

# Mustang Musings

MORRIS CENTRAL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



*"A budget is more than just a series of numbers on a page; it is an embodiment of our values" —Barack Obama*

*Budget Issue May 2022*

## VOTERS TO DECIDE ON \$10.16 MILLION BUDGET

On Tuesday, May 17, MCS residents will head to the polls to vote on the proposed \$10.16 million budget for the 2022-2023 school year. Polls will be open from noon to 8 pm in the school lobby.

Overall spending in the proposed budget will increase by approximately 5.06%, and if approved, the tax levy would increase by less than 2%. With final tax rates not being set until August, it still seems likely that the actual tax increase will stay below 2% and will only increase by approximately 1.76%.

Over the past year, the level of inflation throughout the country has increased tremendously and has had an impact on the 2022-2023 budget. With the cost of many of our BOCES services increasing along with increases in MCS employee benefits, fuel costs, and materials and supplies, the budget has increased by a little over five percent. If the budget is accepted, this will be the maximum amount that the district will be able to spend. Thankfully, we are predicting an increase in state aid that will help the district stay below a two percent increase to local taxes

In addition to voting on the budget, voters will also be selecting two seats on the Board of Education and will also vote on whether to include a small capital outlay project for next year.

### District to Stay Within Tax Cap

Many people assume that the tax cap that was placed on school districts and municipalities in 2012 is limited to a two percent increase; however, this is not true. A complicated formula is used to determine each school district's tax cap. With a tax base growth factor of 1.0029, the district's tax cap is 2.46% which equates to an increase to the overall tax levy of \$76,279. If the district elected to go with a tax levy increase greater than 2.46%, we would have needed a super-majority (66%) positive vote for the budget to pass.

#### Tax Cap Estimate

Tax Base Growth Factor	\$9,001
Tax Increase of 1.0123 (1.81%)	\$59,014
Capital Tax Levy	\$8,264
<b>Maximum Tax Levy Threshold</b>	<b>\$76,279</b>
2020-2021 Tax Levy	\$3,104,000
<b>Maximum Tax Levy</b>	<b>\$3,180,279</b>

The board has decided to seek a tax increase of 1.76% which is within the maximum tax levy of \$3,180,279. The board understands that the community values the quality education the Morris Central School students receive and want to see that it is maintained. The board also recognizes that many of our community members are struggling financially, especially now due to the rate of inflation, and that the taxpayers expect the board to remain fiscally conservative. As a result of focusing our budget process on the needs of our students as well as the expectations of our community, the board is proposing a small tax levy increase and one that stays within our tax cap.

### Contingent Budget

The law pertaining to the tax levy cap has also changed the rules for contingent budgets. What was previously considered to be a cap on spending in contingent budgets is now a zero percent cap on the tax levy increase. In other words, the Morris Central School District would have to levy the same amount of taxes as in the current year or less. If we had to go to a contingent budget, we would have to reduce our budget by \$100,000.



*continued on next page →*



**Morris Central School  
Board Members**

Mary Dugan, President

Russell Tilley, Vice President

Emily Boss

Wendy Moore

Michael Walling

**Morris Central School  
Administration**

Matthew Sheldon,  
Interim Superintendent

Katharine Smith, Principal

Amy Gerhart, Director of  
Pupil Personnel

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**Budget Hearing**

The official budget hearing on the  
proposed budget will be held

**Tuesday, May 10 at 6:30 p.m.**

A second budget hearing will also be  
held **Thursday, May 12 at 1:00 p.m.**

Other aspects of the contingent budget rules have stayed the same. If voters defeat their school district budget on May 17, a district has three options: resubmit the same budget for a revote on June 21; submit a revised proposal for a revote on June 21; or adopt a contingent budget. If residents vote down a resubmitted budget, the district **MUST** adopt a contingent budget.

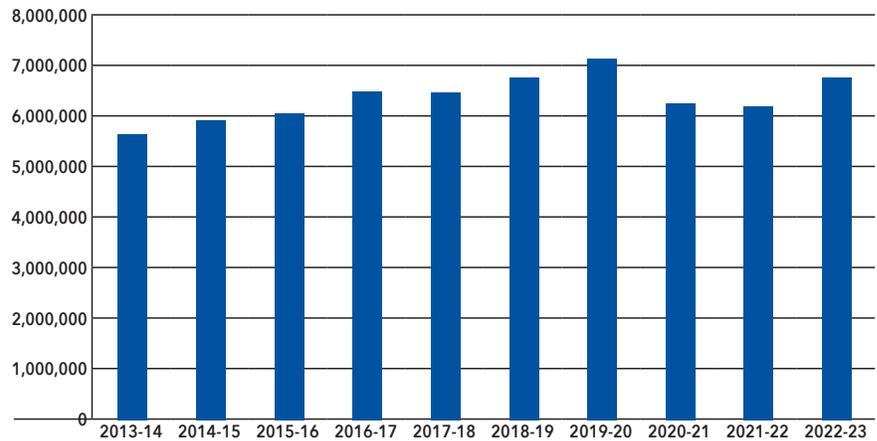
Adopting a contingent budget prohibits a district from spending any money in certain areas as prescribed by law. These areas include community use of school facilities (unless all costs are reimbursed to the district), non-essential maintenance, and capital expenditures (except in emergencies).

These requirements existed prior to the tax levy cap and remain in effect.

**Zero Percent Increase in Contingency is the Real “Cap”**

While districts could hold another vote if a proposed budget fails on the first try, the new “zero” percent cap on contingent budget tax levies raises the stakes for school leaders as they work to craft budget proposals that their communities will support .

**State Aid**



**One Additional Item in Proposed Budget**

For the fourth year, the Board of Education is proposing a capital outlay project as part of the 2022-2023 budget. This would be paid through use of our unassigned fund balance. There will be no tax increase because of this proposal.

