Gratitude at Marian

Featuring: Katie Green ‘27 & Miss Olivia Arza ‘20, *English Teacher*

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Gratitude is not always about the big things in life. Sometimes, it comes from the people we meet, the friendships we make, and the small acts of kindness that brighten our day. At Marian, having a close community helps students feel supported and reminds them to appreciate the people around them. Everyone has different experiences that teach them to be thankful, and sometimes the smallest moments can have the biggest impact.When asked what she is most grateful for that people often overlook, Katie Green ‘27 explained that she is thankful for the close community Marian has created for her. She appreciates being part of a school where people support each other and make everyone feel welcome. Having people around who care about you can make school feel like more than just a place to learn.

When asked who has made a positive impact on her life, Ms. Olivia Arza ‘20, English Teacher at Marian, mentioned, “Mrs. Chris Connell, a past English teacher when I attended here.” Teachers can make a big difference in students' lives through their lessons, support, and encouragement. Even after students leave their classrooms, the advice and memories they share can stay with them for years. Katie also shared a moment when someone showed her kindness. She explained, “Our athletic trainer joined our staff, and she noticed I was alone at football one day. She went out of her way to talk to me, and it really made my day because I was having a bad day. I'm happy to say I enjoy spending every day after school with her.” What started as a simple conversation turned into a friendship. This moment shows how taking a little time to talk to someone can make a big difference, especially when they are having a difficult day.

Katie and Ms. Arza's answers show that gratitude does not have to come from something big. A simple conversation, a kind teacher, or a close school community can make someone's day better. Their experiences remind us that being thankful for the people around us is just as important as being thankful for the things we have. Sometimes, the little things in life are the ones that matter most.