



**ANNUAL REPORT**  
2022-2023

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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 where each student and staff member contributes to what makes up the culture of the school. Together we commit to become Spirit-Driven Leaders, Impactful Innovators, Critical Thinkers, Kingdom Community Builders, Courageous Change Agents, and Compassionate 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.



## **DEAR MARANATHA FAMILY,**

There is a unique bond between the educators at Maranatha Christian Academy and its families. We believe God calls us to partner with each other to prepare your children to do the good work He has planned for them.

The 2023-2024 theme verse is Colossians 2:6-8, “So, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.” Our mission is for your children’s spiritual and intellectual roots to grow deep so they can be strong, produce good fruit, and be built up in Christ.

Developing healthy roots starts with the Word of God, excellent Christian teachers, and a committed staff who genuinely love your children and cultivate an environment where kids can mature and learn. That nutritious environment allows your children’s roots to grow deep and ground them in their faith. Furthermore, this foundation invites innovative thoughts, collaboration, and critical thinking, thus creating a culture of exceptional learning. At Maranatha, your children have the freedom to live out Christian morals now and in the future.

After reviewing the 2022-2023 Annual Report, it is clear that God has a plan for Maranatha. While it is exciting to review our past accomplishments, it is even more thrilling to dream about what God has in store for our future.

Thank you for entrusting your most precious gifts to us, your children. We are excited about the bright future ahead of them.

Stay rooted in Him,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deb Larson". The signature is fluid and cursive.

**Deb Larson**  
Head of School

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# 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

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 of guidance from other staff members, the Parent Council, and various 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

**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. 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.

The 2022–2023 school year ended with a positive financial report. Maranatha continued its pursuit of excellence in providing a rich academic environment for our students in the form of updating facilities, course offerings, and hiring qualified staff. We were blessed with additional revenue from auxiliary programs and our MCA fund to help cover the full cost of education that tuition doesn't cover.

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.

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

Serving Him Together,

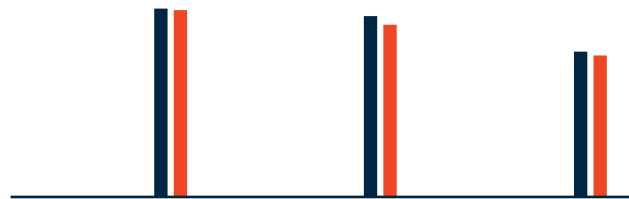


**John Szwaja**  
Chief Business and Operations Officer



**3 YEAR LOOK BACK**

● REVENUES ● EXPENSES



	2022–23	2021–22	2020–21
<b>REVENUES</b>			
Tuition & Fees*	\$10,326,809	\$9,400,958	\$7,876,140
Gifts & Fundraising	\$426,097	\$505,774	\$430,304
Services**	\$899,492	\$1,213,458	\$673,832
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$11,652,398</b>	<b>\$11,120,190</b>	<b>\$8,980,276</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Payroll & Benefits	\$5,079,807	\$5,229,789	\$4,515,503
Operating Expenses***	\$3,849,090	\$3,190,236	\$2,267,407
Financial Aid & Discounts	\$2,648,733	\$2,252,764	\$1,965,163
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$11,577,630</b>	<b>\$10,672,789</b>	<b>\$8,748,073</b>
<b>NET REVENUES</b>	<b>\$74,768</b>	<b>\$447,401</b>	<b>\$232,203</b>

\*Including International Students

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

\*\*\*Curriculum, Building Upgrades, Technology, Operations



**Enrollment increased  
to the highest ever at  
MCA for the 2022-2023  
school year**

### **A PERSPECTIVE FROM THE ADMISSIONS TEAM.**

As we reflect upon the year, it is evident that the Lord's hand was upon Maranatha Christian Academy.

We were blessed to welcome hundreds of families to Maranatha to visit our campus. We heard firsthand a multitude of reasons families were seeking Christian education. While it seemed the world had turned upside down, it was Maranatha's finest hour; 882 students were blessed to call Maranatha their school. And as one of the top-ranked schools in private Christian education by Niche, it did not disappoint.

