



MARANATHA CHRISTIAN ACADEMY



# SOFTBALL

2024 MEDIA GUIDE



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## MARANATHA CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Maranatha Christian Academy endeavors to build unity by creating a kingdom culture that challenges and equips students, parents, and staff to respect and value all people according to God’s Word. This is our Kingdom Culture Statement.

### 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 becoming:**

- **Spirit-Driven Leaders**
- **Impactful Innovators**
- **Critical Thinkers**
- **Kingdom Community Builders**
- **Courageous Change Agents**
- **Compassionate Problem Solvers**

At Maranatha, we are going way beyond the ordinary measures of academic standards, delivering the kind of education that opens eyes and hearts for a lifetime. Here curiosity is applauded, discovery is championed, and ultimately world-influencers are shaped.



### An Innovative Approach

There was a time when education was comfortable. Parents sent their kids on the bus in the morning and late afternoon they returned home smarter; at least that was the assumption. While other industries continued to be pushed to improve, many educational institutions were not challenging the norm. Maranatha Christian Academy noticed a change was needed, especially within the private Christian education space. So, it went to work seeking out what was successful in other industries and cutting-edge schools. Then, methodically began to incorporate these concepts, integrating them with our strong Christian worldview.

Today, Maranatha is an innovative and counter-cultural school, always looking for ways to improve teaching and learning. Industry-leading consultants continually work with teachers to incorporate innovation incubators. Using comprehensive design thinking cohorts, teachers learn changemaker processes of problem-solving, critical thinking, collaboration, and more. Then, creatively release them into their classroom.

## A Christian Worldview

The world around is unsettled. Many schools and the curriculum they use to educate students are changing in an attempt to fit into societies' ever-shifting perspectives. At Maranatha Christian Academy, we believe that having a strong biblical foundation is essential to teaching and learning.

One such area under scrutiny as of late is how Minnesota schools will handle their social science curriculum in the near future. We endeavor to see and teach everything through the eyes of Jesus. This perspective allows us to base our educational standards on our Christian worldview, developing strong co-creators of tomorrow.



Our Christian worldview will not be compromised at Maranatha Christian Academy.

**Learn more by scheduling a visit.**

## Service Learning

In everything we do and say, we want it to be a true reflection of who we are, what we believe, and what we will never stop standing for. We embody this by teaching our students to lead with empathy through service projects, beginning in Pre-k and continuing through to graduation. The Share Christmas event gathers 1000s of toys for our local community, and over the last few years, we have packed over 215,000 meals to be delivered to local food shelves, providing real, practical solutions for the battle against hunger in our community. Upper School students have the opportunity to serve a local orphanage, church, and the people of Zacatecas, Mexico through our annual missions trip.





MARANATHA CHRISTIAN ACADEMY  
HEAD OF SCHOOL

**DEB  
LARSON**

## Welcome to Maranatha!

Maranatha Christian Academy is positioned to go well beyond the ordinary, identifying opportunities that explore possibilities and establish purpose in our students, staff, and parents. Our unwavering vision, relentless pursuit of improvement, and dedication to our mission serve as inspiration to continue to set and then re-set the bar in education.

In our fast-paced world, change is inevitable. At Maranatha, we adapt, or better yet, get out in front of change, resulting in a truly innovative school and, in turn, learning experience. We inspire students to be Spirit-driven leaders who are courageous change agents for kingdom building. Our Christian faith is at the core of Maranatha. We celebrate our Creator's unique design of each student, seeking to personalize education so students can discover and develop their gifts.

I am honored that you value your children's education enough to explore not only what is best but what is right. By experiencing our community of learning at Maranatha, your students will be prepared for life's next chapter as they grow into courageous change agents, compassionate problem solvers, impactful innovators, critical thinkers, Spirit-driven leaders, and kingdom community builders.

I look forward to collaborating with you as we develop the co-creators of tomorrow.

Serving Him together,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deb Larson".

## ADMISSIONS



Join us at  
Maranatha Christian Academy!

**2024-2025**

currently accepting applications in  
grades Pre-K through 12th

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[mcamustangs.org](http://mcamustangs.org)  
763-488-7900



### VISIT US

Beyond books and screens, brains and grades, Maranatha is a place dedicated to faith, academic excellence, leadership, and everything in-between. When you enter, you will immediately sense an unmistakable difference. A welcoming vibe that begins with a morning greeting and handshake at the front door and ends with teachers inviting students into their classrooms, clubs, practices, and sports events after school.

There is no other school quite like it – we promise.

But don't take our word for it! We invite you in to see for yourself. There are several ways for your family to get to know us. Please join us for an upcoming event or personal tour.



