

# The Florida Times-Union

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## Good News: Weaver Fund comes through for Morning Star



By Julie Kanner

**Delores Barr Weaver**, through the Delores Barr Weaver Fund, is donating \$250,000 to the **Morning Star School** to build its new Media and Learning Center.

*Morning Star School's Bishop Joseph P. Hurley building.*

In addition, Weaver has agreed to match other donations up to \$50,000 to help Morning Star complete its campaign to build a high school.

Morning Star School is a K-12 special-education school for students “who have learning differences, attention deficit disorders, autism spectrum disorders and intellectual differences.” At one time the school only went to the eighth grade, but in 2016 a \$1.6 million campaign began to build a high school. The campaign was planned for completion in five years.

Prior to Weaver's donation, \$1.25 million had been raised and the new school “building nearly doubles the size of the existing campus.” With the gift from Weaver and the plan to match additional donations for a total of \$100,000, the funds raised will complete the campaign.



*Artist rendering of Morning Star School's new Media and Learning Center*

“The outpouring of generosity from the Jacksonville philanthropic community has been amazing, but as we approached our fourth campaign year we still needed \$350,000 to reach our goal,” said Maria Johnson, Morning Star School's director of development. “We used savings and a loan to build our new high school, so completing the campaign on time was crucial for future success. To receive a call from The Community Foundation saying Mrs. Weaver wanted to help was thrilling. We were honored and overjoyed.”