

REVITALIZING OUR SCHOOLS

Morning Star Initiative Impact Report



Catholic Elementary
Schools of Long Island
Diocese of Rockville Centre, NY



Greetings!

On behalf of the Marianist Brothers, Tomorrow's Hope Foundation, and our Catholic elementary school families, we would like to extend our deep gratitude for your generous donation to Tomorrow's Hope Foundation in support of the Morning Star Initiative (MSI).

When we first launched MSI in early 2020, our schools faced many challenges that were seemingly insurmountable. Prior to the 2021-2022 school year, elementary school enrollment had declined by 42% in the last decade. Widening income and educational disparities across Long Island led to rising demand for scholarships, technology, and stronger academics. With the arrival of COVID-19, schools suddenly required new technology and mental health support to ensure instruction continued in a positive, well-rounded, and safe learning environment.

In the face of these obstacles, donors across Long Island came together to confront them head on. With philanthropic support, we have made impactful investments within each of MSI's Four Pillars: academic excellence, a robustly Catholic culture, safe and supportive communities, and fiscally sustainable schools. As a result of these investments, we have achieved significant academic improvements, safe in-person instruction and strong remote learning, strengthened our marketing and recruitment efforts, piloted innovative new academic programs, and successfully stabilized Nursery-8th grade enrollment despite the challenges that the pandemic and the economy have presented.

Without your support, our success to date would never have been possible. We have "turned the corner" in our journey to ensure the long-term growth and sustainability of our Catholic elementary schools.

As you review the following pages describing our progress in further detail, please know how grateful we are for your support of the Morning Star Initiative and your commitment to the future of Catholic education on Long Island.



Bro. Thomas Cleary, S.M.
CHIEF REVITALIZATION OFFICER,
MORNING STAR INITIATIVE

PRESIDENT, CHAMINADE HIGH SCHOOL



Ismini Scouras
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
TOMORROW'S HOPE FOUNDATION

Your Impact

In January 2020, the Marianists, Tomorrow's Hope Foundation, and the Department of Education launched the Morning Star Initiative to revitalize Catholic education on Long Island through four key pillars: Academic Excellence, Robustly Catholic Culture, Safe and Supportive Communities, and Fiscally Sustainable Schools. Thanks to families and foundations across Long Island, we are making that vision a reality.



\$3,523,468

Funds Raised for
Morning Star Initiative



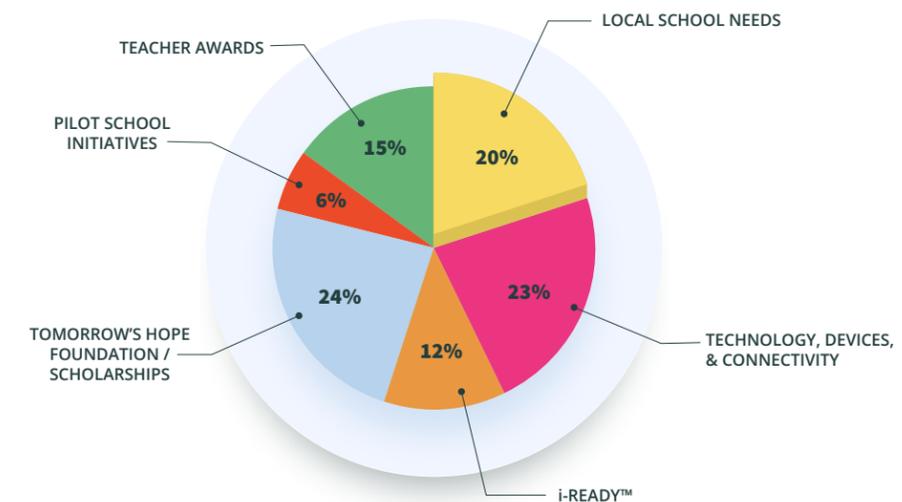
\$3,204,485

Funds Disbursed
to Date



31

School Communities
Impacted



MSI Funds Disbursed: \$3,204,485

"From my perspective as a Principal, I would unequivocally say the Morning Star Initiative has had a very positive impact on our schools. Together with our school leaders and teachers in the field, MSI is leading the way!"



Principal Paul Clagnaz
ST. BRIGID/OUR LADY OF HOPE
REGIONAL SCHOOL, WESTBURY

Our Supporters

To date, the MSI Team – which includes leadership from the Marianists, the Department of Education, and Tomorrow’s Hope Foundation – has raised more than \$3.5 million in donations and raised awareness across the Long Island community through individual meetings and receptions, grassroots campaigns, and marketing efforts.



