CRUSADER HAPPENINGS

Morris Catholic High School Newsletter





SUMMER EDITION



CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2025!



OPEN HOUSE

RSVP TODAY

October 15, 2025 : 6PM - 8PM
October 26, 2025 : 2PM - 4PM

Letter From The President

Happy Summer Crusaders!

The end of the school year and the start of summer always bring a unique buzz to Morris Catholic. While some might think things quiet down, that's rarely the case! We've been busy celebrating achievements, making improvements, and planning for an even more exciting academic year.

This past spring was a whirlwind of activity. Despite not personally winning anything, our annual Spring Auction, "Around the World," was a resounding success. This year had so many great gifts and prizes, I may have been the only one who went home disappointed! The 43rd Annual Golf Outing also brought together old and new Crusader friends and family for a wonderful day on the greens. On the performing arts front, our spring musical, Mama Mia!, was a theatrical hit, literally leaving audiences dancing in the aisles and singing along!

June was a truly special month as we gathered with Bishop Kevin Sweeney to celebrate the Class of 2025 at their Baccalaureate Mass and Graduation. It was a joy to see these incredible young men and women embark on their next adventures. They will be heading off to the top colleges and universities in the country and collectively they earned nearly $24,000,000 in awards and scholarships! Our underclassmen also showed their dedication, successfully completing their final exams and moving one step closer to their own graduation day.

Even with the school year over, our campus has remained a hub of activity. We're diligently preparing the building for a fantastic 2025-2026 academic year. Between freshly waxed floors, painted rooms, newly repaved sections of the parking lot, and upgraded outdoor lighting the campus should have a fresh feel to everyone when they rejoin us for the new year. We're also in the final stages of opening Morris Catholic's brand-new school store: The Sword and Belt Crusader Armory, where you'll find all your Crusader gear!

We also recently welcomed our new Crusader parents with an informative orientation, setting the stage for a successful journey with us. We also welcomed new football coach Dave Albano to the Morris Catholic family, with a packed house of current parents and alumni at his Meet and Greet just a couple of weeks ago.

While the summer can bring an unusual quiet to the halls of the school, we eagerly anticipate the return of our teachers and students at the end of August. We are also especially thrilled to welcome all of our new Morris Catholic families to our vibrant community.

Finally, I'm looking forward to welcoming back so many alumni to their reunions this fall. We have a packed schedule of events and I can't wait to meet so many of you.

Wishing all Crusaders a wonderful remainder of the summer!

Sincerely,
Brian Vohden
President



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Christopher Caulfield, '86

Mark Thomas, '87

Members of the Board

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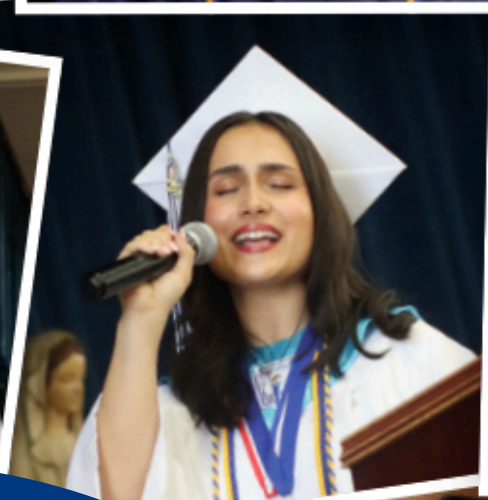
Brian Vohden, President

















Our Seniors became MC Alumni on June 5 and we are so impressed by the accomplishments of this class!

Within the Class of 2025, 85% of the students received academic and athletic scholarships with 69% of them given scholarships in excess of $100,000. Congratulations Crusaders! We cannot wait to see what is in store for you.

Collectively, the Class of 2025 earned

$24,763,800

in total scholarships and grants.

College Choices of the Class of 2025

Jagiellonian University
Ave Maria University
Bloomsburg University
Boston College
Boston University
Caldwell University
Catholic University of America
Clemson University
Coastal Carolina University
College of Charleston
County College of Morris
Culinary Institute of America
Drew University
Elon University
Fairfield University
Fairleigh Dickinson University
Felician University
Florida State University
Fordham University
Franklin Pierce University
George Washington University
High Point University
Ithaca College
Louisiana State University
Loyola University - Chicago
Lycoming College
Misericordia University
Monmouth University
Montclair University
Moravian University
New Jersey Institute of Technology
New York University
Northeastern University
Quinnipiac University
Penn State University
Providence College
Ramapo College
Rowan University
Rutgers University
Sacred Heart University
San Diego State University
Seton Hall University
Sienna College
Stetson University
Stevens Institute of Technology
Stockton University
SUNY - Binghamton
Temple University
Texas A&M University
Texas Christian University
United States Air Force Academy
Università di Bologna
University of Delaware
University of Illinois
University of Maryland
University of Miami
University of Mississippi
University of Scranton
University of South Carolina
University of Tennessee
University of Virginia
Virginia Tech
West Chester University
Western New England University

Special Thanks to Our Legacy Families!

