



MARIAN CENTRAL



HEAD OF SCHOOL

May 1, 2026

CATHOLIC RECRUITER ASSOCIATES

EXECUTIVE SEARCH • MANAGEMENT CONSULTING



BACKGROUND

An Invitation To Lead

Marian Central Catholic High School — the heart of Catholic secondary education in the McHenry Deanery — invites mission-driven Catholic leaders to consider one of the most compelling head-of-school opportunities in the Diocese of Rockford.

Founded in 1959 and located on a beautiful campus in Woodstock, Illinois, Marian Central is a co-educational, college-preparatory Catholic high school proudly serving students from across McHenry County and beyond. Supported financially by the seventeen Catholic parishes of McHenry County and accredited through WCEA, Marian is a school where every student is known, mentored, challenged, and prepared to lead in faith and service.

The Diocese seeks a strategic, faith-formed leader who will partner with diocesan leadership, the Education Commission, faculty, families, parishes, and alumni to write the next great chapter in Marian Central's legacy — strengthening Catholic identity, advancing academic excellence, and leading a renewed era of enrollment growth.

Why This Role Stands Apart

A school built on a strong foundation

Marian Central is financially supported by the seventeen Catholic parishes of McHenry County, accredited by WCEA, and backed by an engaged Diocese, dedicated Education Commission, and passionate alumni and parent community. The next Head of School inherits a school with deep roots, championship traditions, and a clear mandate: lead a meaningful enrollment renaissance in one of the most desirable corners of suburban Chicago.

Real authority. Real partnership.

Reporting directly to the Diocesan Superintendent of Catholic Schools, the Head of School is the chief executive of the high school and the deanery's leader for Catholic secondary education. The role carries true executive responsibility — academic, spiritual, financial, and strategic — supported by an established leadership team that includes Deans of Academics, Catholic Identity, Students, and Advancement, plus a Business Manager, Athletic Director, and IT Director.

A community ready for leadership

Two-thirds of Marian's students arrive from the McHenry County Catholic junior highs, and another third come from public and private feeder schools across the region. Families across the deanery are eager to invest in a Catholic high school that is unapologetically Catholic, academically excellent, and welcoming to every learner. The next Head will find a school primed for growth and a community ready to rally behind a clear, mission-aligned vision.

The Opportunity

The next Head of School will lead Marian Central in advancing four interconnected priorities:

- **Catholic Identity & Mission.** Animate every facet of school life — liturgy, curriculum, athletics, and culture — with the joy of the Gospel and the teachings of the Church.
- **Academic Excellence.** Champion a college-preparatory program that is rigorous, faith-integrated, and personalized — sustaining Marian's legacy of placing 97%+ of graduates into higher education.
- **Enrollment Growth.** Lead a comprehensive, data-informed enrollment strategy spanning recruitment, retention, marketing, and feeder-school relationships across the deanery.

Operational Vitality. Steward a healthy budget, build philanthropic momentum through advancement and alumni engagement, and ensure facilities and resources serve a growing student body.

Key Areas of Leadership

Mission & Catholic Identity

- Infuse Catholic values into every aspect of school life — academics, athletics, extracurriculars, and community.
- Oversee liturgy, prayer life, retreats, and faith formation for students, faculty, and staff.
- Promote a vibrant Catholic identity rooted in the teachings of the Church.

Academic Excellence

- Supervise the academic leadership team, including deans and department chairs.
- Foster excellence in curriculum, instruction, and assessment with Catholic teachings fully integrated.
- Champion a culture of continuous improvement and professional development.
- Use SAT/PSAT and ACT/PACT data to identify strengths and growth areas in an annual executive summary.

Institutional Advancement & Enrollment

- Lead a comprehensive enrollment strategy spanning recruitment, retention, and re-enrollment.
- Partner with marketing and advancement to strengthen brand, outreach, and a mission-aligned admissions process.
- Use data to monitor trends, set annual targets, and respond to demographic shifts.
- Cultivate relationships with feeder schools, parishes, donors, and community partners.

Operational Vitality

- Manage finance, budgeting, tuition, fundraising, and financial-aid programs (including the Fr. Joseph Egan Financial Aid Grant program and student work/job program).
- Conduct monthly budget-to-actual review.
- Oversee facilities, human resources, and compliance with diocesan and accreditation standards.

Governance & Leadership

- Partner with the Education Commission, diocesan leadership, and other governing bodies on strategic goals.
- Foster a culture of collaboration, transparency, and mission-driven decision-making.
- Deliver an annual State of the School report to key stakeholder constituencies.

Athletics Program Oversight

- Lead a proud Hurricanes athletics tradition — including state championships in football, girls' volleyball, girls' cross country, and boys wrestling — aligned with the school's mission and Catholic values.
- Supervise athletic staff and ensure compliance with diocesan, conference (Chicagoland Christian Conference), and IHSA regulations.

Deanery Director

- Schedule and facilitate regular deanery meetings; ensure timely submission of minutes to the Catholic Education Office.
- At the Superintendent's request, support deanery elementary schools on matters such as conflict resolution, leadership mentoring, and pastoral concerns.
- Serve as a goodwill ambassador and liaison between the Diocese and deanery schools.