**Don't Forget to Vote Tuesday, May 17**

Polls will be open from noon to 8:00 p.m. in the school's lobby.

***Voter Eligibility***

To vote, you must be at least 18 years old, a U.S. citizen and a resident of the Morris Central School District for at least 30 days prior to the vote. You do NOT need to be registered to vote.

***Absentee Ballot Information***

To vote by absentee ballot, you must fill out an application. Contact the district clerk, Judy Matson, at (607) 263-6102 for the application. If you want a ballot mailed to you, your application must be received by May 10. If you plan to pick up your ballot, your application must be received by May 16. Completed absentee ballots must be received by the district clerk by 5:00 p.m. on May 17, the day of the vote.

## Capital Outlay Project

New York State laws allow school districts to receive state aid on small building projects that do not exceed \$100,000. To receive the aid, however, there are specific requirements that school districts must follow including:

- The project cannot exceed \$100,000, including all incidental fees (legal, architectural, etc.)
- The project must be part of the annual budget, be voter approved and paid through a budget appropriation
- A district cannot borrow money for this type of project
- The district will receive state aid back on the project in the year following completion of the project. It is not paid out over a series of years

### How does a capital outlay project work?

Within the proposed 2022-2023 project, the specific project for which the funds will be used is outlined.

- Once the budget is approved by the voters, the school must have architects complete and submit drawings of the project to the State Education Department for approval
- The project must be completed within the school budget year, July 1- June 30
- Once the project is completed, the district submits final cost reports to the state for approval and payment

### What is the purpose of a capital outlay project?

The purpose of a capital outlay project is to allow a school district to perform small projects to maintain its facilities rather than waiting for issues to become larger and having to have a larger project.

### What does the district plan on accomplishing in the 2022-2023 capital outlay project?

The district is in the process of narrowing down the scope of the work that we hope to accomplish in the capital outlay project. Some items that we want to include in the project are:

- Replace the carpeting in the high school library and in the offices. Carpeting in both areas was damaged during the flood
- New York State has instituted new regulations pertaining to grease traps. The traps in the cafeteria are currently in need of replacement
- New monitoring system for fuel tank
- Replacement grease traps in cafeteria
- Other basic maintenance work

## Budget at a Glance

<b>Proposed Budget</b>	<b>\$10,164,634</b>
Budget Increase	\$489,634
Tax Levy Increase	1.76%

## Increase of Overall Budget

The budget-to-budget increase of \$489,634 is mainly due to increases in different BOCES programs, increase to benefits, an increase in fuel costs and an overall increase for materials and supplies.

### Major Budget Expenditure Categories

#### ↑ Salaries: \$3,855,891 (3.6%)

Total spending on salaries is increasing by \$134,135 or approximately 3.6%. An increase to overall contractual salaries, the addition of an aide and a mechanic are the main reasons for the increase.

#### ↓ Employment Benefits: \$2,598,807 (9.19%)

There will be an increase of 9.19% in employee benefits for next year. The increase is due to higher health benefit costs and a small increase in TRS costs. We are expecting an increase of \$218,644 in employee benefits.

#### ↓ Debt Service: \$833,324 (1.71%)

Our debt service will decrease by \$14,508 which is approximately a decrease of 1.71%. We continue to pay down the debt for past projects which is causing a small decrease in this area.

#### ↓ Equipment, Supplies and Contractual Items: \$912,494 (1.58%)

The costs in this area have increased by \$14,220 which is a 1.58% increase. An increase in fuel and material/supplies costs have increased the budget, but the district no longer plans on contracting with a private vendor for mechanical services which will save money in this area.

#### ↑ BOCES Services/Private Tuition: \$1,934,118 (9.15%)

BOCES costs have increased for this next school year by approximately 9.15%. The total increase is \$162,143

#### ↑ Support of School Food Program: \$30,000 (45.45%)

The school cafeteria is a separate budget, and the hope is that expenses and revenues will balance out. Due to an increase in benefits and a reduction in student participation, we are including money in the general fund in the event the cafeteria runs in the red. This is a \$25,000 decrease in this area, however.

## Estimated Tax Rates

Although the final tax rates will not be set until August, it appears likely that actual tax rates will increase by approximately 1.76%. This is only **an estimate**. The tax rates differ between the four towns because of equalization rates set by New York State Office of Real Property Services. Equalization rates are established to make sure the tax levy is fairly distributed when one taxing entity (the district) spans multiple municipalities, which may use different assessment practices. **The district will set final tax rates in August**, after the towns finalize assessment figures and the state sets the equalization rates.

*Other Items on the Ballot . . .*

### Three candidates up for two, three-year Board of Education Positions

The school district has a five member board of education. Members are elected by voters in the district and serve three year terms. Current members and the years that their terms end are Wendy Moore (2024), Mary Dugan (2022), Emily Boss (2023), Russell Tilley (2023), and Michael Walling (2022). This is a volunteer position and takes a great deal of dedication to be a member.

This year, voters will select candidates to fill the positions currently held by Mary Dugan and Michael Walling. Mary is just finishing her second term on the Board of Education and is seeking reelection. She is running unopposed.



**Mary Dugan** was raised in Darien Center, NY, and has lived in Morris for the past nineteen years. Prior to moving to Morris, Mary was employed as a Speech-Language Pathologist both in the healthcare and educational fields, working in WNY hospital systems and teaching undergraduate and graduate levels at the University at Buffalo. Currently, she serves as the Business Administrator for David M. Dugan, DDS, MD, PC surgical practice.

**Mary** is active in the Morris Central Booster Club, Morris Planning Board, Morris Beautification Project, and attends the First Baptist Church of Morris. She is married to Dr. David Dugan. Together they have four children, two of whom attend Morris Central School. The two oldest are Morris graduates with one attending Syracuse University and the other Marist College. Mary is currently the board president.