ATHLETICS ADMINISTRATION



MARANATHA CHRISTIAN ACADEMY  
ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR  
**DREW RONGERE**



MARANATHA CHRISTIAN ACADEMY  
ASSISTANT ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR  
**CHAZ MAHLE**



MARANATHA CHRISTIAN ACADEMY  
ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR  
**JAMIE AXELBERG**

WELCOME


We are looking forward to another great year for Maranatha Christian Academy athletics during the 2023-24 school year. With several new experienced head coaches taking over programs this year, there are sure to be a lot of fans at games interested to see what the buzz is all about. Our coaches, athletes, and staff are working hard to build a winning culture. We put God first and give all the glory to him. We focus on things we can control, do everything with a purpose, and are determined to be successful.

**GO MUSTANGS!**

FREE DOWNLOADABLE  
MUSTANG GAME PHOTOS



M  
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**GO MUSTANGS**

**FIGHT SONG**

We are the might, might, mighty Mustangs,  
There is nothing we can't do!  
We are the might, might, mighty Mustangs,  
Honest, brave, and true.  
Unified together, MCA will show our pride.  
Fighting on to victory with Jesus, our guide.  
We are the might, might, mighty Mustangs,  
Maranatha red and white!



SOCIAL MEDIA

STAY CONNECTED WITH CURRENT  
MUSTANG ATHLETES AND ALUMNI

MCA ATHLETICS SOCIAL MEDIA



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MCA MUSTANGS MN



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MCA MUSTANGS\_ATHLETICS



TWITTER  
MCA\_TEAMS

#MCAATHLETICS



SKYLINE CONFERENCE



**CONCORDIA ACADEMY | BEACONS**

Address: 2400 North Dale Street., Roseville, MN 55113  
School Colors and Enrollment: Green and White | 317



**CRISTO REY JESUIT | PUMAS**

Address: 2924 4th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55408  
School Colors and Enrollment: Navy, Columbia, and Orange | 436



**MARANATHA CHRISTIAN ACADEMY | MUSTANGS**

Address: 9201 75th Avenue, Brooklyn Park, MN 55428  
School Colors: Red and White | 275



**NEW LIFE ACADEMY | EAGLES**

Address: 6758 Bailey Road, Woodbury, MN 55129  
School Colors and Enrollment: Green and Gold | 209



**NOVA CLASSICAL ACADEMY | KNIGHTS**

Address: 1455 Victoria Way, St. Paul, MN 55102  
School Colors and Enrollment: Maroon, Black, and White | 276



**ST. AGNES | AGGIES**

Address: 530 Lafond Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55103  
School Colors and Enrollment: Red and White | 307



**ST. CROIX LUTHERAN ACADEMY | CRUSADERS**

Address: 1200 Oakdale Avenue, West St. Paul, MN 55118  
School Colors and Enrollment: Red and White | 401



**ST. CROIX PREP ACADEMY | LIONS**

Address: 4260 Stagecoach Trail North  
School Colors and Enrollment: Navy and Vegas Gold | 366



**TRINITY SCHOOL AT RIVER RIDGE | TRI-HAWKS**

Address: 601 River Ridge Parkway, Eagan, MN 55121  
School Colors and Enrollment: Royal Blue and Cardinal | 158

## 2024 SOFTBALL SEASON OUTLOOK

The Mustang Softball team enters the 2024 season as the back to back Skyline Conference Champs. They have plans to bring back their third straight conference championship, though they know this will be no easy feat after graduating six seniors and five starters who played key roles in their teams success.

This year, seniors Ellie Meissner and Sophia Alm will be leading the team on and off the field. These two seniors, along with seven newcomers, will put on the Mustang uniform and battle this season against some tough teams.

St. Agnes will definitely be the toughest test once again in the Skyline Conference. The Mustangs also have a few non-conference teams on the schedule that will challenge them including Spectrum who will likely be near the top of Section 5AA, Belle Plaine who has a solid program year after year in Section 2AA, and Spring Lake Park, a big 5AAAA school out of the Northwest Suburban Conference.

Head Coach Jamie Axelberg knows that it will be a huge challenge to get this team of youngsters use to the grind of spring softball and having to be mentally tough and focused while playing games several days in a row. Despite the tough schedule and games that will likely be rescheduled due to weather, Axelberg and her staff will no doubt have this team in a position to win the conference and make a run in the Section 5AA Tournament at the end of May.

Visit [mnsoftballhub.com](http://mnsoftballhub.com) to view the Mustangs schedule and stay up to date on game results.



## COACHING STAFF

**JAMIE AXELBERG**  
HEAD COACH



### THE AXELBERG FILE

#### EDUCATION

B.S. Physical Education      Bethel University ('22)

#### COACHING EXPERIENCE

2023-24      Head Coach at Maranatha

Coach Axelberg is entering her second year as Head Coach of Mustang Softball. Last season the program grew to 3 teams introducing a JV and Middle School team. The varsity team ended the season with a record of 17-4. The Mustangs ended the season first in the Skyline Conference with the first ever Back-to-Back conference championships. Coach Axelberg has a strong knowledge of the game where strategy and on field placement will help with team success.