Michael Pascucci,
Pascucci Family Foundation



From left to right: Rob Salvatico, Cynthia Salvatico, Bro. Thomas Cleary, S.M., Frank Liantonio, and Chris Tully at an MSI reception in October 2021.

“The education I received in Catholic grade school gave me the foundation I needed to attend college and succeed in my career. I believe strongly in supporting this effort for our Catholic schools so they can continue offering those same life-changing opportunities to future generations of children growing up on Long Island.”

- Michael Pascucci
PASCUCCI FAMILY FOUNDATION

MSI Parish Challenge

In response to a \$1 million challenge pledge from Michael Pascucci and his family, more than \$1.1 million was raised from approximately 500 families across 14 parish and school communities in support of the Morning Star Initiative.



Church of St. Joseph,
Garden City



Church of St. Paul the
Apostle, Brookville



Our Lady of the Hamptons
Regional Catholic School,
Southampton



Our Lady of
the Isle Church,
Shelter Island



Sacred Heart Parish,
Cutchogue



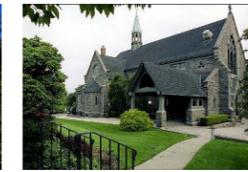
St. Agnes Cathedral,
Rockville Centre



St. Anne's Parish,
Garden City



St. Brigid/Our Lady
of Hope Regional
School, Westbury



St. Dominic
Catholic Church,
Oyster Bay



St. Mary's Roman
Catholic Church,
Manhasset

On Behalf of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Regional School, Bellmore, NY



Cure of Ars Parish,
Merrick



The Parish of
St. Barnabas the Apostle,
Bellmore



St. Raphael Catholic
Parish, East Meadow



St. Frances de Chantal
Roman Catholic
Church, Wantagh

Thank you to the parishes and schools who participated in the MSI Parish Challenge!

MSI Pillar I:

Academic Excellence

Philanthropic support of the Morning Star Initiative has enabled Tomorrow's Hope Foundation to enhance the academic rigor in our elementary schools by investing in technology, our teachers, and innovative academic programs centered around evolving student and teacher needs.



▶ Technology for Learning

In the past two years, thousands of learning devices have been delivered to elementary school students across Long Island. This included more than **2,000 devices** for low-income students from underserved communities that have historically lacked sufficient technology access.

▶ "Curriculum Leads" Program

Another initiative the MSI Team introduced to the elementary schools was the "Curriculum Leads" program, which allows teachers to pool resources and share expertise with other grade-level and subject-area teachers from Catholic schools around the diocese. Teachers meet regularly to discuss lesson planning, classroom activities, and other important topics. The program empowers strong educators and builds a community of support for teachers in every grade level and subject area.

"The greatest benefit is that teachers of the same grade levels or subject areas are able to share lessons and enhance their curriculum. The improvement can be seen across the board."

— Principal Julie O'Connell
St. Aidan School, Williston Park

▶ Investing in our Teachers

As part of MSI's goal to support our teachers and principals through increased compensation and professional development, all teachers and principals received financial awards at the end of the 2021-2022 school year. In addition, all teachers will receive a salary increase as well as a step increase in the 2022-2023 school year.

▶ Pilot Academic Programs

The MSI Team is piloting a Dual-Language program at a new N-8 school, Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic School (OLG), which is generating strong interest from families and increased registration for the 2022-2023 school year.

