

Marist High School Band



Band Alumni Bulletin

Issue #2

November 1, 2022



A Letter from the Director

Dear Marist Band Alumni Members,

I would like to welcome all of you to the second issue of the Marist Band Alumni Bulletin! This bulletin will be used to help keep alumni band members updated about what is currently happening with the band program at Marist.

As you probably remember, around this time of year, the band is working on transitioning from marching band into concert band. We are preparing for our upcoming Christmas Concert in December. We would love for you and your families to be able to attend our concert on Thursday, December 15 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Gym at Marist.

The band will also be performing at various grade schools in the area throughout the next few months. This certainly helps with recruitment for the Marist Band, but more importantly, it helps with recruitment for the grade school band program at that school as well. Due to the pandemic, many of the grade school band programs were affected, and the Marist Band is helping out in any way that we can to help grow numbers and help all local bands flourish.

We are also still preparing for our Ireland Tour in March 2023! Some of you may remember when you performed with the Marist Band at the Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade and at the South Side Irish Parade. Many of you may remember performing "Irish Parade" and "Men of Erin" for those performances. We will still be performing and marching with "Irish Parade" in Ireland, as well as some other Irish tunes. In more recent years, the band has performed "South Side Irish" at our local Irish parades, and we will still be bringing that piece to Ireland to perform at Kilkenny Castle.

For this second issue, we are highlighting our upcoming Christmas Concert and some recent band room renovations, as well as interviewing a band alum and current band parent, Mr. Mark Murphy '81. Mr. Murphy has two boys currently in the band, and it is great to hear his perspective. I hope you enjoy the feature!

I want to thank you for interest in the band, and I look forward to communicating with all of you. We plan to release this bulletin on a seasonal basis. If you know of any other Marist Band alumni who would like to receive this bulletin, please have them contact me directly via e-mail at creagh.andrew@marist.net. Thank you again for all your support!

Sincerely,

Andrew Creagh '04

Band Director, Marist High School

CURRENT STUDENT FEATURE

Grant Gallardo

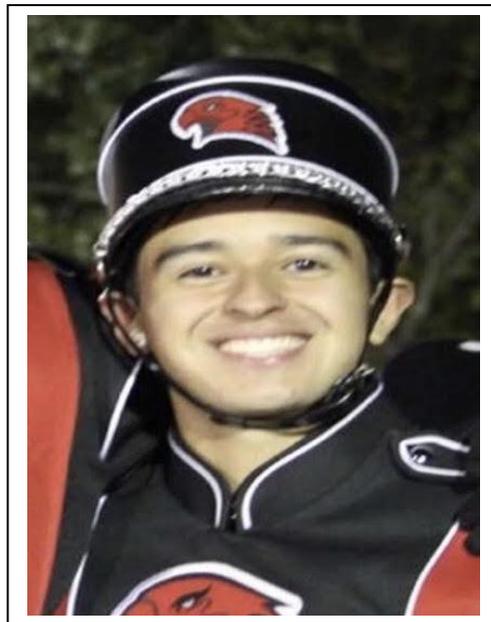
Graduation Year-2023

Grammar School? Mount Greenwood Elementary

Instrument? Trumpet

What is your favorite thing about band?

There's so much to band that it's hard to narrow down. I would definitely say the several friends I've made over the years through all grade levels. They've taught me several life lessons, and helped me figure out how to be a leader. Jazz band also is one of my favorite things about band as well.



What are some other clubs, activities, and sports do you participate in?

Along with band, I'm an active member in the National Honors Society, and participate in jazz band as well.

What is your favorite band moment so far?

My favorite band moment so far is the White Castle slider showdown during the 2022 marching band camp. The White Castle slider showdown happens during band camp when two members of the band eat as many sliders within a time limit. I went head to head against junior David Fanelli ('24) and beat him for the slider championship belt made by previous champion Mark Viz ('22).

Band Room Renovations

During the summer of 2020, the Marist Band room received some renovations. Some of those renovations include:

-New Carpet

-New Lockers

-Large Projection Screen that is connected to the Sound System

-White Boards

-Removable Mullions for Doorways

-New Office Furniture

-New Band Library Cabinets

On top of the renovations, we have also invested in many musical instruments and equipment over the past few years, including new drumline equipment, new marching uniforms, tubas, concert percussion instruments, trombones, euphoniums, French horns, and alto saxophones.



Interview
Mr. Mark Murphy
Class of 1981 & Current Marist Band Parent



When were you in the band?

I joined the band as a freshman in 1977. I stayed in the band all four years.

What instrument did you play?

I played the trombone starting in the third grade.

