


**The White Family Foundation  
Grant Request #815  
Morning Star Catholic School  
March 29, 2023**

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<b>Date of grant proposal submission</b>	Wednesday, March 29, 2023
<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>Fax</b>	727-546-9058
<b>Organization Director/Title</b>	Susan M Conza
<b>Contact Person/Title</b>	Susan M Conza
<b>Contact Person's Telephone</b>	727-415-3300
<b>Contact Person's Email</b>	<a href="mailto:sue.conza@morningstarschool.org">sue.conza@morningstarschool.org</a>
<b>Grant Request Amount</b>	\$30,000.00

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

Morning Star Catholic School is a mission of the Catholic Diocese of St. Petersburg and serves students ages 6 to 22, with a variety of learning challenges and related difficulties. The administration, faculty, staff and parents work together to provide a safe, nurturing, educationally-challenging environment in which students can achieve their full potential academically, socially and spiritually. Morning Star provides an individualized curriculum in a structured, small group setting. Our teachers develop educational plans tailored to meet the unique needs of each student. Students may also receive the specialized services of speech and occupational therapy as part of the school day. The student teacher ratio averages 10:1. At the present time, the enrollment capacity of Morning Star School is 110 students.

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**Grant Purpose (one paragraph)**

Morning Star Catholic School offers a highly individualized educational program that includes occupational, speech and music therapy as well as a low teacher-student ratio. We serve students with identified learning and/or developmental challenges.

99 % of our students receive state scholarship funding, now that might sound like an amazing number but 80 % of those families still have a balance due after the scholarship is applied. Our tuition for the 2023-2024 school year is \$13,810 and on average our students receive 8-9 thousand in state scholarship funds, leaving many of our families with a balance due of 4-5 thousand dollars.

The economic make up of our school ranges. Exceptionalities don't discriminate based on income. All of our families want a loving, supportive, individualized, catholic education for their child and they sacrifice a lot to make that happen. Many of our families pay what they can, but even an extra 200 dollars a month doesn't cover the \$4000 that they owe. We don't ever want to turn away a student that needs our school. That is why we would like to request money for tuition assistance so that we can ensure families that desire a catholic education for their child with special needs can have that!

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<b>Annual Organization Budget</b>	\$1,450,000.00
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**Morning Star School of Pinellas Park, Inc.**

4661 80th Avenue N  
Pinellas Park, Florida 33781

June 15, 2023

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan M. Conza". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Susan M. Conza  
Principal



# Morning Star Catholic School of Pinellas Park, Inc.

Grant Request Proposal Submitted to:  
The White Family Foundation

2023

## 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 95+ 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, one-to-one iPads, Smart Boards, music therapy, speech therapy, behavior-based occupational therapy, social emotional learning, 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. We now have three high school classrooms. 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 until August of 2022 when we opened the new Morning Star Achievement Center. The Achievement Center is home to our high school program and the new Transition Program which will expand to two classes beginning in the 2022-2023 school year.

### **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 \$13,810.00 is significantly more than that of typical elementary schools. Although all our families receive some form of state 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 continues to increase with the impact of COVID-19 is still being felt. Since 2020, requests for tuition assistance have continued to rise and although we provided the usual amount of tuition assistance this year for our struggling families, 12% are still needing additional support to pay off their 2022-2023 tuition balance. The request for tuition assistance for the 2023-2024 school year is higher than last year currently. Many of the families requesting support 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 \$30,000 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, Chairperson