**Michael Walling** has decided not to seek re-election. We want to thank him for his years of service to the school district. He is just finishing his fourth term serving on the board. Two individuals are running for this position.



**Charles Fraser** graduated from Laurens Central School and has numerous trade school certifications (Heavy Equipment Operation/ OSHA and Welding). Charles is very active in the community, has coached youth sports, and is active in the Morris Booster Club. His family has lived in the district for nearly 19 years and currently lives on Broad Street in the village of Morris. Charles and his wife have four children. One child is a 2021 graduate of Morris and is attending Marywood University. His other children are all currently enrolled at Morris.



**Teresa DeLaurentiis** is a lifelong resident and graduate of Morris Central School and a graduate of Elmira College. She and her husband William Burdick have two children attending Morris. Teresa is Director of Client

Relations for Vibrant Brands, a marketing agency located in Albany that primarily works with non profits, credit unions and health care systems across the Northeast. She previously sat on the Board of Education for seven years, having been appointed to fill a vacancy and then serving another two terms. After taking some time off while her children were young, Teresa is now eager to return to public service in the Morris community.

*\*\*\*These are the candidates that have turned in petitions at the time newsletter was printed. Other candidates may submit a petition prior to the April 18, 2022 deadline.*

### What is a tax levy?

The tax levy is the total amount of taxes a school district raises to help fund its budget, after accounting for all other revenue sources. The tax levy is the basis for determining the tax rates for each municipality within a school district. Tax rates area also impacted by changes in town assessments and state equalization rates.

### Budget approvals by the numbers

The proposed 2022-2023 MCSD budget is \$10,164,634 and calls for a 1.76% increase in the tax levy. This is within our tax cap, so a super-majority is not needed.

### The Board's three options

If the proposed 2022-2023 MCS budget is voted down, the Board of Education has three options to consider:

- ✓ Put the same budget before the voters a second time
- ✓ Put a revised budget before the voters with additional reductions
- ✓ Adopt a contingent budget that is \$54,662 less than the proposed budget

### What will be cut in a contingent budget?

What used to be a spending cap on contingent budgets is now a zero percent cap on the tax levy increase. In other words, Morris would have to levy the same amount of taxes as in the current year. We would have to decrease the budget by \$10 0,000.

### Budget Summary

New York State law requires all school districts to present their budgets divided into three expenditure categories—program, administrative and capital—and compare them to last year's amount. Morris's three-part budget breaks down as follows:

Program	2021-2022	2022-2023
Amount	\$7,215,307	\$7,576,698
% of total	74.58%	74.54%

*Includes salaries and benefits of all teachers and staff who deliver pupil services (guidance, health, library/media, etc.), textbooks and equipment, co-curricular activities, athletics, and transportation costs (except bus purchases).*

Administrative	2021-2022	2022-2023
Amount	\$1,010,320	1,068,110
% of total	10.44%	10.51%

*Includes salaries and benefits of administrative staff including finance and central office staff, curriculum and staff development, school board costs, general insurance, and professional fees.*

Capital	2021-2022	2022-2023
Amount	\$1,449,373	\$1,519,826
% of total	14.98%	14.95%

*Includes salaries and benefits of maintenance and custodial staff, debt service on buildings and school bus purchases, utilities and tax certiorari and court-ordered costs.*

# 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR BUDGET SUMMARY

## Proposed Expenditures by Category

	2021-22 Budget	2022-23 Proposed	Dollar Change
<b>Program Expenditures (Total)</b>	<b>\$7,215,307</b>	<b>\$7,576,698</b>	<b>+\$361,391</b>
Teaching (Regular)	\$2,255,057	\$2,318,730	+\$63,673
Special Education	\$1,312,303	\$1,425,221	+\$112,918
Occupational Education	\$166,957	\$191,476	+\$24,519
Instructional Media	\$165,089	\$176,427	+\$11,338
Summer Music/Driver's Ed.	\$1,000	\$1,033	+\$33
Attendance	\$2,718	\$2,851	+\$133
Pupil Services (Guidance, Health, Psych.)	\$333,525	\$362,029	+28,504
Student Activities	\$124,639	\$107,675	-\$16,964
Student Transportation	\$613,327	\$573,953	-\$39,374
School Lunch Fund	\$55,000	\$30,000	-\$25,000
Employee Benefits	\$2,185,692	\$2,387,303	+\$201,611
<b>Administrative Expenditures (Total)</b>	<b>\$1,010,320</b>	<b>\$1,068,110</b>	<b>+\$57,790</b>
Board of Education	\$9,630	\$7,570	-\$2,060
Central Administration	\$195,596	\$221,571	+\$25,975
Finance	\$237,204	\$262,417	+\$25,213
Legal, Public Info. & Service	\$17,799	\$18,258	+\$459
Central Services	\$34,800	\$33,701	-\$1,099
Insurance, BOCES Admin. Costs	\$164,307	\$170,082	+\$5,775
Instr., Admin. & Improv.	\$218,482	\$224,384	+\$5,902
Employee Benefits	\$132,502	\$130,127	-\$2,375
<b>Capital Expenditures (Total)</b>	<b>\$1,449,373</b>	<b>\$1,519,826</b>	<b>+\$70,453</b>
Operation & Maintenance	\$537,572	\$603,125	+\$65,553
Refund on Property Taxes	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
Employee Benefits	\$61,969	\$81,377	+\$19,408
Debt Service	\$737,832	\$723,324	-\$14,508
Transfer to Federal	\$110,000	\$110,000	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$9,675,000</b>	<b>\$10,164,634</b>	