Roman Family ● Whelan Family

SPOTLIGHT!

The Class of 2025's Valedictorian and Salutatorian were the Student Council Executive President and Vice President, Colin Shepard and David Bondarawitz!



COLIN SHEPARD, VALDECTORIAN

With a GPA of 4.53, Colin has distinguished himself not only through academic excellence but also through an unwavering commitment to learning, service, and integrity. As a scholar, athlete, and leader, Colin what it means to be a well-rounded student. He has served as a team captain for hockey and cross country, student ambassador, club officer, and as our Student Council President all while upholding the highest academic standards. His teachers describe him as passionate and driven; his peers know him as kind, humble, and inspiring. Colin will be attending The University of Virginia in the fall.



DAVID BONDAROWICZ, SALUTATORIAN

With a GPA of 4.46, David has shown passion for academics, a strong work ethic, and a solid faith foundation. Earning his Eagle Scout this year is only one of David's accomplishments. He is our team captain for soccer, Student Council Vice President, Robotics leader, member of Campus Ministry, and an Alter Server. David is a young man who truly exemplifies what it means to lead with character, integrity, and compassion. David will be attending Jagiellonian University Medical College in Cracow, Poland this fall.

LAST DAY OF CLASSES FOR SENIORS

It has become tradition at MC for Seniors to decorate and sign uniform shirts on their last day of class at Morris Catholic. Students decorate their shirt with logos of their colleges and go throughout the day asking classmates and teachers to sign. In recent years our class finishes their day in Mr. Ward's Theology room, as one, praying together. There is no better representation of the Character, Community, and Commitment of Morris Catholic Crusaders.



AWARDS AT MC



May was a month of celebrating student success. We held our Annual Excellence Assembly to highlight our underclassmen and their academic achievements, our Advanced Science Academy held their awards evening for juniors and seniors, and our Seniors celebrated their success at their Senior Awards night. Congratulations to all of our Crusaders on your hard work, your dedication, and your outstanding accomplishments.









SERVICE

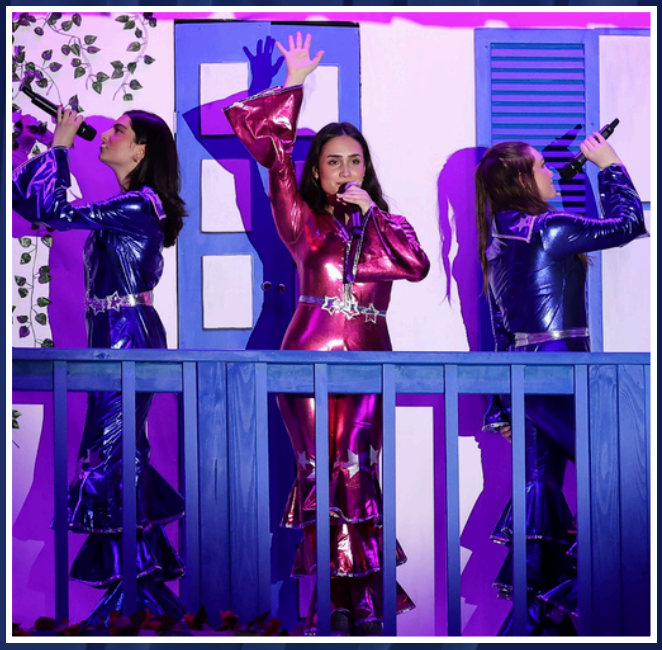
Our NEHS recently sponsored a book drive in which they collected over 300 books to be distributed to pre-school and elementary school students. They complete their collection by delivering them to Divine Mercy Academy in Rockaway where they meet with six different classes from pre-K through 2nd grade to distribute books to students and to read with them. It was a wonderful experience for all and a great opportunity for our students to give back to our local schools.



