



Our MCS

The 2024-2025 Mater Christi School Annual Fund

November 2024

Dear Mater Christi School family:

We were happy to host a community event this fall entitled **OUR MCS**. The evening included a comprehensive look at our school in the aftermath of what I described as “the dust having settled.” The “dust” in this case represents the momentous acquisition of our property two years ago at 50 and 100 Mansfield Avenue, and the planning required as we envision MCS under our own ownership and direction. The dust is still settling, but the vision is coming into focus and plans are underway.

The “dust settling” process included a key question that we asked ourselves in the midst of the property acquisition: **WHAT DO WE DO BEST?** Our response came quickly: **We first meet students at a young age and bring them up through the holistic Mater Christi experience of education and formation.** Our upward trajectory as a school over the past seven years has been a testimony to that response, as we have nearly doubled our enrollment in grades K-4 during that time period.

“Dust settling” also unveils a new vision for our facility. We are currently in the process of building a new Early Education, Music, and Band Center along the wooded border at the back of our property. This ~\$3 million project is being funded by the generosity of anchor partners who love our school and want to see it flourish for decades to come. We currently do not have space for all of our Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten classrooms or to split our 3rd grade cohort into two sections, and this project will provide the necessary space for both. The center will also include a beautiful facility for our music and band programs, each of which are currently in temporary spaces in the former convent. We plan to welcome students into our new Early Education, Music, and Band Center during the 2025-2026 school year.

In addition to this capital project, we are also planning to give our middle school building a “facelift” with upgraded lighting, flooring and carpeting. Unlike the Early Education, Music, and Band Center capital project, these facility upgrades are funded entirely from our regular operating account, and by extension, out of our annual fund.

(over, please)

MATER CHRISTI SCHOOL | 50 MANSFIELD AVENUE | BURLINGTON, VERMONT 05401 | (802) 658-3992 | MCSCHOOL.ORG

PLEASE RETURN YOUR GIFT IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE, OR GIVE ONLINE AT MCSCHOOL.ORG/DONATE

YES! I would like to make a gift to **OUR MCS: THE 2024-2025 MATER CHRISTI SCHOOL ANNUAL FUND** today.

Please accept my ☐ one-time gift or ☐ monthly recurring gift of \$ _____ to Mater Christi School.

☐ Enclosed is my check payable to Mater Christi School, or ☐ Please charge my card: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express

☐ I am giving online at **MCSCHOOL.ORG/DONATE**, but please make changes to my name/address as indicated below.

☐ I would like to make a gift of stock or via Qualified Charitable Distribution or Donor-Advised Fund. (Please contact us via email: **JBEHR@MATERCHRISTISCHOOL.NET.**)

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: ____/____/____

Name on Card: _____ CVV: _____

Signature: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

☐ I would like my gift to remain anonymous.

(See the reverse side of this form for additional details about your gift.)

WHAT IS "THE GAP"?

\$15,307*

Cost per pupil at MCS

– \$13,886

MCS tuition (6th-8th)

\$1,421

"The Gap" per pupil

*\$27,537 is the cost per pupil at K-12 Vermont Public Schools (K-12) (Source: Vermont Agency of Education, August 2024)

At the **OUR MCS** event, I explained “the gap” between the cost to educate each student and the price of tuition. The simple equation **COST – TUITION = GAP** reveals a shortfall of **\$1,421 PER STUDENT**. We fill that gap, and therefore balance our budget, each year in large part through our annual fund, which represents **8%** of this year’s budget. Gifts to our annual fund are used entirely for the daily operation of our school, including teachers’ salaries and maintenance of our facility. Annual fund dollars do not support capital expenditures. Our annual fund makes all our programs possible, and **meeting our annual fund goals as a community means meeting our goals as a school.**

We invite you to join us in supporting our school with a gift to **OUR MCS: THE 2024-2025 MATER CHRISTI SCHOOL ANNUAL FUND!** Last year, we received the highest number of leadership gifts (\$2,500 or more) in the history of our annual fund. Annual fund participation by current MCS families, however, was just 39%. This year, we want our annual fund to excel both in leadership and participation. Every gift, regardless of the amount, is deeply appreciated. Please join us in filling the gap, meeting our goal, and helping our students thrive.

We are excited to announce an extraordinary opportunity to double the impact of your annual fund gift! Several very generous donors will match up to \$100,000 in annual fund gifts for Mater Christi School! This includes \$25,000 in annual fund gifts of up to \$2,499, as well as \$75,000 in Leadership Circle gifts of \$2,500 or more.

Participation in the MCS annual fund sends a strong message of support in our mission and helps us to secure gifts from other sources. Please consider making a gift to our annual fund in one of the following ways:

- Donate online — Visit **MCSCHOOL.ORG/DONATE** to make a gift via credit, debit, or PayPal.
- Donate by mail — Return the tear-off portion at the bottom of this letter, along with your check or credit card information, in the enclosed envelope.
- Donate by phone — Call Mater Christi School at **802-658-3992** to make a credit card gift by phone.
- Donate stock or via Qualified Charitable Distribution or Donor-Advised Fund — Please consult your financial or legal advisor and contact us via email: **JBEHR@MATERCHRISTISCHOOL.NET**.

Thank you for your generosity and support of **OUR MCS**.

Gratefully,



Tim Loescher
Head of School



Jason Moore
Assistant Head of School

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF MATER CHRISTI SCHOOL — MCSCHOOL.ORG/DONATE

- ☐ I pledge a gift of \$_____ to **OUR MCS: THE 2024-2025 MATER CHRISTI SCHOOL ANNUAL FUND**, to be received by June 30, 2025. ☐ Please send a reminder.
- ☐ My gift is ☐ in honor of ☐ in memory of:

- ☐ Please contact me about making a planned gift to Mater Christi School.
- ☐ My gift will be matched by (company/foundation):

MATER CHRISTI SCHOOL GIVING LEVELS	
*CATHERINE MCAULEY SOCIETY Gifts of \$25,000 & greater	PATRONS Gifts of \$1,000 - \$2,499
*HEAD OF SCHOOL SOCIETY Gifts of \$10,000 - \$24,999	SUPPORTERS Gifts of \$500 - \$999
*ANCHOR SOCIETY Gifts of \$5,000 - \$9,999	FRIENDS Gifts up to \$499
*LEADERSHIP SOCIETY Gifts of \$2,500 - \$4,999	*LEADERSHIP CIRCLE LEVELS

Gifts to Mater Christi School are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law. Mater Christi School is a registered 501(c)(3) and our tax id is 03-0329822.