I was reminded of our theme verse for the 2022–23 school year in Hebrews 6:19, "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure...." These were the very pillars we stood on to help ground our students academically and spiritually. Our unwavering commitment to our students, our parents, and stakeholders provided a nurturing environment that fostered and encouraged academic strength and spiritual growth. This is a testament to the dedication and hard work of the entire Maranatha Community. Together, we look forward to another year of excellence.

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

Serving Him together,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandy Thoma".

**Sandy Thoma**

The Admissions Team

# YEAR IN REVIEW

**BEST CHRISTIAN**  
HIGH SCHOOLS IN MN

**6**  
OF 46

**MOST DIVERSE PRIVATE**  
HIGH SCHOOLS IN MN

**9**  
OF 75

**BEST COLLEGE PREP**  
PRIVATE HIGH SCHOOL IN MN

**14**  
OF 71

MCA EARNED TOP RANKINGS BY NICHE



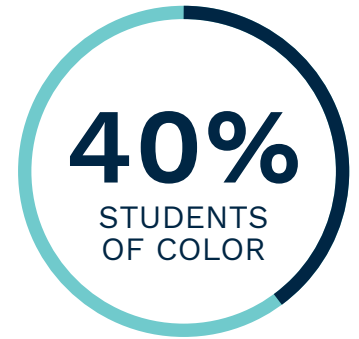
Niche ranks nearly 100,000 schools and districts based on statistics and millions of opinions from students and parents.



**5** ORIGIN COUNTRIES  
REPRESENTED



**70** US ZIP CODES  
REPRESENTED



**89%**  
STUDENT RETENTION

**9%** ENROLLMENT GROWTH  
FROM 2020-23



**126**  
CHRISTIAN  
CHURCHES  
REPRESENTED



**29%**  
OF STUDENTS ATTEND  
LIVING WORD



STARTED MARANATHA  
ONLINE SCHOOL  
(FULL- AND PART-TIME)



The class of 2023, with 75 graduates, brought in the highest number of scholarships to date – achieving \$10,737,907 in earned scholarships. Future plans include: 90% going to college, 5% pursuing Missions, and 5% entering the military or workforce.

We continue to work with students and guide them as they search for God's plan for their lives. We look forward to the future as we unveil new programs and services to help Maranatha students explore their college and career options.

In September 2023, we welcomed a new Academic Registrar and Data Steward, Rachel Block, a Class of 2000 alumnus. Rachel has a huge heart for students and teaches an Interior Design course at Maranatha. Rachel has owned her own Interior Design company for nine years.

Sincerely,

**Deborah Meiners**

Academic and College Counselor



### 3 YEAR LOOK BACK

#### POST GRADUATION PLANS

Graduation year	2023	2022	2021
<b>Number of Graduates</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>50</b>
● College	80%	86%	90%
in MN	39%	46%	46%
out of state	41%	40%	44%
● Ministry	1%	1%	4%
● Military	0%	1%	0%
● Work	4%	2%	4%
● Undecided	15%	10%	2%

#### DEGREES & SCHOLARSHIPS

AA Degrees	24	29	8
Scholarships	\$10,737,907	\$7,783,334	\$4,337,367



**LETTER FROM PARENT COUNCIL CHAIR:**

Hello MCA families, my name is Kurt Huether, and I'm the president of the Parent Council at Maranatha Christian Academy. I have two daughters and a son, all of whom graduated from Maranatha. I honestly feel there was no better school for my children. MCA propelled my kids to live by a higher standard, to stand out, and to be accountable in a world that runs from commitment. Maranatha students are prepared for a successful life after graduation with high aptitude and a deep love for the Lord.

Allow me to take a moment and explain the formation and purpose of the Parent Council. Years ago, the Parent Council was formed by the head of school to advise him and the administration on issues from a parent's point of view. The current council, appointed by the Head of School, Deb Larson, has continued this model and expanded its use by incorporating members to help disseminate the school's mission and message, thereby holding the school accountable in that mission. Additionally, we act as a go-between parents and the administration. The truth is when we work together toward a common goal, under godly leadership, we can do amazing things.

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



### **Taking Learning Online**

Maranatha continues to enhance its online school, Maranatha Christian Online. With more courses being curated by MCA teachers, the future is looking bright.

### **Hired Administrators**

Maranatha hired dedicated High School, Middle School, and Lower School Assistant Principals and Counselors.