MAY CROWNING

Bishop Kevin Sweeney celebrated the Diocesan May Crowning with students from Catholic Schools in the Paterson Diocese at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Paterson this May. Morris Catholic was thrilled to attend with students from Catholic schools in Passaic, Morris, and Sussex Counties. This beautiful celebration honored our Blessed Mother and celebrated the feast of St. Mathias. Our MC students also had the honor of alter serving for the Bishop at this Mass.

MAMMA MIA!



On May 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, Morris Catholic High School brought the energy and heart of Mamma Mia! to the stage, captivating audiences with three unforgettable performances. The musical highlighted the incredible talents of the Class of 2025, with Sara Tavares as Donna and Marissa Tufaro as Sophie. Other featured graduates include Kathryn Mezzina (Tanya), Gracie Vowells (Rosie), Julia Keigher (Lisa), Marina Barbarisi (Ali), Amanda Sorrentino (Pepper), Emily Varhaul (Eddie), Alexa Nieves (Dance Captain/Soloist), and Aayush Katyal (The Priest).

This musical was also the final show for many of our backstage leaders, including Nina Shore (Stage Manager, Katie Costa (Assistant Director & Sound Designer), Ava Insinga (Sound Designer), Kalina Sebesebe (Assistant Stage Manager), Madeline Keil (Stage Crew), and Angelina Pierro-Collura (Spotlight).





With a cast and crew of over 60 students, the production played to record-breaking audiences and highlighted the vibrant spirit and creativity of the Morris Catholic Performing Arts community. The creative team featured Ms. Amy Bauer (Director), Mrs. Kristen Hoyt (Musical Director), Mrs. Kate McMurray (Choreographer) and Mrs. Sue Connelly (Set Designer).











We asked our current students and alumni to describe their athletic experience at MC in one word—and here's what they said.



WHAT DOES MC ATHLETICS MEAN TO YOU?

MAY SENIOR SIGNINGS

In May we were thrilled to celebrate more of our senior athletes who have committed to colleges. We held our signing ceremonies to celebrate these athletes and this awesome accomplishment.







Erik Edelman, D3 Football - Rowan University
Ava Insinga, D3 Fencing - Drew University
Jack Mulholland, D3 Lacrosse - Lycoming College
Reed Oliver - D3 Football - Rowan University

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WE ARE NUMBER 1!



What a year our Girls Basketball team had! Our team had an undefeated season (28-0) and were named, NJ Non-Public A Champions, Morris County Champions (for the 4 year in a row!) and were ranked #1 in the United States by Max Preps.



1	MC	NJ	MORRIS CATHOLIC DENVILLE	28-0
2	McNAMARA	MD	BISHOP MCNAMARA FORESTVILLE	29-1
3		CA	ETIWANDA ETIWANDA	28-5
4	B	TN	BRADLEY CENTRAL CLEVELAND	35-1
5	CHRISTIAN	CA	ONTARIO CHRISTIAN ONTARIO	30-2

MIA PAULDO
McDonald's All American!

Senior Mia Pauldo, commited to the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, was one of 24 players around the country to be selected to play in the esteemed McDonald's All American Game!



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SOFTBALL



Our Softball team finished a great season in the spring with a record of 16-11. The team played incredibly hard and and were NJAC Liberty Division Co-Champions. This is the 5th STRAIGHT Division Title for the Crusaders



BASEBALL IN FLORIDA

Each year, our Crusader Baseball Team completed attends Spring Training in Florida prior to the start of their season. The team spent three days practicing and playing preseason games in preparation for the upcoming season. The trip is a great chance to bond as a team on and off the field and is always one of the best experiences of the year for the players.

CAREER DAY 2025



ALUMNI

Prepare for the future. Learn from our community.

On Wednesday, March 12, we had Career Day on campus. We are so grateful for our parents and Alumni who joined us to share their experiences and talents. Our students participated in a number of presentations in the fields of business, athletics, medicine, physical therapy, law, psychology, communications, and more.

We would like to give a special thank you to our keynote speaker,
Mr. Joseph McHale, an MC graduate from the Class of 1981, who went on to play in the NFL and a successful career in business!

Are you interested in staying connected with us and our students?
Contact Maureen O'Connor for future opportunities.

NEW PARENT ORIENTATION

We held our New Parent Orientation on July 16th and we welcomed new families to campus to review policies, operations, academics, activities and more. This was a great opportunities to connect with our newest Crusader parents as they prepare for September.



SUMMER INSTITUTE

During the week of July 21 we welcomed our incoming Freshmen to campus. Our Summer institute has been an incredible success over the past few years to help acclamate our newest Crusaders on campus.