## Estimated Revenues by Category

	2020-21 Budget	2021-22 Proposed	Dollar Change
<b>State Aid Other Revenues</b>	<b>\$6,192,483</b>	<b>\$6,593,606</b>	<b>+\$401,123</b>
Charges for Services- Tuition	\$15,163	\$22,400	+\$7,237
Interest & Penalties on Taxes	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0
Interest on Investments	\$1,000	\$1,000	-\$0
Rental of Real Property	\$24,400	\$400	-\$24,000
Refunds for BOCES Aided Serv.	\$145,454	\$166,517	+\$21,063
Medicaid Reimbursement	\$15,000	\$5,000	-\$10,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$211,017</b>	<b>\$205,317</b>	<b>-\$5,700</b>
<b>Use of Appropriated Fund Balance &amp; Reserves</b>	<b>\$167,500</b>	<b>\$207,049</b>	<b>+\$39,549</b>
Property Tax Levy	\$3,104,000	\$3,158,662	+\$54,662
Payment in Lieu of Taxes	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$3,104,000</b>	<b>\$3,158,662</b>	<b>+\$54,662</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$9,675,000</b>	<b>\$10,164,634</b>	<b>+\$489,634</b>

## GOOD LUCK IN RETIREMENT MS. SMITH FROM ALL OF MCS



Everyone will miss Ms. Smith next year, but they all wish her the best of luck and a most fun and restful retirement. Here are a few words from some of the many members of MCS' faculty and staff who wished to congratulate Ms. Smith:

“Being Mrs. Smith’s secretary for over ten years, I’m having a hard time thinking about just one memory that we share. There are so many that are entertaining, emotional, and inspiring. Mrs. Smith’s dedication and commitment to our students has always been her main priority. Every morning she meets our students at the doors to welcome them and to say ‘Good morning.’ Some weeks are overwhelming, but she always finds a way to be mindful and caring.”

—Mrs. Renee Knapp, Principal’s Secretary

“Over the past 12 years, I have had the honor and privilege to work with Mrs. Smith at Morris Central School. Mrs. Smith’s depth of knowledge in curriculum and educational pedagogy has helped the district be a leader in the area academically. Most importantly, Mrs. Smith has always placed the needs of our students first, working diligently to ensure that each student finds success. She is going to be greatly missed.”

—Mr. Sheldon, Interim Superintendent

“The BOE would like to congratulate Ms. Smith on her upcoming retirement. We celebrate her years of dedicated service to the Morris Central School district. Students and staff alike have benefited from her unwavering commitment to educational and professional excellence. Although she will be greatly missed, we are confident that Ms. Smith has established a firm foundation at Morris Central for many years of future success. Enjoy your well-deserved retirement, Ms. Smith.”

—MCS Board of Education

“Working with Kathy Smith for these past 12 years has been awesome! She is the best ‘boss’ a person could ever ask for. I wish her the best in her retirement and I hope she gets some much needed rest.”

—Mrs. Elaine Parker, Guidance Secretary  
and Support Staff Union Leader

“Congratulations on your retirement! You have made such a difference in the lives of so many children throughout your 12 years at MCS. You proved that it doesn’t take much to make a big impact in someone’s life. You have helped us become better educators, holding us accountable, and setting expectations high. We wish you nothing but the very best for this new chapter in your life!”

—Mr. Michael Iannelli, PE and Morris Teachers  
Association Union President

“Informed. Informed. Informed. Ms. Smith is the finest staff developer in education today. She always kept her employees current with methodologies and trends in NYS education. I will miss working with her.”

—Mr. Packard, Technology and longest-standing faculty  
member currently employed at MCS

“Through our two plus COVID-19 years, Kathy Smith carried the brunt of the planning, executing and problem solving at MCS. Education carried on, but in a very different way. Providing food and technology carried on, but in a very different way. Unlike many other schools though, Kathy made sure that kids were still loved and felt connected to teachers and classmates. She looked at remote learning from the students’ and teachers’ points of view, doing everything she could to ensure these two groups were not overwhelmed, but confident that learning and caring could continue. Kathy kept us a MCS family even through disconnected times. She kept us MCS strong.”

—Mrs. Maria Deysenroth, PE and  
Long-standing Faculty Member

“The Student Council and other representatives of the Morris Central School student body would like to wish you the best of luck in your retirement, and thank you for all you have done for the school and community.”

—Alex Page, Senior and Student Council President



### *A Retirement Note From Ms. Smith*

I have been an educator for 35 year and am honored to have served for the last 12 years as the principal at MCS. To say I feel lucky is an understatement. I have had the privilege of working with so many outstanding educators who are deeply dedicated to doing their best every day for the students at Morris. I will miss the staff and the daily interactions that reflect genuine caring. I truly will miss all the students who over the years have impressed me with their academic, artistic, and athletic abilities. It has been my pleasure watching so many graduate and go on to successful careers and endeavors. I will miss being a part of this wonderful community whose strength in times of need has never ceased to amaze me.

In retirement I hope to stay connected to education by mentoring new principals and supervising student teachers. I plan to take some time to travel and visit with family and friends in other states. I hope to train for and run another half marathon or two. I am looking forward to spending more time at the beach. In addition, I hope to read all the books that have piled up over the years and dabble more with photography.

Even when my days are no longer structured by the ringing of bells, I am sure I will find many new and exciting challenges in my retirement. No matter where my adventures take me, I will always be a proud Morris Mustang!

—Ms. Katharine Smith, Principal

## WELCOME NEW FACULTY & STAFF



### **Rhonda Burnside**

Hello. I am the new special education teacher at Morris Central School. I am currently working with grades 5, 6, and 7. I grew up in Gilbertsville. I received my Bachelor’s Degree from SUNY Oneonta in elementary education and then my Master’s Degree in special education. I spent the last twelve years teaching special education for grades 5-8 in the Oxford Academy and Central School District.

I currently live in South New Berlin with my husband, daughter, son, and our many pets. Some of my hobbies include reading many good books, watching movies, shopping, playing with my pets, and taking walks.

I am looking forward to a great school year and learning more about my students as the school year progresses. Having graduated from a small school district myself, I am excited to be teaching in a Pre-K-12 school building and learning more about the Morris community.