Beth Lani

Jack Moore

Kerry Moore

Marianne Pasha

Denise Reilly

Julie Reyes

Mary Ann Smith

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Program Budget: attached

IRS Determination Letter: attached

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

Annual Newsletter: link attached

# Statement of Activities

May 31, 2023

<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	11.07	500.00	604.91
200401010 Tution Earned: Due from Parents	224,787.93	316,681.29	210,800.85
200401011 Earned Occupational Therapy	0.00	0.00	0.00
200401012 Earned Speach Therapy	0.00	0.00	0.00
200401100 SchRegistration Fee: Sch	0.00	0.00	0.00
200401104 Book Fee: Sch	0.00	0.00	0.00
200401106 Application Fee: Sch	430.00	250.00	270.00
200401113 Earned Academic & Book Fees	0.00	0.00	0.00
200401114 Earned Registration Fees	0.00	0.00	0.00
200401115 Earned OT Eval. Fees	0.00	0.00	0.00
200401200 Earned State Scholarships SUFS/F	904,244.12	1,004,443.71	33,745.00
200401201 Earned Gardiner Awards	0.00	0.00	259,153.15
200401202 Earned SUFS Awards	0.00	0.00	0.00
200401203 Earned AAA Scholarships FTC/FE	0.00	0.00	10,445.00
200401400 Earned McKay Awards	0.00	0.00	638,098.00
200401401 Earned McKay & Gardiner Awards	0.00	0.00	0.00
200401501 CSTAG Awards Rec'd: Sch	4,300.00	0.00	0.00
200401502 CF Match Grant Rec'd: Sch	0.00	0.00	0.00
200401504 Earned CSTAG Awards	0.00	0.00	0.00
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	0.00	0.00	(70,825.00)
<b>Tuition &amp; Fees Totals:</b>	<b>1,133,773.12</b>	<b>1,321,875.00</b>	<b>1,082,291.91</b>
<b>Other Operating Revenue</b>			
200401900 Outside Grants Inc: Sch	0.00	0.00	12,843.99
200401965 Outside Grant PPP Loan Forgivene	0.00	0.00	0.00
200416000 Donations: Sch	146,674.42	50,000.00	52,975.70
200416010 Capital Campaign Contributions Us	55,531.11	0.00	1,187,134.89
200416050 Donations: Parent Association Sch	2,470.44	4,600.00	2,189.60
200416065 Donations: Donor Restricted	126,000.00	0.00	0.00
200430000 Diocesan Support: Sch	0.00	0.00	0.00
200460000 Interest Inc: Sch	2,102.14	1,500.00	1,457.87
200460005 Interest Income: CSREA	0.00	2,000.00	1,924.10
200460500 Endowment Earnings: Sch	105,735.16	0.00	(206,188.69)
200461000 Endowment Distributions: Sch	38,103.50	0.00	46,414.22
200490000 Miscellaneous Inc: Sch	11,742.00	10,000.00	10,137.18
200490001 Rebates & Rewards Sch	3,355.70	0.00	0.00

<b>Account Shortcut and Description</b>	<b>YTD Actual</b>	<b>Annual Budget</b>	<b>Last Year Total Actual</b>
Other Operating Revenue Totals:	491,714.47	68,100.00	1,108,888.86
<b>Instructional</b>			
244404003 Student Field Trp Fee: Instruct	0.00	0.00	0.00
244404004 Student Grad Fee: Instruct	0.00	0.00	0.00
244404005 Student Yearbook Sales: Instruct	0.00	250.00	0.00
244404006 Student Uniform Sales: Instruct	3,568.00	3,000.00	3,004.00
244404008 Summer Programs	0.00	0.00	0.00
Instructional Totals:	3,568.00	3,250.00	3,004.00
<b>Other Non Instructional</b>			
284401800 Ext Care: Sch	9,342.00	15,000.00	13,638.50
284401804 Ext Care Registration Fee: Sch	0.00	0.00	0.00
286451000 Cafeteria Inc	12,165.00	10,000.00	10,245.00
287404001 Student Act Fee: Camps	2,100.00	0.00	5,280.00
Other Non Instructional Totals:	23,607.00	25,000.00	29,163.50
<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	109,304.34	85,000.00	81,331.00
296450300 Rent Inc: Sch	0.00	0.00	0.00
Supplemental Operations Totals:	109,304.34	85,000.00	81,331.00
Income Totals:	1,761,966.93	1,503,225.00	2,304,679.27

## 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	414,376.68	425,001.51	451,694.42
244510554 Wages: Lay Teacher-Mid Sch Instr	0.00	0.00	0.00
244510555 Wages: Lay Teacher-Aide Instruct	64,351.41	82,736.64	65,558.19
244510556 Wages: Lay Teacher-Special Instruct	184,569.18	235,985.51	170,337.90
244510557 Wages: Lay Teacher-Subst Instruct	10,294.36	0.00	16,544.00
244531600 Technology: Instruct	953.06	100.00	18,477.04
244531800 Textbks & Apps: Instruct	1,102.62	100.00	7,020.75
244531900 Instructional Supp: Instruct	2,579.87	100.00	5,511.66
244531901 Workbooks: Instruct	1,530.86	100.00	1,763.16
244531902 Testing & Scoring: Instruct	1,915.32	100.00	2,101.70
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	75.09	100.00	124.45
244532700 Sem & Conf: Instruct	0.00	0.00	0.00
244532800 Prof Develop: Instruct	255.00	100.00	2,613.05
244564003 Field Trp Exp: Instruct	0.00	0.00	0.00
244564004 Grad Exp: Instruct	240.64	1,000.00	147.61



