

Mustang Musings

MORRIS CENTRAL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



"Isn't it nice to think that tomorrow is a new day with no mistakes in it yet?"

—L.M. Montgomery

August, September, October 2023

Congratulations to Our Valedictorian and Salutatorian

Madeline Louise Schiller, Valedictorian



Madeline Schiller, daughter of Matthew and Maura Schiller of New Lisbon, New York, was announced as Morris Central School's Valedictorian of the Class of 2023.

Madeline's father, Mr. Schiller, is a retired New York City Police Department cop and academy instructor. Mrs. Schiller serves Chenango County as a dispatcher for the state and county police.

Throughout her time at Morris Central School, Madeline's major accomplishments include being a National Honor Society member in good standing and a College and Careers for Every Student Mentor. She is also a member of Morris Central's Student Council, Outdoor Club, and Golf Club. In addition, she is a member of the Laurens Trap team, and she serves her school district as a leader in yearbook as the copy editor.

Madeline's hobbies include a passion for baking and spending time with friends and family.

Madeline has spent her summers working at Gilbert Lake and she also has held a part-time job with the CROP program during the school year.

In the fall, Madeline will attend Hartwick College to earn a degree in Business Administration. She hopes to apply what she learns there by running her own business someday.

Madeline has worked hard to earn this graduation honor. Graduating a year early is just one hurdle she chose to leap. To reach her goals, she has adopted the following Ralph Waldo Emerson saying as her life's motto: "Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail." Morris Central wishes Madeline the best of luck in her journey.

Carissa Jane Richards, Salutatorian



Carissa Richards, daughter of Benjamin and Denise Richards, of Morris, New York, was announced as Morris Central School's 2023 Class Salutatorian.

Carissa's father, Mr. Richards, is the owner of Ben Richards Construction, and her mother, Mrs. Richards, is the owner of Spike's Pizza and Grocery in Edmeston.

During her high school career, she served as captain of the varsity soccer, basketball, and softball teams. She is also the Class of 2023 Secretary and she is a member of the National Honor Society. In addition, she is the Co-Editor-in-Chief of the Yearbook at Morris Central School. Other accomplishments Carissa has achieved include being an all-star in three sports (soccer, basketball, and softball), and she scored over 1,000 career points in basketball this year in spite of missing a varsity year due to the pandemic.

A hobby that Carissa enjoys is playing basketball in the off season, and she works year-round at Spike's.

In the fall, Carissa will attend Binghamton University where she plans to pursue a degree in engineering. She knows success is sometimes hard won. As her AAU Basketball Coach, Mack Culpepper used to tell her all the time, "You must fail before you succeed." She plans on working hard after school to make sure she succeeds in her life. Morris Central wishes Carissa all the best in her endeavors.

*Congratulations and
Best Wishes!*



**Morris Central School
Board Members**

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

**Morris Central School
Administration**

Jamie Maistros, Superintendent

Main Office (607) 263-6100

Guidance (607) 263-6116

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FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to each and every one of you. From our incoming Pre-K students who will form the Class of 2037, to those finishing up their last year of learning at MCS, the 23-24 school year has something special to offer you. Together, we will continue to foster a culture of excellence and provide our students with the highest quality education.

First, I want to extend my significant appreciation to our dedicated educators and support staff. Your passion, hard work, and care for our students are truly inspiring. In getting to know many of you this last year, your expertise, enthusiasm, and genuine care for our students shine through in everything you do. In my first year on the job, I had a significant amount of learning to do. There is no chance that I would have been up to the task if it were not for your exceptional support and commitment to doing what is right for our kids.

Our focus this year will remain on accessing excellence in all aspects of our District. We want our students to feel excited, engaged, and committed to coming to school every day. We'll be using research-based teaching strategies, expanding our educational resources, and offering plenty of opportunities for our students to explore their interests and talents. As our Capital Project is set to break ground in the spring, the year is sure to be full of both internal and external growth. Learning should be a joyous, meaningful adventure!

We're all in this together! Each of us has an oar and we are all on the same ship; the more we commit to moving in the same direction, the further we will go. We hope you will continue to join us for school events, open houses, concerts, board of education meetings, athletic events, parades, and other engagement activities throughout the year. Your input and presence make a huge difference. The Morris community has a rich tradition of excellence, and I am excited to build upon that legacy with the help and support of each and every one of you. Let us embrace the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, working hand in hand to create an environment where our students excel.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to education and for entrusting us with the education of your children. I am honored and privileged to serve as your Superintendent.

Take care,
Mrs. Jamie Maistros,
Superintendent

Welcome Back!

NEW WEBPAGE

You may have noticed MCS has a new webpage. Please check it out. It is full of important and useful information.

STUDENT DRIVING

High school students who drive to school may park in areas designated by Student Parking signs. Students must drive in a safe and reasonable manner while on school property. Failure to do so may result in loss of parking privileges in the school parking lot, as well as other possible disciplinary action.

Students who drive to school may not drive during their lunch period or at any other time during the school day. Students who attend BOCES must take the school bus to their BOCES program. For specific reasons, a student may obtain a driving pass from their BOCES instructor, which must also be approved by the Morris Central School Principal.

FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE

Welcome back! I am so excited to see everyone back in school. Listed below are some guidelines from NYSED for the 2023-2024 school year. If you have any questions, please feel free to either call or email me.

NYS MANDATED HEALTH EXAM

Per the NYS Commissioner's Regulations, students entering the school district for the first time, and in grades Pre-K (K if did not attend Pre-K at Morris), 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11 and at any grade level by school administration, in their discretion to promote the educational interests of the student (8 NYCRR § 136.3[b]) need to provide a health certificate (annual physical)* in the first 30 days of school. If one is not provided to the school within 30 days, an examination will be conducted by the medical director here at the school.

*Please note—Beginning January 31, 2021 physical examinations for school are to be documented on the NYS Required Health Examination Form or an electronic health record equivalent form. No other forms will be accepted by our district as per NYSED after the date mentioned above.

IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENT

Students are required to have all up-to-date immunizations in order to attend school. Per the NYS Commissioner's Regulations, any student lacking any required immunizations will be excluded from school 15 days after the first day, unless the student is entering from out of state, in which case they will have 30 days to obtain the required immunizations before they are excluded. A chart of all the required immunization per each grade level can be found at www.health.ny.gov/publications/2370.pdf

Students entering kindergarten will need the following vaccines in order to attend school: the fifth dose of Dtap, fourth dose of Polio vaccine, second dose of MMR, and second dose of Varicella.

Students entering the 6th grade will be required to have a Tdap vaccine; unless the child is not yet 11 years old, in which case this child would be required to get the Tdap vaccine no more than 14 days from his/her 11th birthday.

Students entering the 7th grade will be required to have the first dose of the Meningococcal vaccine.

Students entering the 12th grade and who are over the age of 16 will need their second dose of the Meningococcal vaccine.

VISION, HEARING AND SCOLIOSIS SCREENING

The district's School Health Services program supports your student's academic success by promoting health in the school setting. One way that we provide care for your student is by performing the health screenings as mandated by the State of New York.

During this school year, the following screenings will be required or completed at school:

Vision

- Distance and near acuity for all newly entering students and students in Pre-K or Kindergarten, Grades 1, 3, 5, 7, and 11.
- Color perception screening for all newly entering students.