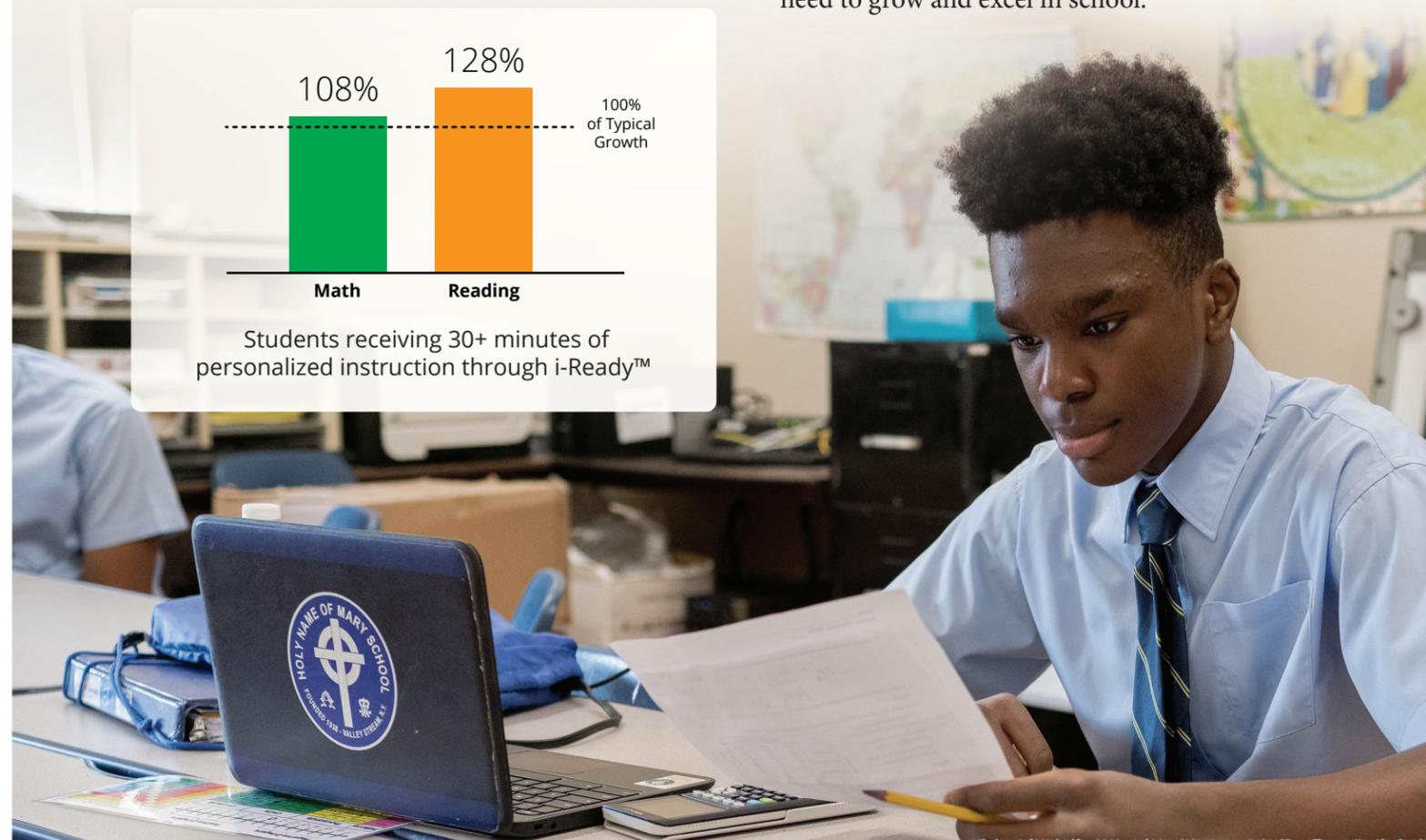
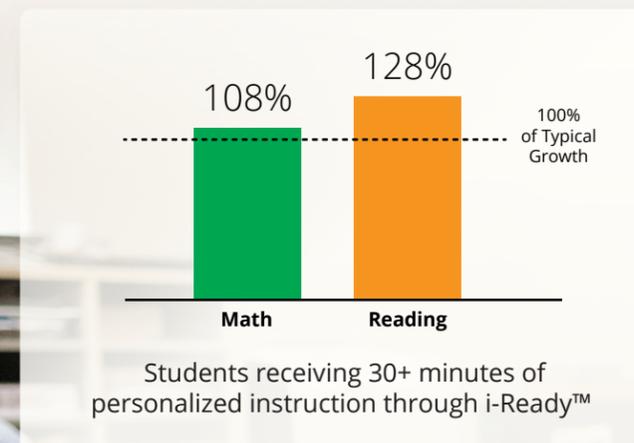
Having been recently featured by **CBS News** and **Newsday**, and with support from Boston College and Notre Dame University, OLG's Dual-Language program is on its way to full integration through 8th grade, setting a model for Catholic schools to replicate across Long Island.