SUMMER UPDATES - PAGE 11

SUMMER SPORTS

FOOTBALL

Since June, football has begun getting ready for their upcoming season under the leadership of new head coach, Dave Albano. On July 7th, Coach Albano hosted his first Crusader Football Camp for grades K-8. Coach Albano suprised the kids with guest speak Michael Dogbe, an NFL defensive end who played for the Arizona Cardinals!







VOLLEYBALL

Volleyball has also begun practicing, welcoming freshman and new students to the court, hosting practice in the gym. These girls are excited for their upcoming season in the fall!



SPECIAL THANKS

To our Summer Crew featuring students, alumni, Gus, and Carlos for their hard work in getting the school prepped for September!

CALLING ALL ALUMNI!

Mark you calendars for Alumni Homecoming on October 11, 2025. This is a wonderful opportunity to join us back on campus. Our day begins with our Memorial Mass, followed by tailgating, activities and a home MC Football game. Details to come! We look forward to seeing you there!



2025 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

9/6 vs. Gloucester Catholic

HOME

9/12 vs. Holy Trinity Diocesan

HOME

9/20 at Mahwah

AWAY

10/3 at Parsippany

AWAY

10/11 vs. Pequannock

HOME - ALUMNI HOCO

10/24 vs. Madison

HOME - SENIOR NIGHT

10/31 vs. Hudson Catholic

HOME

ALUMNI HAPPENINGS- PAGE 15

UPCOMING REUNIONS

Class of 1968 - 56th Reunion
Saturday, October 4, 2025
Parsippany Hilton
More info to come!

Class of 1970 - 55th Reunion
Saturday, October 4, 2025, 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM
The Exchange Restaurant
- 160 East Main Street, Rockaway, NJ 07866

For more information contact,
Mary Lynne Mooney-Capen, at moonmommy7@aol .com
or Tony Favale at anthonyfavale@optonl ine.net

Class of 1972 - 53rd Reunion
Saturday, September 13, 2025, 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM
- Morris Catholic's Crusader Commons

Sunday, September 14, 2025
- Mass at the Morris Cathol ic High School Chapel

For more information, contact Nora Monti Protokowicz
at aron621@verizon.net.

Class of 1975- 50th Reunion - October 11
Friday, October 10, 2025
- 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
- Memorial Mass & Reception at Morris Catholic High School

Saturday, October 11, 2025
- 12:00 PM Alumni Homecoming and Football Game
- 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM - Celebration at the Hilton Garden Inn

Rockaway, NJ 07866
Look for an invitation in the upcoming weeks.
For more information, contact,
Dave Dalia, at davidjdal ia@gmail.com
or Angela Timpani at angela.timpani@gmail.com

Class of 1980- 45th Reunion
Saturday, October 11, 2025 -
Details to follow
Contact Joe DeLuca at
Joe.Deluca@cscglobal .com

Class of 1985 40th Reunion
Saturday, October 25, 2025
Memorial Mass and Reception
- Morris Catholic High School

Dinner at the Barn
- 11 Green Pond Road, Rockaway, NJ 07866

Invitation to follow
Contact moconnor@morriscatholic.org for information

Class of 2016 10th Reunion
Details to follow!

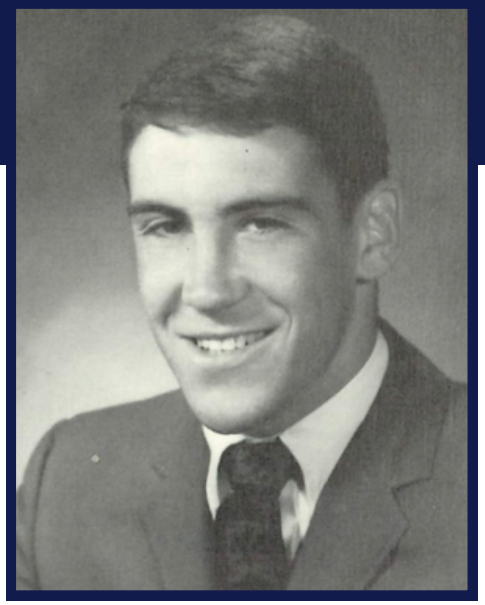
PLANNING A REUNION?

