



# Mustang Musings

MORRIS CENTRAL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

*"Quality is everyone's responsibility."*

—W. Edwards Deming

Budget Issue, May 2023



## VOTERS TO DECIDE ON \$10.4 MILLION BUDGET

On Tuesday, May 16th, 2023, Morris Central School District voters will decide on a \$10,409,067 spending proposal for the 2023-2024 school year. Polls will be open from noon to 8 PM in the school lobby. This budget maintains the excellent academic and extracurricular programming for students that MCS has a long history of providing.

The proposed budget is a spending increase of approximately 2.4% year-over-year. It includes using \$233,000 of the District's fund balance and reserves in order to keep the tax levy increase to 2.35%. This is below the District's state-calculated tax cap of 3.25%.

"Our goal in creating this budget is to remain fiscally responsible while continuing to provide students with excellent educational opportunities right here in Morris," said Superintendent Jamie Maistros. "We are dedicated to serving the needs of this community and believe this budget proposal is a reflection of this commitment."

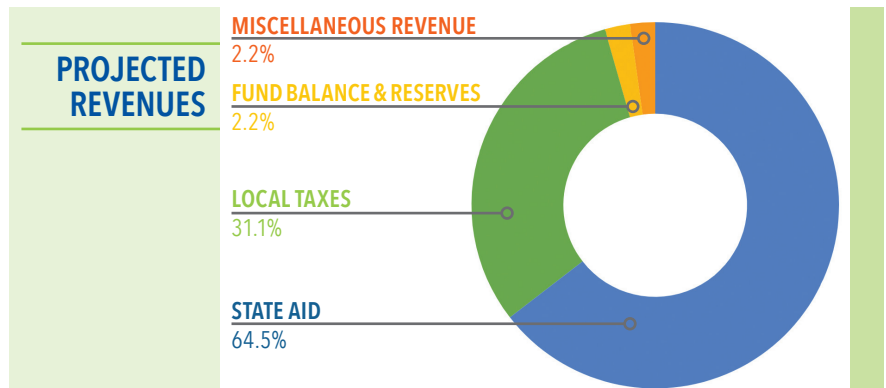
Over the past year, the level of inflation throughout the country has increased tremendously and has had an impact on the 2023-2024 budget. Additionally, staffing shortages have required us to adjust our salary schedules in order to remain competitive and ensure student programming is not impacted. The increases in BOCES services, MCS employee benefits, fuel costs, and materials and supplies, all played a part in creating this year's proposed budget.

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.

### Where does the funding come from?

*A line-by-line look at Revenues*

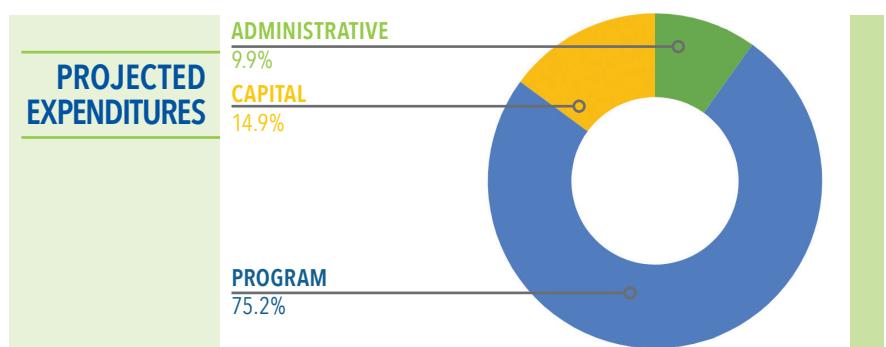
	2022-2023	2023-2024
State Aid	\$6,593,606	\$6,714,768
Local Taxes	\$3,158,662	\$3,232,901
Fund Balance & Reserves	\$207,049	\$233,481
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$205,317	\$227,917
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$10,164,634</b>	<b>\$10,409,067</b>



### Where does the funding go?

*A line-by-line look at Expenditures*

	2022-2023	2023-2024	% Change
Administrative	\$1,068,110	\$1,031,012	-3.47%
Program	\$7,576,697	\$7,824,347	3.27%
Capital	\$1,519,827	\$1,553,708	2.23%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$10,164,634</b>	<b>\$10,409,067</b>	<b>2.40%</b>





**Morris Central School  
Board Members**

Mary Dugan, President  
 Russell Tilley, Vice President  
 Emily Boss  
 Wendy Moore  
 Teresa DeLaurentiis

**Morris Central School  
Administration**

Mrs. Jamie Maistros, Superintendent  
 Brian Breck, Principal

**Main Office (607) 263-6100**

**Guidance (607) 263-6116**

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**For submissions, calendar events  
 or to request a printed copy,  
 contact Judy Matson  
 (jmatson@morriscsd.org)  
 (607) 263-6102**

**or  
 Julene Waffle  
 (jwaffle@morriscsd.org)**

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## 3-PART BUDGET

### Administrative Component

The administrative portion of the budget provides funding for District and building oversight along with instructional support services. The 2023-2024 budget includes increased allocations for central services such as BOCES data management and printing.

Administrative Component	2022-2023 Budget	2023-2024 Proposed Budget	Variance (\$)	Variance (%)
Board of Education	7,570	8,102	532	7.02%
Central Administration	221,571	199,505	-22,066	-9.96%
Finance	262,417	272,988	10,571	4.03%
Staff	36,133	40,951	4,818	13.33%
Central Services	33,701	35,113	1,412	4.19%
Special Items	170,082	180,682	10,600	6.23%
Administration & Improvement	206,509	201,928	-4,581	-2.22%
Employee Benefits	130,127	91,744	-38,383	-29.50%
<b>TOTAL ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>1,068,110</b>	<b>1,031,012</b>	<b>-37,098</b>	<b>-3.47%</b>

### Program Component

The program portion is the largest piece and primary focus of the District’s budget. The main components of the program selection include instructional costs such as teachers, support staff, pupil support services, co-curricular activities, and athletics.

Program Component	2022-2023 Budget	2023-2024 Proposed Budget	Variance (\$)	Variance (%)
Teaching—Regular School	2,318,730	2,475,046	156,316	6.74%
Special Services	1,616,697	1,617,184	487	0.03%
Special Schools	1,033	1,033	—	0.00%
Instructional Media	176,427	172,172	(4,255)	-2.41%
Pupil Services	472,555	468,526	(4,029)	-0.85%
Instruction	4,585,442	4,733,961	148,519	3.24%
Pupil Transportation	573,953	623,652	49,699	8.66%
Interfund Transfers	30,000	30,000	—	0.00%
Employee Benefits	2,387,302	2,436,733	49,431	2.07%
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM</b>	<b>7,576,697</b>	<b>7,824,347</b>	<b>247,650</b>	<b>3.27%</b>

*continued on next page →*

## DIGITAL NEWSLETTER

Going green by making the newsletter digital certainly helped save money for the district, and it was good for the environment. The District will continue this practice this year as well. You may access the newsletter under the “Newsletter” tab on the District web page. You may also access the calendar on-line under “Calendar of Events” and in the Athletics tab.

If you do not have computer access and/or would like a hard copy of the newsletter sent directly to you, please call the School’s District Office at (607) 263-6102 to request a copy be mailed to you.

*Thank you for your understanding and support in this matter.*

## DON'T FORGET TO VOTE TUESDAY, MAY 16

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 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 15. Completed absentee ballots must be received by the district clerk by 5:00 p.m. on May 16, the day of the vote.

## Capital Component

The capital portion of the budget consists of the expenses to operate and maintain our facilities. Other items required to be reported here include Debt Service and funds transferred to the Capital Fund.