▶ Student Benchmarking and Learning Support with i-Ready™

With donor support, the MSI Team launched the i-Ready™ program, an innovative web-based student benchmarking tool. Through iReady, students spend up to **80 minutes per week** with personalized instruction to help them catch up in areas where they're behind, or to find new challenges if they are already excelling with grade-level content. In addition, teachers can now review students' diagnostic scores and make necessary adjustments to their classroom instruction in real time.

To date, more than **8,000 students** have received individualized instruction in Math and Reading through iReady. When receiving 30 minutes or more of personalized instruction per week, the median student was **8% above** year-end expectation ("Typical Growth") in Math and **28% above** year-end expectation in Reading. The MSI Team aims to continue the iReady program to ensure that all students receive the personalized instruction they need to grow and excel in school.



MSI Pillar II:

Robustly Catholic Culture

As part of MSI's mission, we are cultivating a Robustly Catholic Culture centered on the spiritual, intellectual, sacramental, and liturgical life of the Church.



► Theological Training for Teachers and Principals

Since 2020, the Department of Education and the Marianists have worked hand-in-hand to cultivate a Robustly Catholic Culture in our elementary schools through the following initiatives:

- Hired a new Director of Catholic Identity and Mission, Ms. Tess Austin, who leads workshops, faculty retreats, and retreats for educators and students
- Provided faith formation training for teachers through workshops and online courses
- Onboarded Rev. Matthew Browne to guide the integration of a Robustly Catholic Culture in the elementary schools

► Theology of the Body Curriculum for Students

What does it mean to be a Son or Daughter of God? The MSI Team and the Department of Education will be providing a supplemental Theology of the Body Curriculum for 6th to 8th grade students beginning in the 2022-2023 school year.

This curriculum will teach what it means to be a human person, made in God's image; what it means to love; God's original blueprint for who He made us to be and how He calls us; understanding one's own gifts and how to share those gifts; and how to see others as gifts.

"Our school has been greatly blessed by the encouragement, creativity, and support that the Morning Star Initiative gives us. By partnering with MSI, we now gain so many resources that we could never develop on our own."



Rev. Msgr. Thomas More Coogan
ST. DOMINIC CATHOLIC CHURCH, OYSTER BAY



MSI Pillar III:

Safe & Supportive Schools

Through donor support, we are able to respond to unprecedented challenges by providing a safe and supportive community that recognizes the dignity of every person and promotes human flourishing in a familial atmosphere.



► Safe In-Person Instruction and Strong Remote Learning

The MSI Team led a smooth transition to remote and in-person learning for all elementary schools amid COVID-19 without missing a day of instruction.

► School Safety

Under the guidance of the Marianists and the Department of Education, Catholic elementary schools partnered with Perrotta Consulting to complete a school safety assessment and address specific issues – including the location of cameras, fencing, and door security – to improve the safety of our school communities.

► Student Support and Social Workers

Thanks to a grant from the Mother Cabrini Foundation, the Department of Education launched Project Alpha, which provides licensed social workers and mental health support services to students, families, and educators in schools that have not had support for “in” and “at” risk students and families. Only ten of the 31 elementary schools can afford a Social Worker or Guidance Counselor on staff. With additional donor support, the MSI Team aims to expand this program to all elementary schools.

► Free After Care

Thanks to donor support, the MSI Team is piloting a free After-School Program (ASP) at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic School, which runs from 3:00-5:30pm every day and provides a safe, nurturing environment for at-risk children to engage in

remedial and enrichment activities. The program is offered at no cost to families who pay tuition, providing great value to working families in the community.



"I believe that the success of the Morning Star Initiative was highlighted during the very challenging pandemic. Because of the support our Catholic schools received, we were able to thrive!"



Mrs. Pamela Sanders
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

MSI Pillar IV:

Our Catholic Schools Are Here to Stay

We are working to increase enrollment by investing in recruiting and marketing, stronger academics, and scholarships to make Catholic education more attractive and accessible to families across Long Island.



► Pilot Schools

The MSI Team is currently piloting two new schools: Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic School (with two campuses in Deer Park and Central Islip) and Holy Name of Mary Parish School in Valley Stream. Both schools are serving an ethnically diverse and high-needs student body and are piloting new approaches to school oversight, governance, and strategic planning.

► Spike in Interest

Website Traffic: January-March

When comparing Q1 2021 to Q1 2022, aggregate school website traffic is up **10.43%**. Of the schools posting positive website traffic, the traffic increased by **13.95%**.

