



# Mustang Musings

MORRIS CENTRAL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



*"Life's not about expecting, hoping and wishing;  
it's about doing, being and becoming.."* —Mike Dooley

January/February 2022



## NEW DIRECTOR OF PUPIL PERSONNEL



As the Director of Pupil Personnel, I am so excited to be a part of the Morris community! First impressions have certainly amazed me as I have never experienced such a warm welcome at a new job! Both the district community and the village community have been friendly, helpful, and have welcomed my husband and I with open arms. We thank all of you for this with our whole heart!

I have always had a passion for education, both learning and teaching others. I officially began this journey by earning a Bachelor's degree in both special education and elementary education. I went on to earn my first Master's degree in special education and as my teaching career began. I earned a second Master's degree in elementary curriculum and instruction. I have ten years of teaching experience in special education, general education, and Academic Intervention Services (AIS), which took place in both small and large schools. Three of those ten years, I was a CSE Chairperson, RTI/AIS Coordinator, and Arts in Education Coordinator at a very small school.

From there, I became a Special Education Literacy Coach for four years, which I took as a sign that I was meant to become an administrator and I earned my third Master's degree in both building-level and district-level administration. From there, I officially began my administrative career as the

Director of Student Support Services and am now here! I am currently working on my Doctoral degree in K-12 Leadership and Learning and hope to begin working on my dissertation in about two years.

I have always had a plethora of hobbies and things I enjoy. Although not super-fast, I have been a runner since high school where I participated in cross-country and track and as an adult, several 5K and 10K races as well as a half-marathon and the Boilermaker 15K for a few years. I also like to cycle just for fun, particularly with my husband and sister-in-law. I play the flute and taught my niece how to play the flute. I play some piano as well. I enjoy doing crafts such as cross-stitch, working with beads, making Christmas ornaments, making Styrofoam scenes, and anything else that comes to mind. My grandmother was very creative and artsy and I enjoy carrying that on. I have also loved writing and for many years, I was an avid poet. Currently, I am striving to break out into the publishing world and am working on a book for educators. I love to read books of all kinds including, but not limited to, books for education as well as books by James Patterson and Dean Koontz. I thoroughly enjoy the holidays and I am an avid M&M paraphernalia collector – they are so cute!

My husband and I are thrilled to have found an apartment in Morris and be a part of your community! If you have any questions or need anything, feel free to contact me at school!

—Ms. Amy Gerhartz , Director of Pupil Personnel



## SNOW DAYS

Winter is now upon us and with that we have snow and ice. Some of you may wonder who decides to close school. Well, it is not just one person who makes this decision. Dr. Babbie and Ms. Jorgensen 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.

Everyone is aware that sometimes the weather is hard to predict. There are certain factors that come into play when deciding whether or not to close school, but always the final decision comes down to the safety of our children.

What if it does not start snowing until after your child arrives at school? This is also a difficult decision to make. In most cases, it is safer for children to stay at school. This gives the village, town and state time to clear the roads and make transportation safer. But there have been cases where students were sent home in the middle of the day because the forecast stated a major storm was approaching or would get worse before it got better.

The school has an emergency plan in case students need to be sent home early due to the weather.

- It has been decided to dismiss students early.
- A time is set when students will be dismissed.
- Radio stations are notified of the emergency closing.
- Faculty and staff are notified.
- An instant message via phone, text, and email is sent to all parents and guardians.

In addition to the Automated School Notification System we use, 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.

### Morris Central School Board Members

Mary Dugan, President

Russell Tilley, Vice President

Emily Boss

Wendy Moore

Michael Walling

### Morris Central School Administration

Dr. Shannon Babbie, Superintendent

Katharine Smith, Principal

Amy Gerhartz, Director of  
Pupil Personnel

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## 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.*

## WELCOME NEW FACULTY & STAFF



**Mrs. Lisa A Rozanski**

I am a Teacher's Aide back to work at MCS—So glad to be back with many friends and meeting new faces.

I started here when my kids were young, around 2003 working in the cafeteria, substitute teaching, office admin substitute, and then permanently as Teacher's Aide until 2011. I went back to work as a Grooming Salon Manager at Petco for two and a half years. Then reopened my own business, Peticular Look, LLC, as a Dog Groomer where I operated successfully from 2014-2019. When the store I rented was put up for sale, I went back to Petco and worked through the pandemic with my furry four legged friends.

After 30 years of grooming, I decided to semi-retire. November I was rehired as an Aide with Caitlyn Smith in Kindergarten Special Education. I am so very happy to be around children again! Thanks everyone for making me so comfortable and welcome!



