

Unique, Inspiring, Grounded In Faith...Since 1956



"Building A Brighter Future" CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



Morning Star School

Morning Star School in Jacksonville, Florida serves children K—8TH grade with learning disabilities, attention deficit disorders, autism spectrum disorders, and mild intellectual disabilities. Fully accredited by the Florida Catholic Conference, we are the only special education school in the Diocese of St. Augustine.

Our "Building A Brighter Future" campaign will raise funds to expand our facilities to include 9th—12th grades, offering a high school program for our students. We invite parents, alumni, foundations, community members and all friends of Morning Star School to take part in building for our future.



*Helping
Each Child
Discover Their
Unique Talents*

Reflecting on **OUR PAST**

For the past 60 years, Morning Star School has sat as a humble, tucked away beacon of hope for families whose children have specific learning needs. Founded in Florida by the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1956, the Jacksonville campus opened its doors in 1958 and operated as an agency of Catholic Charities.



Utilizing individualized educational strategies and stressing moral values, Morning Star School caters to the needs of each child. We prepare our students for life by developing a sense of individual responsibility and global awareness that empowers each of them to become active and effective participants in today's world.

Our Mission **OUR VISION**

The mission of Morning Star School is to provide a strong foundation of faith, service, and academics for students with learning differences in an atmosphere of Christian love, acceptance and respect; encouraging all students to reach their full potential.

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There is no organization in the area offering the services we provide.

Our program teaches the same curriculum as other Catholic schools in the Diocese of St. Augustine but offers personalized programs and adapted curriculum implemented to fit each child's specific learning challenge. This includes explicit individualized instruction in core classes such as reading and math, along with life and social skills training, taught by highly qualified teachers, using specialized materials and instructional techniques. Our students enjoy a bright, happy and loving learning environment where they experience the joy of developing the talents God has given them.

The **OPPORTUNITY**

For over five decades our facilities have served as an ideal base for Morning Star School operations. But to continue serving the needs of our students, their families, and the community, we must build for the future by expanding our facilities to include a high school program.

Each year Morning Star School parents search for an appropriate high school placement for their children with disabilities. It is an extremely stressful time for both parent and student as there are few high school programs in Northeast Florida serving learning disabilities — and none that exactly match the learning and social needs of many of our students.

The new building will increase the number of educational spaces allowing us to offer our existing students the ability to continue at Morning Star School throughout 12th grade. It will also make more efficient use of our existing space by unifying all students on a single campus. The new building will provide much needed room to grow our educational program - a valuable resource for our community of families who currently do not have many options for their children with learning disabilities.

Because the need is so immediate, Morning Star School will offer a 9th grade class this year. The middle school classrooms and the new 9th grade class will be offered at a nearby diocesan school, due to lack of space on our existing campus.



The PLAN

The school is currently situated in one building that accommodates administrative offices, classroom spaces and a small gymnasium. We will expand our curriculum by adding an adjoining building on



Proposed building plans

our current property with four middle school classrooms, four high school classrooms and a media and technology center. We will begin construction in October 2016, with completion expected in time to offer classes the Fall of 2017.



Proposed building plans

The estimated project cost is \$1.5 million. That includes site preparation, architectural fees, furnishings, drainage, utility extensions, and campaign expenses. We must conduct a capital campaign for the funds needed to support the project.

Commemorative naming opportunities are available to recognize facilities gifts of \$25,000 or more.



There is no high school program in Northeast Florida, Catholic or non-Catholic, meeting the unique learning needs and social requirements of our students.

In a traditional high school setting, the graduation rate for students with learning disabilities is 52%
(Education Week, 2015)



Your contributions can make THIS A REALITY

The "Building a Brighter Future" campaign will ensure our students the opportunity to graduate from high school and obtain a high school diploma. It will also allow us to keep all Morning Star students on a single campus throughout their school years.

JOIN US

Morning Star School offers a Catholic education to kids with learning disabilities. By participating in our comprehensive campaign, you will empower Morning Star School to light the way forward for a new generation of high school graduates. Please invest now, and help us provide our students with a much needed educational solution from Kindergarten through 12th grade. Monthly or multi-year pledges are welcome and appreciated.



Bishop Felipe Estevez; Father Michael Houle, Episcopal Vicar; and Deacon Scott Conway, the Superintendent of Catholic Schools are in full support of our efforts.

"We have a responsibility to provide all children with a high school education. Morning Star School provides an immeasurable amount of hope for parents and it places countless students in an environment where they can be successful." Jean Barnes, Principal

Your Philanthropic Investment Will...

- ★ Establish a much needed high school option for students with learning disabilities.
- ★ Establish more efficient use of our existing school by unifying all students on a single campus; a needed change that provides students with a sense of belonging and a key component to educational success.
- ★ Provide a safe, familiar and positive learning environment for our families and students throughout their school years.
- ★ Remove the fear and anxiety our parents and students experience today when faced with the challenge of selecting a high school program.
- ★ Continue to help us fully live out the Morning Star Mission and the Mission of the Catholic Church to provide a strong foundation of faith, service, and academics to all children, including those with learning differences - from kindergarten through high school.
- ★ Offer our students an opportunity to graduate from high school and gain social and life skills that enable them to attend college, obtain employment and participate actively and independently in the community.
- ★ Honor the Sisters of St. Joseph, who opened and staffed Morning Star School, by living out their Charism of union and reconciliation "that all may be one".



Meet NOVA, our pet therapy dog. She came to the school as a puppy and now provides behavioral and emotional support to students. NOVA coaxes students with anxiety out of their cars in the morning, has lunch with students that have met specific behavior goals, and even enjoys listening to stories read by students who are fearful of reading in front of a classroom.

At Morning Star, we work with each individual student, and partner with parents, therapists and medical providers to provide each child the opportunity to reach his or her highest potential. Our students are from diverse backgrounds and come to us from Duval, Clay, St. Johns, Nassau, and Flagler Counties. We welcome them regardless of religious affiliation.



For more information, please contact
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Make an online donation today at **www.morningstar-jax.org**

Morning Star School is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization which makes all donations to us tax deductible.
Please consider making a contribution to our "Building A Brighter Future" Campaign.