



ANNUAL REPORT

2021–2022

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MISSION STATEMENT

We are an influential school of collaborators, innovators, and explorers **grounded in Christian faith**, empowering co-creators of tomorrow.

VISION STATEMENT

Our vision is for every Maranatha student to be **highly educated, Christ-centered**, and **biblically anchored** world-changers.

OUR CULTURE IN ACTION

Maranatha is not just a school, it's a community with a **heartbeat** and a **soul**. Each student and staff member breathe life into and contribute to what makes up the culture of the school. Together we commit to become **Spirit Driven Leaders, Curious Explorers, Impactful Innovators, Courageous Changemakers, Gracious Community Builders, and Empathic Problem Solvers.**

DID YOU KNOW?

The Did You Know? sections throughout this piece are designed for us to explore how Maranatha is walking out its mission statement by looking at a few superlative accomplishments over the last year. For these successes, there is a student **exploring** a new and challenging path, a staff member **collaborating** with others to find the best solution, or a coach teaching the value of **teamwork** and **perseverance**. Rest assured, everything we do is measured against our Mission and the Word, keeping us **grounded in Christian faith**, while **empowering** co-creators of tomorrow.



ENGAGING HIS CALLING TO IMPACT HIS WORLD.

This year's theme verse is Hebrews 6:19, which states, "We have this hope (Jesus) as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure." At Maranatha, education and learning go hand in hand with biblical worldview training, and it is a spiritual calling. It is imperative to develop the whole child: spirit, soul, and body. When correctly done, it attracts students to God and helps them feel loved, confident, and secure. It develops students to their full potential intellectually and equips them with God's purpose and calling for their lives. Maranatha's goal is to give our students an exceptional education that develops their minds and makes them critical thinkers who are faith-filled, compassionate, and healthy in their souls and bodies.

While educated Christians need to know their Bible to lead a life that aligns with God's purposes, they also need to effectively engage communities in being "salt and light," working to lead and impact a complex world. Maranatha's focus on deep personal faith and a rich intellectual tradition prepares students for integrated Christian living, whether making personal, moral choices or thinking through ethical issues facing society. It positions them as influencers in culture, business, civics, justice, science, mathematics, arts, philosophy, and other disciplines.

At Maranatha Christian Academy, we equip students to contribute to God's divine plan and purpose on earth. Students are blessed to be a blessing to others in the world. According to scripture, God accomplishes this project through Jesus Christ, our hope who offers salvation and eternal life. God's Spirit inspires a worldwide body of Christians, including Maranatha students, to engage in this co-mission. When students strive to make God's purposes their own, they submit to God's redemptive process and the final coming of the kingdom. They work for a higher calling by engaging their world as insightful, highly intelligent, well-reasoned, articulate, and prepared leaders who can impact their world.

Thank you for choosing Maranatha Christian Academy to partner with you in your child's education and prosperous future.

Serving Him together,

Deb Larson

Head of School

DID YOU KNOW?

STRATEGIC PLAN 2022–27

**“Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it.”
Habakkuk 2:2**

Strategic planning is a high-leverage organizational strategy used by all forms of organizations to identify their goals, the strategies necessary to accomplish those goals, and the internal performance management system used to monitor and evaluate progress.

In the summer of 2022, The Executive Team worked in concert with outside consultants to pick up writing a Strategic Plan where the previous five-year plan left off. Over months and guidance of other staff members, the Parent Council, and some teaching staff, a new plan was drafted that will take the school from 2022 to 2027. The Strategic Plan consists of four priorities and goals to help achieve these priorities.

PRIORITY 1: LEARNING AND EDUCATION

Students are challenged to think, question, and solve.

Goals:

- Design student-centered learning programs and experiences
- Implement innovative teaching and learning
- Integrate faith and learning in systematic ways throughout the school
- Create a robust virtual, distinctively Christian learning platform
- Elevate the pre-kindergarten program

PRIORITY 2: COMMUNITY AND CULTURE

Encourage involvement in activities and events that build community through graciously serving and loving one another.