## THREE CHEERS TO . . .

- ★ Morris Varsity Boys Basketball Team, MCS’s new Tri-Valley Champions.
- ★ Mr. Iannelli for all the hard work in ordering equipment and making sure we have spring sport games with competitive schools. Thanks for helping the transition of merging with Edmeston go smoothly too!
- ★ Varsity Baseball, Softball, and Track coaches and players for being flexible and open to new things as they merged with Edmeston.
- ★ Thanks to our local AAU coaches--for keeping our basketball program growing.
- ★ Custodians for working hard in getting the fields ready for spring sports.
- ★ Mrs. Deysenroth and Mr. Iannelli for working on the softball field.
- ★ All those involved in state testing--thank you for helping the exam run smoothly and helping students succeed.
- ★ Mrs. Catella and Mrs. Parker for helping students prepare for college and the work world, apply for colleges, prepare for SATs and earn scholarships.
- ★ Mrs. Vunk for helping National Honor Society be so successful. The projects that have been finished this far are awesome and beneficial to so many.
- ★ All the MCS Teacher’s Aides--without you, MCS would not run smoothly at all.
- ★ Elaine Parker for being the best proofreader ever
- ★ Mrs. Grant and her environmental science students for working so hard to keep our greenhouses open!
- ★ Mr. Sheldon for acting as our interim superintendent and always being willing to help where needed.
- ★ Ms. Smith for her ongoing love and dedication to the students and staff at MCS!

# ART & TECHNOLOGY

## Advanced Art

After you take Studio Art, you may still need art credits in order to graduate, or maybe you just really like art. Either way, Advanced Art could be the solution for you. From drawing to clay structures, there is something for everyone in this class.

### About Advanced Art

Ms. Collins said that Advanced Art includes many different kinds of art media, such as painting or drawing. She also said, “What is really unique about the class is the opportunity for independent projects. Every five weeks students get to choose to repeat a project they enjoyed or come up with something they want to explore and work on independently.” She then stated that the art room then becomes a space that encourages creativity on these independent projects. Advanced Art is similar to Studio Art, but in Advanced Art the projects are more detailed. “It is a great class for students who like to bring their own ideas and can work independently.” They have worked on “realistic drawing, pottery, paper sculptures, and are currently making rope basket forms.”

### About Ms. Collins

Ms. Collins has been teaching for eleven years, as of this year. She lives in Oneonta with her chocolate lab, Zuzu Petals, who “unfortunately enjoys eating my art projects!” Ms. Collins said. Ms. Collins enjoys hiking as well as art. She says she got into art in second grade: “I found that I really enjoyed art class and have loved it ever since!” She likes teaching art classes because she enjoys presenting a problem for her students and seeing how “everyone brings their own perspective and solutions to make something truly unique!”

So, students, if you need those extra art credits to graduate, or maybe you are intrigued by what this class has to offer, consider taking Advanced Art after Studio Art. It will be worth your time.

—Tatiana McAdams, Sophomore

## Art Show Honors

Every year, an art show is held in Cooperstown through the Cooperstown Art Association. This show is a chance for students to display their artistic abilities and possibly receive awards. Sometimes their art is even selected to be placed in a local Congressman’s office. Five Morris students participated in the show this year, including *Laurel Brigham*, *Madeline Schiller*, *Justine Norton*, *Jason Strain*, and *Levi Waffle*. *Laurel Brigham* said, “It’s nice to know that people are able to look at my art and enjoy it.”

*Jason*, *Laurel*, *Justine*, and *Madeline* all created some sort of collage for their project, and *Levi* made a drawing. *Jason* was the only one who won an award for his project. *Jason* created a collage of his dog, *Sammy*, out of a picture of corn he found in a magazine. There is another show coming up this year through Butternut Valley Alliance called “Art on the Trail.” This is the second year for this show which will occur on the weekend of June 11 and 12.

—Carissa Richards, Junior

## Photography

In photography class taught by Mrs. Collins, we get to take all kinds of photographs, but also get to create short films that we can enter in The All-American High School Film Festival. We got to choose our topics based on the requirements for the Festival. I was part of a group with *Justine Norton* (‘23), *Leah Rehrmann* (‘22), *Laura Foote* (‘22), and *Kayleigh Hoyt* (‘22). Our short film was about bullying and the awareness we should bring when it comes to this important topic. I am glad I was able to work with my group to develop this project. It is a very important topic to us. As of April 1, no one was ready to send their short films out to the festival, but that may change by the next deadline, Monday, May 2, 2022. The official selections will be announced Friday, July 2, 2022. Senior *Laura Foote* said, “I liked working with my group and making the short film. It was fun!”

—Kelsey Chase, Senior

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## Technology Classes

Mr. Packard, our technology teacher here at the school struggled last year to modify hands-on projects to be more COVID safe. However, this year with the new rules and more flexibility, he was able to continue the projects that we have done before the shutdown such as robotics, the Junior Americans Cup, 3D printing, and manufacturing. His 8th-grade class was unable to do robotics last year due to the multiple shutdowns and social distancing rules, but this year, they were able to continue the “Maze Runner” activity that has been going on for many years. In this activity, the students had to build and program a robot to travel through the maze in Mr. Packard’s classroom. Other classes such as Creativity and Innovation were able to work more hands-on this year. A project such as the “Butler Table” is a folding table that students are able to pick up and carry. *Noah Burlison*, Senior, said, “I really enjoyed this project because it is fun. I like woodworking.” Mr. Packard said, “This project is incredibly innovative and hands-on. This year the students are interested in the distressed look which is highly visible and pleasing to the eye.” They make the distressed look by burning the wood with a blowtorch in a pleasing way. In DDP students have been working on cardboard shoes and multiple 3D printing projects. Mr. Packard said, “Every student has worked diligently and the projects allow them to extend their technological knowledge.” Finally, Manufacturing has provided students with the opportunity to grow their knowledge and work with their hands. When asked about this class Mr. Packard first said, “Manufacturing has been working hard on the C and C router; there are only nine students, so we are able to incorporate a lot into the curriculum with that machine.”

