

**White Family Foundation**  
Grant Request  
Morning Star Catholic School  
July 5, 2022

<b>Date of grant proposal submission</b>	Tuesday, July 5, 2022
<b>Are you an IRS compliant 501(c)3 public charity/ nonprofit?</b>	Yes
<b>Legal name of organization</b>	Morning Star Catholic School
<b>Address</b>	4661 80th Avenue North Pinellas Park, FL 33781 United States
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.morningstarschool.org">http://www.morningstarschool.org</a>
<b>Telephone</b>	727-544-6036
<b>Organization Director/ Title</b>	Susan M Conza, Principal
<b>Contact Person/Title</b>	Susan M Conza, Principal
<b>Contact Person's Telephone</b>	727-544-6036
<b>Contact Person's Email</b>	<a href="mailto:sue.conza@morningstarschool.org">sue.conza@morningstarschool.org</a>
<b>Grant Request Amount</b>	\$20,000.00

**Please provide us with a brief description of your organization (no more than 500 words).**

Morning Star Catholic School of Pinellas Park offers an academic curriculum that meets the individual needs of students with special education requirements. Every student enrolled has an identified learning challenge such as Autism Spectrum Disorder, Down syndrome, Language Impairment and/or ADHD. Over the years we have found that our students require individualized instruction from trained teachers who understand their learning needs. Our teachers create an educational environment that is supportive and caring and where each student feels safe. Morning Star School has been educating students with unique learning challenges for over fifty years with the goal of each student reaching their maximum potential academically, socially, and spiritually.

Over the years, Morning Star Catholic School has evolved from a K-5 school to a K-8 school to where we are now a Kindergarten through age 22 school. Morning Star Catholic School offers the students access to assistive technology, music therapy, occupational and speech therapy, one-to-one iPads, and social emotional instruction. We are dedicated to creating a program where each student can develop into well rounded, productive members of the community.

**Grant Purpose (one paragraph)**

Morning Star Catholic School offers specialized educational programs for all students enrolled. Our academic program includes a low teacher student ratio, Music, Occupational, and Speech therapies. In order to support these specialized programs our tuition is \$13,125 which almost double the tuition of typical Catholic elementary school. Our parents believe in the mission of Morning Star Catholic School and even though they receive some scholarship money, many still struggle to pay the tuition balance. Compounding the effects of the COVID, we have had a number of families who are still struggling to find comparable employment for jobs they had prior to the pandemic, are struggling to catch up financially, or have suffered emotional setbacks. This year we were able to provide some support and distributed over \$38,000 in tuition assistance to families who students need the educational opportunities offered by Morning Star School. This only happened because of the generosity of donors.

**Annual Project/Program Budget (if request is for a specific project)**      \$20,000.00

**Annual Organization Budget**      \$1,410,000.00



**Morning Star School of Pinellas Park, Inc.**

4661 80th Avenue N  
Pinellas Park, Florida 33781

July 6, 2022

Dear Mrs. Ruth Banther  
600 E. Tarpon Avenue  
Tarpon Springs, FL 34689

Dear Mrs. Banther,

On behalf of Morning Star Catholic School's parents, students, faculty, and staff, I am thrilled to submit this proposal to the White Family Foundation requesting support for families in financial needs. Support from the foundation will allow Morning Star Catholic School to continue to educate students requiring our specialized academic program even if they cannot afford it. This assistance will be the answer to many of our school family's prayers to have a safe, faith based, learning environment for their student with disabilities that will allow them to remain in school until the age of 22.

We are looking forward to hearing from you soon with a positive response from this proposal. Should you have questions or need additional information please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 727.544.6036.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Conza  
Principal



# Morning Star Catholic School of Pinellas Park, Inc.

Grant Request Proposal Submitted to:  
The White Family Foundation

2022

## Proposal Contents

1. Case Statement
2. School Administration and Advisory Board
3. Program Budget
4. Website, Newsletter
5. IRS Determination Letter

## **Contact**

Mrs. Susan M. Conza, Principal  
[sue.conza@morningstarschool.org](mailto:sue.conza@morningstarschool.org)  
(727) 544-6036



## CASE STATEMENT

### **History**

Morning Star Catholic School, located in Pinellas Park, is a mission of the Diocese of St. Petersburg. Since 1969, the school has been serving students with special educational needs in the St. Petersburg and Tampa Bay area. All the children who attend Morning Star have an identified learning challenge such as Down Syndrome, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Language Impairment, and/or ADHD.

Having grown from six students in 1969 to 90+ students in 2022 and from an elementary school to a K-age 22 school, Morning Star has been an integral part of the lives of thousands of children over more than 50 years. We have evolved throughout the years as our understanding of our students and their needs has deepened. Adaptive technology, music therapy, behavior-based occupational therapy and whole child education are just some of these advances. But our nurturing, loving environment has not and will never change. We celebrate each student as a gift from God.

In 2011, Morning Star Catholic School began its high school. By 2019, enrollment in our high school program had increased so much, it was necessary to add another high school classroom. Having outgrown all usable existing space, we opted to remodel a portion of the school office for this purpose. In 2021, Morning Star Catholic School opened the Transition Program, allowing us to provide an educational program that includes daily living skills and life skills for students until the age of 22. This program was also located in the school office as we awaited the construction of our new building. When complete, the new building will allow our high school classes and Transition program to learn under one roof.

### **Case for Support**

Morning Star Catholic School offers a very specific individualized educational program that includes Occupational, Speech and Music therapies, social emotional instruction and a low teacher student ratio for students with identified learning and/or developmental challenges. Our tuition of \$13,125 is double that of typical elementary schools. Although all our families receive some form of scholarship, 80% must still pay at least part of the total tuition. Often, this is a financial struggle for these families.