### **Record Enrollment**

Maranatha experienced its highest enrollment ever for the 2022-2023 school year. Also, X-Tended Day enrollment was up over 50%.

### **Security**

Security is a high priority for Maranatha. Over the year, we replaced and/or upgraded over 30 surveillance cameras in the building. Additionally, in conjunction with Living Word, a secure check-in kiosk was created in the Main Lobby entrance.



### **We are proud of the accomplishments in all areas of the school.**

- The Lower School received a \$20,000 grant to improve Pre-kindergarten programming
- Expanded lower school technology by adding a 3-D printer.
- Grade 5 was moved to Middle School
- Grade 5 implemented a trip to Biz Town, further enhancing business/entrepreneurship education.
- Migrated Spanish down to the middle school
- Introduced Cell Phone Permit Classes
- High School introduced Discipleship Groups
- The High School continues to prepare students for college and beyond with the Associate of Arts Program through Bethel University, Mustang Enterprises, and even more robust robotics programs. Colleges and universities around the country, offered, Maranatha's 75 seniors \$10,737,907 in scholarships.



### **Alumni Program**

MCA's first graduating class was in 1978. Since then, there have been many Mustangs who have gone out to make a difference in the world. This year, MCA started an Alumni Program to begin re-engaging with the over 1000 graduates. In the first year:

- Over 450 alumni responded to be included in future communications.
- Social media sites, Facebook and Instagram, were established and followers grew to over 160
- An Electronic Newsletter averaged 45% open rate with a 25% click rate.
- Key engagement events were part of the launch and included a successful Alumni Basketball game and the largest Mustang Meetup Alumni Event at Homecoming.



### **Strong Fiscal Management**

Maranatha built up its cash reserves and increased compensation for faculty by 6% and staff by 8% to align better with the marketplace.



### **Building Improvements**

Maranatha's enrollment growth demanded a plan for expansion and improvements to the facilities. This past year, MCA added 15 new classrooms/learning spaces, including eight new upper school classrooms and a multi-use learning lane, seven new lower school classrooms, an enhanced College and Career Center, a new Pre-K Center room, a new weight room, and an upgraded playground with new Gaga Ball Pit mats.



Dear MCA Families,

Over the 2022–2023 school year, MCA reached several milestones and broke some records along the way. During our tenth all-school outreach and fundraiser, **Meals for Minneapolis**, we packed and delivered nearly 60,000 meals to local food shelves through Second Harvest Heartland and raised over \$98,000.

**The MCA Gala**, Anchored in Him, was held at Leopold’s Mississippi Gardens. Over 200 attendees took the dessert auction to another level of competition, raising over \$33,000. There was something for everyone in this year’s silent and live auctions featuring our Lower School classroom baskets, beautiful vacation home getaways, and much more. In total, the gala raised over \$183,000.

Every year, the **Maranatha Fund** is our top fundraising priority. Annually, parents, grandparents, and friends of the academy choose to financially support the Maranatha Fund by donating over and above tuition dollars. This year, you invested over \$143,000. These gifts benefit our students, faculty, and staff through innovation and program investment, tuition assistance and financial aid, teacher and staff development, and our MCA endowment. Thank you for your continued support!

Chris Barber  
Development 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	2022–23	2021–22	2020–21
Meals for Minneapolis	\$99,881	\$115,516	\$84,441
Maranatha Gala:	\$183,250	\$159,600	\$81,776
Maranatha Fund:	\$142,966	\$230,658	\$264,087
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$426,097</b>	<b>\$505,774</b>	<b>\$430,304</b>



### HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Visit [mcamustangs.org/give](https://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](mailto:chris.barber@mcamustangs.org).



## DID YOU KNOW?

### MILESTONES



#### Making History

The **Boys' Soccer Team** made history by making it to the Section Final and winning the game, which propelled them to the State Tournament for the first time. The boys didn't stop there and won the first State Tournament game in Mustangs Soccer History. In the end, the team ended up with a third-place trophy!

The **Girls' Soccer Team** also had a great year, making it to the Section Finals, marking the first time that both boys and girls made it to the Section Finals.



