



Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

To: Indiana State Board of Education
From: Office of School Accountability
Date: April 27, 2022
Subject: Accreditation Petition for Marian University Preparatory School

This memorandum provides a summary of the information provided by the school in its petition for performance-based accreditation and the final recommendation from the Indiana Department of Education (Department) regarding the accreditation of Marian University Preparatory School.

Background & Demographic Information

Marian University Preparatory School defines itself as a “private, faith-focused school that blends living with learning for the 21st century”. The school strives to personalize each student’s education in an accessible, faith-focused environment while transforming the delivery of traditional K-12 education. The school champions every student to self-actualize their gifts, abilities, and character.

Marian University Preparatory School intends to begin operations with the 2022-2023 school year and is therefore seeking immediate accreditation to secure accreditation and eligibility for the Indiana Choice Scholarship Program. Marian University Preparatory School intends to provide both virtual and in-person educational opportunities, serving students statewide in grade 6 through grade 9 during its first year of operation. The school is sponsored by the Catholic institution of Marian University.

The school projects that it will enroll roughly 300 students in grade 6 through grade 9 during the 2022-2023 school year. Over the next five years, the school intends to expand its student population to include kindergarten through grade 5 and grade 10 through grade 12 and increase overall enrollment to 1,075 students.

Operations

Facilities: Marian University Preparatory School will utilize space at Marian University’s Center for Vibrant Schools (2916 West 30th Street, Indianapolis, Indiana) during its inaugural school year to serve the in-person student population. The facility has demonstrated compliance with applicable building codes, fire prevention codes, local zoning codes, and health and safety requirements.

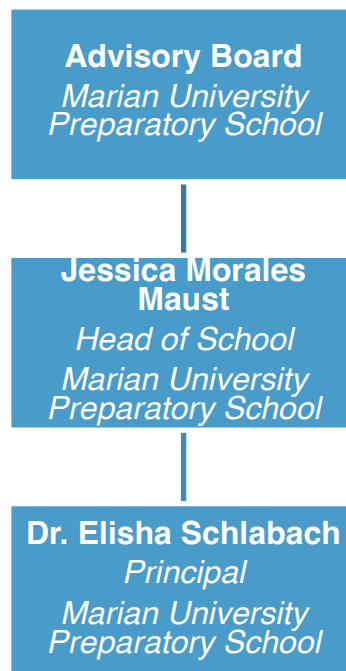
Tuition: Annual tuition and fees for Marian University Preparatory School total \$7,500 for the virtual learning option and \$9,500 for the hybrid learning option. Marian University Preparatory School indicated that it intends to participate in the Indiana Choice Scholarship program.

Staffing: The administrative structure for Marian University Preparatory School is as follows:



Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education



The Advisory Board will have general advisory responsibilities pertaining to the management and control of school affairs. A majority of the Advisory Board members will be from Marian University's Board of Trustees. The remaining seats will be comprised of community leaders, supports, and educators not affiliated with Marian University.

Jessica Morales Maust, MBA, will act as the Head of School for Marian University Preparatory School. In this role, Ms. Maust will act as the chief administrator and executive for the school. Ms. Maust will be responsible for the effective general management of the school, the quality of the student experience, standard compliance, and provision of academic leadership and strategic vision. Ms. Maust has over a decade of education management experience.

Dr. Elisha Schlabach will act as the Principal of Marian University Preparatory School. In this role, Dr. Schlabach will act as the chief academic officer for the school and provide leadership and oversight for curriculum, instruction, learning student support, and faith formation. Dr. Schlabach has worked in education for over 18 years and has served as a principal for over a decade.

Marian University Preparatory School projects to hire 16 highly effective and state-licensed educators for its inaugural school year. Additional staff include an Operations Manager, Special Programs Manager, and School Counselors.

Academic Programming



Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

Students will be instructed in the areas of English/language arts, mathematics, science, history/social studies, health/physical education, fine arts, and career electives. The school will use Stride, Inc. online curriculum, the Next Generation Science Standards, and the Virtual Learning Leadership Alliance/Quality Matters' National Standards for Quality Online Courses. The school has confirmed alignment with Indiana Academic Standards. Students will also participate in religious studies with a curriculum that aligns with the guidelines of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

Marian University Preparatory School plans to measure student performance throughout the school year to inform and evaluate the teaching and learning cycle. Specifically, the school intends to use the content-specific and summative assessments provided with the Stride, Inc. curriculum; teacher-designed assessments; the i-Ready assessment; and all state requires assessments.

Marian University Preparatory School will also incorporate supplemental programming offered through Seven Mindsets and City Connects. Seven Mindsets is a social-emotional learning curriculum with tools and resources to transform culture and meet the needs of all students. City Connects is an evidence-based approach to addressing the out-of-school factors impacting children's ability to succeed and thrive.

Department Recommendation

Each petition for nonpublic school accreditation is reviewed and scored based on an established rubric where a school may earn a score between 0.0 and 4.0. The Department recommends for approval a petition receiving a final score of 3.0 or higher. Marian University Preparatory School received a final score of 3.7 out of 4.0 possible points. Therefore, the Department recommends that Marian University Preparatory School be afforded full state performance-based accreditation as a nonpublic school in Indiana.