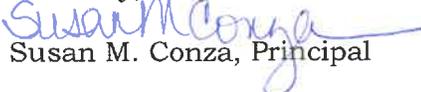
The need for financial assistance for many of our families increased due to COVID-19 and the impact is still being felt. Since 2020, requests for tuition assistance has continued to rise. During the 2020-2021 school year, requests for tuition assistance increased by 20% and increased an additional 8% in the 2021-2022 school year. This year's increase in requests came from families that have not needed financial help in previous years. They are families with students who have been at Morning Star for many years and require our individualized education. The families come to Morning Star from situations that have found their student struggling academically, emotionally, and physically. We need help support our families who find themselves in need and whose children thrive on the support and educational opportunities offered by Morning Star Catholic School.

### **Request**

Morning Star Catholic School is requesting a \$20,000 grant to help meet the tuition assistance needs of our families. A White Family Foundation grant will help those families whose children rely on the individualized, nurturing and faith-filled education provided at Morning Star Catholic School.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Susan M. Conza, Principal



# Morning Star Catholic School of Pinellas Park, Inc.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

Susan M. Conza, Principal

## **ADVISORY BOARD**

Linda Champion  
Beth Lani  
Jack Moore  
Kerry Moore  
Marianne Pasha  
Denise Reilly, Chair  
Julie Reyes  
Mary Ann Smith  
Karen Vogel

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Program Budget: attached

IRS Determination Letter: attached

Website: <http://morningstarschool.org/>

Annual Newsletter: [Summer 2021 edition](#)

NAME OF ENTITY: Morning Star Catholic School - Pinellas Park, Inc.	Fall	\$	19,719.48
NAME OF FUND: Morning Star Education Endowment Fund	Spring	\$	19,719.48
TOTAL Distribution for 2021-2022		\$	39,438.96

USE OF FUNDS: general support of the school

Usage Information <i>Description (ie. Maintenance, Tuition Assistance, Supplies, etc.)</i>	Amount Used			Additional Information/Notes
	Fall 2021	Spring 2022	Total Used:	
Tuition Assistance - Aiden & Daliah Craig	\$ -	\$ 931.00	\$ 931.00	Tuition Assistance
Tuition Assistance- Moncerrat Sandoval	\$ -	\$ 1,076.00	\$ 1,076.00	Tuition Assistance
Tuition Assistance- Alonzo Pagan	\$ -	\$ 1,220.00	\$ 1,220.00	Tuition Assistance
Tuition Assistance- Kyle Ramsey	\$ -	\$ 1,317.43	\$ 1,317.43	Tuition Assistance
Tuition Assistance- Alex Vingo	\$ -	\$ 1,504.00	\$ 1,504.00	Tuition Assistance
Tuition Assistance- Matthew Johnson	\$ -	\$ 1,685.00	\$ 1,685.00	Tuition Assistance
Tuition Assistance- Garrett Carney	\$ -	\$ 2,441.00	\$ 2,441.00	Tuition Assistance
Tuition Assistance- Connor Deeb	\$ -	\$ 2,691.00	\$ 2,691.00	Tuition Assistance
Tuition Assistance- Emma Rose Juardo	\$ -	\$ 3,279.00	\$ 3,279.00	Tuition Assistance
Tuition Assistance-Germosen, Bayron	\$ -	\$ 3,501.50	\$ 3,501.50	Tuition Assistance
Tuition Assistance-Germosen, Lorena	\$ -	\$ 3,601.50	\$ 3,601.50	Tuition Assistance
Tuition Assistance-Rosario, Haydee	\$ -	\$ 3,501.50	\$ 3,501.50	Tuition Assistance
Tuition Assistance-Swanson, Anthony	\$ -	\$ 3,748.00	\$ 3,748.00	Tuition Assistance
Tuition Assistance-Vasquez, Josee	\$ -	\$ 3,279.00	\$ 3,279.00	Tuition Assistance
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
<b>Total Used</b>			<b>\$ 33,775.93</b>	
<b>Amount Remaining</b>			<b>\$5,663.03</b>	