**Account Shortcut and Description**

	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>	<u>Last Year Total Actual</u>
244564005 Yearbook Exp: Instruct	0.00	500.00	0.00
244564006 Uniform Exp: Instruct	4,201.04	3,000.00	2,672.50
Instructional Totals:	686,445.13	748,923.66	744,566.43

**Other Non Instructional**

284510500 Wages: Lay Ext Care	13,846.84	10,000.00	6,900.00
284532501 Food & Beverage: Ext Care	780.00	1,000.00	904.65
285564000 Student Act Exp: Student Prog	2,196.83	500.00	443.42
286532501 Food & Beverage: Cafeteria	18,410.00	10,000.00	13,351.06
287510500 Wages: Lay Camps	0.00	0.00	2,734.50
287564001 Act Exp: Camps	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Non Instructional Totals:	35,233.67	21,500.00	24,333.63

**Other Ministries & Organizations**

221567003 Parent's Association	0.00	0.00	0.00
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**Administration**

225510503 Wages: Lay Bonus/Other Admin Sc	0.00	0.00	6,625.00
225510550 Wages: Lay Prin/AP/DIR Admin Sc	76,747.00	83,724.07	78,984.96
225510551 Wages: Lay Office Admin Sch	37,758.26	37,100.00	35,000.16
225512000 Employ Taxes: Admin Sch	0.00	0.00	0.00
225512001 Employ Taxes: FICA Admin Sch	11,222.75	12,419.33	11,440.39
225512002 Employ Taxes: SSI/M Admin Sch	47,986.99	53,103.33	46,885.97
225513000 Pension: Lay Admin Sch	61,415.14	71,416.52	72,985.14
225513100 Health Benefits: Lay Admin Sch	143,558.50	183,600.00	161,057.00
225513200 Group Life Ins: Admin Sch	2,319.14	1,344.00	3,337.16
225513300 Disability Ins: Admin Sch	3,239.93	3,456.00	4,488.02
225513400 ReEmploy Ins: Admin Sch	3,558.94	2,520.00	3,744.12
225513500 Workers Comp: Admin Sch	13,930.95	7,177.24	9,189.12
225522000 Tuition Asstance: Admin Sch	0.00	0.00	0.00
225530001 Insurance: Prop & Liab Admin Sch	8,952.24	30,350.23	14,569.11
225530003 Insurance: Student Admin Sch	686.00	609.00	609.00
225531000 Property Taxes: Admin Sch	0.00	0.00	0.00
225531500 Office Exp: Admin Sch	1,475.53	3,000.00	3,727.18
225531502 Postage: Admin Sch	866.50	1,200.00	729.68
225531503 Copier: Admin Sch	1,590.10	1,500.00	1,309.08
225531508 Dues & Memberships	0.00	1,000.00	683.13
225531600 Technology: Admin Sch	1,478.44	5,000.00	3,415.19
225531603 Software: Admin Sch	3,530.94	2,500.00	3,063.66
225531606 Technical Support: Admin Sch	15,505.16	17,295.77	16,316.76
225531607 Technology: Leased Equip Admin S	2,636.78	3,000.00	2,964.51
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	1,033.94	3,000.00	1,390.87
225532605 Gifts: Admin Sch	2,099.95	5,000.00	4,796.42
225532900 Prof Licenses & Accred: Admin Sch	300.00	300.00	260.00
225533200 Dues & Mbrship Fee: Admin Sch	0.00	0.00	0.00
225534000 Legal & Prof Svc: Admin Sch	400.00	0.00	0.00
225534001 Audit & Accounting Svc: Admin Sch	17,900.00	17,900.00	12,407.50
225534003 Payroll Processing Fee: Admin Sch	3,559.27	3,000.00	3,628.77