Favorite Band Story or Memory

I have so many, but the one that stands out the most was the overnight band camp during the summer as a freshman. We practiced all day, learning the music to our first half time show. We had marching drills practicing the 8 steps to the 5 yards over and over and over again. I remember we used a right arm swing up across our chest and down to our side. For some reason, it was a challenge for some of the uncoordinated boys. The director Frank Manna was tough and the seniors who were helping drilled us like anger military drill instructors. We slept in sleeping bags on the floor in the main gym and were woken up in the middle of the night to march 8 to the 5 with our drill instructors back and forth in the gym. It was a lot of fun! We freshman bonded over the whole experience and the uncoordinated boys were not so uncoordinated by the end of band camp.

Favorite Tour

As far as I can remember, we only took one tour to Walt Disney World in Florida. I have vague memories of playing and marching but I have stronger memories of hanging out with my friends.

Favorite Piece of Music that you Performed

Every Christmas, we ended with Leroy Anderson's "Christmas Festival." That was always a great one. "The Star Wars Theme" and "Summer Time" from *Porgy and Bess*, were memorable halftime show songs.

But to be honest, first impressions always stick with me the strongest. The first time I was with the full band at the end of our first full band rehearsal, we ripped into the Marist Fight Song. I had trouble playing because I couldn't stop smiling.

What are some similarities and differences between when you were in band and the band now?

The personalities of band kids are timeless and have not changed. And that's a very good thing. The band room feels the same, feels like home. We didn't have girls back in the day. I think the addition of the young ladies has stepped up the game for everyone. Back then, we played the full halftime break and each game was a different show with different music and formations. It seems like a lot of work now, but it was just what we did back then.

What do you do now?

I am an Architect.

What is some advice that you would give to the current Marist Band members?

You are a part of something very special. You may not fully realize how significant this is, because you are in the middle of it. That's okay. Stay in the middle of it. Soak up every first, middle, and last impression. You have a talent, you hear the different parts, and you understand how you fit into the whole piece of music. This skill will come in handy in all aspects of your life, and you will appreciate being a member of this band.

Also, never forget, you will always be a member of the famous Marist Redhawk Band, for time and eternity (see what I did there).

Upcoming Band Performances & Events

11/24/22-Chicago Thanksgiving Day Parade

12/15/22-Christmas Concert at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Gym at Marist.

1/30/23-2/2/23-Pep Band Performances at Local Grade Schools

3/12/23-3/19/23-**Ireland Band Tour**

3/27/23-4/1/23-Pit Orchestra Performance for Spring Music (pit orchestra students only)

4/26/23-Spring Band Concert at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Gym, **featuring Mr. Frank Manna (former Marist Band Director) as a guest conductor.**

4/27/23-Jazz Band Concert at 6:00 p.m. in the Marist Theater

5/3/23-Chop Session for all Incoming and Current Percussionists from 4:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

5/9/23-Skill Assessment Day for Incoming Freshmen Band Students from 3:00 p.m.-4:45 p.m. in the Band Room

5/18/23-Graduation Performance at 7:00 p.m. at Marist High School

Christmas Concert 2022

What: Marist High School Band Christmas Concert

When: Thursday, December 15 at 7:00 p.m.

Where: Marist Main Gym

Cost: \$5 at the door. Children 10 and under are FREE. Faculty & Staff are FREE.

The Marist High School Band presents its 57th annual Christmas Concert on Thursday, December 15 at 7:00 p.m. in the school's main gym. Tickets are \$5.00 and are available at the door. Admission is free for all faculty and staff. Join the famed Marist Band as they perform an assortment of musical delights, including classical music, traditional Christmas music, and much more!

Ways to Give to the Marist Band

Would you like to help support the Marist Band on our upcoming tour to Ireland? If so, please click on the following link for more information:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/marist-high-school>

Thank You!

Mr. Larry Tucker '79

Mr. Tom Inzinga '84

Mrs. Meg Dunneback

Mrs. Irene Halko

Father Tom Hurley '85

Ms. Jen Luzzo

Mr. Frank Manna

Ms. Noelle Trainor

Mr. Marion Klatka

Ms. Kristine Kavanaugh

Mr. Marty Wirtz '72

Ms. Patti Derdzinski

Mr. Pat Dunne '98

Ms. Rita Hoffmann

Mr. Patrick Keelan '04

Ms. Alex Brown

Alumni Updates

Have you moved? Do you have a new job? Did you get married? Is there a new addition to your family? Let us know! <https://www.marist.net/alumni/alumni-update/>

Do you know a Marist Band alum who would like to receive these seasonal Marist Band bulletins? If so, please have them e-mail Andrew Creagh at creagh.andrew@marist.net.