# Statement of Activities

April 30, 2022

<b>Account Shortcut and Description</b>	<b>YTD Actual</b>	<b>Annual Budget</b>	<b>Last Year Total Actual</b>
<b>Income</b>			
<b>Tuition &amp; Fees</b>			
200401000 Tuition Revenue: Sch	0.00	0.00	0.00
200401005 Tuition: Prior Year Sch	604.91	0.00	6,941.32
200401010 Tution Earned: Due from Parents	221,788.52	433,482.00	101,877.24
200401011 Earned Occupational Therapy	0.00	0.00	109,440.00
200401012 Earned Speach Therapy	0.00	0.00	0.00
200401100 SchRegistration Fee: Sch	0.00	0.00	(2,077.59)
200401104 Book Fee: Sch	0.00	0.00	0.00
200401106 Application Fee: Sch	255.00	0.00	840.00
200401113 Earned Academic & Book Fees	0.00	0.00	0.00
200401114 Earned Registration Fees	0.00	0.00	13,200.00
200401115 Earned OT Eval. Fees	0.00	0.00	0.00
200401200 Step Up Awards Rec'd: Sch	26,041.70	7,003.00	5,882.52
200401201 Earned Gardiner Awards	211,605.27	247,651.00	301,834.47
200401202 Earned SUFS Awards	0.00	0.00	0.00
200401203 Earned AAA Scholarship Awards	5,412.50	6,495.00	10,445.00
200401400 Earned McKay Awards	547,318.40	537,144.00	530,693.25
200401401 Earned McKay & Gardiner Awards	0.00	0.00	0.00
200401501 CSTAG Awards Rec'd: Sch	0.00	0.00	0.00
200401502 CF Match Grant Rec'd: Sch	0.00	0.00	0.00
200401504 Earned CSTAG Awards	0.00	2,000.00	4,650.00
200401505 Earned Bridge Awards	0.00	0.00	0.00
200401600 Other Awards Rec'd: Sch	0.00	0.00	0.00
200401602 Mary C Forbes Awards Rec'd: Sch	0.00	0.00	0.00
200401700 Discounts & Allow(Contra): Sch	(57,646.55)	(73,650.00)	(74,846.00)
<b>Tuition &amp; Fees Totals:</b>	<b>955,379.75</b>	<b>1,160,125.00</b>	<b>1,008,880.21</b>
<b>Other Operating Revenue</b>			
200401900 Outside Grants Inc: Sch	12,544.00	0.00	17,519.85
200401965 Outside Grant PPP Loan Forgivene	0.00	0.00	212,720.00
200416000 Donations: Sch	19,735.78	50,000.00	7,317.79
200416010 Capital Campaign Contributions Us	1,044,716.98	0.00	44,867.00
200416050 Donations: Parent Association Sch	2,070.38	3,800.00	2,716.94
200430000 Diocesan Support: Sch	0.00	0.00	0.00
200460000 Interest Inc: Sch	1,250.66	4,000.00	2,622.84
200460005 Interest Income: CSREA	1,924.10	500.00	1,478.26
200460500 Endowment Earnings: Sch	(152,089.02)	9,000.00	238,963.28
200461000 Endowment Distributions: Sch	46,414.22	36,000.00	0.00
200490000 Miscellaneous Inc: Sch	8,517.18	10,000.00	8,403.00
200490001 Rebates & Rewards Sch	0.00	200.00	201.00
<b>Other Operating Revenue Totals:</b>	<b>985,084.28</b>	<b>113,500.00</b>	<b>536,809.96</b>

<b>Account Shortcut and Description</b>	<b>YTD Actual</b>	<b>Annual Budget</b>	<b>Last Year Total Actual</b>
<b>Instructional</b>			
244404003 Student Field Trp Fee: Instruct	0.00	0.00	0.00
244404004 Student Grad Fee: Instruct	0.00	750.00	0.00
244404005 Student Yearbook Sales: Instruct	0.00	250.00	302.00
244404006 Student Uniform Sales: Instruct	2,953.00	4,500.00	3,579.75
244404008 Summer Programs	0.00	0.00	1,650.00
Instructional Totals:	2,953.00	5,500.00	5,531.75
<b>Other Non Instructional</b>			
284401800 Ext Care: Sch	11,155.50	25,000.00	5,989.30
284401804 Ext Care Registration Fee: Sch	0.00	0.00	0.00
286451000 Cafeteria Inc	8,828.50	10,000.00	7,092.48
287404001 Student Act Fee: Camps	5,280.00	0.00	375.00
Other Non Instructional Totals:	25,264.00	35,000.00	13,456.78
<b>Administration</b>			
228450001 Prog Evnts: Develop Sch	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Supplemental Operations</b>			
295450100 Ent Wide: Maj F/Rs Sch	0.00	0.00	0.00
295450106 Fundraising Income: Gala/Auction	81,296.00	75,000.00	46,091.95
Supplemental Operations Totals:	81,296.00	75,000.00	46,091.95
Income Totals:	2,049,977.03	1,389,125.00	1,610,770.65

## Expense

<b>Charity &amp; Outreach</b>			
218536000 Donations to Oth Org: O/R Sch	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Instructional</b>			
244510553 Wages: Lay Teacher-Elementary Instru	376,104.14	449,951.49	420,803.40
244510554 Wages: Lay Teacher-Mid Sch Instr	0.00	0.00	0.00
244510555 Wages: Lay Teacher-Aide Instruct	52,897.08	73,981.71	69,883.13
244510556 Wages: Lay Teacher-Special Instruct	141,598.06	180,459.08	169,581.03
244510557 Wages: Lay Teacher-Subst Instruct	16,544.00	5,000.00	570.00
244531600 Technology: Instruct	18,477.04	10,000.00	2,685.98
244531800 Textbks & Apps: Instruct	7,020.75	5,000.00	5,360.92
244531900 Instructional Supp: Instruct	5,511.66	5,000.00	1,512.95
244531901 Workbooks: Instruct	1,763.16	1,000.00	398.70
244531902 Testing & Scoring: Instruct	1,635.95	1,500.00	330.50
244531905 Library/Media Center: Instruct	0.00	0.00	0.00
244531906 Guidance: Instruct	0.00	0.00	0.00
244531915 Religion: Instruct	0.00	0.00	0.00
244531917 Art: Instruct	78.61	500.00	0.00
244532700 Sem & Conf: Instruct	0.00	0.00	0.00
244532800 Prof Develop: Instruct	2,413.06	750.00	314.25
244564003 Field Trp Exp: Instruct	0.00	850.00	0.00
244564004 Grad Exp: Instruct	0.00	500.00	714.01
244564005 Yearbook Exp: Instruct	0.00	500.00	439.92
244564006 Uniform Exp: Instruct	2,628.50	5,000.00	3,513.00