<b>Account Shortcut and Description</b>	<b>YTD Actual</b>	<b>Annual Budget</b>	<b>Last Year Total Actual</b>
225534004 FACTS/RenWeb Fees	1,937.04	1,750.00	2,132.34
225535000 Safe Env/Background Ck: Admin S	23.73	150.00	0.00
225535500 Marketing/Pub Rel: Admin Sch	1,205.02	1,500.00	0.00
225536000 Donations to Oth Org: Admin Sch	0.00	0.00	0.00
225536500 Contract Labor: Admin Sch	14,040.00	15,000.00	12,450.00
225536501 School Security Officer	0.00	0.00	0.00
225540501 Telephone: Admin Sch	6,073.09	2,800.00	2,694.06
225540502 Mobile Devices: Admin Sch	346.19	650.00	622.35
225540503 Broadband: Admin Sch	839.76	850.00	694.12
225564004 Grad Exp: Admin Sch	0.00	0.00	0.00
225566001 Service Charges: Admin Sch	261.00	100.00	149.00
225566004 Merchant Service Fee: Admin Sch	1,976.33	1,000.00	1,820.04
225566200 Bad Debt Expense	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
225590000 Miscellaneous Exp: Admin Sch	968.65	1,000.00	638.25
225610000 Fixed Asset Purchases: Admin Sch	0.00	0.00	0.00
228535500 Marketing/Pub Rel: Develop	0.00	0.00	617.40
228563000 Prog Fundraising Exp: Develop Sch	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Administration Totals:</b>	<b>491,423.26</b>	<b>580,315.49</b>	<b>530,425.46</b>

#### **Facilities/PPE**

230510502 Wages: Lay Non-Exempt Facili Sch	12,351.05	14,757.60	11,192.55
230540001 Electric: Facili Sch	26,106.56	25,000.00	19,651.57
230540002 Water & Sewer: Facili Sch	7,632.92	5,500.00	5,149.73
230540003 Waste Management: Facili Sch	2,922.15	2,500.00	4,145.00
230543000 Bldg Rep & Maintenance: Facili Sch	3,419.11	2,500.00	3,081.88
230543001 Maintenance Supp: Facili Sch	4,082.18	4,000.00	4,312.51
230543002 HVAC: Facili Sch	5,807.50	1,500.00	925.00
230543004 Plumbing: Facili Sch	3,129.43	2,000.00	2,205.70
230543005 Security & Fire: Facili Sch	9,369.87	5,000.00	6,233.45
230543006 Furn & Fixt R&M: Facili Sch	61.59	1,000.00	0.00
230543008 Building Structure: Facili Sch	0.00	0.00	0.00
230543011 Cleaning Services: Facili Sch	4,736.00	5,000.00	4,545.00
230543014 Cleaning Products: Facili Sch	9.39	1,000.00	75.68
230543500 Grounds Maintenance: Facili Sch	13,628.72	2,000.00	712.41
230543501 Lawn & Tree Svc: Facili Sch	6,950.00	5,000.00	6,105.00
230543508 Fert/Pest Cont: Facilities Sch	1,050.00	1,000.00	900.00
230620015 Capital Expenditures	0.00	2,500.00	0.00
230620016 Capital Expenditures: Roofing	0.00	0.00	2,068.00
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

<b>Account Shortcut and Description</b>	<b>YTD Actual</b>	<b>Annual Budget</b>	<b>Last Year Total Actual</b>
230620027 Capital Expenditures: Paving	0.00	0.00	0.00
230620035 Capital Expenditures: Other	0.00	0.00	0.00
Facilities/PPE Totals:	101,256.47	80,257.60	71,303.48
<b>Supplemental Operations</b>			
295563100 Ent Wide Fundraising: Maj F/R Sch	0.00	500.00	500.00
295563106 Major Fundraising Exp: Auctions	9,658.60	8,500.00	9,840.46
296543000 Bldg Rep & Maint: Rent Oper Sch	881.52	0.00	0.00
Supplemental Operations Totals:	10,540.12	9,000.00	10,340.46
Expense Totals:	1,324,898.65	1,439,996.75	1,380,969.46
<b>Income - Expense:</b>	437,068.28	63,228.25	923,709.81



