

Morning Star
CATHOLIC SCHOOL



OPPORTUNITIES
FOR GIVING

ABOUT US

Morning Star Catholic School is truly a remarkable place that has a rich history of serving God's children with special needs.

Believing that every child should have the opportunity to learn, former Archbishop Joseph P. Hurley tasked the Sisters of St. Joseph of St. Augustine to pioneer five Morning Star schools - these became Florida's first schools for children with intellectual disabilities. Under the direction of Sister Elizabeth Marie Stoup, Morning Star Catholic School was officially established in the College Park neighborhood of Orlando in 1960.

Students at Morning Star Catholic School are considered to be intellectually disabled with varying exceptionalities. Intellectual disability is characterized by a significant cognitive impairment combined with limitations in the adaptive skills needed to live, work, and play in the community. Intellectual disabilities can be caused by any condition that impairs development of the brain before birth, during birth, or in childhood years.

Much of our success is demonstrated in the product of our students. As our students vary significantly in ability, success is unique to each individual and can range drastically, from a student's ability to carry on a conversation and maintain eye contact, to achieving academic success and retaining employment.

It is our goal to ensure each student can reach his or her potential and become an integral part of their community.

We accomplish this by providing each child with special needs a more energized outlook on a life filled with possibilities. We work to inspire students to focus beyond limitations and encourage individual responsibility, in order to ultimately enable our students to function more independently and become active and effective participants in today's world.

OUR MISSION

Morning Star Catholic School, founded in Catholic tradition, is committed to providing each student with special needs the opportunity to discover their gifts and achieve their personal best as children of God.



MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT & PRINCIPAL

Greetings Supporters,

We are so thankful for your support and partnership in our mission to educate and support students with unique abilities and talents to achieve their personal best. As you know, many families and businesses have not recovered financially due to the effects of the pandemic and it is more important than ever for us to come together and help our brothers and sisters that may be struggling. The theme for the school year for all Orlando Catholic Schools is solidarity.

Solidarity in the Catholic faith is defined as recognizing others as our brothers and sisters and actively working for their good. I ask and encourage you to please join with us again to support the Morning Star Catholic mission and help provide the extra support necessary for our families, so their children can receive the best education and services available.



**Your donation strengthens our school programs
and would be well used and much appreciated.**

Please consider supporting Morning Star Catholic School by: giving towards student financial aid, student therapy, technology, our Life Skills program, or our Annual Fund.

Information on all these efforts are included within this brochure. Together, and with God by our side, we will meet our goals and the needs of our community.

Blessings
Thomas Doyle
President

Dr. Alicia Abbey
Principal



PROGRAMS & SERVICES

At Morning Star Catholic, we evaluate each student's needs and capabilities on an individual basis. Our fully certified teachers use a complete standards-based curriculum, designed specifically for students with special learning needs, in an interactive and technology-rich environment.

THE NEED

We need your help to continue making our programs and services a reality for our existing and future students!

At Morning Star Catholic School, we work with each student, and partner with parents, therapists and medical providers to afford each child the opportunity to achieve their personal best. We offer small class sizes to ensure that our students receive the attention they deserve and extensive therapy offerings onsite including speech, occupational, physical, and behavioral therapies, in addition to art, dance, and music therapy. All of these individualized support services drive up our cost per student.



LIFE SKILLS

Our on-campus lab (designed as a small home space) includes a kitchen, living room, bedroom, bathroom, and utility area. This space allows all students to learn practical, hands-on life skills, within the safety and security of their school. Students of all ages and abilities are able to observe and learn cooking techniques, how to set a table, clean, do laundry, and more. Additionally, lessons in nutrition, money management, basic personal budgeting, and time management are conducted within our lab space.

Eligible High School students are also able to receive on-campus job training, which includes: filling out an application, writing a resume, and working on interviewing skills. Our students are then able to travel off-campus to conduct supervised on the job training with community-based business partners.