Contact Maureen O'Connor
moconnor@morriscatholic.org



ALUMNI HAPPENINGS- PAGE 14

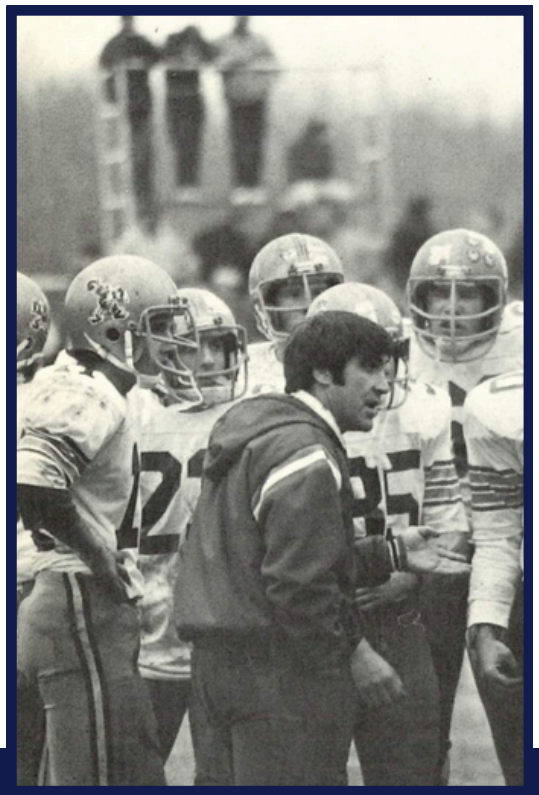
Remembering Coach Gallagher



Morris Catholic High School is profoundly saddened by the passing of Coach Gerry Gallagher, a true legend of our community. Coach Gallagher's impact on Morris Catholic, and on New Jersey football, is immeasurable.

A proud 1969 graduate of Morris Catholic, Gerry's journey with the Crusaders came full circle when he began his coaching career with us. He served as a dedicated assistant coach from 1973 to 1976 before taking the helm as head coach in 1977, a position he held with distinction until 1983. His leadership and passion for the game shaped countless young lives during those years.

Beyond his time at Morris Catholic, Coach Gallagher's contributions to football were widely recognized. As a 1973 graduate of William Paterson University, he was a member of the Pioneers' inaugural football squad, where he went on to achieve significant accolades. In 2011, he was inducted into the New Jersey Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame, an honor that followed his recognition as Coach of the Year in 2006.



Coach was further honored with a lifetime achievement award at the Phil Simms North-South Football Classic, a testament to his enduring legacy and the respect he commanded throughout the football community.

Coach Gallagher will be remembered not only for his coaching prowess but also for his unwavering dedication to his players, his alma mater, and the sport he loved. His spirit will forever be a part of the Morris Catholic family.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Thank You For Your Support!

The end of our academic year holds two of MC's largest fundraising events, our Spring Auction and Golf Outing. We want to take a moment to thank the families, alumni, and friends of Morris Catholic for supporting these two incredible events. At our Spring Auction, we surpassed our fundraising goal and had an incredible night at the Hanover Manor. This year's theme, "Around the World" was showcased in our prizes, decor, and the theming of the night by our staff. Our Golf Outing was held in June at the Knoll Country Club and was once again filled with lifelong supporters of Morris Catholic. Thank you for your generosity. With your support we continue to enhance our facilities and programming and support our Crusaders through scholarship opportunities.



FOREVER A CRUSADER

Leave your legacy at Morris Catholic

Custom Paver ($125)

Customize a 4x8 Brick with up to three lines of text (20 characters each line) to be placed on our pathway to Sullivan Field.



Chapel Chair ($250)

Leave a legacy on one of our limited chapel chairs. A plaque will be placed on the back of each chair.



SCAN THE QR

for other Ways to Give!

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUL 30	Morris Catholic Women's Networking Group
AUG 5	Morris Catholic Gridiron Club Golf Outing
OCT 4	Morris Catholic Alumni Association and Booster Club Crusader Festival
OCT 11	Morris Catholic Alumni Homecoming
NOV 20-23	Morris Catholic Fall Play
APR 16	Morris Catholic Spring Auction
TBD	Morris Catholic Spring Musical
TBD	Morris Catholic 44th Annual Golf Outing

HOSTED BY THE MCHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AND BOOSTER CLUB

crusader fest



COME TASTE SOME OF THE BEST OF BEERS, SOURCED FROM LOCAL BREWERIES!

NOT MUCH OF A DRINKER? COME ENJOY FOODS FROM LOCAL RESTAURANTS!!

$60 PER GUEST

OCTOBER 4, 2025
MORRIS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
LOCATED IN CRUSADER COMMONS AND CRUSADER COURTYARD

REGISTER HERE!

THE OFFICIAL CAMPUS STORE



NOW OPEN IN ROOM 101