**Account Shortcut and Description**

	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>	<u>Last Year Total Actual</u>
<b>Instructional Totals:</b>	626,672.01	739,992.28	676,107.79
<b>Other Non Instructional</b>			
284510500 Wages: Lay Ext Care	6,075.00	10,000.00	10,800.00
284532501 Food & Beverage: Ext Care	810.51	1,000.00	375.14
285564000 Student Act Exp: Student Prog	443.42	300.00	570.59
286532501 Food & Beverage: Cafeteria	11,459.56	10,000.00	8,275.38
287510500 Wages: Lay Camps	2,734.50	0.00	1,615.50
287564001 Act Exp: Camps	0.00	0.00	30.77
<b>Other Non Instructional Totals:</b>	21,522.99	21,300.00	21,667.38
<b>Other Ministries &amp; Organizations</b>			
221567003 Parent's Association	0.00	0.00	159.20
<b>Administration</b>			
225510503 Wages: Lay Bonus/Other Admin Sc	6,625.00	0.00	0.00
225510550 Wages: Lay Prin/AP/DIR Admin Sc	65,820.80	78,484.97	76,199.04
225510551 Wages: Lay Office Admin Sch	29,166.80	35,000.00	44,052.15
225512000 Employ Taxes: Admin Sch	0.00	0.00	0.00
225512001 Employ Taxes: FICA Admin Sch	9,533.36	12,389.68	10,545.34
225512002 Employ Taxes: SSI/M Admin Sch	38,731.78	51,681.01	38,847.10
225513000 Pension: Lay Admin Sch	60,714.62	106,665.84	68,487.51
225513100 Health Benefits: Lay Admin Sch	133,420.00	173,634.00	156,816.00
225513200 Group Life Ins: Admin Sch	2,767.92	3,754.66	3,681.44
225513300 Disability Ins: Admin Sch	3,721.42	5,272.67	4,952.96
225513400 ReEmploy Ins: Admin Sch	3,120.10	3,220.00	4,059.96
225513500 Workers Comp: Admin Sch	7,657.60	8,444.61	9,006.24
225522000 Tuition Asstance: Admin Sch	0.00	0.00	0.00
225530001 Insurance: Prop & Liab Admin Sch	12,140.90	15,000.00	14,259.00
225530003 Insurance: Student Admin Sch	609.00	700.00	664.00
225531000 Property Taxes: Admin Sch	0.00	0.00	0.00
225531500 Office Exp: Admin Sch	3,660.18	5,000.00	2,971.16
225531502 Postage: Admin Sch	554.52	1,500.00	1,189.05
225531503 Copier: Admin Sch	1,099.04	1,000.00	1,052.25
225531508 Dues & Memberships	585.00	1,500.00	1,619.00
225531600 Technology: Admin Sch	3,415.19	5,000.00	471.61
225531603 Software: Admin Sch	2,124.66	4,000.00	4,493.95
225531606 Technical Support: Admin Sch	13,597.30	15,717.23	15,609.78
225531607 Technology: Leased Equip Admin S	2,518.55	3,000.00	2,675.76
225532060 Voucher Program Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00
225532500 Food & Kitch Exp: Admin Sch	0.00	0.00	0.00
225532602 Meetings & Lunch: Admin Sch	964.99	3,000.00	1,572.17
225532605 Gifts: Admin Sch	2,307.44	5,000.00	6,188.52
225532900 Prof Licenses & Accred: Admin Sch	260.00	250.00	290.00
225533200 Dues & Mbrship Fee: Admin Sch	0.00	150.00	0.00
225534000 Legal & Prof Svc: Admin Sch	0.00	0.00	0.00
225534001 Audit & Accounting Svc: Admin Sch	9,107.50	12,000.00	12,157.50
225534003 Payroll Processing Fee: Admin Sch	2,966.67	3,000.00	3,183.51
225534004 FACTS/RenWeb Fees	1,997.34	1,000.00	1,720.50
225535000 Safe Env/Background Ck: Admin S	0.00	150.00	98.58

<b>Account Shortcut and Description</b>	<b>YTD Actual</b>	<b>Annual Budget</b>	<b>Last Year Total Actual</b>
225536000 Donations to Oth Org: Admin Sch	0.00	0.00	0.00
225536500 Contract Labor: Admin Sch	10,650.00	15,000.00	16,154.75
225540501 Telephone: Admin Sch	2,285.53	2,800.00	2,871.06
225540502 Mobile Devices: Admin Sch	466.90	650.00	648.81
225540503 Broadband: Admin Sch	554.16	1,500.00	1,099.67
225564004 Grad Exp: Admin Sch	0.00	0.00	0.00
225566001 Service Charges: Admin Sch	99.00	200.00	209.00
225566004 Merchant Service Fee: Admin Sch	1,702.86	1,500.00	1,609.68
225566200 Bad Debt Expense	0.00	5,000.00	3,914.30
225590000 Miscellaneous Exp: Admin Sch	355.75	2,500.00	2,312.07
225610000 Fixed Asset Purchases: Admin Sch	0.00	0.00	0.00
228535500 Marketing/Pub Rel: Develop	589.84	4,000.00	1,066.35
228563000 Prog Fundraising Exp: Develop Sch	0.00	0.00	0.00
Administration Totals:	435,891.72	588,664.67	516,749.77