THERAPY

Therapy interventions are essential to helping our students navigate and overcome varying difficulties including: communication delays, the ability to maintain self-regulation, and managing emotions. Morning Star Catholic School tailors therapies for each of our students' unique needs.

We work with top-end providers for speech, occupational, physical, and behavioral therapy – allowing them to come on-campus during the school day to assist our students both in and outside of the classroom. Additionally, we provide art, dance, and music therapy to every student to address their physical, emotional, cognitive, and social needs.



TECHNOLOGY

Each student has multiple opportunities throughout the day to interact with technology at Morning Star Catholic. Through the use of computers, tablets, touch board instruction, adaptive equipment, and online resources we provide our students with the technology they need to succeed.

Every year we anticipate costs for technology within our budget. We account for things like repairing and replacing old hardware, increasing the quantity of hardware needed based on student enrollment, and accumulating any adaptive equipment our students may need in order to properly utilize available technology. Much of our curriculum is technology driven (online and/or subscription based) which we incur a cost for annually.

We offer tuition assistance to ensure that children and families of all economic means are able to receive exceptional care and a quality education. While the majority of our students qualify for financial assistance through grants, including the McKay Scholarship Program and Personal Learning Scholarship Accounts (PLSA), it does not cover the full cost of what it takes to educate a student with special needs.

TUITION ASSISTANCE



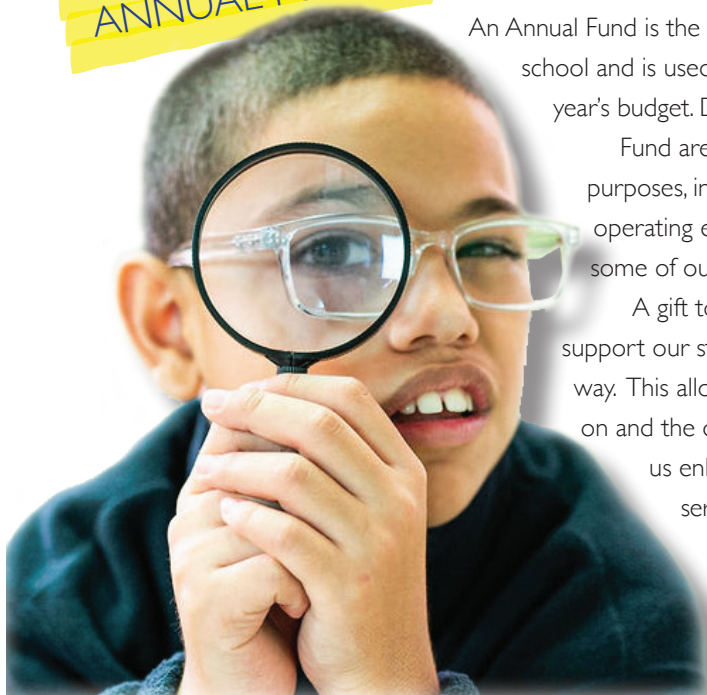
Click on the QR code to support Morning Star Catholic School.



ANNUAL FUND

An Annual Fund is the financial lifeblood of any school and is used to support the current year's budget. Donations to the Annual Fund are used for a multitude of purposes, including meeting current operating expenses and addressing some of our school's biggest needs.

A gift to the Annual Fund helps support our students in an immediate way. This allows us to keep the lights on and the doors open. It also helps us enhance our programs and services, while maintaining our facilities to the highest standard.



Most of our students qualify for scholarships that are unique for students with special needs through the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program. However, educating a student with unique abilities requires highly qualified teachers, aides, therapists, special curriculum software and hardware in the classrooms. For the majority of our students, the scholarship only covers roughly half of the cost of tuition, leaving a substantial gap. About half of our families apply and qualify for financial aid because of the economic hardship they face due to the high cost of therapy services and medical bills paid out of pocket. Because Morning Star Catholic does not turn any family away regardless of their financial status, all families are granted tuition assistance averaging about \$5,000 per family, creating a big dent in our financial aid budget of \$150,000.