Hearing

- Hearing screening for all newly entering students and students in Pre-K or Kindergarten, Grades 1, 3, 5, 7, and 11.

Scoliosis

- Scoliosis (spinal curvature) screening for all girls in grades 5 and 7, and boys in grade 9.

A letter will be sent home if there are any findings on the screening done at school that would cause concern or need medical follow-up. Please call the school's Health Office if you have any questions or concerns.

BMI SURVEY 2023 - 2024 SCHOOL YEAR

As part of a required school health examination, a student is weighed, and his/her height is measured. These numbers are used to figure out the student's body mass index or 'BMI'. The BMI helps the doctor or nurse know if the student's weight is in a healthy range or is too high or too low. Recent changes to the New York State Education Law require that BMI and weight status group be included as part of the student's school health examination. This year our school district was one of the selected schools to take part in the survey and we will be reporting the New York State Department of Health information about our students' weight status groups. Only summary information is sent. No names and no information about individual students are sent. However, you may choose to have your child's information excluded from this survey report.

The information sent to the New York State Department of Health will help health officials develop programs that make it easier for children to be healthier.

If you do not wish to have your child's weight status group information included as part of the Health Department's survey this year, please print and sign the opt-out form from our school website and turn it into the health office at the beginning of the school year.

DETERMINING WHEN TO KEEP YOUR CHILD HOME FROM SCHOOL

- Keep your child home if your child is vomiting and/or has diarrhea.
- Keep your child home if he/she is too sick to eat breakfast.
- Keep your child home if he/she has a bad cough or cold.
- Keep your child home if he/she has a fever of 100° or greater.

- Keep your child home if he/she has any other COVID-19 symptoms or has tested positive for COVID-19.

GUIDELINES FOR RETURNING TO SCHOOL AFTER ILLNESS

Vomiting

- Students who have been vomiting should not return to school for 24 hours after the last time they vomited and have a negative COVID-19 test result. They should be able to tolerate a regular diet as well.

Diarrhea

- Students that are having diarrhea should not return to school until 24 hours after the last time they had diarrhea and have a negative COVID-19 test result. They should also be able to tolerate a regular diet.

Strep Throat and any other bacterial infections

- Students may return to school after they have been on antibiotics for 24 hours and fever free for 24 hours along with a letter from their healthcare provider releasing them back to school.

Fever

- Students may return to school if they have a negative COVID-19 test and have been fever free for 24 hours WITHOUT the use of fever reducing medications.

COVID-19

Students diagnosed with COVID-19 by either a healthcare provider or an at home positive antigen COVID-19 test or they do not get a COVID-19 test but have had symptoms, should not be at school and should stay at home until:

The positive student for COVID-19 has been in isolation for at least five days since the individual first had symptoms (day of symptoms onset is Day 0 and they'll have to complete Day 5 of isolation before returning on Day 6);

The student who did not test for COVID-19 has been in isolation for at least 10 days since the onset of symptoms (day of symptoms onset is Day 0 and they'll need to complete Day 10 of isolation before returning on Day 11).

It has been at least 24 hours since the individual has had a fever WITHOUT USING FEVER REDUCING MEDICATIONS; AND

The student's symptoms are improving, including cough and shortness of breath.

If you are unsure if your child is ready to come back to school or have any other questions, please call the Health Office at 263-6111.

TAKING MEDICATION IN SCHOOL

To assure the safety of our students while in school and to comply with the New York State Law mandate, no medications are allowed in school without prior approval. If your child has a condition which requires him/her to take medication during the school day, we will gladly cooperate with you and your doctor if you bring to us the following:

- A doctor's note indicating the name of the medication, dosage, time of administration, days to be given
- Permission note from parent or guardian
- Medication in the original container

The above information pertains to both prescription and over-the-counter medications (i.e. Tylenol, Advil, cough drops, etc.). Please make sure that an adult over the age of 18 is bringing the medication into school. The medication will be kept locked in the Health Office at all times and will be dispensed by the School Nurse according to the doctor's written orders.

I hope everyone has an awesome school year!

Kasia Baker, RN

School Nurse

(607) 263-6111

kbaker@morriscsd.org

BOX TOPS

Please keep collecting your Box Tops from your groceries. The Sixth Grade Safety Patrol uses the funds raised to help them go to Washington, DC. There is no need to clip the tops anymore in most cases. There is a free app you can download to your phone now. Once you register, all you have to do is scan your receipt and the items will be credited to MCS. Thanks!



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

Check out posts about upcoming events and admire the creative learning we do at MCS. Our Facebook wall is updated all the time with interesting things!

ANNUAL ASBESTOS NOTIFICATION

NOTICE TO ALL BUILDING OCCUPANTS OF THE AVAILABILITY OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT PLAN.

The school district's Asbestos Management Plan was submitted to the New York State Education Department in 1995 by LEA Designee Don Turnbull. The Asbestos Management Plans for this school district's buildings are available at the office of the head custodian in accordance with EPA's "ASBESTOS HAZARD EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACE (AHERA): of 1987 (40 CFR part 763) and New York State "RIGHT TO KNOW LAW."

All management plan records are available for review at the designated time; business hours are 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For further information contact John Tol or Jamie Maistros at 263-6100.

SCHOOL TAX INFORMATION

The collector will accept payment for school taxes for 60 days beginning September 1, 2023, and ending October 31, 2023. Payment of taxes may be mailed to the collector at P.O. Box 313, Morris, New York 13808, during this time.

Make checks payable to School Tax Collector. The Tax Collector will not be collecting taxes in person, all taxes must be mailed.

Taxes will be collected at no interest from September 1, 2023, through October 1, 2023, and at 2% interest from October 1, 2023, through October 31, 2023. All taxes remaining unpaid after November 1, 2023, will be returned to the Otsego County Treasurer, Cooperstown, New York.

CHROMEBOOKS

Chromebooks will be handed out a little differently this year. For grades PK-12 they will be distributed on the first day of classes in homeroom/elementary classrooms.

CALENDARS

Your MCS calendars are available to print or to sync with your personal calendars or to view on-line. Calendars can be accessed by scrolling down on the MCS homepage to "Morris Events." There is a link there for "Full Calendar." Under that link is a video about how to view the calendars that you want and how to sync them with your personal calendars or how to print them. There is also a video that shows you how. Please be aware the .pdf calendar changes throughout the year; it would be best if you printed one month at a time.

Google calendars are easy to sync on your phones or desktops. Please be aware there is an instructional calendar, an event and fundraiser calendar, and a sports calendar (located for syncing or viewing on Schedule Galaxy). MCS made separate calendars so that you may choose to see only the information you want to see.

You can go here for directions on how to sync Google Calendars with your own: <https://www.morriscsd.org/protected/iCallInfo.aspx>.

TITLE I – ANNUAL PARENTAL NOTICE ON TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

Pursuant to the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, this is to advise you that you have the right to request information regarding the professional qualifications of your child's classroom teachers. If you desire such information, please submit a written request for this information to the attention of:

Jamie Maistros

Superintendent

Morris Central School

PO Box 40; 65 Main Street

Morris, New York 13808

Except in extraordinary circumstances, the written request should be submitted within thirty (30) days of this notice.

Upon receipt of such request, the District will inform you whether the teachers have met state qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which they provide instruction; whether any teacher is teaching under emergency or other temporary status through which state qualification or licensing criteria have been waived; and the baccalaureate degree major of the teachers and any other graduate certification or degree they hold, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.

