

## ACADEMICS

# It's About the Journey

"I got this and I know what to do."

These words are music to the ears of Sr. Janet Linz, OF and Julie Wilke, co-directors of the Lavatus Powell Program at Purcell Marian. Lavatus Powell, a track any student at Purcell Marian can enter and complete, consists of small classes of students who take one bell during the school day to work on spiritual, academic, or life goals.

The program's singular goal is to teach students how to navigate and reach their goals.

"Many of our students play sports, are active in clubs, and some work part-time," says Sr. Janet. "It is critical they have time and space in a classroom where they can access resources."

These resources include mentors, tutors, group support, school supplies, and one-on-one check-ins with Sr. Janet or Ms. Wilke.

"When students begin the program, they can be frozen, not knowing how to overcome a barrier or issue," explains Wilke. "When they leave, they are empowered. They know how to reach out to a teacher, talk to a friend, or schedule a time with a mentor."

The program is not just about the destination, but how a student gets there. Perhaps more specifically, it's about how to get there when life's journey twists and turns.



### Not a Hard Sell

Once a student enters the Lavatus Powell Program, he or she must complete it through their senior year. That doesn't take convincing, explain co-directors Sr. Janet Linz and Julie Wilke. The program, which currently has 40+ students, isn't a hard sell. The same things that make it successful also make it attractive: students set their own agendas, are given space and support during the day to work on their goals, and are empowered with resources to learn how to get where they want to go.

**"The goal is to help students as they lead their lives."**

**- Sr. Janet Linz, OF, Co-director of Lavatus Powell.**