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

**LOOKING AHEAD**

August 8th

First Day of School

October 31th

Trunk or Treat

Jan. 29th – Feb. 4th

Catholic Schools Week

May 23th

High School Graduation

May 25th

8th Grade Graduation

May 26th

Last Day of School

**LOOK INSIDE:**

Morning Star 2  
Achievement  
Center

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Alumni Club

Halloween & 6  
Christmas

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Schools Week

Graduations 8-9

Auction 10

Memoriam & 11  
In Gratitude

# Morning Star School

## Pinellas Park

F a l l 2 0 2 2

### Principal's Perspective

Dear Morning Star Family,

When I reflect upon the 2021-2022 school year, one word comes to mind-perseverance. Perseverance is defined as the effort required to do something and continue doing it, even if it's difficult. 2021-2022 presented challenges and obstacles, but we moved forward as a school community. Our students overcome obstacles every day, from working on a new math skill, learning to tie their shoes or making a new friend, they continue to push forward. If I could pick a book to encompass our school, it would be *The Little Engine That Could*.

We welcomed our faculty, staff, and students back on campus with less restrictions but still in the shadow of COVID. Our school community grew to 89 students. We welcomed new teachers, Mrs. Erin Galley, Ms. Cassandra Crawford, and Ms. Paula Malinowski and Teacher Assistant, Allison Carvalho. Each teacher comes to us with a wealth of knowledge and the joy of teaching. Mrs. Alanna Reynolds Comerford joined the staff as our Office Manager.

In Fall 2021, our parent community donated countless hours to raise over \$67,000 for our Funding Our Future Campaign to support the building of the Achievement Center. For the Annual Auction Fundraiser in March, our parents took that same spirit and generated over \$70,000 with \$21,000 from Raise the Paddle going directly to the Capital Campaign.

In the spring, eight Morning Star Catholic School students completed their sacramental preparation classes. We were thrilled to have these students receive First Communion and/or Confirmation at Sacred Heart Catholic Church during a school mass officiated by Bishop Lynch. Both Morning Star and Sacred Heart Catholic School's student body were able to celebrate this wonderful event in our students' faith journey. As we found ourselves in the middle of construction and lacking space, Sacred Heart Catholic Church generously offered their Parish Center for our 8th Grade Graduation and High School Prom. The Morning Star community is blessed to have Father Kevin Yarnell supporting our mission and students in countless ways.

This past school year, I witnessed the outpouring of support from so many. From the Cathedral of St Jude the Apostle who gives their space for our auction, the Best Buddies programs of Espiritu Santo Catholic School, St. Petersburg Catholic High School student volunteers and the Amigos at Clearwater Central Catholic High School, the Advisory Board who gives of their time, talent and treasures, and every donor big and small. Each of these entities in their own way helps create a place where our students can soar.

It was Mother Teresa who said, "I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples." We are fortunate to have so many supporters cast their stones for Morning Star's benefit, and we eagerly look forward to the great waves of success to come.

*Many Blessings,*

*Susan M. Conza, Principal*

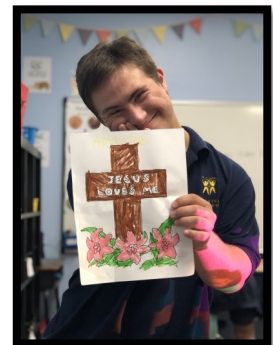
# Morning Star Achievement Center

As the 2021-2022 school year began, we were happy to finally begin construction on the Morning Star Achievement Center! Fundraising during a global pandemic was not ideal but we kept focused on our goal. We held a variety of fundraisers online and in person and miraculously raised enough money to begin construction. The uncertainties of 2020 could not stop the determination of all our supporters to raise the funds necessary to make this dream a reality.

On November 2, 2021, we held a groundbreaking ceremony that was attended by many dignitaries from the Diocese, the Mayor of Pinellas Park, as well as our community supporters, board members, families, and students. This gathering brought together those who helped bring the dream to fruition. On November 15, the construction fencing went up and the project began. Throughout the process students were fascinated with all the large pieces of construction equipment and were excited to watch the building slowly come together. It was officially completed on August 23<sup>rd</sup> and we were thrilled to move in to the new building. Students and teachers say it feels like a “real” high school.