The District will also notify you as to whether your child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

SNOW DAYS

While it seems far away, winter will soon be upon us and will bring with it snow and ice. Some of you may wonder who decides to close school. Well, it is not just one person who makes this decision. Mrs. Maistros, Mr. Tol, and the transportation department are up at the crack of dawn talking to each other, the village, town and state workers about the road conditions and the decision to delay or close school.

In the case of school closure, delay, or early dismissal, it is important to make sure your contact information is up to date with the main office. We use this data to put out important phone calls, text messages, and emails when weather conditions interrupt our regularly scheduled events.

In addition to the Automated School Notification System, you may check the school's web page and Facebook page, as well as the radio stations that announce our school closings. They are WSRK, WDOS, WCDO, WSKG, WGY, WZOZ, WKXZ, WCXN, WAAL and WHWK. Also, you may tune your television to Binghamton WBNG Channel 12, Utica WKTU Channel 2, News 10 Now on YNN, WUTR and WFXV Utica channel 33. You can also look at *TheDailyStar.com* for closing information, too.

THREE CHEERS TO

- All 2023 MCS Seniors—Congratulations on your graduation!
- Judy Matson for working hard on award scripts.
- CROP leaders for their hard work and creativity.
- Summer CROP--what a cool program!
- The new Liberty Partnerships Program, led by Mrs. Marino, that is available to MCS students.
- The Forgit, Thomas-Smith and Norton families for the birth of their new babies.
- The cafeteria staff for offering free breakfast to all students this summer.
- Ms. Rehrmann, Ms. Rowe, Ms. Valentine, Ms. Weisenbarger, and Ms. Foerster for earning top marks from the State Education Department.
- Ms. Holbert (Mallory) for her dedicated service to MCS and good luck to her as she faces a new venture in life.
- All the cleaning staff who made the building shiny and new looking over the summer.
- Administration for leading us through a successful year.
- Mrs. Waffle for running a successful summer golf lessons program. Thanks to Mrs. Kane for helping too.



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

WHERE DO I GO WITH QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS?

Questions About...	1st Contact	2nd Contact	3rd Contact	4th Contact
Academics/Curriculum	Teacher	Mrs. Catella	Principal	Mrs. Maistros
Technology/iPads or Chromebooks	Teacher	Mr. Thom	Principal	Mrs. Maistros
Scheduling	Teacher	Mrs. Catella	Principal	Mrs. Maistros
Special Education	Teacher	Principal	Mrs. Maistros	
Classroom Rules/Policies	Teacher	Principal	Mrs. Maistros	
Athletics	Coach	Mr. Iannelli	Principal	Mrs. Maistros
Clubs	Advisor	Principal	Mrs. Maistros	
Discipline/ Behavior	Teacher	Principal	Mrs. Maistros	
Peer Issues/Bullying	Adult in Charge	Mrs. Catella & Mr. Mason	Principal	Mrs. Maistros
Cafeteria	Ms. Foerster	Mrs. Maistros		
Health Office/Nurse	Mrs. Baker	Principal	Mrs. Maistros	
School Bus (Routes/Behavior)	Bus Driver	Transportation Supervisor	Principal	Mrs. Maistros

Main Office	(Teachers, Principal).....	263-6100
Guidance Office	(Mrs. Catella & Mr. Mason)	263-6116
District Office.....	(Mrs. Maistros, Superintendent)	263-6102
CSE Office.....	(Mrs. Vunk, Ms. Smith).....	263-6109
Athletic Director.....	(Mr. Iannelli)	263-6124
Cafeteria	(Mrs. Foerster).....	263-6112
Nurse/Health Office	(Mrs. Baker)	263-6111
Transportation	TBA.....	263-6117



Screen Time and Sleep

Did you know?

- Losing just one hour of sleep can reduce a child's performance at school.
- Technology such as TVs, tablets, and game consoles in a child's bedroom can cause anxiety and sleep loss.
- Technology in the bedroom teaches the brain to associate the room with entertainment rather than rest.
- Playing violent video games in the bedroom conditions the brain to associate the room with danger.



Bedtime Tips!

- Help your child prepare for school the night before.
- Slow down and set a routine before bedtime.
- Make the bedroom a cozy environment where your child wants to be.
- Adjust your child's bedtime if they are not getting enough sleep.
- Avoid putting a TV in the bedroom; if they already have one, do not allow them to watch it at night.



How much sleep is enough?

There's no exact number of hours of sleep required for kids, but the National Sleep Foundation suggests:

Preschoolers (ages 3-5) should sleep about 11 to 13 hours every night.

School-Age Children (ages 5-12) need about 9 to 11 hours of sleep every night.

Teens need at least 8.5 to 9.5 hours of sleep every night.



Let's Go Escambia!
www.5210nwfl.com



Graduating Class of 2023





Congratulations and Good Luck!

ACADEMIC AWARDS

HARRIS CRANDALL MEMORIAL PRIZE FOR HIGHEST MARKS

- Common Core Geometry—*Hannah Wist*
- Common Core Algebra—*Carter Swayer*
- Common Core Algebra 2—*Jessica Walling*

PRINCIPAL'S AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT FOR SCORING 4 ON STATE ASSESSMENT IN 2020:

Seventh Grade:

Kylee Canfield—6th Grade ELA and Math
Broden Connally—6th Grade ELA and Math
Richard Pegg—6th Grade ELA and Math
Marjorie Ostroff—6th Grade ELA
Chloe Ross—6th Grade ELA

Eighth Grade:

Savannah Coyle—7th Grade ELA and Math
Jacob Knapp—7th Grade ELA and Math
Hunter McAdams—7th Grade ELA and Math

Ninth Grade:

Grace Wing—8th Grade ELA
Carter Swayer—8th Grade Math
Alisandra Farmer—8th Grade Science

STUDENT COUNCIL CERTIFICATES

President, *Jessica Walling*

Vice President, *Maddie Coleman*

Secretary, *Yana King*

Treasurer, *Everett Pondolfino*

Evelyn Burke, Kylee Canfield, Haylee Cole, Samantha Coyle, Savannah Coyle, Alisandra Farmer, Ethan Franklin, Lainey Fraser, Kara Hand, Rachel Hill, Gabriella Ilarraza, Maiya King, William King, Thomas Pondolfino, Aislinn Ray, Madeline Schiller, Hannah Swayer, Levi Waffle, Lincoln Waffle, Lucas Waffle, Grace Wing, Hannah Wist, Trystin Worman

STUDENT COUNCIL LEADERSHIP AWARD

Jessica Walling

NATIONAL YEARBOOK PROGRAM OF EXCELLENCE

Rachel Hill, Tatiana McAdams, Aislinn Ray, Hannah Wist

RAYMOND A. AND MABEL CARD MEMORIAL AWARD

Savannah Coyle

2023 KATHARINE SMITH PRINCIPAL'S AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Maddie Coleman

MORRIS ROTARY CLUB COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

Seventh—*Broden Connally*

Eighth—*Hunter McAdams*

Ninth—*Brodie Coleman*

Tenth—*Samantha Coyle*

Eleventh—*Tatiana McAdams*

BOARD OF EDUCATION AWARDS FOR HIGHEST MARKS ON THE REGENTS IN

- Global History & Geography New Framework—*Grace Schiller*
- Common Core ELA—*Tatiana McAdams*
- US History and Government—*Jessica Walling*
- Chemistry—*Everett Pondolfino*
- Living Environment—*Grace Wing*