#### Facilities/PPE

230510502 Wages: Lay Non-Exempt Facili Sch	9,431.76	10,866.50	11,589.10
230540001 Electric: Facili Sch	15,602.12	25,000.00	19,357.63
230540002 Water & Sewer: Facili Sch	4,341.10	5,000.00	4,128.85
230540003 Waste Management: Facili Sch	2,936.72	2,500.00	2,402.26
230543000 Bldg Rep & Maintenance: Facili Sch	1,568.98	5,000.00	4,115.40
230543001 Maintenance Supp: Facili Sch	3,706.91	4,000.00	4,024.70
230543002 HVAC: Facili Sch	925.00	1,000.00	1,036.00
230543004 Plumbing: Facili Sch	987.00	2,000.00	1,483.00
230543005 Security & Fire: Facili Sch	4,746.24	4,000.00	3,869.58
230543006 Furn & Fixt R&M: Facili Sch	0.00	1,000.00	4,010.25
230543008 Building Structure: Facili Sch	0.00	0.00	0.00
230543011 Cleaning Services: Facili Sch	3,411.00	7,000.00	3,093.21
230543014 Cleaning Products: Facili Sch	40.60	1,000.00	3,385.45
230543500 Grounds Maintenance: Facili Sch	712.41	2,000.00	4,026.00
230543501 Lawn & Tree Svc: Facili Sch	5,550.00	7,000.00	6,660.00
230543508 Fert/Pest Cont: Facilities Sch	675.00	3,000.00	825.00
230620015 Capital Expenditures	0.00	0.00	0.00
230620016 Capital Expenditures: Roofing	2,068.00	0.00	0.00
230620017 Capital Expenditures: Painiting (Ext)	0.00	0.00	0.00
230620018 Capital Expenditures: Painiting (Int)	0.00	0.00	0.00
230620019 Capital Expenditures: HVAC	0.00	0.00	0.00
230620020 Capital Expenditures: Plumbing	0.00	0.00	0.00
230620021 Capital Expenditures: Electrical	0.00	0.00	0.00
230620022 Capital Expenditures: Windows & D	0.00	0.00	0.00
230620023 Capital Expenditures: Furniture	0.00	0.00	0.00
230620024 Capital Expenditures: Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00
225620025 Capital Expenditures: Lighting	0.00	0.00	0.00
230620026 Capital Expenditures: Grounds	0.00	0.00	0.00
230620027 Capital Expenditures: Paving	0.00	0.00	0.00
230620035 Capital Expenditures: Other	0.00	0.00	0.00
Facilities/PPE Totals:	56,702.84	80,366.50	74,006.43

#### Supplemental Operations

<b>Account Shortcut and Description</b>	<b>YTD Actual</b>	<b>Annual Budget</b>	<b>Last Year Total Actual</b>
295563100 Ent Wide Fundraising: Maj F/R Sch	500.00	0.00	0.00
295563106 Major Fundraising Exp: Auctions	9,697.84	5,000.00	4,639.38
Supplemental Operations Totals:	10,197.84	5,000.00	4,639.38
Expense Totals:	1,150,987.40	1,435,323.45	1,293,329.95
<b>Income - Expense:</b>	898,989.63	(46,198.45)	317,440.70

**Internal Revenue Service  
P.O. Box 2508  
Cincinnati, OH 45201**

**Department of the Treasury**

**Date: August 21, 2019**

**Person to Contact:**

R. Meyer ID# 0110429

**Toll Free Telephone Number:**

877-829-5500

United States Conference of Catholic  
Bishops  
3211 4<sup>th</sup> Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20017-1194

**Group Exemption Number:**

0928

Dear Sir/Madam:

This responds to your August 14, 2019, request for information regarding the status of your group tax exemption.

Our records indicate that you were issued a determination letter in March 1946, that you are currently exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and are not a private foundation within the meaning of section 509(a) of the Code because you are described in sections 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(i).

With your request, you provided a copy of the *Official Catholic Directory for 2019*, which includes the names and addresses of the agencies and instrumentalities and the educational, charitable, and religious institutions operated by the Roman Catholic Church in the United States, its territories, and possessions that are subordinate organizations under your group tax exemption. Your request indicated that each subordinate organization is a non-profit organization, that no part of the net earnings thereof inures to the benefit of any individual, and that no substantial part of their activities is for promotion of legislation. You have further represented that none of your subordinate organizations is a private foundation under section 509(a), although all subordinates do not all share the same sub-classification under section 509(a). Based on your representations, the subordinate organizations in the *Official Catholic Directory for 2019* are recognized as exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Code under GEN 0928.

Donors may deduct contributions to you and your subordinate organizations as provided in section 170 of the Code. Bequests, legacies, devises, transfers, or gifts to them or for their use are deductible for federal estate and gifts tax purposes if they meet the applicable provisions of section 2055, 2106, and 2522 of the Code.

Subordinate organizations under a group exemption do not receive individual exemption letters. Subordinate organizations are not listed in Tax Exempt Organization Search (Pub 78 data), and many are not listed in the Exempt Organizations Business Master

File extract, or EO BMF. Donors may verify that a subordinate organization is included in your group exemption by consulting the *Official Catholic Directory*, the official subordinate listing approved by you, or by contacting you directly. IRS does not verify the inclusion of subordinate organizations under your group exemption. See IRS Publication 4573, *Group Exemption*, for additional information about group exemptions.

Each subordinate organization covered in a group exemption should have its own EIN. Each subordinate organization must use its own EIN, not the EIN of the central organization, in all filings with IRS.

If you have any questions, please call us at the telephone number shown in the heading of this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephen A. Martin".

Stephen A. Martin  
Director, Exempt Organizations  
Rulings and Agreements



**MORNING  
STAR SCHOOL**  
*Where Futures Begin*

**LOOKING AHEAD**

August 9th

First Day of School

October 29th

Trunk or Treat

Jan. 30th – Feb. 5th

Catholic Schools Week

May 24th

High School Graduation

May 26th

8th Grade Graduation

May 27th

Last Day of School

**LOOK INSIDE:**

Morning Star 2  
Achievement  
Center

Covid Update 4

Jack 5  
Hartmann

Halloween & 6  
Christmas

Catholic 7  
Schools Week

Graduations 8-9

Auction 10

Memoriam & 11  
In Gratitude

# Morning Star School

## Pinellas Park

Summer 2021

### Principal's Perspective

I think we can all agree that the 2020-2021 school year was a wild ride that tested our collective powers of creativity and flexibility. We began the school year with 50% of our students on campus and 50% learning from home. While no one had ever experienced this kind of school start before, our faculty and staff, students and parents embraced the “new normal” with enthusiasm and excitement. We practiced social distancing, wore masks, followed all CDC guidelines, and learned about COVID protocols. Each morning, classes participated in an online “Morning Meeting” that allowed all students, both virtual and in-person, the opportunity to learn together. Everyone was so excited to see each other, even if it was on the Smart Board. One of the most valuable lessons we learned was the importance of being together. Although everyone was wearing a mask, you saw the joy in the students’ eyes as they saw their teachers and friends. Students returned from distance learning throughout the school year and, by the end of the year, only 15% were still learning from home.