Capital Component	2022-2023 Budget	2023-2024 Proposed Budget	Variance (\$)	Variance (%)
Central Services	603,126	643,244	40,118	6.65%
Special Items	2,000	2,000	—	0.00%
Debt Service	723,324	710,145	-13,179	-1.82%
Interfund Transfers	110,000	110,000	—	0.00%
Employee Benefits	81,377	88,319	6,942	8.53%
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL</b>	<b>1,519,827</b>	<b>1,553,708</b>	<b>33,881</b>	<b>2.23%</b>

## 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 1.0050%, the district's maximum tax cap is 3.25%. If the district elected to go with a tax levy increase greater than this limit, we would have needed a super-majority (66%) positive vote for the budget to pass.

The board has decided to seek a tax increase of **2.35%, an increase of \$74,239**, which is under the cap set by New York State. The board understands that our 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 an increase within our tax cap.

Although the final tax rates will not be set until August, it appears likely that actual tax rates will increase by approximately 2.35%. This is only an estimate. The tax rates differ between the four towns because of equalization rates set by the 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.

## CAPITAL OUTLAY PROJECT

For the fifth year, the Board of Education is proposing a capital outlay project as part of the 2023-2024 budget. This would be paid through the use of our unassigned fund balance. There will be no tax increase because of this proposal.

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.
- **This is separate from our Capital Project.** Unlike the Capital Project, the Capital Outlay allows us to address immediate needs within one calendar year.

### *How does a capital outlay project work?*

Within the proposed 2023-2024 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.

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.

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:

- New York State has instituted new regulations pertaining to grease traps. The traps in the cafeteria are currently in need of replacement.
- Replace the gauge on our current fuel tank.
- Address repairs needed on the stairs at the old main entrance.
- Complete carpeting project from previous flood damage.

## Other Items on the Ballot . . .

### TWO CANDIDATES UP FOR TWO, THREE-YEAR BOARD OF EDUCATION POSITIONS

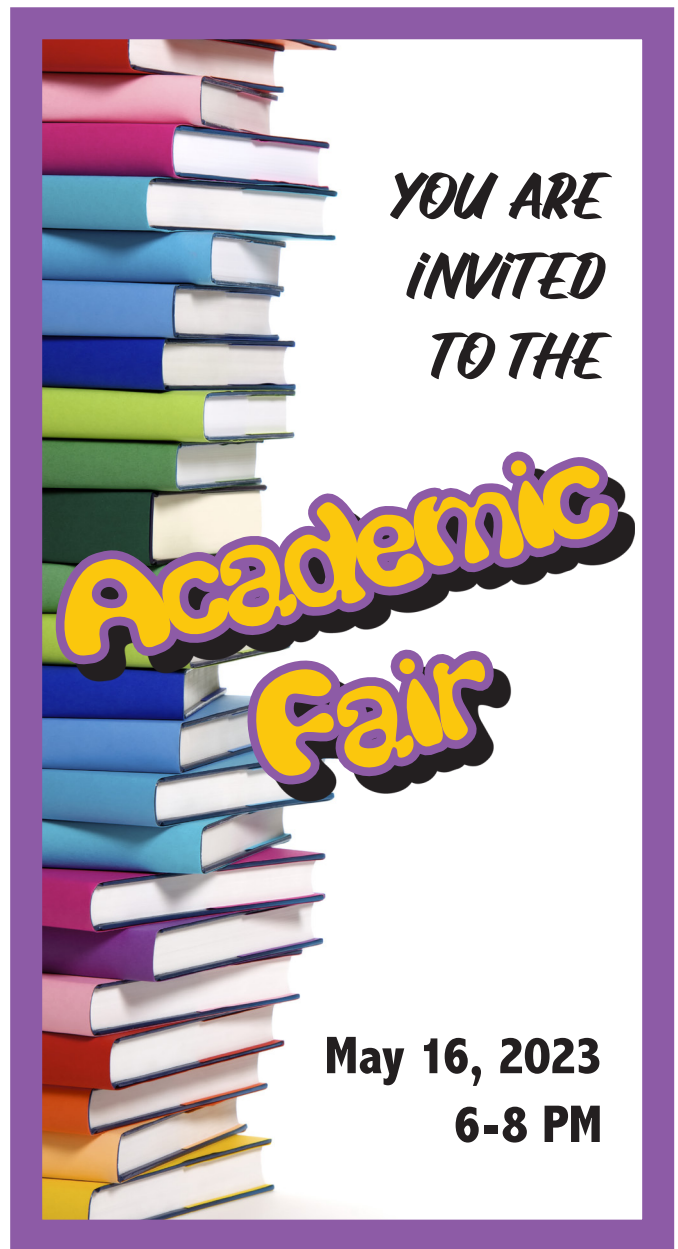
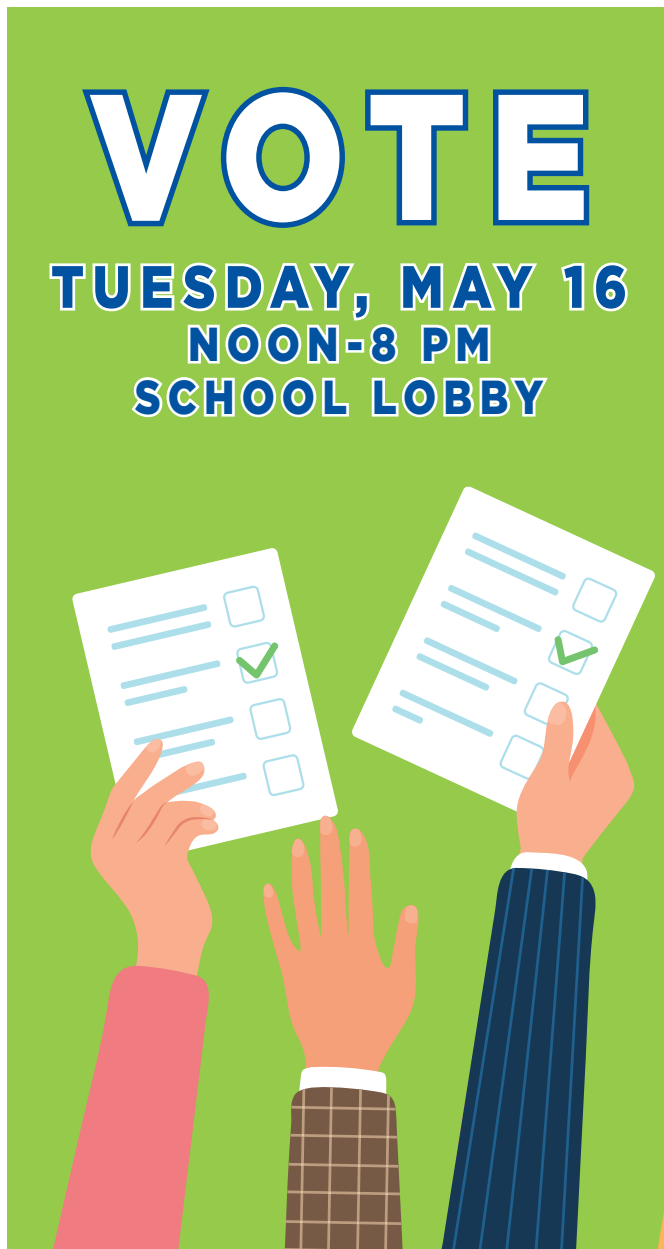
The school district has a five-member board of education. Members are elected by voters in the district and serve three-year terms. Current members are Mary Dugan, Russell Tilley, Emily Boss, Teresa DeLaurentiis, and Wendy Moore. This is a volunteer position and takes a great deal of dedication to be a member.

**This year, voters will select candidates to fill the positions currently held by Emily Boss and Russell Tilley. Both Emily and Russ are running for re-election.**

**Russ Tilley** is running for his third term as a school board member. Russ is a 1992 graduate of MCS. He is a proud parent of two daughters who also graduated from MCS. Russ has worked in Facilities Management for close to 20 years and currently works for a company consulting on facilities issues with healthcare businesses.