As a coach Axelberg has coached softball at all levels starting from 8u all the way to 18u in off season softball. In her coaching she has helped lead teams to 8 state tournaments placing in the top 3 every year in attendance. Leading her team to 8 Nationals appearances with a top 4 finish in their respected bracket. Prior to Maranatha, Axelberg attended Bethel University being a 5-year starter and helping lead the team to a conference Championship, Play off championships, and first ever NCAA Tournament berth where they placed in the Top 16 in her final year with the program.



Mens    Womens    Kids    Accessories

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## COACHING STAFF

### **SHELBY NOVOTNY**

ASSISTANT COACH



Shelby Novotny is entering her first year as the Varsity Assistant coach for the mustangs. She played Division II softball at Northern State University where she primarily played shortstop and had a career fielding percentage of .933% and still holds the record of most single season and career home runs at Elk River High School. Shelby has a multitude of experience coaching at the club level has a passion for mental health and developing young players into confident young women. She currently is the Biology teacher at MCA.

### **JO ANDERSON**

ASSISTANT | JV COACH



Jo is so excited to return for her second year of coaching the MCA JV softball team. She brings a strong passion for player development and building athletes up, not only in their physical skills, but their mental game as well. As a former pitcher herself, she is eager to work with pitchers of all different levels.

### **PEYTON SEITZ**

ASSISTANT JV COACH



Seitz is entering her first season as JV assistant coach for Mustang Softball. She is an alumni of MCA and the Minnesota Renegades. She has played softball for 13 years and has a love for the game. Seitz looks forward to challenging athletes to become better players and create a hard-working environment.

Seitz is attending GCU where she is studying Elementary Education with a Christian Education emphasis.



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*We are proud to be a Mustang Family!*

Caitlin Van Winkle  
Maranatha Parent  
& Volunteer

**Casey Van Winkle**  
Maranatha Parent  
& Mortgage Expert  
NMLS 323964  
Casey@firstclasscorp.com



Maisie  
Kindergarten

Cooper  
Kindergarten

Sullivan  
3rd Grade



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VARSIITY



Row 1: Grace Krieg, Ellie Meissner, Gracelyn Kersey-Schutta, Anna Sathre, Alaina Dunham, Kendall Capp. Row 2: Head Coach Jamie Axelberg, Ashley Yost, Olivia Alm, Sophia Alm, Victoria Taschner, Assistant Coach Shelby Novotny.

VARSIITY ROSTER

#	NAME	GRADE.
1	Alaina Dunham	11
2	Olivia Alm	9
5	Grace Krieg	10
7	Victoria Taschner	10
8	Ellie Meissner	11
9	Kendall Capp	7
10	Sophia Alm	12
13	Lexi Henrichs	9
14	Anna Sathre	10
16	Katelyn Matheson	8
18	Gracelyn Kersey-Schutta	9
32	Ashley Yost	11

COACHING STAFF

Head Coach	Jamie Axelberg
Assistant Coach	Shelby Novotny
Assistant Coach	Jo Anderson
Assistant Coach	Peyton Seitz

VARSITY | SENIORS



**SOPHIA  
ALM**

- What is your favorite movie?**  
Clueless
- Who is your favorite athlete?**  
Paige Buekers
- What is one word to describe you?**  
Funny
- What is your favorite memory at MCA?**  
Football



**ELLIE  
MEISSNER**

- What is your favorite movie?**  
Grown Ups
- Who is your favorite athlete?**  
Justin Jefferson
- What is one word to describe you?**  
Laughable
- What is your favorite memory at MCA?**  
Ryan Briggs DJ during lunch

My advise for younger MCA athletes is to remember how much fun you have playing softball. This sport brings us together, we have laughs on the bus rides, and learning lessons at practice. Remembering how fun and how valuable our sport is, is so important because unfortunately, it will be gone very soon.

The most rewarding part of the entire experience of being an athlete is being a part of a family that you never knew you would have, and as a younger MCA athlete, my advice is to make more friends on the team that you will be forever grateful for. Some of my closest friends were created through playing softball, so make sure you are reaching out to others and making friends that will be with you while continuing your journey of being an athlete at MCA.