ROTARY HIGHEST SCIENCE AVERAGE

Ethan Nisius—Earth Science

HALL MUSIC AWARD

Maddie Coleman

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP PRIZES

Freshman

1st—*Alisandra Farmer*

2nd—*Carter Swayer*

Sophomore

1st—*Hannah Wist*

2nd—*Makenzie Hoyt*

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION JUNIOR SCHOLARSHIP

Magdalena King

BOE JUNIOR SCHOLARSHIP PRIZES

1st—*Magdalena King*

2nd—*Jessica Walling*

GEMMA HALL ART, MUSIC, LITERATURE PASSION AWARD

Gemma Hall generously donated ten tickets and lunch to see a Glimmerglass opera this summer. The students selected to attend the opera are

Benjamin Newell, Mason Linton, Grace Schiller, Levi Waffle, Hannah Wist, Samantha Coyle, Maiya King, Asa Dugan, Sawyer King, Dominique Cruz

GRADUATION AWARDS

VALEDICTORIAN—*Madeline Schiller*

SALUTATORIAN—*Carissa Richards*

STANLEY FOOTE MEMORIAL AWARD

Ethan Franklin

FRANCES SCHORADT JOSLYN MEMORIAL AWARD—*Garrett Aikins*

W. D. JOHNSON ASSOCIATION PRIZES

1st Place—*Hannah Swayer*

2nd Place—*Madeline Schiller*

BUTTERNUT VALLEY AMERICAN LEGION POST MEDALS

Ethan Franklin, Madeline Schiller

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY MEMORIAL AWARD IN MEMORY OF ELIZABETH KLINDT

Jillian Maerz

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS—*Thomas Pondolfino*

CLASS OF 1951 AWARD—*Lincoln Waffle*

ANDREW J. COYLE II MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP—*Justine Norton*

TECHNOLOGY AWARD—*Ty McKinney*

BRIDGES' FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP—*Ethan Franklin*

NATE LULL SCHOLARSHIP—*Lincoln Waffle*

JAMES R. MORRIS ESSAY PRIZES

1st Place—*Madeline Schiller*

2nd Place—*Thomas Pondolfino*

3rd Place—*Hannah Swayer*

USA CLAY TARGET LEAGUE 2023 SCHOLARSHIP—*Lincoln Waffle*

CIVILIAN MARKSMANSHIP PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIP—*Lincoln Waffle*

GLENN WAFFLE MEMORIAL AWARD

Joshua Benjamin, Kiernan Burke, Madeline Schiller, Lincoln Waffle

MORRIS VFW POST 1417 AND LADIES AUXILIARY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS, AMVETS AND SONS OF AMVETS

Bethanee Barringer, Logan Dunham, Cirran Gorman, Kayla Hoffman, Jillian Maerz, Scott Murphy, Christian Valentine

DANFORTH & MARGUERITE BOLTON EAGLE SCOUT SCHOLARSHIP—*Lincoln Waffle*

OTSEGO, SCHOHARIE & DELAWARE MASONIC CHARITIES—*Lincoln Waffle*

THE BARRETT FAMILY AWARD—*Hannah Swayer*

CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT—*Jonathan Child*

SALLY WRIGHT MEMORIAL AWARD

Justine Norton

COMMUNITY BANK AWARD

Kayla Hoffman, Lincoln Waffle

ELIZABETH MILLER MEMORIAL AWARD

Bethanee Barringer

MARJORIE GRAHAM STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

Madeline Schiller, Lincoln Waffle

THE ROBERTS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Garrett Aikins

DUCKS UNLIMITED VARSITY SCHOLARSHIP

Lincoln Waffle

JOHN MCELROY EXCELLENCE IN MUSIC AWARDS—Overall—*Thomas Pondolfino*

CASE FAMILY MEMORIAL AWARD

Joshua Benjamin

GEORGE PRESTON MEMORIAL AWARD

Hannah Swayer

HALL HISTORY AWARD—*Thomas Pondolfino*

HALL SCIENCE AWARD—*Jonathan Child*

HALL DRAMA AWARD—*Thomas Pondolfino*

HALL CITIZENSHIP AWARD—*Hannah Swayer*

HALL ART AWARD—*Jeffrey Bourgois*

HALL ELA AWARD—*Madeline Schiller*

BUTTERNUT VALLEY GRANGE AWARDS

Lincoln Waffle

COLLIER/MEYERS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Madeline Schiller

ANN AND VINCENT O'NEILL SCHOLARSHIP PRIZE—*Jillian Maerz*

2023 SCHOLARSHIP FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Carissa Richards, Madeline Schiller, Hannah Swayer

CHRISTINE MACLEMAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Madeline Schiller

KRISTI INCZE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Garrett Aikins

MORRIS CENTRAL SCHOOL SHORT STORY CONTEST—*Madeline Schiller*

BOARD OF EDUCATION HIGHEST AVERAGE IN PHYSICS—*Jason Strain*

JACELYN O'CONNOR MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP—*Jillian Maerz*

NATIONAL YEARBOOK PROGRAM OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

Garrett Aikins, Joshua Benjamin, Ethan Franklin, Justine Norton, Carissa Richards, Madeline Schiller, Lincoln Waffle

ROBERT (CUBBY) JOY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP—*Garrett Aikins*

CLASS OF 1996 SCHOLARSHIP
Kayla Hoffman

MULTI-CLASS REUNION OF 2021 AWARD

Logan Dunham, Christian Valentine

REBECCA DOUGLAS SIEGFRIED SCHOLARSHIP

Hannah Swayer, Jeffrey Bourgois

GARY JACOBSEN SCHOLARSHIP

Bethanee Barringer, Ethan Franklin

MORRIS ROTARY CLUB SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Ethan Franklin

CLARK SCHOLARSHIP

Garrett Aikins, Joshua Benjamin, Kiernan Burke, Jonathan Child, Ethan Franklin, Kayla Hoffman, Ty McKinney, Justine Norton, Thomas Pondolfino, Amber Reilly (BOCES), Carissa Richards, Madeline Schiller, Jason Strain, Hannah Swayer, Lincoln Waffle

ANITA HOPKINS SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

6th Place—*Lincoln Waffle*

5th Place—*Thomas Pondolfino*

LULL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

4th Place—*Jonathan Child*

3rd Place—*Hannah Swayer*

2nd Place—*Carissa Richards*

1st Place—*Madeline Schiller*

ATHLETIC AWARDS

SECTION IV CHARACTER COUNTS AWARD

The section IV Athletic Association considered trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship when selecting four athletes from our high school to receive this award. This year's recipients are *Tiger Ross, Maddie Coleman, Hannah Swayer, and Lincoln Waffle*

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR AWARD (MALE AND FEMALE)

This is awarded to a first-year player. The winner of this award has contributed to the team on and off the field/court as well as had a good attitude towards their teammates and coaches. This year's recipients are *Carter Swayer and Makenzie Hoyt*

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

The purpose of the MCS Student Athlete Service Award is to identify and recognize those students who give up their time and talent to help others without receiving financial compensation and thereby encourage all community members to volunteer as well. This year's recipient is *Maddie Coleman*

SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD (MALE AND FEMALE)