**Emily Boss** is running for her third term as a Board of Education member. She is a mother of four current MCS students and one MCS graduate. She has a vested interest in the success of MCS.

*\*\*\*These are the candidates that have turned in petitions at the time the newsletter was printed. Other candidates may submit a petition prior to the April 18, 2023 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 are also impacted by changes in town assessments and state equalization rates.

## Budget approvals by the numbers

The proposed 2023-2024 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 2023-2024 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 which would be a \$54,662 decrease to the tax levy

## 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 \$110,000.

**The official budget hearing  
on the proposed budget  
will be held  
Tuesday, May 9,  
at 6:30 p.m.**

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

# 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR BUDGET SUMMARY

## *Proposed Expenditures by Category*

	2022-2023 Budget	2023-2024 Proposed	Dollar Change
<b>Program Expenditures (Total)</b>	<b>\$7,576,698</b>	<b>\$7,824,346</b>	<b>+\$247,648</b>
Teaching (Regular)	\$2,318,730	\$2,475,046	+\$156,316
Special Education	\$1,425,221	\$1,407,519	-\$17,702
Occupational Education	\$191,476	\$209,665	+18,189
Instructional Media	\$176,427	\$172,172	-\$4,255
Summer Music/Driver's Ed.	\$1,033	\$1,033	+\$0
Attendance	\$2,851	\$3,150	+\$299
Pupil Services (Guidance, Health, Psych.)	\$362,029	\$330,588	-\$31,441
Student Activities	\$107,675	\$134,788	+\$27,113
Student Transportation	\$573,953	\$623,652	+\$49,699
School Lunch Fund	\$30,000	\$30,000	+\$0
Employee Benefits	\$2,387,303	\$2,436,733	+49,430

<b>Administrative Expenditures (Total)</b>	<b>\$1,068,110</b>	<b>\$1,031,013</b>	<b>-\$37,097</b>
Board of Education	\$7,570	\$8,102	+\$532
Central Administration	\$221,571	\$199,505	-\$22,066
Finance	\$262,417	\$272,988	+\$10,571
Legal, Public Info. & Service	\$36,133	\$40,951	+\$4,818
Central Services	\$33,701	\$35,113	+1,412
Insurance, BOCES Admin. Costs	\$170,082	\$180,682	+\$10,600
Instr., Admin. & Improv.	\$206,509	\$201,928	-\$22,456
Employee Benefits	\$130,127	\$91,744	-\$38,383

<b>Capital Expenditures (Total)</b>	<b>\$1,519,826</b>	<b>\$1,553,708</b>	<b>+\$33,883</b>
Operation & Maintenance	\$603,125	\$643,244	+\$40,119
Refund on Property Taxes	\$2,000	\$2,000	+\$0
Employee Benefits	\$81,377	\$88,319	+\$6,942
Debt Service	\$723,324	\$710,145	-\$13,179
Transfer to Federal	\$110,000	\$110,000	+\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$10,164,634</b>	<b>\$10,409,067</b>	<b>+\$489,634</b>

## *Proposed Revenues by Category*

	2022-2023 Budget	2023-2024 Proposed	Dollar Change
<b>State Aid</b>	<b>\$6,593,606</b>	<b>\$6,714,768</b>	<b>+\$121,162</b>
<b>Other Revenues</b>			
Charges for Services- Tuition	\$22,400	\$40,000	+\$17,600
Interest & Penalties on Taxes	\$10,000	\$10,000	+\$0
Interest on Investments	\$1,000	\$1,000	+\$0
Rental of Real Property	\$400	\$400	+\$0
Refunds for BOCES Aided Serv.	\$166,517	\$166,517	+\$0
Medicaid Reimbursement	\$5,000	\$10,000	+\$5,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$205,317</b>	<b>\$227,917</b>	<b>+\$22,600</b>

<b>Use of Appropriated Fund Balance &amp; Reserves</b>	<b>\$207,049</b>	<b>\$233,481</b>	<b>+\$26,432</b>
<b>Property Taxes</b>			
Property Tax Levy	\$3,158,662	\$3,232,901	+\$74,239
Payment in Lieu of Taxes	\$0	\$0	—
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$3,158,662</b>	<b>\$3,232,901</b>	<b>+\$74,239</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$10,164,634</b>	<b>\$10,409,067</b>	<b>+\$244,433</b>



# COOL THINGS WE DO . . .

## CFES

Tenth-grade students had the opportunity to attend the Sophomore Symposium at the Otesaga in Cooperstown. They met representatives from the Clark Foundation, learned about scholarship opportunities, and listened to panelists share stories of their career paths. They even enjoyed a delicious lunch. Our students represented MCS incredibly well. The future is BRIGHT!

—Mrs. Kelly Catella, Guidance



## Welcome to the 1,000-Point Club

Reaching 1,000 points in a high school basketball career is a big deal, but to have it happen to two students in a school in one season, is extra special. Congrats goes to Seniors Carissa Richards and Scott Murphy for reaching such a monumental milestone in their basketball careers. Carissa Scored her 1,000th point in the middle of an away game at GMU. She scored off a sweet little floater. Scott scored during the semi-finals game at home against Milford-Laurens by making a layup. Carissa finished the season with 1,043 points and Scott finished with 1,090 points.

Both athletes managed to reach this accomplishment even though they lost a season due to COVID, and both players struggled with injury or sickness this last season. So their feat is even more impressive.

Coach Gerry Joy said working with Scott these last few years “was a lot of fun,” and he looks “forward to watching [Scott] play at his next level at Delhi.” Coach Rhoda Flint said, “It has been a pleasure coaching Carissa Richards and watching her grow throughout her years at MCS.” Of her 1,043 points she scored 501 of those points from three-point shots. Carissa joined the varsity team in the eighth grade (scoring 96 points that season). All of her career points in the following three seasons of her varsity career (missed a year due to the pandemic as well). Coach Flint knows that whatever Carissa’s future brings her Carissa’s passion for basketball will follow her.

Sports Broadcaster, Nate Lull, and Rich Turnbull, Norwich Athletic Coordinator, were instrumental in researching the complete list of Morris basketball players who scored 1,000 high school career points.

## Morris Central School 1,000-Point Club

### Boys:

- ★ Brian Gorsira (1,174), Class of 1975
- ★ Rob Joy (1,251), Class of 1987
- ★ Matt Murphy (1,172), Class of 2019
- ★ Scott Murphy (1,090)

### Girls:

- ★ Catherine Forgit (1,089), Class of 1985
- ★ Daphne Joy (1,591), Class of 1986
- ★ Abby Matteson (1,397), Class of 1997
- ★ Kim Kristofik (1,171), Class of 1989
- ★ Audra Kristofik (1,025), Class of 1992
- ★ Katie Shearer (1,020), Class of 1995
- ★ Alyson Kristofik (1,018), Class of 2004
- ★ Carissa Richards (1043), Class of 2023

— Mrs. Julene Waffle, English







## About Outdoor Club

The Outdoor Club has gone on many fantastic trips throughout the year, including zip lining, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, and much more. Outdoor Club goes out monthly. Outdoor Club is not an exclusive club which means that anyone in grades 7 to 12 can participate in a trip if they turn the permission slip in.

### Recent Trips



This February, Outdoor Club went cross-country skiing in the Adirondack Mountains. Considering this trip was a little more expensive for the club, only fifteen people were allowed to attend. Participants included students from grades 7 to 12. In March, the Outdoor Club went bowling at Clark Sports Center. There was a maximum of forty people who could participate because the cost wasn't as much. Attendees included students from grades 6 to 12.

