

June 2020

Morning Star celebrates second graduating class



Front: Jodasea “Jojo” Peterson, Taylor Bailey, Meracle Smith.
Middle row: Elio El Hajj, Luke Williams. Back row: Raphael
Ceniceros, Lorenzo Hall, Simon Mankins, Daniel “Danny” Rogers



Graduates of the Class of 2020 at Morning Star School

Nine very proud students in bright red caps and gowns received well-earned diplomas during an intimate commencement ceremony celebrating the 2020 class of Morning Star School, a Catholic educational facility that serves children from kindergarten through 12th grade with learning differences including intellectual and developmental challenges.

The in-person graduation event was a special time for the special school as it was only the second in the Morning Star’s history. The graduation ceremony would normally have taken place at Bishop Snyder High

School, whose students often serve as mentors to the Morning Star students. However, due to the Coronavirus pandemic, it seemed prudent to offer Morning Star students a small celebratory gathering on their own campus May 21.

Seven of the students were in Morning Star’s original high school class and began their studies as freshmen, even before their high school facility was finished, while two joined the class as sophomores. Elio El Hajj began his academic work at Morning Star in the first grade, and Jodasea “Jojo” Peterson, has been with the school since third grade.

Even with the pandemic, parents were treated to a host of graduation activities. Official cap and gown photos of the students were taken May 19. On May 20, Morning Star graduates joined Bishop Snyder High School seniors at a special evening baccalaureate Mass at St. Luke’s Catholic Church. Faculty, graduates, and two family members were invited to join the small, unique commencement ceremony in front of Morning Star School May 21. CDC social distancing guidelines were followed during all events.