The player that is chosen to receive this honor is someone who conducts themselves on and off the field with fairness and respect towards others. This player is gracious in victory and well-mannered in defeat. This is not an award that is based on skill; it is given to the player who most exemplifies selfless dedication to the team, tireless enthusiasm, and an unwavering respect and love for the game. This year's recipients are *Asa Dugan and Maiya King*

COACH'S AWARD (MALE AND FEMALE)

This award is given to an athlete who made a positive contribution to the team through attitude and example. One who was pleasant to be around, enthusiastic, never missed practices, and was always willing to learn. This year's recipients are *Garrett Aikins and Jessica Walling*

ATHLETIC CLUB DISTINGUISHED ATHLETE AWARD

The Distinguished Athlete Award is to be given to a student athlete who has participated in all three sports seasons and has shown exemplary effort throughout each season. This athlete has never given up and always brought a positive attitude to the game. This year's recipient is *Ethan Franklin*

THE JAKE MEMORIAL AWARD

This memorial award is presented to a student athlete who has displayed dedication, sportsmanship and Mustang pride throughout their years of participation on a Morris Central School Athletic Team. This year's recipient is *Garrett Aikins*

PETER CASE MEMORIAL COACH'S AWARD

This memorial award will be presented to either a female or male athlete who has shown outstanding performance and team effort in her or his years of participation on athletic teams at Morris Central School. This year's recipient is *Scott Murphy*

LOUIS FOOTE MEMORIAL AWARD

This award is presented to either a female or male athlete who has been an all-around outstanding athlete, not just in her or his performance on the field, but also in her or his contribution to the positive attitude, behavior, and effort that a model athlete is characterized after. This year's recipient is *Carissa Richards*

FOURTH QUARTER HONOR ROLL

congratulations!

HONOR ROLL

7th GRADE

Aniya Kogut
Liana McAdams

8th GRADE

Hayden Kolvik
Johnathan LaTour
Lucas Waffle
Timothy Wood

9th GRADE

Natalie Barley
Ryland Boss
Hailey Canfield
Luis Cruz
David Holt
Shiloh Jones
Katrina Romano
Ty Turner

10th GRADE

Zeithan Dunham
Georgia Kolka
Jayden Kolka
Emmy Lentz
Sera Lentz
Brooke McKinney
Jackson Ross

11th GRADE

Haylee Cole
Tatiana Ives
Aislinn Ray

12th GRADE

Bethanee Barringer
Jason Strain

HIGH HONOR ROLL

7th GRADE

Julia Barrett
Richard Pegg
Delilah Triolo

8th GRADE

Josiah Dugan
Kara Hand
Matthew Schiller
Kiarra Walker

9th GRADE

Jonah Baldo
Zackary Chase
Gabriella Ilarraza
Ryan Murphy
Amira Ross
Grace Wing

10th GRADE

Samantha Coyle
Ethan Nisius
Grace Schiller
Levi Waffle

11th GRADE

Sean Dill
Asa Dugan
Ethan Herring
Rachel Hill
Maiya King
Kaylee Kolka
Everett Pondolfino
Tiger Ross
Reed Wolfe
Max Yaeger

12th GRADE

Jonathan Child
Cirran Gorman
Jillian Maerz
Justine Norton

PRINCIPAL'S LIST

7th GRADE

Kylee Canfield
Brodren Connally
Alanna Davies
Marjorie Ostroff
Chloe Ross
Samuel Schiller

8th GRADE

Savannah Coyle
Lainey Fraser
Jacob Johnson
Jacob Knapp
Hunter McAdams
Brandon Mitcham
Ella Moore

9th GRADE

Brodie Coleman
Alisandra Farmer
Robert Hill
Michael Saggese
Carter Swayer

10th GRADE

Rosemary Cimorelli
Makenzie Hoyt
Mason Linton
Madison Moore
Hannah Wist

11th GRADE

Maddie Coleman
Dominique Cruz
Magdalena King
William King
Alejandra Outhwaite
Tatiana McAdams
Noah Moore
Jessica Walling

12th GRADE

Garrett Aikins
Joshua Benjamin
Ethan Franklin
Kayla Hoffman
Ty McKinney
Scott Murphy
Thomas Pondolfino
Amber Reilly
Carissa Richards
Madeline Schiller
Hannah Swayer
Lincoln Waffle

SHERBURNE PAGEANT OF BANDS

Congratulations to the Morris Mustang Marching band for their fantastic performance at the Sherburne-Earlyville Pageant of Bands on June 3! Despite fierce competition, they secured a well-deserved 3rd place in the Class D Concert Band competition.

Hats off to their hardworking director, Mrs. Perkosky, and all the talented musicians involved. Morris has always been a strong contender at the Pageant, and we look forward to seeing them shine again in years to come. Way to go, Mustangs!

—Mrs. Deanna Perkosky, Instrumental Director



BASSETT FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

Seniors **Amber Reilly** and **Ty McKinney** received the Elizabeth and Benjamin Bassett Family Scholarship. Mr. Bassett visited the school in late spring to meet with them and give them their certificates.



SENIOR CIRCUS

On April 21, Mrs. Waffle's English 12 class got together to present to the Elementary students of Morris an exciting student-led circus! The high school English class's idea for a circus first sprouted after reading the fictional novel *Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen. The class was enthralled by the novel, especially senior **Justine Norton**, who shared her opinion on the literary work: "Water for Elephants is an incredible book that captures the life of circus workers in the 1930s. The story was based in New York and it had a mix of love and conflict that always kept me on my toes and wanting more."

After reading the novel, students wrote their own circus skits for the circus. The event required a lot of work behind the scenes too; Waffle's class planned each act, purchased, built, and made props, costumes, and games. They set up the event and eventually performed for their fellow Mustangs. The audience, pre-k through fourth graders, got to witness a show filled with silly clowns, an excellent and engaging ringmaster, a balancing act, a strong-man act (assisted by third grader Bella Marino), a silly tumbling act, and a grand finale by Sonja Galley, a former Morris co-valedictorian

and current successful business owner/farmer in the area. She was joined by Former Farm Dog of the Year, Bindi, and her two other dogs, Reece and Rhythm. The talented dogs were led by Galley through a challenging obstacle course. Each act was met with laughter and shouts from the crowd.

Senior, **Aaron Pondolino** is a college English student that volunteered to help out his fellow seniors. Performing as the ringmaster, Aaron successfully riled up the crowd and contributed greatly to the circus' success. "It was a delightful, magnificent, impeccable dumpster fire of FUN!" he recalled.

After the performances, the younger students each received three "dollars" provided by the senior class. They then got to go around to various different stations that each cost one dollar, including a face-painting station, various games with sweet surprises, popcorn, and more!

Our young Mustangs really enjoyed the show, and the seniors were pleasantly surprised with how well things went. Mrs. Waffle, who initiated the idea of holding the circus, hopes to recreate the event for the Morris community with her next class of twelfth graders! Keep an eye out, Morris!

—Madeline Schiller, Senior





HERSHEY BOUND

This year's seniors chose Hershey Park for the destination of their senior trip on Saturday, June 10, 2023.

The bus left the school early in the morning. Once at the park, the seniors checked in and split up. There were rides, a zoo, a water park, carnival games, and shopping. The most popular attraction was the rides which featured many roller coasters. The next most popular attraction was the zoo. There were all sorts of exotic animals from all over the world, including bald eagles, wolves, a bear, prairie dogs, reptiles, roadrunners, burrowing owls, river otters, and a mountain lion. And, of course, the stores were full of chocolate.