—Hannah Wist, Freshman

**You are Invited**

**The Second Annual  
Art on the  
Trail Walk**

**When:** June 11-12  
Basswood Pond State  
Forest in Burlington  
Flats from 10:00 a.m.-  
4:00 p.m.




*Clay Textured Fish,  
Coraline Jensen, Grade 4*



*Hanging out in art with Kermit  
The Frog, Ella Moore, Grade 7*



*Neon Painting Animals,  
Hallie Brown, Grade 5*



*"Memories," Submission  
for the Fenimore  
Student Art Exhibition,  
Hannah Wist, Grade 9*



*Natalie Barley, Grade 8*



*"Scary Scott" by Tiger Ross,  
Grade 11*



*Landscape Painting by Laurel Brigham,  
Grade 12*



*Submission for the Fenimore Student Art Exhibition,  
Mackenzie Hoyt, Grade 9*



*"Unique Perspective," Jeffery  
Bourgeois, Grade 12*



*Linocut Printmaking, Justine  
Norton, Grade 11*

PHOTOGRAPHY ASSIGNMENT



*"Good or Bad Memories," Shiloh Jones, Grade 8,  
Submission for the Fenimore Student Art Exhibition*

# DRAMA CLUB

## In Spite of Obstacles, Students Found Success

The Morris Central School's Drama Club, *Awkward Silence*, faced many obstacles while trying to put on their production of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, from COVID and concussions, to snowdays and emergencies, the play had to be rescheduled several times. In spite of the setbacks, the students kept working hard and managed to pull off a very funny, well-cast show.

*Rachel Hill*, Sophomore, said, "I think the play went well. I had so much fun with all my friends and I'm going to miss the people in the cast who are graduating."

Ms. S. Smith, the director, was proud of all the students.



# ELEMENTARY PE

Elementary PE has been participating in fitness stations this winter. Students have been working to improve their balance, agility, strength, speed, coordination, and endurance.

—Mrs. Maria Deysenroth, PE



Fourth graders, Lila Brown and Aubrey Phillips, worked with a crash mat.



Shania Smith used the running parachute.



Coraline Jensen and Ariana Chapman strengthened their cores.



Parker Flanagan improved his balance.



Mya Baker did a short cardio workout.

# SPORTS

## Tri-Valley All-Stars

Congratulations to the following Morris basketball athletes for being recognized by the Tri-Valley league for their contributions to their basketball seasons.

### First Team All-Stars:

- ★ *Scott Murphy*
- ★ *Carissa Richards*

### Second Team All-Stars:

- ★ *Garrett Aikins*
- ★ *Tiger Ross*
- ★ *Hannah Wist*

### Honorable Mentions:

- ★ *Jon Child*
- ★ *Maddie Aikins*



## Combined Track Teammates Meet for the First Time: A Senior's Point of View

*Noah Burlison* is a senior track player this season. He throws shot put and discus.

On March 29, 2022, the Morris and Edmeston track teams met for the first time. They are combining for sports this sport season. To my surprise it went very well; both sides of the team got along very well, and it was nice to see a track team that consisted of more than ten people. Morris has not had a large track team in awhile. We spent most of practice getting to know each other. It was interesting to see how well everyone blended well together which gave all the athletes hope that during this season

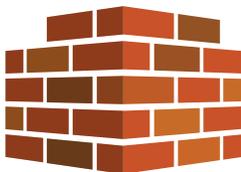


we will be a very strong team and hopefully get the Tri-Valley and Sectional titles. This year we have about 35 varsity players and about six modified players. This is a big change since Morris and Edmeston have not had big teams in a long time. I have very high hopes for this season. I'm also excited to see everyone in the new track sweatshirts we're getting this year. My last season as a track player will be great.

—*Noah J Burlison*, Senior

## Support Morris Central School Athletes Brick Campaign

We invite you to participate in the Morris Central School Athletic Club Brick Campaign, a project that will forever link your name to MCS. Friends, faculty, staff, alumni, and current students have the opportunity to celebrate their committed relationship to Morris Central School by purchasing an engraved brick. Celebrate a graduation or a milestone; honor a classmate, family member, an influential person in your life, or an athletic team. In addition, a brick can be named in honor or in memory of a classmate, teacher, coach, or friend.



We are selling two sizes of bricks 4x8 for \$50.00 and 8x8 for \$100. Bricks will be located on either side of the main entrance of the school.

Your support will be a permanent reminder of your partnership and involvement with Morris Central School, community, and athletics.

You may purchase a brick online (go to the Athletics tab at [www.morriscsd.org](http://www.morriscsd.org)) or fill out a form and return with check to:

Morris Central School  
Att: Michael Iannelli  
Athletic Club  
PO Box 40  
Morris, NY 13808

***Thank you for your support!***

## MCS Booster Club

The Morris Central Booster Club (MCBC) was formed a decade ago to offer financial support of student athletes and athletic programs at MCS. Just as importantly, we strive to create excitement and positive energy around district athletics. Financial support to teams includes donations for special equipment, warm-ups and other clothing, and special events. Money is raised through the generosity of donors by concession sales, raffles, sales of mustang gear, and other special events.

Each year MCBC organizes Homecoming festivities, hosts the Ray Clement and Joan Martin Basketball tournaments, runs concessions stands each season, coordinates recognition of senior athletes for each sport, arranges the end-of-the-year athletic banquet for athletes and their families, and sponsors other special events/charities as opportunities arise.

Our Board is comprised of the following officers: President, Vice President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, Public Relations/Marketing, and Board Representatives. We welcome volunteers and new members. Please contact us at [morrisboosterclub@gmail.com](mailto:morrisboosterclub@gmail.com) and "like" us on Facebook at Morris Central Booster Club. Follow our organization for information regarding upcoming events and volunteer opportunities.

