

June 26, 2022

Board of Directors
Marian High School
7225 Lahser Rd.
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301

Dear Marian High School Board of Directors,

It is my pleasure to recommend Heather Sofran ('96) for the role of President of Marian High School. A fellow classmate and friend, Heather is uniquely suited to take on this important role at our alma mater. Heather's nearly 20 years in education have been preparing her for this next chapter. She has invaluable classroom and administrative experience at area Catholic schools and understands the varied needs of students, parents, faculty and staff.

My path first crossed with Heather's in the Marian High School parking lot when a mutual friend introduced us on the first day of our junior year. Heather had just transferred from another area high school. We immediately clicked and have enjoyed a 28-year friendship first nurtured in the halls of Marian. It quickly became apparent to me that Heather was driven. She excelled academically and on the court as a star volleyball player and eventual team captain of the Marian varsity volleyball team. Perhaps most importantly, Heather truly was a friend to everyone connecting with classmates across grades and social groups.

Heather's drive led her to play Division I volleyball on a full athletic scholarship to Bowling Green State University where she excelled once again on and off the court. It was here that she first began her studies in education that would lead her to an illustrious career touching the lives of thousands of students.

Heather began her career as an elementary school teacher in a local charter school. She saw firsthand how the role of educator can deeply impact the lives of children – especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds. She went on to teach various grade levels at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs and most recently at St. Regis. It came as no surprise when she was offered a role in administration where she could effect change at a higher level. She has been a much-respected leader at St. Regis thoughtfully navigating almost 500 students and their families through the COVID-19 pandemic. If serving as Vice Principal was not enough, Heather took on the added role of Athletic Director for the 2021-22 school year. She has been positioned to observe how extracurricular activities can enhance a child's educational experience and personal growth.

I believe Heather would say that her most important role in life is that of mom. She is a proud parent to Peyton (14) and Sadie (13). I believe that the experience of being a parent only enhances what any administrator brings to his or her work with young people. Heather is a wonderful mother, a devoted daughter and a genuine friend.

As a Marian High School alumna who has at various times been a member of the Marian Alumnae Association Board, Marian High School's 50th Anniversary Planning Committee, and the Marian Public Relations Committee, I have had the opportunity to work inside the school in recent years. I know Heather will bring a fresh and innovative perspective that will help Marian to evolve with the changing

times. She possesses an energy that I truly envy and has the ability to connect with people – young and old – in a special way.

Heather's professional experience is impressive and exhaustive. I am sure her current and former colleagues can better enumerate those credentials than can I. What I know for sure is that Heather has the character, integrity and resolve to nurture a learning environment where young women find their voice, explore their interests, challenge their minds, and grow in their faith. Yes, it is my pleasure to recommend Heather Sofran for the role of President of Marian High School.

Sincerely,

Jacquie Goetz Bluethmann ('96)

Owner

JGB Communications, LLC

4542 Covered Bridge Rd.

Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302

(773) 354-9085