Seniors would like to thank their chaperones, Mr. Harmer and Ms. Turner for their time and their dedication to their class.

—Lincoln Waffle, Senior

A VISIT TO THE ZOO



READING WITH NINTH GRADERS

Mrs. Turner's English 9 students spent time in June reading with young Mustangs.



COLLEGE VISIT



7th and 8th grade Explored SUNY Cobleskill Day on May 18, 2023.

DANCED THE NIGHT AWAY

This prom season schools were picking modern prom themes; however, the Morris Central School prom committee decided to pick from the past and do a '70s Disco theme. The attire was fun and bright colors with extravagant hairstyles. However, students truly made the theme their own and were super original with their choice of dresses and suits.

The Prom Court consisted of six people, two prom courtiers, a prince and princess, as well as a king and queen. **Justine Norton** and **Jason Strain** were voted for prom court. **Lincoln Waffle** and **Madeline Schiller** were crowned prince and princess. And finally, **Garrett Aikins** was crowned king and **Aaron Pondolfino** was voted Prom Queen; "Being crowned Prom Queen is definitely my greatest High School achievement. I have to thank everyone at Morris for their support as that prom provided an infinitely memorable experience to treasure." Prom King, Garrett Aikins said, "Prom was lit, I was super excited to be chosen for the king's crown." The prom committee was able to have an array of snacks and drinks, as well as an amazing DJ. Students danced the night away, enjoying the late night with friends and classmates.

—Hannah Wist, Sophomore



MARCHING BAND & SHERBURNE PAGEANT OF BANDS

This year was Morris's first time back at Sherburne since 2019. They performed in the Jazz Band, Concert Band, and Marching competitions on June 1-3, 2023. Overall, they did very well in Concert Band and earned third place in Class D, by earning a score of 84.5. For Concert Band they performed "The Best of Journey," arr. by Paul Murtha, and "St. Petersburg March," arr. by Johnnie Vinson. The Jazz Band played "Zoot Suit Riot," arr. by Paul Murtha. Senior Ethan Franklin said, "Sherburne was fun. I was glad I was able to still play in it even though I had to ride around in a wheelchair because I had just undergone surgery." Mrs. Perkosky said she is "very excited for what is to come next year," and she believes that "with a little more practice and time the band will bring home more trophies next year."

The band also performed in the Memorial Day Parade. They performed "Stars and Stripes Forever" and "On Broadway," arr. by Paul Lavender. **Maddie Coleman** ('24) was the drum majorette; she said, "I was very excited that this year we could attend Sherburne Pageant of Bands. The marching band is very strong and musically inclined." Many of the Marching Band members were excited to perform at the Pageant to gain more experience but also have fun with friends while learning more. While the Band did not place in the Marching portion or the Jazz Band portion, many showed high spirits for next year's competition. **Jessica Walling** ('24) said, "It was a great learning experience. We also got to create music, play our instruments, and spend time with friends." Overall this year's Marching Band experience was very successful and many members can't wait for next year.

—Rachel Hill and Aislinn Ray, Juniors



FORE!



This spring one of the courses the golf club elected to play was Afton Golf Course. They enjoyed the front nine at a very affordable rate and a free lunch of hotdogs, chips, and a drink afterwards. The course was fun to play. Another course they wanted to play and would love to go back to next year was Leatherstocking in Cooperstown. It was a little windy on the lake, but it was a beautiful day to try their clubs at such a challenging course. The best part was that the club

covered our greens fees. Both courses were very generous!

While we were at Leatherstocking, we were cared for before and after we played by our school-mate Scott Murphy who was a cart guy there. Due to the fires in Canada, the last event at their home course, Colonial Ridge Golf, was canceled. All in all, it was a fun year and club members would like to thank Mr. Roser for attending so many of our events as a second chaperone.

—Mrs. Julene Waffle, English and Golf Club Advisor



CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

Each year Mrs. Waffle's Senior English pairs up with an elementary class to review literary elements, story telling, dialogue punctuation, and interviewing skills in a unit about Children's literature. This year they paired up with second graders. Seniors read second graders stories, they read the seniors stories, and seniors interviewed their second graders. The seniors then wrote and illustrated short stories about their second graders, using their interviews and literary elements and dialogue. The unit was a lot of fun.

—Mrs. Julene Waffle, English



INSPIRATION



Dr. Mark C. Montgomery is the Chief Diversity Officer, Deputy Title IX Coordinator, and Alumnus emeritus at SUNY Poly. He is also the founder and Chair of Joseph's Experience, Inc., a charitable foundation for families with children who are fighting cancer. In addition, Dr. Montgomery is an author, podcaster, basketball official, as well as an award-winning public speaker. He has even given a TED Talk.

These impressive accolades and leadership positions are not what makes Dr. Montgomery inspirational, however. What makes him special is that he began his career as a D student at Mt. Markam. He went to college only to drop out and give up. But when, years later, he encouraged his own child to attend college, he didn't want to be a hypocrite, so he went back to college 12 years after high school. He didn't just earn a Bachelor's or Master's, he went on to earn his doctoral degree, and now, he uses his story to help others not only succeed in life but appreciate the lives they have.

Mr. Iannelli saw him speak at a sports leadership conference this year and began a friendship with Dr. Montgomery. That admiration and friendship drew Dr. Montgomery to Morris. MCS is very thankful for the opportunity to host such an inspirational man.

On May 19, Juniors Maddie Coleman and Aislinn Ray, introduced Dr. Montgomery to students in grades 6-12. From the moment he first spoke to the last seconds before the final bell of the day, students were rapt with interest in what Dr. Montgomery shared with them during a presentation about his life before he had grit and determination and his life after deciding he could do better, as well as his life dedicated to others.

One piece of advice he asked students to believe was the idea that we can always do better. He encouraged us all to "have the courage to dream, to try." He asked all of us, "How far are you willing to go for you?"

He also reminded us that we need to care for each other. He brought up the motto of the United States of America, *e pluribus unum*, which means "out of many, one." He explained what that really means in simple terms. "Think M & Ms," he said, "They all taste the same." Just like those M & Ms--they may look different, but we are all people.

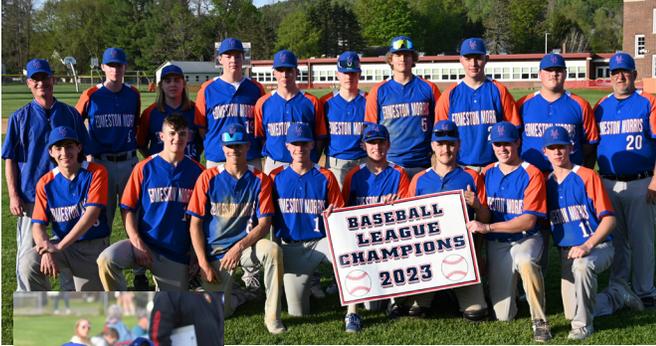
Another piece of advice he shared was that we should remember how lucky and fortunate we are because you "never know when your last day on the court is going to be." Through stories of the charity he founded that helps make life better for people who are fighting cancer, he made us all understand that we indeed have things for which to be thankful.