As spring approached, we took a leap of faith and planned our Annual Auction Fundraiser. We knew it would have to look different, but we needed it. Thanks to a small, energetic group of parents, we held our auction on the front lawn of Morning Star Catholic School on May 1, 2021. The auction raised almost \$85,000 with \$35,000 going to the Capital Campaign to build the Morning Star Achievement Center that will house our new Transition Program. It was a wonderful evening of fellowship, laughter, and fun. Thank you to our sponsors, families, and community supporters for making this evening a success.

This year, Mrs. Castaneda retired after more than 30 years of teaching at Morning Star School. Mrs. “C” was an amazing teacher who had a lasting impact on the lives of so many students and families throughout her career. I know she is looking forward to spending time with all her grandchildren and traveling. Mr. Laux also retired this year after teaching at Morning Star for 7 years. Prior to coming to Morning Star, Mr. Laux was a classroom teacher and Principal at several Catholic schools in the Diocese. He was instrumental in developing our high school program. We will miss his enthusiasm and love of all things St. Louis. In addition, we said good-bye to teachers, Ms. McGee and Mrs. Mittermayr. We will miss them and wish them the best of luck in their new ventures. Mrs. Walley also embarked on a new adventure in Texas. She is returning to her original career and has secured a job teaching high school French while her husband begins his medical practice. Onyx, the office rabbit, joined Mrs. Walley and her family in the move to Amarillo, Texas. Teachers’ assistants, Ms. Micah and Mrs. Jess have also left as they continue their college education.

As luck would have it, in the summer of 2020, during a global pandemic, Morning Star kicked off a Capital Campaign. Our dream is to build a dedicated space for a Transition Program called the Morning Star Achievement Center. The goal of the center is to educate students after high school graduation to 22 years of age. This is a monumental task, and we have currently raised over \$700,000 with an additional \$165,000 pledged. We are so grateful for everyone’s support and are thrilled to announce that on July 8th, 2021, the Pinellas Park City Council approved our building plan which was the final hurdle. The build will begin soon.

2020-2021 was a lesson in resiliency and a reminder of the value of community. We will take all of our learning and growth and apply it to the opportunities and challenges that await us in the 2021-2022 school year.

*Many Blessings,*

*Susan M. Conza, Principal*

# Morning Star Achievement Center

We are excited to embark on our first school year with Morning Star's Transition Program! We are anxiously awaiting the new building, but that does not put pause on our programming. Our transition program will focus on job and life skills training to meet student's individual needs, as well as partnering with businesses that will help our students employability and raise the visibility of our mission and vision. Students will continue educational goals that are consistent with improving their ability to become confident and active participants in the world! We look forward to sharing more updates as our school year progresses.



Creating Our Future  
Morning Star Achievement Center

## Support Morning Star school while you shop!

You can support Morning Star everyday by keeping us in mind while you shop!

### Amazon Smile

Visit [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and choose Morning Star Catholic School Pinellas Park Inc. as your charity. Then 5% of your purchases will be donated to Morning Star School!



### Box Tops for Education

Box Tops are now Digital! Download the free Box Tops for Education app, shop for eligible products, scan your receipt and earn money for Morning Star!



### Coca-Cola Gives

Download the Coca-Cola app and you can give back to Morning Star with every beverage you purchase. Just scan the code on the inside of the bottle cap or box of cans and you'll help us continue to do what we do best!





## Creating Our Future Capital Campaign Commitment Form

Yes, I/we want to help ensure Morning Star School's ability to prepare and empower young people for years to come. I/we hereby commit and agree to contribute a total of \$\_\_\_\_\_ in support of the Morning Star Achievement Center Creating Our Future Capital Campaign.

This commitment will be funded as follows:

- Enclosed is my/our one-time gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_
  - Check payable to Morning Star School Campaign
  - Credit/Debit
 Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Sec Code# \_\_\_\_\_
- Gift payable over \_\_\_\_ years (5-year maximum) beginning \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ to be paid in installments
  - Quarterly  Semi-annually  Annually
 Initial payment of \$\_\_\_\_\_ enclosed.
- Please contact me/us about a gift of stock/securities.
- My company will match my donation and I will submit the matching gift form with my payment(s).

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Name for Business/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address, City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please also credit this gift to the following additional individuals \_\_\_\_\_

I/We would like our gift to be recognized with the following Naming Opportunity:  
*(minimum gift of \$25,000. Refer to Naming Opportunities chart for availability.)*

You may publish my/our names in your donor lists as a motivation for others to give.

Please do not publish my/our names in your donor lists.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature(s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Morning Star School of Pinellas Park**  
4661 80<sup>th</sup> Ave N, Pinellas Park, FL 33781

**Sue Conza, Principal**  
(727) 544-6036 • sue.conza@morningstarschool.org

*Your contribution may be tax-deductible.  
Morning Star School is a 501(c)3 charitable organization, #59-1274421*

# COVID- 19 and School Life



Latrale eats lunch safely away from others



Aiden enjoys learning with friends at home and in the classroom



Emily swings while social distancing at recess

Learning looked very different at Morning Star School this year. With some students returning to campus and some remaining at home, staff worked tirelessly throughout the summer to prepare for a school year unlike any other. Classrooms were rearranged to provide for maximum social distancing. Signs were posted all over campus to remind students to wear their masks and to promote safe ways to greet and interact with each other.

