. In the data table, the *25th Percentile* represents the lower end of ACT scores for students who *enrolled* in (not just applied to) to the particular college. For example, if a school has a *25th Percentile* score of 23, it means that 25% of enrolled students received a composite ACT Score of 23 or lower. The *75th Percentile* represents the score earned by the upper 75% of students that enrolled in the college; in this example, a college or university that reports an *75th percentile* of 28 would enroll at least 25% of their student population that earned at least a 28 on the ACT. The *ACT average* is the average score of enrolled students at the particular college or university.

College or University	25 th Percentile	75 th Percentile	ACT Average
University of Iowa*	23	28	26
Iowa State	22	28	25
University of Northern Iowa	20	25	22
Loras College	21	26	24
Clarke University	20	25	22
Drake University	24	30	27
St. Ambrose University	20	25	22
Marquette University (WI)	24	30	27
UW Platteville (WI)	21	26	24

**Expanding Options: To apply for direct admission to Engineering Program at the University of Iowa, a student must have an ACT math score of 25 or higher. To apply for direct admission to the Tippie College of Business at the University of Iowa, a student is required to obtain an ACT composite score of 26 or higher. The early admission into the nursing program requires a student to demonstrate an ACT composite score of 28 or better.*

The Investment in Quality Education:

It is often said that “Education is an Investment.” The investment isn’t just one of dollars. It takes time and effort to earn advanced degrees – but the payoff can be substantial. As students in high school begin to make plans for life after high school, it is encouraged that all families consider options beyond Marquette.

Education Level	Median Weekly Earnings	Approximate Annual Wage	Lifetime Earnings (40 Years of Work)	Unemployment Rate
No High School Diploma	\$493	\$25,636	\$1.02 million	8%
High School Diploma	\$678	\$35,256	\$1.41 million	5.4%
Some College	\$738	\$38,376	\$1.54 million	5%
Associate’s Degree	\$798	\$41,496	\$1.66 million	3.8%
Bachelor’s Degree	\$1,137	\$59,124	\$2.36 million	2.8%
Master’s Degree	\$1,341	\$69,732	\$2.79 million	2.4%
Doctorate Degree	\$1,623	\$84,396	\$3.38 million	1.7%

**Data Provided by Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)*

With sincere appreciation, *thank you* to the 2017-2018 school board at Marquette Catholic. We are pleased to announce that all of our teachers will be returning in the fall of 2018.

SCHOOL BOARD (2017-2018)			
Fr. Phillip Kruse	Angie Long	Marcine Tracy	Patty McClimon
John Banowetz	Jeff Gerlach	Larry Herrig	Corey Kettmann
	Travis Kueter	Amie Sieverding	
THANK YOU TO OUR TEACHERS			