Students had so many questions after his speech, and he willingly answered them, even if they were difficult for him to articulate because the answers still hurt him to talk about. The students really enjoyed his message and were very appreciative of his time. Several students stayed after the talk to express their thankfulness (in the photo). Everett Pondolino, Junior, said Dr. Montgomery's message was something he "really needed to hear." Lincoln Waffle, Senior, said, "Dr. Montgomery was the best speaker I have ever seen." All students were moved by what he said and, as Mr. Iannelli said, "felt like his life story was similar to theirs." Dr. Montgomery shared his contact information with the students and has been in contact with them. He has promised to come back and speak again.

The final message he left us with is something we can all learn from. He said, "What are you willing to do with your chance? How far are you willing to go to honor your mother and father? And to honor yourself?" He asked us to be better and be good and to appreciate the little things in life. He said, "Life is waiting for you to smile." It is advice we can all use to hear.

—Mrs. Julene Waffle, English

VARSITY BASEBALL



This year we had another really solid team and a good season. Everybody had loads of fun and enjoyed every moment. It's sad to see the seniors go and for some to say goodbye to the game they sacrificed a lot for. It's sad to say and realize this was my last year playing baseball for MCS. We

only had three seniors this year, so I believe the team will still be pretty good next year. **Ethan Franklin** said, "We had a great season and the team had a lot of fun." Overall, it was a great last season, and I'm glad I could be a part of it.

—JJ Benjamin, Senior

BREAKING RECORDS!

Three school records were broken by Morris Track and Field athletes at the Tri-Valley championships!

- Maiya broke her own long jump record with a jump of 14-07.25 and her own triple jump record with a jump of 30-09.
- Hayden broke a school record in the 400 hurdles with a time of 1:10.36

Both Edmeston-Morris teams had a great meet with so many new personal records. Our boys team came in 2nd and our girls earned 4th at Tri-Valley Championships. Congrats!

—Ms. McKenzie Rhone, PE and Track and Field Coach



VARSITY SOFTBALL



This year was full of excitement and success for the Edmeston-Morris Girls' Varsity Softball team. Since it was the second year of the merge, the girls already had some strong friendships that they built on throughout the season. The team played a lot of non-league games against upper class schools in order to gain sectional points and earn a high seeding for their sectional run. They ended up working hard for some upsets, such as beating Unatego twice.

As for league games, things did not go exactly as they had hoped. The girls put in a ton of work to make the top four, and then beat Richfield Springs in order to attend the Tri-Valley Championship. They played a great championship game, and it seemed as though they had won it until things went poorly in the last inning. However, this did not stop them from making a strong sectional run. The team was seeded 5th in sectionals, going on to beat Hunter-Tannersville and Charlotte Valley, before an upsetting loss to the reigning #1 team in the state, Deposit-Hancock. Overall, The girls had a very fun and eventful season that will be remembered.

—Carissa Richards, Senior

ALL-STATE SELECTIONS BASKETBALL ALL-STATE SELECTIONS

- 2nd Team All-State: **Scott Murphy**
- 5th Team All-State: **Tiger Ross**
- Honorable Mention: **Carissa Richards**

SOFTBALL ALL-STATE SELECTIONS

- 2nd Team All-State: **Hannah Wist**

SCHOLAR-ATHLETE TEAMS

Every year NYS honors athletic teams who prioritize being scholars while being athletes. To be a Scholar-Athlete team, a team's grade point average for 75% of the team must be a 90 or better. This year, the Girls' Varsity Softball, Track, Basketball, Soccer, and the Boys' Varsity Baseball, Track, Basketball, Cross-Country, and Soccer all earned the title of Scholar-Athlete teams. That means Morris Central School has earned a School of Distinction Award for a second year in a row! Well done student-athletes, and well done coaches for stressing the importance of academics.

MARCH MADNESS MAMMAL MADNESS

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, fighting style, running speed, physiology, and motivation.

MORRIS’ WINNERS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- First Place: **Alejandra Outhwaithe**, 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!



Photo Shows (l to r) Carissa Richards, Alejandra Outhwaithe, and Lincoln Waffle

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



Photo shows (l to r): Lainey Fraser, Savannah Coyle, and Hailie Lindberg

—Mrs. Joanne Fredette, Science

HOT AIR BALLOONS

Prior to moving everything indoors due to poor air quality, Mr. Packard had students launching rockets and hot air balloons!



SECOND PLACE HONORS



Morris Envirothon Team B took second place at the competition on May 3, 2023! In particular they did a great job on their oral presentation and I’m so proud of them! If you see **Jessica Walling, Yana King, Tatiana McAdams, Sawyer King, Ali Farmer, and Shiloh Jones**, please congratulate them on a job well done!

—Mrs. Carlena Johnson, Science



This is a picture of Mr. Manchester’s 6th grade waiting to go into library.



LA BOHÈME

Sometimes when people hear the word “opera,” they groan and think, “Yuck.” If the students selected to see the opera *La Bohème* on July 18 at Glimmerglass Opera House thought that when they stepped onto the bus to that morning, they certainly did not think that when the opera was over that afternoon. *La Bohème* was a wonderful play about life and as Senior **Asa Dugan** said, “not taking for granted those that you love because you don’t know how much time you have with them in this life.”

The students chosen for this opportunity displayed an interest in music, art, theatre, or literature. Mrs. Gemma Hall graciously donated ten tickets for students to see any opera they wanted. Mrs. Waffle and Mrs. Collins chose *La Bohème*. It was sung in Italian, but there were English subtitles displayed on a screen above the stage. Students learned quickly how much they needed to read in order to understand what was happening on the stage.

The first half of the show was fast-paced. The audience met all the characters quickly and then the plot of living life to the fullest while on a starving artist’s pay started to unfold. The main characters were loveable and lively. The love interests in the story were well-developed by the end of the first half which ended with a huge market place parade scene complete with pickpockets, confetti, flags, and a stage packed full of singers.

One thing that struck all of our students was the way all of the singers projected their voices so loudly—they filled the theatre with their voices without any microphones at all. It left many of us in awe. Senior **Sawyer King** said, “I loved the emotions displayed by each actor through their voices, and the amount of energy given off was just amazing.”

The second half of the opera was actually easier to follow than the first as it was less condensed. It was slower

paced which matched the winter setting of the second half which was complete with gently falling snow. This section was where the true themes of love and relationships were developed. Junior **Hannah Wist** said, “I learned not to take time for granted as it can be ripped away from you in an instant.” Senior **Asa Dugan** added, “My favorite part of the whole performance was the way the set and music displayed an incredible and powerful mood. Altogether, it was an incredible experience.”

Not only did students have the opportunity to see the opera, but before the show, they were treated to lunch, and they went on a special tour of the theatre and grounds. First, we learned about the theatre and what goes into a show. In prime season over 300 people work behind the stage, on stage, in the light and sound booths, in the creation rooms for props and costumes, in concessions, and many other areas of expertise. **Maiya King**, Senior, was particularly impressed with the sheer number of people involved in producing a show. We learned that there are several crews to make a show run flawlessly: There are light and sound crews, stage crews for set up and stage crews for take down, the singers, costume designers and set designers as well as prop designers, among many others. These people know how to build structures, sew, paint, weld, etc. They are talented. Some nights they finish one show and set up another right away—the turnaround is extremely fast and quite difficult.

