

May 2024

A NOTE FROM THE BOARD

The board looks forward to gathering as a community at the annual MSA Association meeting on Thursday, May 16th at 6:30pm in the Great Hall. One important piece of business we will address is the election of board members to fill four vacant seats. This year, the board presents to the association four nominees.

Our candidates for elections this year are Marisa Sorensen, Maxim Pikulskiy, Eric Bortner, and Nate Schaefer.

Marisa Sorensen is a graduate of Morning Star Academy's class of 2013. She has a deep appreciation for Classical Christian education and a love for her alma mater. Marissa graduated from Trinity International University with a degree in business and currently works at HNI Corporation in Muscatine, Iowa as a Compensation and Benefits Analyst.

Mr. Maxim Pikulskiy was born in the USSR and grew up in Siberia. His grandparents were liberated by the Soviet Army during WWII from a Nazi labor camp, prosecuted by Soviet regime for not fighting Nazi Germany, and sent to Siberia for harsh labor in coal mines. At the age of 19, Maxim legally immigrated to the United States with the labor trafficking organization posed as an international exchange student program. When he arrived, he worked 4 years in the Florida greenhouses. During the Iraq war, Maxim became a US Citizen by joining the US Armed Forces and served in the US Army until his retirement. Mr. Pikulskiy is a member of Coram Deo Bible Church and serves on the security committee. He is married to his wife of 20 years, Valeriya. He is a Father of 2 daughters, Adelina and Katalina, both students at MSA. His current civilian occupation is a Procurement Operations Officer for Strategic IT and Cloud / Munitions and Installation Directorates within the Army Contracting Command – Rock Island.

Morning Star Academy
1426 Tanglefoot Ln
Bettendorf, IA 52722

SHAPING LIVES BEYOND A LIVING TO SERVE EVERYWHERE AND LEAD ANYWHERE



Morning Star Academy

TEACHING TRUTH
TRAINING DISCIPLES
TRANSFORMING THE
COMMUNITY

Eric Bortner has worked for John Deere as an engineer for over 23 years. He and his family attend Coram Deo Bible Church where he serves on the security team and participates in a weekly bible study. Eric has volunteered at several MSA activities and desires to have a more active and engaged role in his daughters' education and the future of the school. He has been married to Alicia for over 14 years, has two daughters, Ava and Alayna, both of whom have attended Morning Star Academy since pre-3.

Nate Schaefer is a native of the Quad Cities. Born and raised in Moline by Scott and Brenda Schaefer, Nate was brought up in the church with a love for the Body of Christ extending beyond the walls of a building. Nate served in ministry at a young age but in 2016 had an encounter with Jesus that would forever change him. In 2017 he became the lead Pastor of Passion Church QC in Davenport and continues to devote his life to, not just Passion QC, but the local churches of this region. Nate has been married to his wife, Kat, for fourteen years and they have 5 children ranging from ages 3-13. Their family has been a part of the MSA community for 8 years and are deeply passionate about seeing this school impact our community for the sake of Christ.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Join the Morning Star Team! We are looking to fill the following positions for the upcoming school year:

- Headmaster
- 1st Grade Teacher
- 5th Grade Teacher
- 6th Grade Teacher
- Upper School Math Teacher
- Upper School English Teacher - Part-time
- Art Teacher - Part-time
- Librarian - Part-time

Visit our website for more information!

PARENT TEACHER PARTNERSHIP (PTP)

PTP Meeting

Wednesday May 8th at 8:30 AM
Please join us in the Music room to discuss current and future volunteer opportunities.

Lunch on the Lawn

Friday May 10th
1st - 5th 11:20 AM - 11:40 AM
6th - 12th 12:20 PM - 12:50 PM
Join us for a picnic with your students during their lunch break. Bring your own lunch and blanket. Preschool and Kindergarten families are welcome, please supervise all younger children.

Finishing Strong with Moms in Prayer

In Colossians 1, Paul declares, "We have not ceased to pray for you!" Moms in Prayer continues to meet Fridays at 8:30am in the Great Hall. Moms and grandmas, please join us! And even if you haven't been able to come often (or at all) this year, please mark your calendar for our final gathering on Friday, May 17th. Our theme will be "God Unites," and we will spend time thanking God for his grace and provision to Morning Star this whole school year!

Chess Club

Fridays 3:20 PM - 3:50 PM
Several chess boards are provided, and all ages and abilities are welcome! Join us in the Science room every Friday throughout the school year.

Used Uniforms

Because MSA does not have storage, we are NOT taking additional donations for the uniform sale. Please watch for a communication this summer for the next sale in August.

STUDENT COUNCIL EVENTS

For the third year in a row, Student Council will be hosting an end-of-year bonfire. We invite all students in grades 7-12 to join the fun on Friday, May 10th from 5:30-8:30pm. Come eat hot dogs, chips, and s'mores and play some games as we wrap up a great school year and enjoy a fun break before finals!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 1 - Senior Chapel
- May 3 - Teacher In Service, NO SCHOOL
- May 5-12 Senior Trip
- May 10- Lunch on the Lawn
- May 10-Spirit Day
- May 10 - Upper School Bonfire, 5:30-8:30pm
- May 16 - Annual Association Mtg, 6:30pm
- May 18 - Commencement, 10:00am
- May 21-23 - Upper School Finals
- May 22 - Field Day, 1st-6th
- May 23 - Kindergarten Graduation, 8:30-9:30am
- May 23 - Last day of school, Dismissal at 12pm
- May 23 - Teacher/Staff In-Service
- May 27 - May 31 - School Office Closed

SENIOR GRADUATION PARTIES

Gavin Trotter
May 17th, 6:00-8:30pm
Cornerstone Baptist Church
775 E. Leclair Road
Eldridge, IA

Allison Amman
May 18th, 4:00-7:00pm
Palmer Grill
2999 Middle Road
Bettendorf, IA

Kellen Axtman, Josiah Curry, Sydney Heine, Eli Hughes, Ethan Raeside, and Elizabeth Stivers
Quarters One on Arsenal Island
Contact Sarah Curry at: 7currys@gmail.com