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Each student's needs and capabilities are evaluated on an individual basis. Our fully certified teachers use a complete standards-based curriculum, designed specifically for students with special learning needs, in an interactive and technology-rich environment. That's why we need your help to continue making our programs and services a reality for our existing and future students!



Financial Aid Per Student

90%

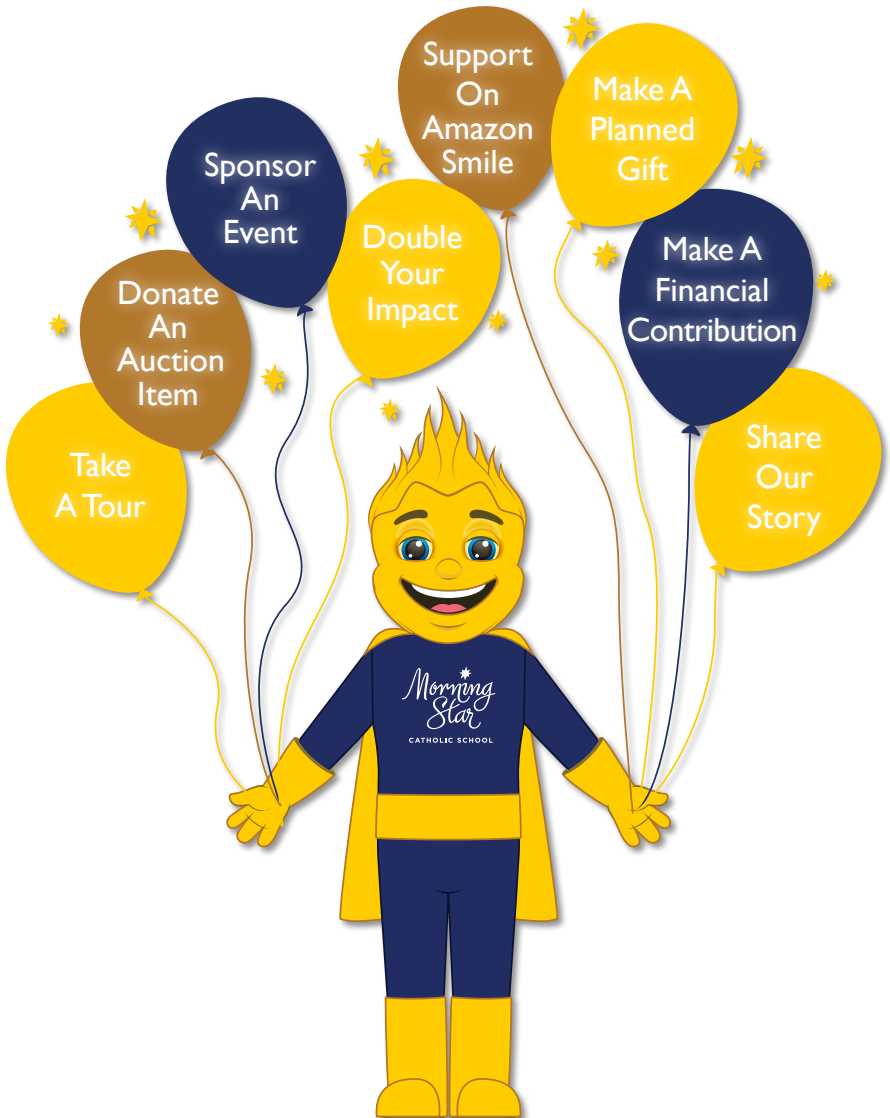
of financial aid each student receives is from Advancement services (Fashion Show, Golf Tournament, Annual Fund, Giving Tuesday, etc.)



The remaining 10% comes from parish support and other school revenue

GET INVOLVED

Want to get involved and learn more about Morning Star Catholic?
Contact our Advancement team at advancement@morningstarcatholic.org



Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

2 Corinthians 9:6-8