

MARIANIST VOLUNTEER IS MENTOR TO MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Living in community with fellow volunteers is part of being a Marianist volunteer. **Heather Mikus**, a volunteer since August 2008, considers community life a benefit. "It's amazing!" she says. "It's great to grow and share my experiences with **Nicole** and **Courtney** (fellow MVP volunteers)." As part of community living, the three pray and have meals together. "Food normally comes first if we want quality sharing time during prayer," she jokes. Originally from Lincoln Park, Mich., Heather graduated from Saint Joseph's College in Rensselaer, Ind., with bachelor's degrees in chemistry and biology. After volunteer orientation in August, she was assigned to Marian Middle School in St. Louis. At Marian, Heather has a number of duties, including teaching religion, serving as a classroom aid, tutor and violin teacher, and supervising study periods, lunch, and snack times. "No day is typical," says Heather. "It has been challenging, but I really enjoy getting to know the girls. Each girl is unique and brings so much joy to my life." Heather says one of the most rewarding aspects of her job is helping a frustrated student work through a math problem. "They convince themselves they can't do it, so they won't put in any effort," she says. Heather counters their resistance with creative examples to help them understand. She admits it can be frustrating, but her efforts are paying off. "It's wonderful when it finally clicks. They get excited about their accomplishments," said Heather. "There is no greater joy to me than when a girl leaves with the 'I got it' song and dance!" Find out more about the [Marianist Volunteer Program](#).