We thank you for your continued support of our student athletes!

—*The Morris Booster Club*

## S P O R T S

### Varsity Girls Softball

The past few years, Morris Central School has had a very large, competitive softball program. However, while the competitiveness has not changed, the number of girls interested in playing softball not just from Morris Central but other schools around has decreased. COVID really took a toll on team sports. In order for teams to be able to compete this year, many schools are having to merge their athletic programs. Morris and Edmenston have started a newly founded partnership this softball season as Edmeston didn't have enough girls signed up for a team and Morris and Edmeston will most likely be in the same boat next year as there are many seniors on the team this year who will graduate.

There were many concerns at the beginning of the season as girls were worried about getting cut, how positioning was going to work out, and the hope that positive relationships were going to be made. As the season goes on, Morris and Edmenston girls have been forming great friendships and have come to realize that with a bigger team, girls can be positioned where their strengths are versus putting them in positions just to fill an empty spot. Coach Waffle and Coach Failey do an excellent job showing equal treatment to girls from both Morris and Edmenston which helps ease the girls' minds about merging together as a team. Hopefully, the Morris/Edmenston girls will continue to have a great season and reach new achievements. *Hannah Wist*, Freshman pitcher, said, "The merge gives us new opportunities for positions and friendships. It also teaches us that we have to support our team on and off the field. I am looking forward to seeing how our team progresses over the season and seeing what we can do in the end."

Mrs. Waffle said, "The ladies on the team from both schools have been very open to new ideas, have been flexible, and really accepting of each other so far. Coach Failey and I are very excited for the season as it will prove to be a successful one. We are also super proud of the ladies on the team for being positive leaders and supportive teammates to everyone. Not only are these young ladies great players and teammates, they are amazing young women all around."

Congratulations go to *Lena Greene* of Edmeston and *Triana Hawkins* of Morris who were elected by their teammates as the captains of this year's team.

*Triana Hawkins*, Senior Captain, said, "I think this season is going to be very interesting with the combination of two schools, but I think a lot will come from it. I hope to see a lot of camaraderie and morale develop throughout this season. I can see a lot of friendships coming from this experience and hope that our team makes the most out of this opportunity, not only to better our team but become better individuals."

—*Aislinn Ray*, Sophomore

### New Baseball Team

This year is different for varsity baseball because we had to merge with Edmeston. Although it took many of us by surprise, it appears we are going to have a pretty good year this year. It seems like everyone has pretty similar views to how they want the season to go. Coach Harmer said, "This year I want us to be able to make it far in sectionals and this year is a great opportunity for our players to achieve things that would not have happened had we not merged." Coach Beldon of Edmeston added, "My goal for this baseball season is to get both teams to come together as one team and show everyone how good we can be. We all would like to win the Tri-Valley League, but I believe the way this team is looking and starting to come together that we can make a real strong run at Section IV. When the signups were put up and we had just enough players and Morris had just enough, I thought there would be no merger this year. But the week before season came around and everyone started talking about it, I really started to think about it too. We had a conference call with both of us coaches and our ADs and that's when I realized this was probably the right thing to do for the year. After the first week of practice and working with Mr. Harmer, it just felt right. I have to believe we can take both teams and make them one real strong team." One of two seniors from the team, *Alex Page* said, "I would love for the team to win Tri-Valley and make a far run in Sectionals. I think combining with Edmeston is a decision that will lead to a lot of good things for our baseball programs. We will be able to do some good things this year, but we need to come together as one whole unit." The other senior from Edmeston, *Ronnie Hickling* said, "My goals are for us to become a cohesive unit and bond as if we've played together for years. I would also like us to go far beyond the Tri-Valley Championship and dominate in Sectionals. As a senior, I want to go look back at my final season and be proud of myself, teammates, and the season as a whole."

—*Joshua Benjamin*, Junior

### Morris Fan Gear

April is the perfect time to refresh your look while you represent your favorite team! Get your MCS gear and use this deal to help you. All month long, score 15% OFF orders of \$70+ when you use code **APRIL22**. It's that easy. So, head over to your Morris Central School Sideline Store now to shop all your favorite brands, designs and styles before this deal ends 4/30.

Visit here to order: [https://sideline.bsnsports.com/schools/new\\_york/morris/morris-central-high-school](https://sideline.bsnsports.com/schools/new_york/morris/morris-central-high-school)

## ENGLISH ALTERED ART

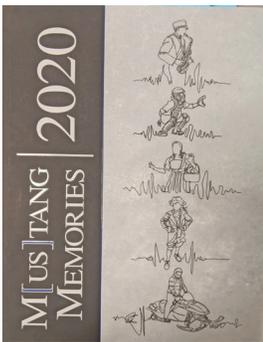
Each year as part of a poetry unit, Mrs. Waffle's eleventh grade students create altered art poetry projects. Against her English teacher instincts, she has students cut up, paint, stain, burn, and glue old, discarded hard-covered books to create a work of art that marries their original poems. The projects are usually very creative and powerful. This year was no exception. *Justine Norton*, who wrote a poem based on a news article she read about an abused child being found under a staircase said, "I LOVED doing the altered art poetry project. I liked being able to think of my poem in a deeper manner and being able to put it into art." *Aaron Pondolino* said, "I found that building parallels between the art and the poetry was the only way to explain the poetry because my poetry was obscure." *Ethan Franklin*, who was able to put his love of baseball into his project said the project "was fun, and I liked it because I got to destroy a book."

—Mrs. Julene Waffle, Secondary English



## National Honors for MCS Yearbook

Congratulations to the MCS Yearbook staff of this year and of 2020 on being featured in the Look Book 2022! Our cover from the 2020 yearbook was chosen as a standout among all the covers submitted to this annual contest. The cover features doodled images rendered from photographs of MCS students involved in music, performance, academics, athletics, and free time fun.