Goals:

- Improve communication regarding MCA events, parent groups, and volunteerism
- Enhance the student community through relationship-building activities and programs
- Improve staff culture by providing staff activities, a healthier work environment, and team collegiality
- Establish an accessible network of community members to strengthen relationships and share expertise

PRIORITY 3: RESOURCE CAPACITY

Strategically steward resources to impact the next generation.

Goals:

- Design innovative approaches to overall financial advancement for the school
- Identify needs and priorities to implement improvements to the school's campus and overall effectiveness
- Implement a systematic approach to information technology and capital improvements
- Innovate competitive compensation models and non-monetary benefits that support MCA's mission
- Formulate external partnerships that amplify the school's overall resource capacity
- Increase and elevate MCA's reputation as a leader in education and innovation

PRIORITY 4: MISSION LEADERSHIP AND BRAND IDENTITY

Develop Christ-like influential leaders.

Goals:

- Ground the school's culture in Jesus Christ and the trust of God's Word
- Intentionally impart MCA's mission, Christian values, and purpose amongst all stakeholders
- Recruit and train highly qualified, missional staff and faculty that reflect God's creation
- Expand the influence and impact of the Maranatha brand and identity worldwide

The school has developed a detailed dashboard and team system to help keep the school on track as it progresses through the plan over the next five years.

In a joint venture with our parent ministry, Living Word, the 2021–2022 school year brought many changes, including a remodel of our second floor to create seven new classrooms to support our increasing enrollment. These endeavors, along with our Gala and all-school fundraiser, allowed us to end the year with a positive financial report. The additional revenue enabled us to begin an investment with a foundation to build cash reserves, increase program offerings, and hire experienced staff to benefit our school, families, and students to live out our mission.

As a reminder, MCA's financials are part of Living Word Christian Center's (LW) annual audit. A copy of Living Word's Annual Report will be available in the alcoves of LW beginning in March of 2023.

Thank you for your prayers and partnership with us. It takes all of us to deliver an exceptional learning environment for your students.

Serving Him Together,



John Szwaja

Chief Business and Operations Officer



3 YEAR LOOK BACK

● REVENUES ● EXPENSES

	2021–22	2020–21	2019–20
REVENUES			
Tuition & Fees*	\$9,400,958	\$7,876,140	\$7,095,604
Gifts & Fundraising	\$505,774	\$430,304	\$306,308
Services**	\$1,213,458	\$673,832	\$808,140
Total Revenues	\$11,120,190	\$8,980,276	\$8,210,052
EXPENSES			
Payroll & Benefits	\$5,229,789	\$4,515,503	\$4,357,452
Operating Expenses***	\$3,190,236	\$2,267,407	\$2,080,273
Financial Aid & Discounts	\$2,252,764	\$1,965,163	\$1,914,062
Total Expenses	\$10,672,789	\$8,748,073	\$8,351,787
NET REVENUES	\$447,401	\$232,203	\$(141,735)

*Including International Students

**Food Service, Transportation, X-Tended Care, Athletics and Activities, Class Fees

***Curriculum, Building Upgrades, Technology, Operations



“Maranatha doubled down on its commitment to keep Christ at the center and stand firm on biblical integration of our academic program.”

A PERSPECTIVE FROM THE ADMISSIONS TEAM.

In a time when the pandemic was working to shut down every corner of our lives, including church and school, God was at work driving parents to seek out a better alternative to public education, many of whom turned to Christian schools. In fact, the admissions department received 900 applications in the last three years—we’ve walked dozens of miles around the campus giving tours!

As a result of the demand, Maranatha doubled down on its commitment to keep Christ at the center and stand firm on the biblical integration of our academic program. We remained diligent to ensure that families seeking an MCA education shared the same biblical values. This resulted in only 75% of the applications receiving an offer of admission from MCA.