### Student Opinions

"I loved the experiences we had! It's a great time to spend time with friends!" —Kaylee Kolka ('24)

"They were super fun experiences, and I hope younger kids have the opportunity when they get older." —Gabiella Ilarraza ('26)

"My favorite trip was to Destiny USA in Syracuse. I had an amazing time there, and it gave me a chance to discover something new. I loved the ropes course and I had an amazing time with everyone." —Georgia Kolka ('25)

—Tatiana McAdams, Junior



## TV Champs

For the second year in a row, Varsity Morris Boys brought home the Tri-Valley Championship banner. In the 2021-2022 season, Morris defeated the Richfield Indians in triple overtime to win. This year, however, rival Edmeston Panthers were the bench to beat. Leading up to the game, the town was decorated in shades of white and blue in support of the Mustangs. Team dinners and breakfasts were served, and the boys did their final training before the big day at Oneonta High School where the game was hosted. Throughout the game, the Mustangs continued to dominate the Panthers, leading in every quarter. In the end, the Mustangs defeated the Edmeston Panthers 64-42. All seniors were able to see the floor in this game, closing everything out strong. Junior Asa Dugan said, "Basketball was an insane experience this year with how we went undefeated and set school records. It's a shame that we couldn't keep it going, but this group and this season is one to remember." The boys lost to Southern Cayuga in the quarterfinals at SUNY Delhi, after making an amazing run in the season. Senior Ethan Franklin said, "Basketball season was a lot of fun. I was glad that we were able to accomplish a lot of the goals we had. I was glad to be there and be a part of the team when Scott scored his 1,000th point. I was also happy to be there when we became 20-0 and surpassed the school's last record. I'm very glad of what we were able to accomplish as a team, even if I was sad to see it end."

—Hannah Wist, Sophomore

## Ski Club

The Morris Central School Ski Club has been one of the largest and most attended school clubs for years. This year, there are 30 members, many of whom plan to return in years to come. Every Saturday the club went to Labrador Mountain in Truxton, NY. The club is thankful to the Morlock family who, once again, were the advisors.

Each trip was eventful. Many of the members had very positive things to say about the program. The club doesn't come without its share of road bumps, as was the case on February 11th, when the ski resort's power went out, temporarily trapping several students on the ski lift until the power came back on. Luckily, it wasn't too scary. Despite this, the members highly recommend that others join in the fun.

—Lincoln Waffle, Senior



## Record Setters

Going into the season we knew we had a great shot at winning the Tri-Valley Championship again. When we got to the point of the season when we were going into the Tri-Valley playoffs, we knew that we had the best chance of winning the banner. We were 18-0 and ready to win back-to-back banners.

We had to play Milford/Laurens in the first round of the playoffs, we were the first seed and they were the fourth seed. When we played them earlier in the year, we beat them by 28 points. But we knew that they were going to come out and play the best basketball game they could give us, and they did just that by keeping it a close game. But we ended up pulling away late in the fourth quarter to win 76-63 to head to the Championship game.

On the other side of the bracket Richfield Springs was the second seed and Edmeston was the third seed. Edmeston beat Richfield 54-44 to go to the Tri-Valley championships. We had played Edmeston two times earlier in the season and beat them both times. The first game we played them, we won 64-49, and the second time it was a much closer game, but again we pulled away late in the fourth quarter to win 65-58. We knew that we could not underestimate this team because they had a good team and were able to make it to this point of the season. They were a hard team to beat three times in one season. Morris started the game out strong going on a 13-0 run in the first quarter. But we knew that in the second quarter they were going to push back and make it a game, which they did. They closed the gap to a six-point deficit going into half-time. Ethan Franklin said, "We came out hot [in the third quarter], and it looked like we wanted to win more than ever. We started to play like a family and have fun on the court which pushed us to pull the game away." Morris came out ready to control

the tempo on offense and defense. They closed the gaps that were open on defense in the first half and they made it very hard for Edmeston to score and close the lead we had on them. Morris ended up defeating Edmeston 64-42 to win the Tri-Valley Championship and be back-to-back champs.

For back-to-back seasons, we have been the number one seed for sectionals. Last year was a let down when we lost in the quarter-finals to Richfield Springs/ODY. This year we had the same challenge by playing Richfield Springs/ODY in the quarter-finals once again. This year felt different from last year because after we had won the Tri-Valley Championship, it felt like we were ready to be done with the season. It felt different because practices leading up to our sectional game against Richfield were very competitive and everyone was pushing each other to be the best players they could be. That attitude and hard work paid off as we beat Richfield in spite of the big mental battle after the first minute of the game when Tiger was injured. His injury fueled us instead of defeating us to really beat Richfield. We did it for Tiger. This game gave us a 21-0 record which allowed us to make a new school record for the most consecutive wins in one season and the most wins in a single season. With that win putting us into the next round of sectionals, we had to play Southern Cayuga in the semi-finals, a team that is in and out of Class D ranks because of their fluctuating enrollment numbers. We were very excited to have this chance to play at SUNY Delhi and hopefully win to play in the sectional finals. Unfortunately, we came up short in the semi-finals and lost to Southern Cayuga. Overall, we had a very successful season, we broke a lot of records held by recent Morris teams.

— Garrett Aikins, Senior

## Spring Sports Preview

This year for the spring sports, Varsity Baseball, Varsity Softball, and Track & Field are combined with Edmeston again. The three teams are gearing up for another hopefully successful season and one filled with a lot of fun.

I asked Varsity Softball Coach, Julene Waffle, about how she felt going into the season and getting ready for it. She said, "I'm really excited to work with both Morris and Edmeston ladies again. We should have a pretty good team this year as we have a solid set of experienced pitchers, catchers, and fielders." Varsity Baseball Coach, Pat Harmer, is feeling good leading up to the season as well. He said, "My expectation this year is

to play at least one more game than we did last year. I believe we have the utilities to accomplish that. I know the guys feel the same about this expectation and are preparing to make it happen." Track and Field Head Coach, McKenzie Rhone, added, "We are super excited about track season coming up. Between the two schools, we have good numbers with a lot of new faces. We are really looking forward to putting all this new potential to work. We will spend the first couple weeks really working on getting into shape, shaping up technique, and learning how to prevent injuries throughout the season."

— Joshua Benjamin, Senior

# Go Mustangs!

## March Mammal Madness

### College Biology

I am happy to announce the winners of this year's College Biology March Mammal Madness tournament! March Mammal Madness is inspired by the NCAA College Basketball March Madness Championship Tournament. MMM is an annual tournament of "simulated" combat competition among animals. Students conducted research on the 64 animal competitors to decide their brackets. Attributes considered in calculating battle outcome include temperament, weaponry, armor, body mass, fight style, running speed, physiology and motivation. The winners are as follows:

- ★ First Place: Alejandra Outhwaite, Exchange Student
- ★ Second Place: Carissa Richards, Senior
- ★ Third Place: Lincoln Waffle, Senior

Now the question is how will Alejandra get the trophy back to Spain!



L-R: Carissa Richards, Alejandra Outhwaite, and Lincoln Waffle

### Science 8

Science 8 students participated in the 2023 March Mammal Madness competition that was put on by researchers from Arizona State University. The researchers use probability, science, and a bit of random chance to figure out who wins a "battle" and then construct a story based on scientific research of the organisms involved to create a narrative that fits that outcome.

Science 8 students researched each of the 64 combatants prior to the battles and filled in their brackets with their predictions (similar to the NCAA basketball tournament). We then tallied up the points for accurate predictions out of 138 possible points and this year's winners were:

- ★ First Place: Savannah Coyle with 103 points
- ★ Second Place: Hailie Lindberg with 84 points
- ★ Third Place: Lainey Fraser with 78 points

— Mrs. Joanne Fredette, Science



L-R: Lainey Fraser, Savannah Coyle, and Hailie Lindberg

## March Mammal Madness

Students in Science 8 have been participating in a bracket-style competition that pits different animals against each other and uses science, probability, and some random chance to determine an ultimate winner! Students have been researching this year's animals and engaging in lots of heated debates about who would win in different battle match-ups!

— Mrs. Carlena Johnson, Science



Lucas Waffle, Matt Schiller, & Kiarra Walker discussing the outcomes of the Round 1 competition.