Morris is one of four upstate New York Schools to be featured in the Look Book. This is a significant achievement to be featured in Jostens annual "best of the best" publication. A team of experts selected 458 yearbooks from nearly 1,000 submitted for consideration. Our Jostens representative said, "The Look Book 2022 will be provided to more than 11,000 high schools across the US, Canada, and Internationally."

—Mrs. Julene Waffle,  
Secondary English



## College Information Day

Friday, April 1, was College Information Day at SUNY Cobleskill. Students participated in a college fair which had over 30 college representatives from both SUNY and private colleges. After the college fair, the juniors took a campus tour. *Jon Child* said, "I had a lot of fun and it was a great way to learn about a lot of new experiences." Students enjoyed pizza at Scotty's after they returned home.

## Calling All Alumni

Here are alumni activity dates that you might find useful:

**June 24:** Class of 2022 Graduation Reception following graduation

**June 25:** Alumni Association Annual Golf Tournament—Colonial Ridge

**June 26:** Alumni Association Annual Meeting and Dinner—Morris Central School

# NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

National Honor Society (NHS) has had a very successful year so far. They have done over 1,000 hours of community service and helped the following organizations/individuals:

- Morris Rotary
- Morris United Methodist Church
- Colonial Ridge Golf's Glenn Waffle Memorial Tournament
- Butternut Valley Food Pantry
- Community Cupboard of Edmeston
- Morris Beautification Project
- Morris Cemetery Board
- New Lisbon Historical Project
- Morris Central School Booster Club
- Zion Episcopal Church, Morris
- Magic Closet
- Orpheus Theater group
- CROP
- Butternut Valley Arts and Crafts Center
- Holy Cross Church, Morris
- Morris Village Library
- Cooperstown SPCA
- Oneonta World of Learning
- MCS Greenhouses
- Sidney Community Center
- Morris Central School Sports teams
- The Sweet Life Animal Rescue
- Otsego County Fair Board
- Oneonta Warming Center
- Opportunities for Otsego
- The Pit Run
- Super Heroes in Ripped Jeans
- Morris Central School--Landscaping School Gardens
- Ukrainian Refugees
- Many of our neighbors (raking, shoveling, etc...)
- Hat Day—Making sure local children have hats and mittens
- OCCA
- Butternut Valley Alliance



The most recent service activities were a fundraiser for refugees in the Ukraine, donations were collected for Super Heroes in Ripped Jeans, and Easter Egg Hunt for the community.

*Hannah Pope*, Senior, said, "As member of NHS, we are required to do an independent service project, and I love animals. So when planning what my project would be, I thought of ways I could make an impact locally. A donation drive to Super Heroes in Ripped Jeans, I thought, might be a good idea. I contacted Super Heroes and asked if they were open to accepting donations and if they were in need of anything.

I corresponded with the Executive Director, Jared Moore, and he was very excited to involve the school with their establishment. He sent me wish lists of items they were in need of, and I started to organize the whole thing. Since it is a school-wide drive, the items had to be somewhat cheap and practical for kids to purchase and bring in. Items such as canned food, treats, toys, and collars were both necessary items Super Heroes needed, and they were also easy and inexpensive for school members to donate. The drive began on March 28, but boxes were put out the week before. Before the drive started, donations were already dropped off. I was sort of pessimistic about the drive and didn't think people would bring much in, but I was wrong. The Tuesday after it officially began, it took myself and two others to collect the donations brought in so far and the donations are still coming in! I was smiling from ear to ear seeing how people donated paper towels, bags of dog and cat food, toys, leashes, treats, etc. I am looking forward to dropping the donations off at the end of the drive and making a positive impact on the shelter, especially since I was able to get the whole school involved with helping."

You might have read about the Ukraine fundraiser in *The Daily Star*. For this service project students made blue and yellow ribbon pins to sell. Students also dressed in blue and yellow on Friday, March 11. In total, NHS raised over \$2,400 for the refugees. This far exceeded NHS's expectations, and it couldn't have happened without our school and community's support. *Lincoln Waffle*, Junior, was the leader of this project. He researched what funds were the best ones to donate to and he chose UNICEF's Ukraine refugee fund. UNICEF was chosen because 97% of the donations go directly to refugee relief. *Lincoln* was surprised and thankful at how generous the community was with their donations.

The most recent NHS service activity was the Annual Easter Egg Hunt. Faculty and Staff donated candy to stuff hundreds of eggs for kids in the community to find on Saturday, April 9. It was a delight to see so many happy young people finding the eggs and so many teenagers enjoying the fact that they helped kids have a special event. *Carissa Richards*, Junior, was in charge of this fundraiser. She said, "The egg hunt is an event for elementary students and their siblings where the NHS hide eggs on school grounds with candy or other prizes inside them. It was fun letting the kids search for the eggs. This year we're also including other small crafts such as coloring. I think it's a great idea for kids to have a local fun spring/Easter activity. NHS holds this event every year."

NHS Thanks Morris' entire School/Community for providing volunteer opportunities and for supporting all our service projects. We certainly live in a generous school-community. Mrs. Vunk, the NHS advisor, said, "Thank you from the bottom of our hearts." Well done, National Honor Society Members. You make MCS proud!

## Fairytale STEM Challenges

Students completed Fairytale STEM Challenges during Fairytale Week in library.



## Environmental Club Strikes Again

Saving the Earth one reusable water bottle at a time! Three members of the student-created Environmental Club, *Coraline Jensen*, *Annaleen LaTour*, and *Issac Moore*, handed out water bottles to students in school. The program saved the district money and it saved the environment at the same time.



The cafeteria staff had fun making a Valentine's Day cake for dessert on April Fools day.

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Morris, New York 13808



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*Pre-K students created houses beginning with a blueprint. They also created their own landscaping for their designs.*