We prioritized in-person learning AND excellent Christ-centered academics during a time when many schools struggled to remain open. We’ve expanded our campus with new classrooms, course offerings, and an online school. Our academic results are proof of our commitment to excellence, and your children are the benefactors of that priority.

This catapulted Maranatha into the top rankings for private Christian schools in the area. In fact, Niche, a school review site, has ranked Maranatha in the top 10 for Best Christian High School in Minnesota, Most Diverse Private High School in Minnesota, and Best Private K–12 School in Minnesota.

Now, nearly 900 students call MCA home, with 89% of families continuing to choose Maranatha each year. We value that partnership and are honored to come alongside our parents. We know there will always be a reason why families seek out an alternative to public education, and we are thrilled to be able to proudly showcase all that MCA has to offer. But most importantly, we are incredibly proud and unashamed to show our commitment to Christ and the truth of God’s Word, which remains foundational to the excellence found within the classrooms of our campus.

We look forward to what God has in store for Maranatha as we continue to seek Him!

Serving Him together,

Sandy Thoma and Amy Clausen

The Admissions Team

YEAR IN REVIEW

BEST CHRISTIAN
HIGH SCHOOLS IN MN

6
OF 32

MOST DIVERSE PRIVATE
HIGH SCHOOLS IN MN

10
OF 109

BEST PRIVATE K-12
SCHOOLS IN MN

10
OF 34


MCA EARNED TOP RANKINGS BY NICHE



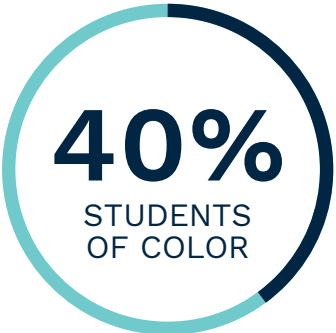
Niche ranks nearly 100,000 schools and districts based on statistics and millions of opinions from students and parents.




6 ORIGIN COUNTRIES
REPRESENTED



65 US ZIP CODES
REPRESENTED







40%
STUDENTS
OF COLOR




89%
STUDENT RETENTION

21% ENROLLMENT GROWTH
FROM 2019-21

2021-22		828
2020-21		805
2019-20		682



129
CHRISTIAN
CHURCHES
REPRESENTED



29%
OF STUDENTS ATTEND
LIVING WORD



STARTED MARANATHA
ONLINE SCHOOL



I am excited and blessed to take over the roll as the College and Career Counselor starting in 2022 at Maranatha Christian Academy. My face may be familiar as I have been working at MCA in Admissions since 2019. Before Maranatha, I was a missionary with Youth With a Mission worldwide. As a Career Development Counselor and Professor, I worked at Bethel University, Messiah University in Pennsylvania, and Minnesota State University–Mankato.

My vision for the College and Career Center is to assist students in grades 9–12 to discover God’s calling by helping them understand their strengths, identity in Christ, and giftings while exposing them to different careers and career paths throughout their time at MCA. Also, to bridge the journey from high school to university, trade school, work, military, or missions—assisting students into the future God has for them.

Sincerely,

Deborah Meiners

College and Career Counselor

COLLEGE AND CAREER CENTER

In 2022, the College and Career Center (CCC) was blessed with a brand new space. The CCC is where students meet with the College and Career Counselor, with college representatives, research colleges and universities, find scholarship information, learn about the ACT and SAT, and ask questions about classes and schedules. The CCC is also used for staff meetings, a quiet place for students to study, student Discipleship Groups, and much more.



3 YEAR LOOK BACK

POST GRADUATION PLANS

Graduation year	2022	2021	2020
Number of Graduates	70	50	57
● College	86%	90%	92%
in MN	46%	46%	57%
out of state	40%	44%	35%
● Ministry	1%	4%	5%
● Military	1%	0%	0%
● Work	2%	4%	5%
● Undecided	10%	2%	3%

DEGREES & SCHOLARSHIPS

AA Degrees	29	8	6
Scholarships	\$7,783,334	\$4,337,367	\$5,260,418

DID YOU KNOW?