#### Swimming to Sections

Last Season, Brady Landstad and Mason Krings competed on the Osseo Boys' Swim Team in the Section Finals. Brady swam individually in the 100 Freestyle and 100 Backstroke, finishing 12th in both disciplines. Mason swam the 100 Fly individually, finishing sixth in the section with a time of 52.96, breaking a long-standing Osseo Boys Swim and Dive record. He also competed in the 100 Breaststroke, finishing in seventh place. Mason and Brady finished fifth in the 200 Freestyle relay, and the boys took third place in the 400 relay.



#### Advancing to State...Again

Both High School FTC Robotics teams qualified for state...again! Teams Proto Plasma and Dark Matter qualified out of 48 teams in the state. Dark Matter finished second in the alliance round, bringing home the hardware, while Team Proto Plasma earned the Motivate award.

#### On Guard

Senior Emerson Olson took first place and went undefeated in three fencing tournaments last year. His achievements earned him a spot on the Junior Olympics team that competed in Denver last February.

#### Setting the Pace

Abby Daugherty and Faith Lamah went to the State Tournament in Track and Field. Abby competed on the 4x800 and 4x400 relay teams. Meanwhile, Faith competed in the 4x800 relay and open 800s, earning a meet record. These two track stars helped lead Providence Academy (our coop) to capture the section title.



### Athena Award Winner

The Athena Award believes outstanding female athletes have made an impact and a difference in the world of sport. Each year, the Athena Award committee celebrates recipients' achievements and presents them with the award to recognize their effort and dedication to athletics.

Congratulations to our 2023 Athena Award Winner, Kyllie Weingart. She was selected for being an outstanding female athlete based on athletic accomplishments, with academic and other achievements being secondary.

### 1000 Reasons to Celebrate

Bailey McDonald continued the tradition of excellence in Mustangs' Basketball by reaching the 1000-point mark. The night was extra special since it happened on Senior and Parent Night in front of a home crowd.

### Other Notable Athletic Accomplishments:

- Girls' Soccer player Ava Chew was awarded with a Second Team All-State nomination.
- Boys' Soccer Standouts for the 2022-23 State soccer team: Senior Toli Legesse and Sophomore Jaydon Dimitrov were selected on the All-Tournament team.
- Boys' Basketball won the Skyline Conference for the 2022-23 seasons.
- Girls' Basketball stars Chloe Jarnot and Janiya Wright were selected to the 2022-23 All-State Honorable Mention team. Chloe was also chosen for the 2022-23 All-Star game.
- Softball won the Skyline Conference.
- Softball Senior Kyllie Weingart was selected for the 2022-23 All-Star game.
- Softball Senior Grace Kealy was selected for the 2022-23 All-State Honorable Mention team.

### Next Level Players

Mustangs' athletics continues to produce top athletes who continue their athletic careers by playing in college. Congratulations to these student-athletes for their commitment to excel in their sport.

<b>Brynn Kolbrek</b>	University of Northwestern (NCAA Div. III) Soccer
<b>Carson Huether</b>	Carson-Newman University (NCAA Div. II) Fishing
<b>Chloe Jarnot</b>	University of West Florida (NCAA Div. II) Basketball
<b>Bailey McDonald</b>	St. Mary's University (NCAA Div. III) Basketball
<b>Kyllie Weingart</b>	University of St. Thomas (NCAA Div. I) Softball
<b>Grace Kealy</b>	Gaston College (NJCAA Div. I) Softball
<b>Otto Arlt</b>	St. John's University (NCAA Div. III) Baseball

Not only were there impressive team and individual accomplishments, but the athletics program as a whole raised the bar.

- Increased attendance by introducing the Home Game pass and improved Youth Nights and other special events.
- A special Athletics Online Apparel Store launched, providing even more options for Mustang Spirit Wear.
- The Mustang Golf Invitational Tournament was a success, bringing funds to the program, reconnecting with alumni, and creating a fun environment for golfers to engage with Mustang Athletics.

**Early Bird**  
pricing now available

**\$75**  
PER TICKET

\$100 after  
March 20

Maranatha Christian Academy's

# GARDEN PARTY GALA

**Saturday, April 20**

Leopold's Mississippi Gardens

**Scan here to register:**



**MARANATHA CHRISTIAN ACADEMY**

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