Technology workshops were offered to all teachers to learn how to best teach students who remained at home. Mrs. Mittermayr served as our Distance Learning Coordinator and worked directly with distance learning students and parents to provide the best possible education through this difficult time.

Social and emotional health was at the top of our priority list. Our counselor taught weekly classes to practice social skills and provided our students with many different options to express their feelings and emotions.

Through it all, students and staff at Morning Star School--those at home and those on campus--all worked together to make sure that our commitment to quality education was upheld no matter what!



(Pictured above) Ruby and Orlando enjoy a socially distanced Art Class

## We are excited to announce the retirements of Mrs. Mary Beth Castaneda and Mr. Thom Laux!



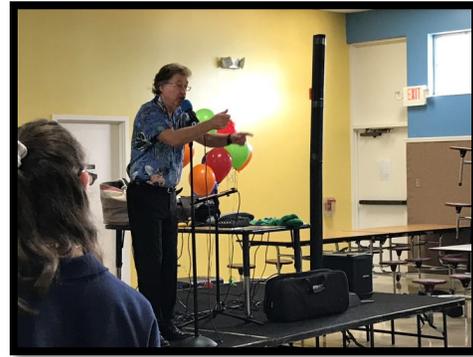
Mr. Laux has served as a high school teacher and assistant principal at Morning Star School for the last seven years. While teaching in one of our high school classrooms full time, Mr. Laux also managed to regularly conduct safety drills and teacher observations as well as run the Before Care Program. His contributions to the school, particularly to our High School Program, have been invaluable, and we will miss him very much. We wish him well as he relaxes and spends more time with his family.



Mrs. Castaneda is retiring after serving as a classroom teacher at Morning Star for over 30 years! Through the decades, she has impacted hundreds of lives of students with special needs and their families, and has served faithfully and completely in whatever role she has been asked to undertake, from chairperson of the book fair, to head of the admissions team. There hasn't been a student, parent or even faculty member whose life she hasn't touched in some way, and for that we thank her dearly. We will definitely miss Mrs. Castaneda, but we are so excited for what her next adventure has in store for her!

We know you will all join us in thanking Mrs. Castaneda and Mr. Laux for their service to Morning Star School and in wishing them well in their retirements.

# Jack Hartmann



COVID caused us to cancel or alter many events we typically enjoy on campus, but when it came to hosting a Jack Hartmann concert on campus, we just couldn't cancel! This was something we started planning a year ago, and we didn't want to disappoint our students with yet another cancelled event. So the staff got creative, and in cooperation with Jack Hartmann, were able to provide our students with a once-in-a-lifetime experience!

Jack Hartmann is a critically acclaimed children's music artist, with thousands of songs and music videos specifically geared to promote academic and social standards for early learners. With a BA in Child Psychology and a Master's Degree in Clinical Psychology, Mr. Hartmann uses research-based, teacher-approved methods and standards to create engaging, meaningful content for use at home or in the classroom.

Students who would benefit most from seeing Mr. Hartmann in person were invited to attend his concert in OTHERS Hall at socially distanced tables. Parents had to provide permission and all students and staff remained masked at all times.

For our students at home and those who remained in the classroom, the concert was broadcast live via Zoom. All students, no matter where they were located, danced and sang as they enjoyed a live performance of one of their favorite songwriters!

Thank you to Mr. Hartmann for being willing to provide this experience to our students!



# Halloween

Halloween at Morning Star was a day full of fun and festivities! Students and staff donned their favorite costumes, enjoyed Halloween-themed activities, and left school with treats galore!

In PE class, students turned each other into mummies, and Father Kevin and Father Veejay of Sacred Heart Catholic Church delivered bags of treats to each of the students. While we couldn't host our Annual Trunk-or-Treat this year, we still enjoyed a wonderful Halloween!



# Christmas

The Christmas Spirit was alive and well at Morning Star this year! While we could not host our Annual Christmas Program, staff and students found a way to make the season special nonetheless!

Staff and students enjoyed Christmas-theme dress-up days, such as "Dress Like a Christmas Tree" and "Christmas PJ Day". Hot cocoa was enjoyed by all, and many Christmas carols were sung in the halls. We even collected over 800 non-perishable food items to donate to His Heart Society, a homeless mission of Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

Through masking and social distancing, Morning Star students and staff had a great time sharing the joy of the birth of Christ with each other and with our community!

# Catholic Schools Week



Every year, students in Catholic schools throughout the country participate in a week of spirited activities and dress-up days to celebrate all that Catholic education provides to students, families and communities.

This year, as with most events, Catholic Schools Week looked a little different at Morning Star School, but that doesn't mean we didn't have a week full of fun and meaningful activities! Students and staff wore their best tacky gear, tropical attire (on the coldest day of the winter), patriotic pride and school spirit! Students enjoyed an icy treat from Kona Ice and participated in a discussion about vocations with Father Kevin via Zoom. They even had

their own Mass at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, which was particularly special because they were otherwise only able to attend Mass virtually.

Thank you to Father Kevin Yarnell at Sacred Heart Catholic Church for inviting our students and staff to their own Mass and for taking the time to speak with them about your path to the priesthood!



Another successful Catholic Schools Weeks in the books! Take that, COVID!



In an effort to promote sportsmanship, social interaction, and physical wellbeing during the pandemic, the Diocese of St. Petersburg started a kickball program in the fall. It allowed for students to be outdoors and to compete in a more socially distanced environment.

All Morning Star students were invited to participate in two games of kickball after school against our friends at Sacred Heart Catholic School. The team practiced regularly together after school and learned the basics of the game. Staff, parents and even Father

## Kickball

Kevin were there to cheer on our students as they kicked, ran, rolled, threw and caught! Everyone had an amazing time, and all students from both schools were extremely courteous and friendly through the entire process!



