

The ins and outs of fashion trends on the Marist College Campus. How do fashion trends reflect the campus culture?

By Laura Kelton

When walking onto a small Hudson Valley college campus you would expect to see students bundled up in sweatpants, sweatshirts, and school logo t-shirts. However, for Marist College, the sidewalks of the campus serve as a runway. Marist students take pride in the clothes they wear and each piece of clothing worn helps to tell a story about the Marist College culture.

The best time to catch the runway action is in between classes on campus. At first glance, you would most likely spot a sea of red and white apparel. These fire-red sweatshirts and sweatpants are more than one may think. They represent Marist athletes who are proud to be representing their Division I sports teams on campus. The students who display their red pride come together, giving high-fives when passing on the quad, shouting quick hellos in between classes, and even getting together to study for upcoming exams. These athletes create a sense of community on campus while never forgetting to include those around them. Nicole Donnelly, a sprinter on the Marist Swim and Dive Team describes it best. "When I wear my athletic apparel across campus and I see someone dressed the same way, I feel it creates a sense of community within Marist's athletic world. It reassures me that someone else understands the hard work that goes into being an athlete." The presence of athletic apparel on campus highlights the true sense of community that Marist College students have created.

If you look even closer, you will see students representing Marist College as a whole through their t-shirts, hats, and even backpacks. These students have gone out of their way to buy Marist College merchandise purely out of pride for their school. These students worked countless hours to make it into this institution and are proud of how far their hard work has taken them. Marist College apparel is not just merchandise, it represents something much larger. It shows that these students want the world to know that Marist College has helped to shape the individuals that they are becoming while also being a reflection of that student's values of hard work, community, and citizenship.

One of the main ways students at Marist College buy their clothing is through thrift stores. The Hudson Valley is home to dozens of thrift stores that hold unique finds that are environmentally and financially conscious. "Thriftling is more meaningful than going to a store because it has more character. You must work harder to find pieces and feel rewarded when you find something out of the ordinary" explains Amanda Lee, an environmental science student. Thriftling is about the hard work and effort that is put into finding something that is unique. Students who thrift show that they are hard-working and willing to go to significant lengths to accomplish their goals. Thriftling allows students to feel unique while also remaining

environmentally friendly. The current state of the environment is in decline and students at Marist are taking one step at a time to decrease the negative impact the fashion industry has on the environment. Small acts like thrifting show that Marist students are proactive, hardworking, and ready to make a change.

Marist's fashion program has grown exponentially over the past few years and with the expansion of the program, comes a whole new group of creative students that are eager to learn. Marist Fashion students put their best foot forward when it comes to their schoolwork as well as their fashion choices. Upon walking into The Steel Plant, Marist's fashion facility, you will encounter hundreds of students each with their own unique style. From preppy to edgy, to Harajuku, and everything in between, each student's style is their own. To an outsider, this may seem intimidating, but to a fashion student, it gives a representation of who they are and how they are going to make a change in the world. The assortment of trends and styles in the Marist Fashion Program goes to show that students are not afraid to be themselves. It shows that they embrace diversity and accept those that are different. They are ready to make a statement, show the world their abilities, and make a difference

Fashion is so much more than how expensive or rare your clothing is. At Marist, fashion and individual style show a student's personality and values. The college students of today will be in the workforce in a few short years. These students must enter the world with good values and a positive mindset. The students at Marist are showing their values to the world through their clothing choices and giving the older generations confidence that the world will be in good hands.