Website Traffic: April - June

When comparing Q2 2021 to Q2 2022, aggregate school website traffic is up **9.95%**. Of the schools posting positive website traffic, the traffic increased by **18.51%**.

► Rising Enrollment

Thanks to the success of MSI's pilot initiatives, including the dual-language and free after care programs, enrollment at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic School increased by more than **100 students** for the 2022-2023 school year. With donor support, the MSI Team aims to build on this successful model by bringing these programs to other schools across Long Island to help increase Catholic elementary enrollment over the coming years.

► Improved School Marketing

Under the leadership of the Marianist Brothers, the Department of Education has worked closely with the elementary schools to enhance marketing efforts in the following areas:

- Running data-driven digital ad campaigns through Google, Facebook, and Instagram to engage school families
- Utilizing Google Analytics to monitor web traffic and measure the effectiveness of ad campaigns
- Hosting monthly webinars to help principals promote the school in their community and online

► Scholarships for Students

Thanks to MSI donors, Tomorrow's Hope has directed more than **\$700,000** in scholarships for underserved students in grades K-8 across Long Island. Additional scholarships and rising enrollment will provide the schools with the necessary capital to sustain MSI programs on a long-term basis.



1,129 students

Awarded financial support for the 2021-2022 school year through Tomorrow's Hope Foundation



\$700,000+

In total scholarships awarded through MSI funding



"Since MSI first launched, we have strengthened the academic rigor in our schools and stabilized enrollment despite the challenges that COVID-19 and the economy have presented. Without donor support, our success to date would never have been possible."



Bro. Tom Cleary, S.M.
CHIEF REVITALIZATION OFFICER,
MORNING STAR INITIATIVE

Your Impact, Our Future

Without donor support, our success to date would never have been possible. And while significant progress has been made, additional investments in MSI's Four Pillars are vital to ensuring the future growth and sustainability of our schools.

With the support of Tomorrow's Hope Foundation and the oversight of the Marianist Brothers and the Department of Education, the Morning Star Initiative Team is committed to ensuring these programs are here to stay.

Thank You for Supporting Our Schools

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|  Holy Angels Regional School
Patchogue, NY |  Our Lady of Victory School
Floral Park, NY |  St. Joseph School
Garden City, NY |
|  Holy Family School
Hicksville, NY |  Our Lady Queen of Apostles
Regional School, Moriches, NY |  St. Martin of Tours School
Amityville, NY |
|  Holy Name of Mary School
Valley Stream, NY |  St. Agnes Cathedral School
Rockville Centre, NY |  St. Mary School
East Islip, NY |
|  Long Beach Catholic
Regional School
Long Beach, NY |  St. Aidan School
Williston Park, NY |  St. Mary's Elementary
School, Manhasset, NY |
|  Maria Regina School
Seaford, NY |  St. Anne's School
Garden City, NY |  St. Patrick School
Bay Shore, NY |
|  Notre Dame School
New Hyde Park, NY |  St. Brigid/Our Lady of Hope
Regional School
Westbury, NY |  St. Patrick School
Huntington, NY |
|  Our Lady of Guadalupe
Catholic School, Central
Islip & Deer Park, NY |  St. Dominic Elementary
School, Oyster Bay |  St. Patrick School,
Smithtown, NY |
|  Our Lady of Lourdes School
Malverne, NY |  St. Edward the Confessor
School, Syosset, NY |  St. Rose of Lima School
Massapequa, NY |
|  Our Lady of Peace School
Lynbrook, NY |  St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
Regional School
Bellmore, NY |  St. William the Abbot School
Seaford, NY |
|  Our Lady of the Hamptons
Regional School
Southampton, NY |  St. John Paul II Regional
School, Riverhead, NY |  Sts. Philip and James School
St. James, NY |
| | |  Trinity Regional School
East Northport, NY |



"This is an opportunity for families to not only lift up one school community, but the entire Catholic elementary school system on Long Island. We are very proud to support this initiative that will have an immediate and lasting impact on our children and future generations."

— Maureen and Jim Cooney
Morning Star Initiative Donors



"As Catholic school graduates and former parents, we believe Catholic education provides students with an advantage for life. We felt compelled to help ensure affordable access for families across a wider range of income levels, and to invest in sustaining excellence in Catholic education for current and future students. The Morning Star Initiative is turning this vision into reality for more students and families!"

— Brian and Patricia Shea
Morning Star Initiative Donors



Morning Star Initiative Icon of
Mary, Star of Evangelization