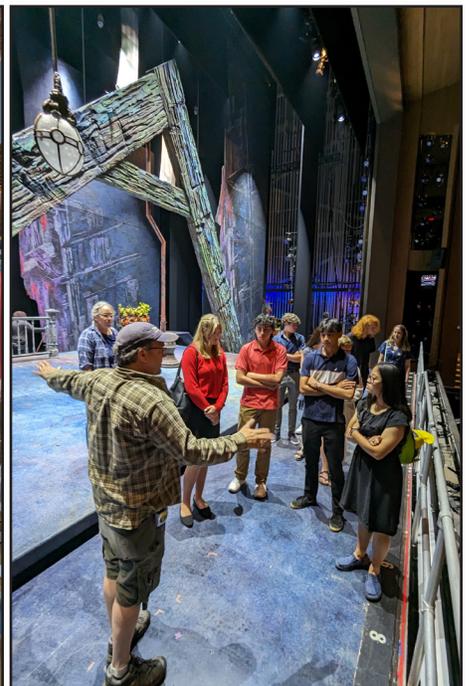
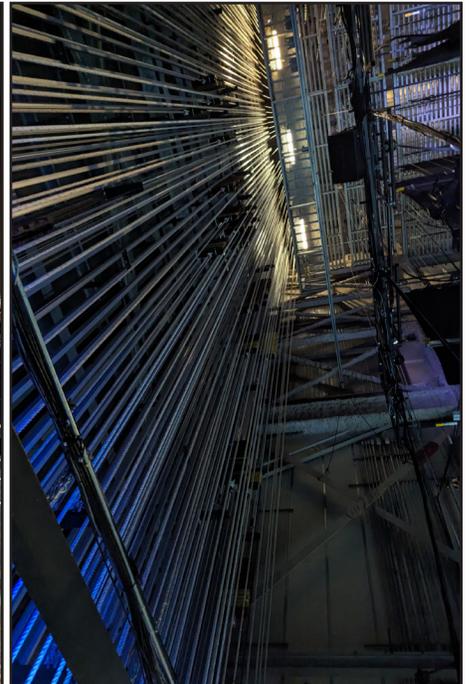
Back stage was quite impressive as well. Behind the curtains was a many-storied space with platforms, and props that fly in and out via cables. **Dom Cruz**, Senior, was impressed with the height of the backstage area. Mason could not believe “how many ropes there were.”

Once a show is over, we learned, they pack up everything into shipping containers and often send them elsewhere, such as California or Europe, so that others may use the sets.

After the tours of the theatre, stage, light and sound booths, we also learned that Glimmerglass used to be a huge turkey farm and the green barn behind the theatre is an original building that they turned into a prop painting and a costume design facility. We learned that costumes sometimes have to be made to look old—it makes sense that a fisherman who had been out to sea for weeks should not have brand new-looking clothes. To make costumes look old or used, designers have to drag costumes behind cars, stomp on them, patch them up, rub them in dirt, etc.

To top the day off, just before we took off for home, Mrs. Waffle and Mrs. Collins were able to meet Mrs. Hall to personally say thank you. Overall, the experience was a wonderful. Many of these students had never been to an opera before and to have the tour and first-class treatment of lunch and great seating for the opera was a really special treat. As **Levi Waffle** said, “It was pretty awesome.” And best of all, students were reminded that life is short and we should take care to spend time with our loved ones. We owe a special thanks to Stan Leonard for being our go-between, Glimmerglass Theatre’s special treatment, and especially Mrs. Gemma Hall for making it all possible. We are all very thankful.

—Mrs. Waffle, English



ART CLASS

In June, the art class has been letting their creativity shine in their charcoal drawings and the Art On The Trail projects. When Mrs. Collins assigned the charcoal drawing project, she gave us a ton of freedom by letting us choose any object, animal, or person that we wanted to draw. The only requirement was that we do it completely with charcoal. This created a fun and interesting challenge and we were able to use a medium that many of us had never used before.

The Art On The Trail project is something that the art classes have been doing for a couple years around this time is a fun way to show the community the techniques we have learned throughout the year. We were able to choose between painting, drawing, and were even offered to do diamond art on the wood pieces that will be hung up on the trail for people from around the community to look at.

This month has certainly been creative, challenging, and fun. We all thoroughly enjoyed the projects.

—*Justine Norton, Senior*

AWARD-WINNER AGAIN

The Morrisianian, an award-winning yearbook program, is led by Madeline Schiller and Tatiana McAdams, co-editors-in-chief, under the direction of Mrs. Julene Waffle, yearbook adviser. Our school's yearbook staff are being recognized again for their efforts in making a quality yearbook.

Jostens' National Yearbook Program of Excellence Awards are presented twice a year, in spring and in fall based on the yearbook's arrival date at the school. Morris earned the highest level of recognition this year, gold, for creating an inclusive yearbook, generating school engagement, and successfully managing the yearbook creation process. Morris is one of seven regional schools to reach this level of excellence.

"Jostens is proud to recognize those individuals who have created an exceptional yearbook for their school and community," said Tammy Whitaker, Jostens VP and COO Yearbook Division. "These schools did an exceptional job on multiple levels, despite the challenges presented by this school year. Yearbooks are a critical part of capturing and telling a school's story, and Jostens is dedicated to supporting yearbook staff members as they do their important work."

Mrs. Waffle is "super proud of all of the students for paying attention to detail, doing their pages well and on-time, being a team, and making a concerted effort to ensure that all students were in the book."

Congrats to all this year's staff: **Madeline Schiller, Tatiana McAdams, Carissa Richards, Lincoln Waffle, JJ Benjamin, Ethan Franklin, Garrett Aikins, Justine Norton, Aislinn Ray, Hannah Wist, and Rachel Hill.**

ART ON THE TRAIL

From June 10 to June 11, the Butternut Valley Alliance hosted On the Trail of Art at General Jacob Morris State Forest in Morris. While walking the trail, guests had the opportunity to view art produced by students from Morris, Edmeston, and Gilbertsville-Mount Upton Central Schools. Also included were professional and local artists, art demonstrations and participation art, strolling performance artists, and Plein Air painters, according to the Butternut Valley Alliance. The trail was about half a mile to a mile or so and sneakers or hiking boots were recommended.

HOW MORRIS PARTICIPATED

Morris students participating in Studio Art, Photography, or Advanced Art classes worked on their projects from anywhere from a few weeks to multiple months. The artwork was featured on a twelve by twelve inch wooden board and usually incorporated a theme of nature. While most projects were simply paintings, some students had more creativity, including artwork that changes as you walk by or real foliage used in the piece. Our students worked extremely hard on these projects and hopefully many community members had the chance to appreciate their work too! If you did not get the chance to see their work, the Butternut Valley Alliance will most likely be hosting this event again around the same time next year.

—*Tatiana McAdams, Junior*

PENNY WARS

We have a winner! But before I announce it I want to thank everyone who participated and donated to the Junior Class Penny Wars!

- The class with the most dollars: Third Grade
- Class with the most pennies: Fourth Grade (6,451 pennies!)
- Class with the most silver: Sixth Grade
- Freshmen were in last place with lots of silver and only three pennies.

In case you were wondering: 15,495 pennies were counted and rolled by the Juniors themselves with a few helpers. In all, they raised over \$600. Thank you!

And the winner is the Fourth Grade! Congratulations and great job.

—*Mrs. Teresa Kane,*
Math and Junior Class Advisor

Thank you!