The Ideal Candidate

The Diocese of Rockford seeks a leader whose faith, intellect, and presence inspire trust on day one — someone equally at home discussing the liturgy, an enrollment funnel, and a budget variance.

Qualifications

- Practicing Catholic in good standing, fully committed to the mission and teachings of the Catholic Church.
- Master's degree in education with ISBE Type 75 licensure (or comparable credential transferable to Illinois).
- Minimum of five years of leadership experience in Catholic education or a related field.
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills with a proven record of collaboration across diverse stakeholder groups.
- Working knowledge of Microsoft Office, Paylocity, FACTS, SIS/LMS platforms, donor/fundraising databases, and modern digital communication and social media tools.
- Familiarity with the National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools (NSBECS, 2nd Ed.).

Personal Attributes

- A visible, joyful Catholic witness who animates the school's spiritual life.
- A strategic thinker who pairs vision with disciplined execution.
- An energetic enrollment leader who relishes recruitment, retention, and brand-building.
- A relational, accessible leader — present at games, masses, performances, and parent events.
- A transparent communicator who builds trust with the Education Commission, Diocese, faculty, and families.
- A dynamic and visionary leader, capable of articulating and advancing a bold, mission-aligned future for the school.
- Demonstrates a growth mindset, fostering a culture of continuous improvement and innovation.
- Engages authentically with the broader school community, building strong relationships with families, parishes, alumni, and partners.

- Brings creativity and strategic thinking to enrollment and advancement efforts, driving sustainable growth.
- Fully embodies and promotes the mission, vision, and values of Marian Central Catholic High School.
- Leads change with clarity, positivity, and purpose, guiding the school through opportunities and challenges with confidence.
- Serves as a passionate Catholic educator, supporting and developing faculty and staff with humility, care, and high expectations.
- Maintains a steadfast commitment to a student-centered approach, ensuring all decisions prioritize student growth, formation, and success.

Living In Woodstock & McHenry County

Marian Central is located on McHenry Avenue in Woodstock, Illinois — a community routinely cited as one of the most distinctive small cities in the Midwest. Just 51 miles northwest of downtown Chicago, Woodstock pairs the warmth of a tight-knit Midwestern town with easy access to one of the world’s great metropolitan areas.

A storybook setting

Woodstock is anchored by its iconic Historic Square — listed on the National Register of Historic Places and famous as the filming location for the 1993 film *Groundhog Day*. The Square is home to the 1889 Woodstock Opera House (where a young Orson Welles and Paul Newman first took the stage), a beloved twice-weekly farmers’ market in season, locally owned boutiques, bookstores, cafés, and a thriving live-music and theater scene. Woodstock has been honored as an All-America City, a Preserve America Community, and a National Trust Distinctive Destination.

Connected to everywhere

Commuters reach downtown Chicago in roughly 90 minutes via the Metra Union Pacific Northwest Line, with a station right in town. O’Hare International Airport is approximately an hour by car, and Milwaukee, Madison, and Rockford are each within easy driving distance — making Woodstock a rare combination of small-town quiet and big-city access.

Family-friendly and affordable

McHenry County offers a notably lower cost of living than Chicago’s closer-in suburbs, with a strong housing market, excellent public services, and abundant green space. Families enjoy hundreds of acres of forest preserves, the Fox River, family farms and orchards, year-round festivals, and a vibrant restaurant and craft-brewery scene. The area is home to McHenry County College, Aurora University’s Woodstock Center, and Loyola University Chicago’s Retreat and Ecology Campus — and Catholic life is robust, with seventeen parishes across the deanery feeding the region’s Catholic schools.



What The Diocese Offers

- **Mission.** A ministerial leadership role at the heart of Catholic education in the McHenry Deanery.
- **Compensation.** Competitive salary commensurate with experience, plus a comprehensive benefits package including health insurance, pension, paid time off, holidays, and a 403(b) retirement plan.
- **Partnership.** Direct support from the Diocesan Superintendent of Catholic Schools and a dedicated Education Commission.
- **Team.** An established leadership team across academics, advancement, Catholic identity, students, athletics, business, and IT.
- **Place.** A historic, beautiful campus in one of the most distinctive small cities in the Chicago region.

How To Apply

Marian Central Catholic High School and the Diocese of Rockford have engaged Catholic Recruiter Associates to lead this national search.

Application Deadline: Sunday, May 31, 2026

Anticipated Start Date: July 1, 2026

Interested candidates are invited to submit the following:

- A current résumé or curriculum vitae
- A cover letter expressing interest in the position and the mission of Catholic education
- A completed Critical Elements Questionnaire (provided by Catholic Recruiter Associates upon request)

All inquiries and applications are treated with strict confidence. The Diocese of Rockford is committed to a fair, mission-aligned search process and welcomes nominations of outstanding Catholic leaders.



Salary: Commensurate with background and experience. Comprehensive benefit program (details will be furnished to finalist candidates).

Application Deadline: May 31, 2026
(We reserve the right to shorten the deadline for applications if we have sufficient interest. Please apply early to ensure your background will be considered.)

For consideration, please email resume to:

Marie Keith
Vice President, Education
Catholic Recruiter Associates
Marie@CatholicRecruiter.com

Note: Only those selected for an interview with the search committee will be contacted.

This position serves a vital religious function that supports the mission and beliefs of the Roman Catholic Church.

Search managed by:



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