ACADEMICS



Creating a Space to Accelerate Learning

MCA Accelerated provides extension activities and accelerated curricula for advanced and/or academically gifted students and supports advanced students' social and emotional needs. Students are identified for the program through testing and teacher recommendation. Students complete extension activities in the areas of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) and/or Language Arts, participate in project-based learning activities, real-life investigations into STEM careers, events and competitions, and ACT/ SAT test preparation.

College Prep? You Bet!

College Degree and High School Diploma – Yes, please.

At MCA, students begin preparing for the plan God has for them as soon as they step foot on campus. If the student's goal is to attend university, our professional staff will guide each student's journey. One path is to be a part of the Associate of Arts Degree program. In collaboration with Bethel University, 29 seniors received their Maranatha diploma and a degree from Bethel.

Show 'em the Money!

The 70 seniors that made up the Class of 2022 were offered over \$7,780,000 in scholarships. Impressive.

Supporting Learning at All Levels

Learning Support Services is one of the fastest growing areas at the Academy. Here students are identified as those who need extra support. By doing so, students in the program receive specific attention to guide them toward academic success, while the rest of the students in class are able to be challenged academically, thus, creating a win-win scenario.



Enterprising Minds. Innovative Ideas. Real-Life Experiences.

Maranatha introduced Mustang Enterprises to its offerings for juniors and seniors. This class, or shall we say business, challenges students' entrepreneurial spirit. From customer service, to design, to sales, to production, students in this class do it all, essentially running a small business. Additionally, guest speakers and field trips give students the opportunity to collaborate with businessmen and women in the "real world."





LETTER FROM PARENT COUNCIL MEMBER:

Hello MCA families! My name is Kurt Huether, and I'm the Chair of the Parent Council at Maranatha Christian Academy. I have had two daughters graduate from MCA and have a current senior. I honestly feel there was/is no better school for my children. Students here are being prepared for a successful life after graduation with high aptitude and a deep love for the Lord. I can attest to this having watched my girls graduate in 2017, pursuing their passions, and successfully "adulting."

Allow me to take a moment and explain the formation and purpose of the Parent Council. Years ago, previous head of school, Brian Sullivan, formed the Parent Council to advise him and the administration on issues from a parent's point of view. The current administration, led by Deb Larson, has continued this model and expanded the use of it by incorporating the council to help disseminate the school's mission and message. Additionally, we act as a go between for parents and the administration. If you have an idea you feel would move the school forward or something on your mind that you feel could use some attention from the administration, come talk to us. The truth is when we work together toward a common goal, under godly leadership, we can do amazing things. Though we hold only an advisory position with the school, we may be able to put it on a council agenda.

Sincerely,

Kurt Huether
Parent Council Chair

VISION OF THE PARENT COUNCIL

**To partner with the head of
school in support of the mission
of MCA, using our time, talent,
and resources to fulfill the
academy's strategic plan.**

DID YOU KNOW?

ACHIEVEMENTS



Black History. Our History.

In what has become an annual tradition here at Maranatha, the Black History Student Committee pulled together to collaborate and ideate possible ways to present a way to teach students, staff, parents, and friends of the Academy about Black History. In the end, these students came up with skits, spoken word, trivia, music, and more to help everyone understand that Black History is our history.



A Night to Honor Brian

It was a big deal, and justifiably so. Mr. Brian Sullivan was the Head of School at Maranatha for over 35 years. In his time here, he impacted hundreds of lives. In 2021, Mr. Sullivan decided to step down as Head of School. To celebrate (not his leaving, but his career), the school hosted A Night to Honor Brian Sullivan. Former employees, students, and friends gathered and shared stories, memories, and more. There was even a Flash-Mob at the end, surprising Brian as he walked off the stage one last time.



Are You Entertained?

In 2021-2022, the MCA Thespians were very busy offering two incredible performances. In the fall, students, under the guidance of Ms. Grace Dunavan, performed Sleeping Beauty, Briar Rose. They followed this outstanding performance with the spring musical, Oklahoma. Once again, audiences and critics alike were impressed with the talent on display. Well done MCA Thespians.