Although construction is almost complete, the task of raising the money is far from over. Price increases for supplies, change orders, and supply chain issues all added to the increase in cost. The Diocese generously granted Morning Star a \$500,000 Bridge Loan so we could complete the project. Now that the building is done, we must begin paying on the loan.

There are no words that can express how thankful I am to everyone who helped make this happen. A dedication and blessing of the Morning Star Achievement Center will be planned for early fall. Invitations will be sent out as soon as the date is determined. We can't wait to share this amazing learning space with all of you.





## 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*

# Students Receive their Sacraments



Throughout the 2021-2022 School year, Mrs. Erin Galley and Ms. Maureen Cristal prepared 8 students to receive various sacraments. This past May, we were blessed to celebrate them with a Sacrament Mass. Thank you to Most Rev. Robert N. Lynch, Bishop Emeritus for celebrating with us. Thank you to Father Kevin, Father Vijay, and Father Brad for celebrating with us, as well. We are so blessed to have a community of parents, family, friends, teachers and staff that place importance on the sacraments for each of our students.



## 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!



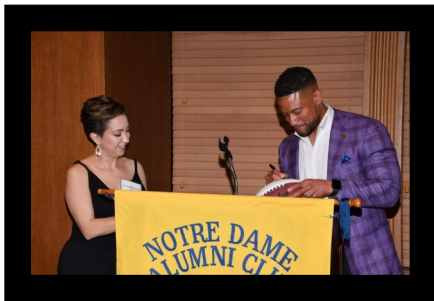
### Coca-Cola Gives

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!



# Notre Dame Alumni Club

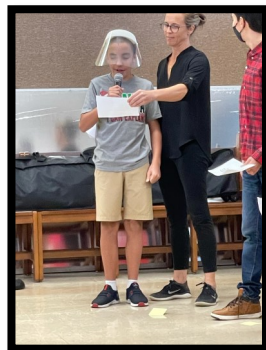
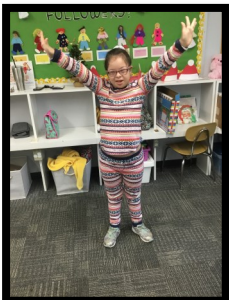
On May 9, 2022, The Notre Dame Club of Greater Tampa Bay held a “Conversation with Dick Corbett Head Football Coach Marcus Freeman” that benefited Morning Star School. Mr. Freeman is the 30th head coach in Notre Dame’s history. The event was an intimate gathering at The University Club in Tampa where ND Alumni Association Executive Director Dolly Duffy spoke with Coach Freeman and facilitated an exclusive Q&A. Coach Freeman generously donated an autographed football that was raffled off that evening with the proceeds supporting Morning Star School. The ND Club invited representatives of Morning Star School to attend the event: Mr. Chris Pastura, Superintendent, Dr. Ann Davis, Associate Superintendent, Mr. & Mrs. Keith Galley, Advisory Board member Mrs. Denise Reilly and Principal Sue Conza. We thank Advisory Board member, Mrs. Julie Reyes, for her hard work and dedication in connecting Morning Star with the Notre Dame Club and securing Morning Star as the beneficiary of this lovely evening. Mrs. Reyes, on behalf of the Notre Dame Club of Greater Tampa Bay, presented Mrs. Conza with a check for \$4,685. We are so grateful for this generous donation.





# Halloween

Halloween at Morning Star is always a FRIGHTFULLY good time! Our teachers and staff surprised the students and dressed up as their favorite Disney Characters with Mrs. Conza as the Fairy Godmother. The students also had the opportunity to dress in their costumes while parents and families gathered for our Annual Trunk or Treat! With over 20 families participating, our students received an abundance of treats to start off their Halloween night.



# Christmas

The Christmas Spirit was alive and well at Morning Star this year! Our Annual Christmas Program was complete with a beautiful nativity scene with readings and songs from our students.

Through the month of December, 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.

# Catholic Schools Week

Every year, Catholic Schools across the country participate in a week of faith, spirited activities, and dress up days. The theme for Catholic Schools Week 2022 was "Catholic Schools: Faith. Excellence. Service."

Each day acknowledged an integral part of our community including; our students, community helpers, our nation, vocations, and our faculty, staff and volunteers.