## Off to See *Of Mice and Men*

The junior and senior classes were fortunate enough to attend the play *Of Mice and Men* at Sidney Central School this year. The play was performed by the Tri-Town Theatre group from Sidney. This is the second year in a row that Morris has had the opportunity to watch one of their performances. Last year, the students watched *The Crucible* which was an exciting performance. Despite the high expectations that the students entered with after watching *The Crucible*, the actors were able to exceed those expectations during *Of Mice and Men*. The MCS students received fantastic seats that enhanced the entire experience. Carissa Richards said, "It was very entertaining, and was exactly what I had imagined while reading the book. The actors did a great job at portraying their characters in the same manner as John Steinbeck portrayed them in the novel." Specifically, many students were very impressed with the actor who played Lennie Small. Lennie would not be an easy character to play because of the developmental issues he struggles with, but the actor who played Lennie made him sound exactly as he does in the novella. Overall, the performance was a wonderful way to view a book after being read by the class. Hopefully, students will continue to be able to see these performances live as the years go on.

— Carissa Richards, Senior



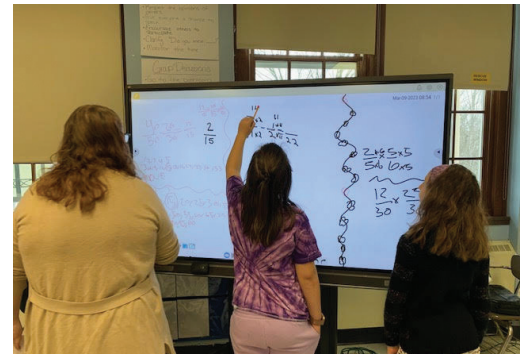
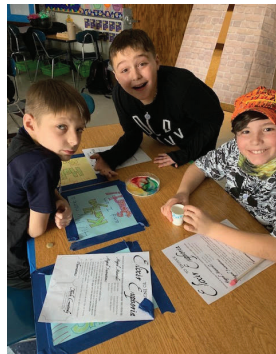


## Fifth Grade News

The school year is really starting to fly by! But time certainly goes quickly when you work with Fifth Graders who are engaged in lessons and are always willing to learn. In ELA class, we have been reading texts on natural disasters and how people use information about these events to help keep communities safe when storms strike. During small group time, several students read survival books. They have been actively engaged and growing as fluent readers!

We would also like to give a warm welcome to Miss Reece Thorsland who joined our Fifth Grade team in late January! In her classroom, the students have been tackling fractions and learning about the scientific process by regularly participating in labs. Recently, students have completed group projects about Earth's four spheres (geosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere, and atmosphere) and have completed a lab to accompany each one. Now that they know all there is to know about the four spheres, they will be learning about how humans impact each one.

Spring will be here before we know it, but to break up the winter blues we have had some fun-filled theme days! Students voted to have a Harry Potter Day and, in support of the drama club play, an Addams Family Day. We also learned about the history of the Super Bowl during Football Friday. We can't wait to see what the students will pick for the remainder of March!



## Sweetheart Dance

On November 2, 2022, Hannah Swayer ('23) proposed an idea at one of the Student Council meetings to create a new dance to take place in February. A committee was created, meeting once a month to plan budgeting, activities, crowning, and decorations. The committee settled on a semi-formal named the Sweetheart Dance to be held on February 17, 2023, in the school's gym. To help fund the dance the Student Council sold Valentine-themed goody-bags named Kissy Grams as well as tickets to the dance during the Middle and High School lunch periods beginning two weeks prior to the dance.

The Sweetheart Dance had many fun activities like board games, ladderball, a photo booth, and a DJ so the students could dance all night. Many of the students' favorite parts of the dance was getting to connect and make memories with their friends. Junior Lorissa Johnston said, "I

had lots of fun hanging out with my friends at the dance, I do not see them often as we have very different schedules during the day, so it was nice to connect with them again."

The Sweetheart Dance featured crowning, but in a unique way, there were four different categories for the "Court of Cupids" to win, consisting of both juniors and seniors. Best Mustang Spirit was the first category being awarded to both a junior and senior, Asa Dugan ('24) and Garrett Aikins ('23) were the winners as they participate greatly for "anything and everything related to our school, including extracurricular activities, clubs, school events, committees, spirit weeks and opportunities." Garrett Aikins ('23) said he felt "honored and appreciated to win the award after all my constant time, planning, and effort that goes into every spirit week." Maddie Coleman ('24) was

crowned shortly after for having a "Heart of Gold," for her unconditional kindness, generosity, and compassion to others. Maddie Coleman ('24) said, "Winning the Heart of Gold was not only heart warming but also a great honor." Above and Beyond was the third category, awarded to Hannah Swayer who shows "outstanding service, dedication, leadership and contributions to our school and community that go beyond what is normally expected." The final category was a tie for the Court Jester between seniors Thomas Pondolfino and Jason Strain who "brighten every day, keep everyone laughing, are goofy, and can take a situation and turn it humorous."

Overall, the dance was a success, Student Council President Jessica Walling ('24), who helped come up with unusual award crownings said, "I can't wait to have it again next year."

—Aislinn Ray, Junior





## Morrisian Earns National Honors Again

Morris Central School's yearbook, the *Morrisian*, has been recognized for excellence and is featured in the Jostens *Look Book 2023* for excellent cover design. The *Look Book*, which celebrates the best-of-the-best in yearbook design and inclusivity, is a collection of outstanding yearbooks and their creative themes, cool covers, beautiful designs, relevant coverage of school events, meaningful storytelling, and stunning photography.

The *Morrisian* yearbook honored was created by 2022 staffers Ethan Franklin, Carissa Richards, Hannah Wist, Tatiana McAdams, Aislinn Ray, Noah Burlison, and Kelsey Chase under the direction of their advisor Julene Waffle. The current staff hopes for similar honors next year. This year's staff includes **Joshua Benjamin, Ethan Franklin, Garrett Aikins, Madeline Schiller, Lincoln Waffle, Rachel Hill, Justine Norton, and returning members Carissa Richards, Hannah Wist, Tatiana McAdams, and Aislinn Ray.** Missing from the photo is **Rachel Hill.**

Mrs. Waffle said, "The cover for which we were honored was a team creation. From the colors to the design, students worked together to design it. I am really proud of our yearbook staff for their creativity, teamwork, and originality."

The Morris Central School *Morrisian* was one of only 479 yearbooks selected from nearly one thousand yearbooks submitted. The 2023 panel of judges, comprised of nationally recognized scholastic journalism professionals and award-winning yearbook advisers, selected the best examples of yearbook spreads and covers to make up the 320-page *Look Book 2023*.

This is not a new honor for Morris. The *Morrisian* has been featured six times in nine years. Morris' Jostens representative, Laura Tortarella, said that it is unusual for small schools to be recognized, especially that many times. It is difficult to compete against bigger districts. For Morris to be selected again is a special honor.

The yearbook staff received a copy of the Jostens 2023 *Look Book*, a commemorative pin, and a banner from Jostens to recognize their outstanding achievement.

### About Morris Central School's *Morrisian*

- ★ Morris' first yearbooks date back to at least the very early 1800's. (Books for the public to view can be found in the Morris Library Media Center and in The Village Library of Morris.)
- ✳ The *Morrisian* was first honored in the *Look Book* in 2015 for a spread design.
- ✳ In 2018, it earned an honorable mention for storytelling.
- ✳ In 2019, it was recognized for a sports spread design.
- ✳ In 2020, it was honored for a photograph
- ✳ In 2022, staffers were honored for a cover.
- ★ And now again in 2023, they are recognized for a cover design.



— Mrs. Julene Waffle, English





### Author Visit

MCS had a special visit from NY Times best-selling author/illustrator Mike Lowery on March 9! Mr. Lowery’s most recent books include *The Bug Scout* series of graphic novels and the *Everything Awesome* series from Scholastic. Students were able to get books they had of his signed after he spoke. This program was sponsored by Arts in Education. The students truly enjoyed hearing from Mr. Lowery and were very motivated to create their own stories and illustrations!