VARSIITY | JUNIORS



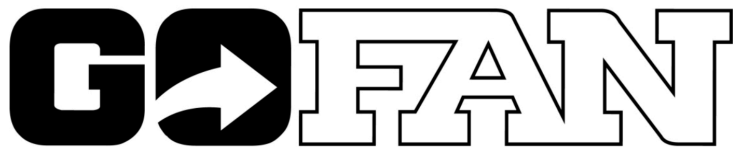
 **ALAINA  
DUNHAM**

**What is your favorite movie?**  
Fast & Furious  
**Who is your favorite athlete?**  
Christian McCaffery  
**What is one word to describe you?**  
Confident  
**What is your favorite memory at MCA?**  
Biology class



 **ASHLEY  
YOST**

**What is your favorite movie?**  
10 Things I Hate About You  
**Who is your favorite athlete?**  
Grace Krieg  
**What is one word to describe you?**  
Amazing  
**What is your favorite memory at MCA?**  
Valley Fair



MARANATHA ATHLETICS ONLINE TICKETING

[GOFAN.CO/APP/SCHOOL/MN9788](https://GOFAN.CO/APP/SCHOOL/MN9788)



VARSITY | SOPHOMORES



**GRACE  
KRIEG**

**What is your favorite movie?**  
10 Things I Hate About You  
**Who is your favorite athlete?**  
Ashley Yost  
**What is one word to describe you?**  
Kind  
**What is your favorite memory at MCA?**  
Valley Fair



**ANNA  
SATHRE**

**What is your favorite movie?**  
Taken  
**Who is your favorite athlete?**  
Anthony Edwards  
**What is one word to describe you?**  
Fun  
**What is your favorite memory at MCA?**  
Homecoming 2024



**VICTORIA  
TASCHNER**

**What is your favorite movie?**  
10 Things I Hate About You  
**Who is your favorite athlete?**  
Jordan Love  
**What is one word to describe you?**  
Adaptive  
**What is your favorite memory at MCA?**  
School dances



VARSIITY | FRESHMAN



**OLIVIA  
ALM**

**What is your favorite movie?**  
Tangled  
**Who is your favorite athlete?**  
Max Kepler  
**What is one word to describe you?**  
Helpful  
**What is your favorite memory at MCA?**  
Ironman Volleyball Tournament



**GRACELYN  
KERSEY-SHUTTA**

**What is your favorite movie?**  
Moana  
**Who is your favorite athlete?**  
Jocelyn Alo  
**What is one word to describe you?**  
Giving  
**What is your favorite memory at MCA?**  
The dance



VARSIITY | 8TH/7TH



**KATELYN MATHESON**

**What is your favorite movie?**  
Titanic  
**Who is your favorite athlete?**  
Kirill Kaprizov  
**What is one word to describe you?**  
Passionate  
**What is your favorite memory at MCA?**  
Elm Creek Field Trip



**KENDALL KAPP**

**What is your favorite movie?**  
Hamilton  
**Who is your favorite athlete?**  
Kendall Coin  
**What is one word to describe you?**  
Outgoing  
**What is your favorite memory at MCA?**  
Experience Maranatha



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**FACTS**

Elevating the Education Experience

JV



Row 1: Nevaeh Kovar, Mya Bell, Holly Steinhorst, Lily Mozdin, Katelyn Matheson, Jacyl Jessen. Row 2: Laila Bell, Emma Greenwood, Payton Sauer, Abby Sathre, Ibukunoluwa Adegoke. Row 3: Assistant Coach Peyton Seitz, Aubrey Shaw, Morgan Wayne, Head Coach Jo Anderson.

**JV ROSTER**

#	NAME	GRADE
3	Aubrey Shaw	8
4	Nevaeh Kovar	9
6	Jacyl Jessen	8
11	Lily Mozdin	10
15	Ibukunoluwa Adegoke	8
17	Emma Greenwood	10
19	Laila Bell	9
21	Holly Steinhorst	10
22	Mya Bell	10
23	Morgan Wayne	10
24	Abby Sathre	8
40	Payton Sauer	8

**COACHING STAFF**

Head Coach	Jo Anderson
Assistant Coach	Peyton Seitz

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Michael A. Matheson  
CFP®, CFS, CRPC®, CDFAs™  
Founder and President

## OUR MISSION is to be our client's first call for financial ADVICE, GUIDANCE and DIRECTION.

Each of these are defined by us as:

### Advice

A path, developed together as a team, tailored to your specific goals and financial situation.

### Guidance

We serve as your reliable guide throughout your financial voyage, utilizing life simplifying and straightforward tools to assist you in making well-informed financial decisions in all areas of your financial life.

### Direction

We look forward to the future with optimism, motivation, and inspiration while maintaining a vigilant focus on the present. Our client connections are built for the long haul, and our direction evolves alongside your journey through life.

Reach out today for a commitment-free, 30 minute 'Ask Anything' session to discover how we can be a game changer for you and your family!



the Michael Matheson Group

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## MUSTANG FACILITIES



The Stable is home to Mustang Basketball and Volleyball.



Noble Sports Park is home to Mustang Soccer.



Mustang Athletics Weight Room.

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Zane Sports Park is home to Mustang Softball.

**MARANATHA CHRISTIAN ACADEMY**  
**GOLF INVITATIONAL**



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**JULY 22, 2024**

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