Parents With Purpose

The idea of having an organization of parents to assist, bless, and serve teachers and staff, as well as organize fun, culture-building events for students and staff is impressive. The Parents With Purpose organization was formed in the 2021-2022 school year. While the concept was not new, picking up where the MOMS organization left off, this group is vital to building culture at the school.



Dancin' With Dad

A new event for lower school students was the Sweetheart Dance, or the Daddy-Daughter Dance. The event took place around Valentine's Day, giving dads an excuse to treat their precious daughters like the sweethearts they have become. There was dancing, crafts, and even a talent show. What a night!



Chris Barber
Donor Relations Director

Each student has a unique and inspirational story. Close to 900 students make up Maranatha Christian Academy. Our teachers and staff challenge students to be courageous changemakers by loving others, embracing uncertainty, challenging the status quo, and making a difference in their school, community, and world. With your support, we have inspired our students to reach beyond what they think is possible and do what God knows is possible.

It is imperative to recognize the need to supplement the income from tuition and other sources to walk out God's plan for Maranatha Christian Academy. This need is the purpose of the Maranatha Fund. Every dollar raised allows Maranatha and our community to reach more students, minister to more families, and transform more lives, actively engaging in our mission to inspire co-creators of tomorrow. The demand for an education grounded in the Christian faith at Maranatha is more vital now than ever.

Thank you for choosing to support Maranatha Christian Academy. We cannot fulfill God's plan for this ministry without you.

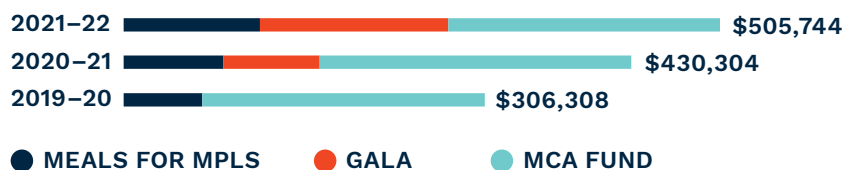
Sincerely,

Chris Barber
Donor Relations Director

What's the Difference?

Some parents have asked, what's the difference between the Maranatha Fund and fundraisers? Isn't it all revenue for the school? In essence, yes, the Maranatha Fund is a vehicle by which our enrolled families, alumni, and friends of the Academy donate needed dollars for school-year specific projects and initiatives. Fundraising provides MCA families the opportunity to share our mission with others outside of the school community, asking for their support.

3 YEAR LOOK BACK



MCA FUND & FUNDRAISERS REPORT

Fundraising Event	2021-22	2020-21	2019-20
Meals for Minneapolis	\$115,516	\$84,441	\$66,558
Maranatha Gala:	\$159,600	\$81,776	(Due to Covid) \$0
Maranatha Fund:	\$230,658	\$264,087	\$239,750
Total	\$505,774	\$430,304	\$306,308



Meals for Minneapolis

Going into the Meals for Minneapolis event, Maranatha students, staff, and volunteers had already packed over 200,000 meals for local food shelves. In addition, families raised over \$578,000 over the previous eight years. In 2021, MCA decided to reset the bar, setting a new goal of packing 50,000 meals and raising \$100,000. With the help of a great team and superb volunteers, the school reached its meal-packing goal and exceeded its fundraising goal raising over \$115,000.

MCA Gala 2022

The theme for the MCA Gala 2021 was Kingdom Building Together. God blesses a strong community with clarity when the connection is healthy and purposeful. The 2021 Gala brought us together to support our mission and advance the kingdom of God. This year's Gala was very successful, raising nearly \$160,000 because of our generous MCA families and friends, students, teachers, and staff.