— Mrs. Courtney Mackey, Library Specialist

### Mottos That Paid Off

“Maximum Fun” and “All Out” were the main mottos to keep the varsity teams in line for a strong season. The Varsity Boys adopted the saying from a Morris alumnus, Nate Edwards, who was driven to have “Maximum Fun” each game and practice. This year, “Maximum Fun” is what the boys had winning a Tri-Valley League Championship and setting records.

Having a young team this year, the Varsity Girls used the reminder “All Out” to force them to work hard each and every moment.

The Varsity Girl’s season was rewarding, as the girls were able to develop their skills while playing at a higher level. They were able to make it into the sectional rankings, placing thirteenth. First round, they played second-seed, Southern Cayuga, who defeated the Mustangs 48-31 in regular time. The Varsity Girls played this year to learn the game, but they also put in to play-to-compete, leaving them with ups and downs in the season but with very good memories.

— Hannah Wist, Sophomore

### Photography

Morris Central School offers a Photography class which is taught by Mrs. Collins. Photography is typically taken by Juniors and Seniors, but there are some Sophomores who are currently enrolled in the class. Mrs. Collins informed that this year consisted of a great deal of digital photography and editing. The current project occurring in class involves students editing a picture of their current selves alongside a picture of them when they were younger. The students were asked to reflect on what they would tell their younger selves if they had the chance. Students have also completed several activities this year, such as studying film directors and how camera angles are used to help visually tell stories. Students were even given the opportunity



to create their own films in the style of their chosen director. Mrs. Collins said, “We have had everything from car chases, 80’s style guitar playing, zombies, and so much more!” Photography is incredibly helpful in urging students to express their creativity and discover what they enjoy. Attached is Noah Moore’s project where he edited his younger self alongside his current self. Clearly, he is still interested in music.

— Carissa Richards, Senior

### Music Disappointment

This year for the Senior Chorus and Junior Band All-County Festival, they were able to go to practice, but with the snow storm, they were not able to go to the concert. Some people were glad they didn’t have to go to the concert so they could have a free Saturday which many people haven’t had in a while. But they were all disappointed that it was canceled all together. They couldn’t show what they worked on. They spent a lot of hard time practicing the songs on Thursday.

The Senior Choir songs that they were going to sing were “Omnia Sol,” “Stand Together,” “Nine Hundred Miles,” and “Pennies from Heaven.” The Senior Choir students were very excited to sing these songs especially “Nine Hundred Miles.” Two of the songs that the elementary choir was going to sing were “Walk through Choir” and “Carry the Light.” The elementary students in the choir were excited to sing these songs as well.

— Ethan Franklin, Senior



## POPS Concert

This school year the band and chorus departments decided that three concerts were not enough to show off the fascinating musical abilities MCS students have. Together, band teacher Deanna Perkosky and chorus teacher Destine Smith created a new concert. Taking place between the annual Winter and Spring concerts, the “POPS Concert” was formed with students from fourth to twelfth grade, performing new or very popular pop songs. Another brand new thing the POPS concert provided was an opportunity for the elementary, junior, and senior chorus to all sing a song together in what we called a mega choir. Even faculty and staff participated. Senior Madeline Schiller came to support her younger brother. After the concert, she said, “The concert was very impressive, and it was very exciting when everyone sang together! I hope they all can sing together again in another concert!” Listed below is the concert’s order and songs performed! All groups put on a great performance!

- ★ **Elementary Band:** “We Will Rock You,” arr. Michael Sweeney
  - ★ **Senior Chorus:** “Rocketman: Sounds from the Motion Picture,” arr. Mac Huff
  - ★ **Junior Band:** “How to Train Your Dragon,” arr. Johnnie Vision and “Funkytown,” arr. Ralph Ford
  - ★ **Junior Chorus:** “Castaways,” arr. Roger Emerson
  - ★ **Senior Band:** “I’m Shipping Up to Boston,” arr. Sean O’Loughlin; “The Best of Journey,” arr. Paul Murtha
  - ★ **Jazz Band:** “Zoot Suit Riot,” arr. Paul Murtha
  - ★ **Elementary Chorus:** “Here Comes the Sun,” arr. Mac Huff
  - ★ **Combined Chorus:** “Seasons of Love,” arr. Roger Emerson
- Aislinn Ray, Junior

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## Advanced Art

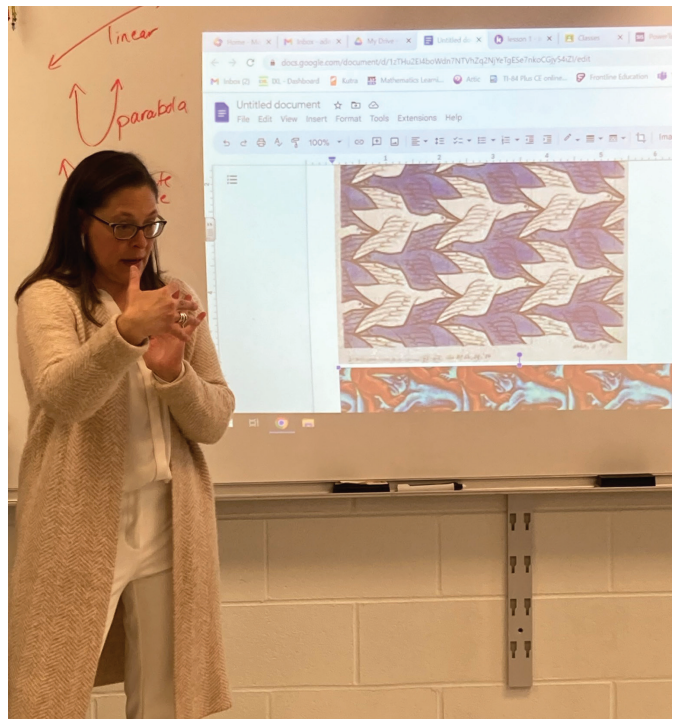
The advanced art students had a lot of freedom in the last few projects they were assigned starting with an independent choice art. Walking around the classroom, I saw a variety of things. Between painting, drawing different sketches, and carving soap into the shape of different objects, the independent project seemed like a student favorite.

The next project the students were assigned was a neon painting. The first step was to paint the canvas black because neon pops on black the best. The next step was to pick an animal of their choice and draw the outline of it. They then thought about how to correlate the neon colors to the original colors in the painting. This step gave a lot of artistic freedom. The final, and what students thought was the most fun, was to paint those bright colors on. The finished pieces were amazing!

— Justine Norton, Seniors

## Beautiful Math

Look at the stunning tessellations that students in Mrs. Dening’s math class created!





## STEM

6th grade student Wyatt Sepesi marvels at his skills after building this Roller Coaster Marble Slide, a STEM activity borrowed from the CROP Program.



## Third Spirit Week of the School Year

Students at Morris celebrated the third spirit week of the 2022-2023 school year going into their week-long winter recess.

The event launched on Monday, February 13, encouraging both student and teacher participation through the theme “student-teacher swap.” The students arrived at school bearing heels, blouses and button-ups, while their respected counterparts enjoyed a laid-back day, dressed in sweatpants and hoodies.

Day two of this Mustang spirit week called for participants to show their spirit by coming to school decked out in colors of pink and red in celebration of Valentine’s Day. Sophomore Benjamin Newell revealed this theme to be his favorite. “It was nice to see that most people could participate,” he said.

The next theme, “Rolled-out-of-bed Day,” provided comfort for students and teachers alike. Seventh grader Samuel Schiller shared his appreciation for the classic pajama day when he said, “I liked it because it was comfortable and fun to show off my pajamas.” Samuel was joined by most students in his response, securing pajama-day theme as a student favorite. Senior Skylar Feather added that “[her] favorite was pajama day because everyone in yearbook wore their club shirts.” The members of the yearbook club used this theme to brandish their new tee-shirts; a black tee with blue and white prints, featuring each member’s name on the back.