Thank you to Sacred Heart for inviting us to play with you! This experience was invaluable for our students!



# Congrats, 8th Grade Grads!

Fourteen students graduated from the eighth grade at Morning Star School on Thursday, June 3rd in a wonderful ceremony held on the MSS campus. Students performed a song for their families and the MSS staff and told us their favorite memories of their time at our school, and their teachers thanked them for all they learned from their students. Those in attendance also enjoyed a slideshow of images of each of the students throughout their time at Morning Star, some of whom have been with us since they were very little! It was a joyous, touching way to commemorate their time with us and to mark the beginning of their next chapter. Some of these students will transfer to other high schools to start a new adventure while others will stay and participate in the MSS High School Program. Whatever their plans for next year, we are so proud of each of them and cannot wait to see what the future holds for them!



Carson



Joshua



Latrale



Alisa



Edward "EJ"



Nicholas



Jake



Orlando



Ruby



Isabella



Donald "Liam"



Maci



Darrell "DJ"



Makayla

# Congrats, High School Grads!

The 2021 Graduating Class from Morning Star School included six students who worked incredibly hard during their tenure here: Dyllan, Kendra, Madison, Jonah, Alex and Lewis --as well as 2020 Graduate Brianna Bosworth-- were celebrated in a special service at Sacred Heart Catholic Church on Tuesday, June 1st. In addition to family and staff, Associate Superintendent Dr. Ann Davis was also in attendance and took a moment to express to the graduates how proud she was of them. Each student received a Certificate of Completion for their time at Morning Star School. Five of the graduates will be returning to Morning Star next school year as the inaugurating class of our new Transition Program, and we couldn't be more excited to see their faces on campus again! Wherever God leads our graduates in the coming years, we pray for their continued growth and success in all of their endeavors!



Mikal "Dyllan"



Kendra



Madison



Jonah



Alexander



Lewis

# Annual Auction Fundraiser 2021

Despite a global pandemic, Morning Star School found a way to still hold our Annual Auction Fundraiser. On May 1st, under a tent outdoors on the Morning Star campus, guests enjoyed a more relaxed atmosphere that included dinner from Sonny's and a time to catch up with friends we hadn't seen in over a year. All staff, parents and friends laughed, talked and bid their way through a very enjoyable evening, and raised over \$85,000 in the process! Thank you so much to all of our sponsors, community supporters and volunteers for another successful fundraiser and another wonderful evening!



Our Annual Auction Fundraiser is a time when all supporters of Morning Star School come together to enjoy an evening of fun and giving! The funds raised at this event go directly into the school's operating budget to help us continue to provide a quality, individualized education for each of our students. Save the date and plan to join us for this amazing evening of giving!

Save  
the Date

FOR THE ANNUAL  
AUCTION FUNDRAISER  
MARCH 5, 2022

# With Gratitude

This school year, Morning Star felt more blessed than ever! Between donations for our Transition Program and donations toward our operating budget, we have been overwhelmed with love and support from our family, friends and community supporters. We wholeheartedly thank God for the grace and faithfulness He has shown us through you:

- Morning Star Families
- OTHERS members and all individual donors
- All sponsors of and donors to our *Annual Auction Fundraiser*
- Bishop Gregory Parkes
- Mr. Chris Pastura, Superintendent, and Dr. Ann Davis, Associate Superintendent
- Krauss/Baschab Family Foundation, Seminole Lanes and Sunrise Lanes
- The Knights of Columbus Council 10157, Council 14456, Council 3580, Council 5737
- Advantage Mental Health
- Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court of St. John Vianney #1944
- Canon and Lisa Coleman
- Dairy-Mix, Inc.
- Insoft & Hurst Orthodontics
- Guardian Trust
- Jack Hartmann's Hop 2 It Music and Press, Inc.
- The Jack Moore Group, LLC
- Clearwater Central Catholic High School
- Father Kevin Yarnell and Sacred Heart Catholic Church
- Pinellas Park Rotary Club
- Rahdert & Mortimer, PLLC
- Social Club of St. Petersburg
- St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church
- St. John Vianney Catholic Church and School
- St. Paul Catholic Church Columbiette Auxiliary 13657
- St. Raphael Catholic Church
- Traffic Control Products of Florida, Inc.
- United Way Suncoast
- Verizon Foundation
- Morning Star Advisory Board Members: Lily Abadal, Linda Champion, Beth Lani, Jack and Kerry Moore, Marianne Pasha, Denise Reilly, Julie Reyes, Richard Ryder, Mary Ann Smith and Karen Vogel

---

# In Memoriam

We remember the following friends and family of Morning Star who passed away this year:

Yolanda Conza  
Patricia "Pat" Kennedy  
Richard Layton  
Richard Mohr  
Richard Panella  
Janet Schweiger  
Rodney Wilson

## Morning Star School

4661 80th Avenue North  
Pinellas Park, FL 33781

Phone: 727-544-6036

Email: [info@morningstarschool.org](mailto:info@morningstarschool.org)

[www.morningstarschool.org](http://www.morningstarschool.org)

LIKE us on Facebook and Instagram  
@MSSPP

## O.T.H.E.R.S. Membership

The annual membership dues of  
O.T.H.E.R.S. is \$25 per year.  
Annual membership is from  
January 1 to December 31.

Please use enclosed envelope for  
new memberships and renewals.

Thank you!

*Morning Star Catholic School, a mission of the Catholic Diocese of St. Petersburg, recognizes the unique educational needs of students. The administration, faculty, staff, and parents work together to provide an ungraded academic curriculum in which students can achieve their potential academically, socially, and spiritually.*