Proceeds from this year's Gala helped fund the build-out and remodel of our lower school classrooms, music rooms, and a new weight room. It is exciting to see the expansion but let me be clear: we are not caught up with just building campuses. We are invested in building the next generation of leaders founded in the Christian faith.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Visit mcamustangs.org/give, mail a check, or drop it off at student services. We truly appreciate your contribution. If you have questions, contact Chris Barber at 763.488.7936 or chris.barber@mcamustangs.org.

DID YOU KNOW?

CHAMPIONS

Champions Live Here!

Back-to-Back State Champion.

In 2022, Senior **Jake Meissner** completed a storybook ending to his high school wrestling career. Wrestling as a heavyweight, Jake completed a difficult and almost impossible journey of winning the State Title for the second time in a row.

On Your Mark...

Only a Freshman, **Abby Daugherty**, ran her way to a State Championship as a part of the 4x400 meter relay team. Maranatha coops with Providence Academy and Abby represented the Mustangs with class...and speed! Congratulations, Abby. Another Junior underclassman, **Jimmy Theim**, qualified for state as a part of the 4x200 meter relay team. We look forward to seeing both athletes compete in 2023.

State Champs – Check.

World Championship Participants – Check.

Over 7,000 teams competed in FIRST Tech Challenge, the league in which our high school robotics teams participated. From that number, only 160 teams qualified for the World Championships. By winning the State Championship, Chain Reaction, Maranatha's Senior team, was one of the 160 to make the journey to Houston, Texas. And the team finished in the top 24! Additionally, Chain Reaction was also one of six finalists for the "Connect Award," highlighting the team's work to connect with STEM professionals in their community during the entire season. What an accomplishment!

"At the time, I didn't realize it, but going to the World Championships showed me that the product of our efforts and all of robotics, in general, was never just a robot. It was our team. From all our work, we have learned professional-level skills and how to effectively apply them in cooperation with others ... this was something we couldn't get in a classroom."

Carlson Nelson – Class of 2022



The Robotics Team: **Jacob Mosier, Owen Marvel, Eli Marvel, Declan Jordan, Carlson Nelson, Ryan Erickson, and Salem Dereje**

DID YOU KNOW?

MUSTANG MILESTONES



Athena Award Winner

The Athena Award program honors outstanding female high school senior athletes who have excelled in sports and in the classroom. This past year, **Lexi Shreve** was selected to receive this award. Looking at her achievements, it was no surprise. Lexi is a competitor! She captained the varsity soccer team while earning All-State recognition. She also captained the Osseo gymnastics team (MCA Coops with Osseo) and was named All-Conference. Her academic achievements are also stellar. Well done, Lexi.



All-State Selections

Wrestler **Jake Meissner**, who won his second State Title this year, and soccer star, **Lexi Shreve** were named All-State in their respective sports.



Nothing But Net

Two Mustangs' basketball players reached a milestone this past season, scoring 1,000 points in their careers. Senior, **Jeremy LaVelle**, a leader of the boys' team, and Junior, **Chloe Jarnot**, a playmaker for the lady Mustangs. That's a lot of buckets!

Next Level Players

Deciding to play at the next level is a huge commitment. Congratulations to the following athletes for their choice to pursue their athletic dreams, while earning their college degree.

Jake Meissner	Arizona State, Wrestling (Div. I)
Olive Rolseth	Western Colorado, Volleyball (Div. II)
Gavin Brenes	University of Northwestern St. Paul, Soccer (Div. III)
Anthony Moscoso	University of Northwestern St. Paul, Golf (Div. III)
Lexi Shreve	Crown College, Soccer (Div. III)
Jeremiah LaVelle	University of Northwestern St. Paul, Basketball (Div. III)

MARANATHA
CHRISTIAN
ACADEMY
GALA
2023

pre-sail

pricing now available

\$75 PER TICKET

\$100 AFTER MARCH 15

SATURDAY APRIL 22, 2023

LEOPOLD'S MISSISSIPPI GARDENS

SCAN HERE TO REGISTER:



Tickets & Information: **one.bidpal.net/mcagala2023**

MARANATHA CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

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