The next theme transported MCS from a cold winter to somewhere warm and sunny as students and teachers decked out in Hawaiian shirts filled the halls.

The spirit week finale featured a war between classes: a “color war” ensued. Each class, including staff, was to wear their own colors for class pride. This fun, playful battle between students was the perfect kick-off to an exciting, snowy, week-long break.

— Madeline Schiller, Senior

## Remembering Joan Martin and Gary Jacobsen and the MCS Express

During the Joan Martin Basketball Tournament, Mrs. Martin was remembered for her service to MCS and women’s sports at MCS. Her contribution to the advancement of local female sports was life-changing and valuable. Sadly, shortly after the tournament, Mrs. Martin passed away. Her daughter Ruth was very generous in donating a homemade blanket that commemorated Mrs. Martin’s retirement and recalled her dedication to our MCS community and sports programs. This



was an extra special donation because Mrs. Martin was an avid quilter and she treasured this gift. Courtney Mackey, Morris’ Library Media Specialist, used to play under Joan’s tutelage. She said with great sadness at the news of her passing that Mr. and Mrs. Martin, “both had big roles in my life.”

During the Ray Clement Basketball Tournament this winter, Gary Jacobsen was remembered as well. He passed in January 2022. Mr. Jacobsen was a beloved former PE teacher, athletic director, and MCS sports advocate and coach as well as an avid fan after he retired. Gary Jacobsen’s youngest son, Mark Jacobsen, gave an emotional and inspirational speech to commemorate Mr. Jacobsen’s life and dedication to Morris.

Just before the Boys Varsity broke the record for wins in the season, Former MCS student, basketball player, and 1,000-point Club member, Rob Joy wrote Nate Lull, sports broadcaster, saying, “I can almost hear Coach Jake saying, ‘That is one heck of a run boys.’ As a life-long Morris player, fan, coach, and then fan again, Jake would have swelled with a quiet pride watching a Morris team match and surpass the 1986-87 *MCS Express* consecutive win streak (19-0). Jake would have enjoyed seeing their teamwork, sportsmanship, hustle, determination, style, and that they ‘showed some class’ out there while they did it.”

— Mrs. Julene Waffle, English



Mr. and Mrs. Jacobsen with their grandkids dressed in MCS Express t-shirts.



## CROP Learning Culture



Throughout the weeks of March 13th and 20th, our CROP students immersed themselves in lessons about Irish culture. Afternoons were sprinkled with baking and learning how to dance an Irish jig and a group reel.

Community involvement was key. Karen Knapp, an instructor of Irish Dance for nearly 30 years, offered her time to engage in an afternoon of enlightening students with her Irish heritage. Community member, CROP parent, and Board of Education member, Teresa DeLaurentiis, joined the

group for two afternoons and taught the art of making Irish Soda Bread. This was a parent/student-led activity with daughter, Fia Burdick. Not only did they assist our CROP students with baking, but they also shared homemade butter (made by Fia) and an assortment of the fruit spreads that the family made together as well. It was a delightful and delicious couple of weeks!

These activities were coupled with lessons in kindness. The series “Steve Hartman: Kindness 101” was incorporated into the days’ activities. Some topics included Service, Gratitude, Active Listening, and others.

To wrap up, students selected a number of staff members whom they thought deserved recognition for their service to our school community. They decorated “Cups of Kindness” and filled them with the soda bread, as a “thank you for all you do!”



## CROP News

Hibernation and semi-hibernation (called torpor) were a topic of study during CROP this winter.

So most of us know about mammals hibernating. But some insects, fish, frogs, turtles, salamanders, and other amphibians use a type of chemical “sugar” in their blood, like antifreeze when they burrow in the mud. It lets them slow down their breathing and hearts and in the spring unfreeze and de-thaw alive! Even Alligators can freeze in as long as their snouts are sticking outside the ice!

Students were really enthralled with this study!

The PreK, K, 1st and 2nd graders helped build an “Earth pudding.” They had Oreo crumbs for dirt which we crushed up. Then we made instant chocolate pudding and buried Swedish fish, gummy worms, and gummy frogs into the pudding “mud.” Next we happily ate them!

Nature is miraculous!





## Corning Museum of Glass

On March 3, Mrs. Fredette brought her chemistry students to the Corning Museum of Glass. It was a very interesting and informative experience.



## The Addams Family

This year the Drama Club and Chorus combined to do the 2023 musical. The Musical picked was *The Addams Family*. Thomas Pondolfino ('23) starred as Gomez, Yana King ('24) was Morticia, Maddie Coleman ('24) was Wednesday, Robert Hill ('26) was Pugsley, Jessica Walling ('24) was Grandmama, Brodie Coleman ('26) was Uncle Fester, Everett Pondolfino ('24) was Lucas Beineke, Sawyer King ('24) was Mal Beineke, Rachel Hill ('24) was Alice Beineke, and Dominique Cruz ('24) was Lurch. The cast and crew performed a fantastic production.

Everett Pondolfino ('24) said, "It has been super exciting to finally be putting on a musical again. I cannot wait to see what we do next year." Many cast members have had experience putting on musicals like this but for some, it was a new type of experience. Rose Cimorelli ('25) said, "It was a great experience. It was very interesting to learn about everything that goes into a production like that."

This is the first musical at MCS since 2019 with the *Wizard Of Oz*. In 2020, students were days from the opening show of *Cinderella* before it was canceled due to the pandemic. This show truly did not disappoint and many of the community members were amazed at how well the students put on the show. The show had fantastic music and the choreography was put together well. Everyone is excited about next year's musical and how it will look. Sawyer King ('24) said, "Seeing how the show progresses from day one to the actual production blows my mind." Ms. Destinie Smith and Mrs. JoAnn Fredette were the directors of the show while Mrs. Lisa Marino made the costumes. Ms. Smith, who is a first-year teacher, said, "This has been such an amazing experience. I am so lucky to have had my first directing opportunity in such a warm and supportive environment."

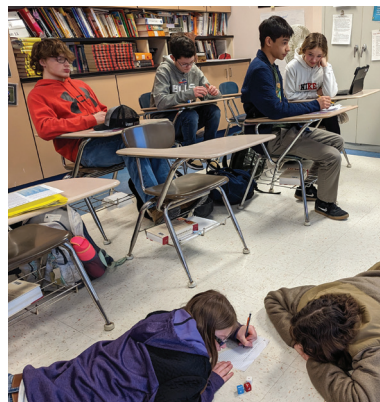
— Rachel Hill, Junior

## Metaphor Dice

This winter, Juniors threw metaphor dice. Last year, famous spoken word poet Taylor Mali spoke via Zoom with the juniors about poetry and his creation Metaphor Dice. Through a generous donation from a stranger, MCS was given 13 sets of dice. Students roll the dice and create poems from the inspiration the dice provide. The red dice are concepts, ideas, or complex subjects that might need to be explained with the help of a metaphor. The blue dice are the objects,

the things that are more tangible, understandable, or humbler. The white dice are adjectives. Together students might roll "My family is like owning a junkyard." Students had fun coming up with unique combinations of words to create their own poems.