This year, our students and staff celebrated by dressing up in our best superhero gear, team spirit, patriotic pride, and school spirit! Students and staff also participated in a very fun color coded Field Day, Drum Circle, and enjoyed a delicious pancake breakfast.



# Congrats, 8th Grade Grads!

Seven students graduated from the eighth grade at Morning Star Catholic School on Thursday, May 26th in a wonderful ceremony in the Sacred Heart Parish Center. Students performed a song for their families and the MSS staff and told us their favorite memories of their time at our school. Their teachers, Mrs. Jennifer Ochoa– Rowland and Mrs. Erin Galley, thanked them and shared kind words from their classmates. 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 continue at Morning Star Catholic School for their High School journey. Wherever their plans take them for next year, we are so proud!



David



Garrett



Jacob



Alok



Alonzo



Cayden



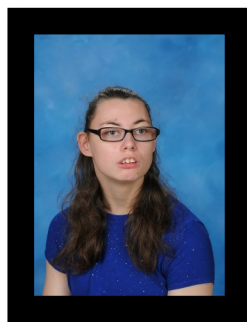
Giana

# Congrats, High School Grads!

The 2022 Graduating Class from Morning Star Catholic School included five students who worked incredibly hard during their tenure here. Keith, Vanessa, Ryan, Matthew, and Benton were celebrated in a special service at Sacred Heart Catholic Church on May 23, 2022. We were blessed to be surrounded by family, friends, staff, Fr. Kevin and Associate Superintendent Dr. Ann Davis to celebrate the achievements of our graduates. Each student received a Certificate of Completion for their time at Morning Star School. All five of the graduates will be returning to Morning Star to further their education in the Transition Program, and we couldn't be more excited to welcome them back on campus! Wherever God leads our graduates in the coming years, we pray for their continued growth and success in all of their endeavors!



Keith



Vanessa



Ryan



Matthew



Benton

# Tuition Assistance

Morning Star Catholic School is embarking on creating a needs-based tuition assistance program. The majority of our students are eligible for tuition assistance through the Florida Empowerment Scholarship for Unique Abilities (FES-UA), a state funded scholarship for students with varying exceptionalities. Unfortunately, this does not cover the entire tuition amount and many of our families are left owing up to \$6,000. Due to financial constraints, paying this amount is near impossible for some of our families.

Parents choose Morning Star because traditional school has failed to meet the needs of their child. They come here for the small class sizes, catholic education and an environment that supports their individual growth. All of our students enjoy a low teacher to student ratio, occupational therapy, speech therapy, social skills development, music therapy, art, and PE. In order to provide all of these services to our students, tuition rates are comparatively higher than a traditional catholic school.

When new families walk through our doors, it is our mission as Catholics to serve them regardless of economic ability to pay. It is my hope that with the generous contributions from our supporters we can establish a fund that assists families for years to come.





# Annual Auction Fundraiser 2022

The 2022 Annual Auction Fundraiser was a lively event that we are so glad can return each year. Our Auction returned to the St. Jude Cathedral Parish Center this year. Our guests enjoyed a wonderful dinner from Da Sesto Italiano Ristorante and a live and silent auction. 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!



# 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*
- All who donated to our *#iGiveCatholic* and *FundingOurFuture* Campaign
- Bishop Gregory Parkes
- Mr. Chris Pastura, Superintendent
- 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
- Blessed Sacrament Catholic church Ave Maria Guild
- Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court of St. John Vianney #1944
- Canon and Lisa Coleman
- Dairy-Mix, Inc.
- Insoft & Hurst Orthodontics
- Guardian Trust
- The Jack Moore Group, LLC
- The Murphy Family
- The Notre Dame Club of Greater Tampa Bay
- Clearwater Central Catholic High School
- Father Kevin Yarnell and Sacred Heart Catholic Church
- Pinellas Park Rotary Club
- 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: Jennifer Brooks, Linda Champion, Beth Lani, Jack and Kerry Moore, Marianne Pasha, Denise Reilly, Julie Reyes, Mary Ann Smith and Karen Vogel

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## In Memoriam

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

Lorraine Davis  
Paul King  
Eric Mickunas  
Joe Nuzzo  
Irene Ochoa  
Antoinette Perry



## 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.*

**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