— Mrs. Julene Waffle,  
English







## Dr. Seuss Day Celebration

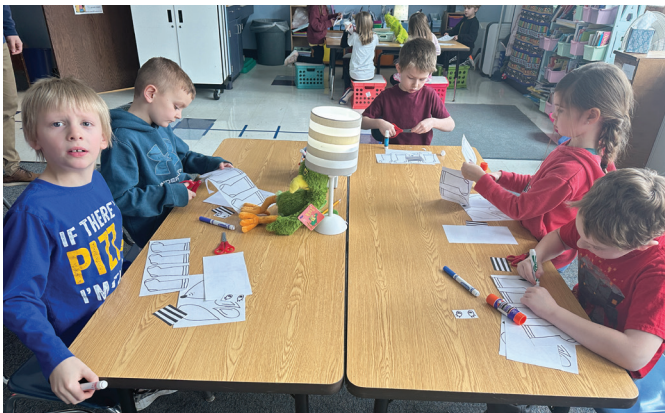
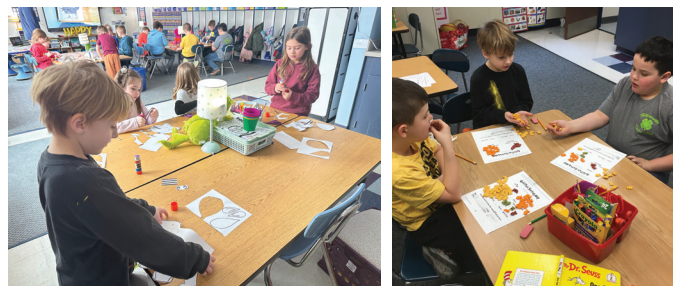
March 2 marked beloved children’s storybook author Dr. Seuss’ birthday. The students of Morris--thanks to their excellent teachers--had the privilege of celebrating this special day with various themed activities. The Pre-K, many of which were unfamiliar with the famed author, experienced a fun introduction to the wonderfully-wacky ways of Dr. Seuss. They initially read many of the popular stories and got to decorate the different characters present in each. “The students were very excited to meet the Cat in the Hat [too],” mentioned Pre-K teacher, Ms. Amy Robertson. The students also met the silly character in the hall outside their classrooms in celebration of Seuss’ birthday. That was really exciting.

The kindergartners celebrated their Dr. Seuss Day with “Wacky Wednesday,” where all students were encouraged to wear their wackiest outfits to school. Guest speaker Mrs. Maistros read aloud the Seuss classic *Green Eggs and Ham* to the class and the students then shared in their own opinions as to whether or not they would eat green eggs and ham. Their creativity began to really flow when students were given the opportunity to illustrate a drawing when they created *Fox in Socks* paper bag puppets.

The first and second graders also participated in some fun activities on this exciting day. The students rotated through three different Seuss-themed stations. “The first station was to create a “wocket” and a pocket to go along with *There’s a Wocket in my Pocket*,” said Amy Zeh. The second station was to build a fox with funny socks to go along with *Fox in Socks*,

Finally, she continued, “[The students were able] to make a Cat in the Hat puppet to go with *The Cat in the Hat* by Dr. Seuss.” They also participated in Read Across America Day during this time. Teachers Amy Zeh, Christine Callea, Nicole Briguglio, Marjorie Bourgeois, and student teacher Lucas Kownack worked together to make it an exciting day for their classes! Even the high schoolers had a taste of the excitement--the Cafeteria prepared a surprise for lunch for all “buyers” that day. If desired (and by most, it was) students received a cup of blue-colored pudding, topped with yummy multicolored gummy fish. The creative snack was based on Dr. Seuss’ *One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish*. Students sent thanks to Morris’ great cafeteria staff!

— Madeline Schiller, Senior



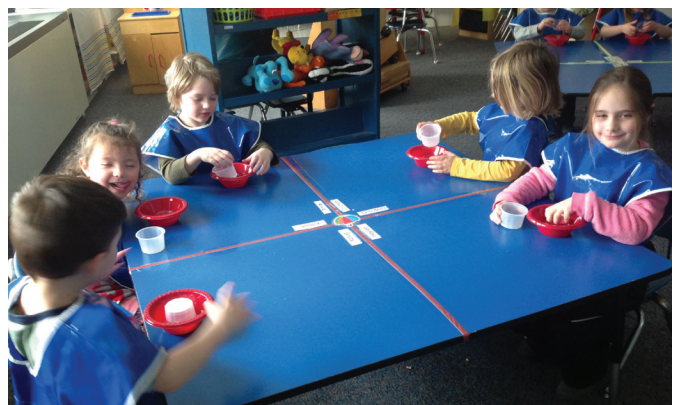


## A Visit from the Coffee Truck!



- \* Keegan Fraser and many others who have helped Tiger Ross get around the school after he broke his leg.
- \* Tiger Ross for being more worried about his team rather than himself as they faced playoffs in Basketball.
- \* Carissa Richards and Scott Murphy for joining the 1,000-point club for career points scored in basketball.
- \* All the cast and crew of *The Addams Family*. Bravo! Great Musical!
- \* The students (and faculty and staff) who sang and played in the Pops Concert—The mega chorus was pretty great as were all the solos and songs in general!
- \* All the creative faculty and staff here at MCS.
- \* The MCS Board of Education and the MCS administration for being supportive and understanding and for trusting of teachers to create learning content perfectly suited for our students
- \* Mrs. Fredette for making treats for her students for their birthdays.
- \* The 4th graders who are always walking so quietly in the hallways. They are great role models!
- \* Mr. Breck, Mrs. Fredette, Mr. Jenison, Mrs. Maistros, Ms. Turner, Mrs. Waffle and Mr. Wais for spending their Friday night before break chaperoning the Student Council Sweetheart dance. We really appreciate you!!
- \* Mrs. Lentz and Miss W. for being so helpful in the Kindergarten classroom!
- \* Mr. Thom for ordering, installing, and training staff on our updated display boards.
- \* Mrs. Rozanski has had a number of opportunities lately to put her newly learned TCI skills to the test! Her steadfast commitment to serving students is very much appreciated!
- \* Three cheers to Mr. Packard, Mr. Tol, and Mr. Utter. They are pillars at MCS with a combined 80+ years of experience!
- \* Ms. Jenison is off to a great start in her role as a shared aide.
- \* Mrs. Armstrong for going above and beyond to help students. Her calm demeanor and cheerful outlook benefit staff and students.
- \* Mr. Holbert for routinely picking up our extra evening bus runs.
- \* Mrs. Mackey's 8th graders who help her in the library! She could not do 9th period without you!

## Smallest Kids — Biggest Smiles!





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**VIRGINIA ROBINSON**



## RETIREMENTS

### Virginia Robinson

Mrs. Robinson was a dedicated member of Morris's faculty for 30 years! Her favorite memory of MCS was the thousands of "Hello's" that she received each morning from students while working here. She hopes to spend her retirement traveling, reading, and crafting.

### Kathy Forgit

Mrs. Forgit worked in Morris for 26 years! Her favorite memory at Morris happened early on, when she helped a student learn to write his name. From that point on, she loved helping children learn. During retirement, she will spend time with her grandchildren and work in her garden.

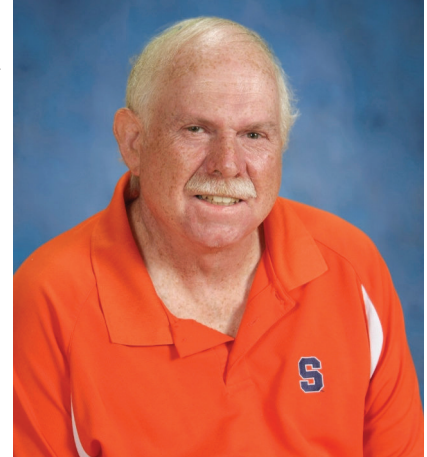
### Charlie Jenison

Mr. Jenison has been a member of the MCS faculty, working as a building custodian for six years. He said, "I will miss the students and staff. The students at Morris have been the most respectful I have had the pleasure to work around."

### Patty Armstrong

Mrs. Armstrong enjoyed her time as a member of Morris's faculty for 30 years! She has had so many great memories during her time here at Morris that she couldn't choose just one. In retirement, she looks forward to spending time with her family--especially her grandchildren!

**CHARLIE JENISON**



**KATHY FORGIT**



**PATTY ARMSTRONG**



# Thank you for your dedication to our district.