**Ms. Lindsey Laing**

I am the new Fifth Grade ELA and Social Studies teacher at Morris Central School. I am so excited to be here with my own students after being a permanent substitute teacher here since 2019! I grew up nearby in Laurens, where I graduated high school and went on to earn my Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood and Childhood Education at SUNY Oneonta in 2019. I will soon be starting my Master's work, also at SUNY Oneonta in their literacy education program.

I currently live in Oneonta with my boyfriend and our German shepherd puppy, Maze. In my spare time, I enjoy reading, hiking with my dog, and playing any kind of board game. I am thrilled to have found a home here at Morris and look forward to the rest of this year and many more to come!



**Mr. Scott Wetmore**

Hello! I'm a returning faculty member here at Morris Central School as a permanent substitute teacher. I'm glad to be back after nearly seven years working in another school district as a high school Earth Science and Astronomy teacher. My return has reminded me of what a great place MCS is to work. The administration, faculty and outstanding staff here have made me feel right back at "home." Although I've yet to spend a lot of time with the students, I can already tell they are just as welcoming. Thank you all. My wife, Tina, and I have raised two great kids: Matthew (currently a weather officer in the U.S. Air Force) and McKenzie (a former Russian Linguist—also in the Air Force—and now pursuing

her pre-med degree in hopes of becoming an OB/GYN). I know, a proud Dad, what can I say? My outside interests include hiking, running, cooking, and practicing guitar (although you won't see me packing arenas anytime soon). Fun fact about me: during my 21-year military career in the—you guessed it—Air Force (as an aircraft maintainer), I've been to 14 countries and U.S. territories (some more austere than others). I know it's hard to see with my mask on; however, I'm smiling everyday and look forward to getting to know each of you even better during my time here.

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## NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY NEWS

The National Honor Society has been a very organized and well-respected assembly this year. Mrs. Vunk, our new advisor, has been doing a great job with her first year as advisor and kept the group very coordinated. NHS members include *Jonathan Child, Maddie Coleman, Asa Dugan, Ethan Franklin, Mackenzie Graves* (Vice President), *Maiya King, William "Sawyer" King, Yana King* (Secretary), *Tatiana McAdams, Aiden Moore* (Treasurer), *Noah Moore, Alexander Page* (President), *Everett Pondolfino, Hannah Pope, Aislinn Ray, Carissa Richards, Tiger Stancil, Hannah Swayer, Lincoln Waffle, and Jessica Walling*. Twelve of which include new members who were inducted into the club this year.

There has been an incredible amount of volunteer opportunities this year, such as the Food Drive sponsored by NHS, help with the Morris Beautification Project, the Community Cupboard Food Pantry in Edmeston, Morris Rotary, CROP, Otsego County Fair Board, and several others with more to come.

Advisor, Mrs. Vunk said, "Everyone is doing very well in collecting their volunteer hours, all while maintaining a GPA of 90+, with many of our members at 95+. I'm very proud of each and every one of our members. I am enjoying my time with all of the members, and appreciate their willingness to always step up and help wherever they can. I have been very impressed by the commitment to both community and academics. It has been a wonderful experience so far!!" This year has been great for the NHS members and community this year and we hope for that to continue throughout the future!

—Carissa Richards, Junior

# MORRIS CENTRAL SCHOOL

## 1ST QUARTER • 2021-2022

### HIGH HONOR ROLL

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#### 7th GRADE

*Kara Hand  
Jacob Knapp  
Johnathan LaTour  
Ella Moore  
Lucas Waffle  
Kiarra Walker  
William Weber*

#### 8th GRADE

*Jonah Baldo  
Ryland Boss  
Hailey Canfield  
Robert Hill  
Gabriella Ilarraza  
Ryan Murphy  
Carter Swayer  
Grace Wing*

#### 9th GRADE

*Makenzie Hoyt  
Georgia Kolka  
Sera Lentz  
Mason Linton  
Levi Waffle*

#### 10th GRADE

*Haylee Cole  
Asa Dugan  
Ethan Herring  
Rachel Hill  
Jacob Morlock  
Efren Rivera  
Tiger Stancil  
Reed Wolfe  
Max Yaeger*

#### 11th GRADE

*Garrett Aikins  
Joshua Benjamin  
Kiernan Burke  
Ethan Franklin  
Kayla Hoffman  
Scott Murphy  
Jason Strain  
Lincoln Waffle*

#### 12th GRADE

*Kelsey Chase  
Aidain Hoyt  
Ruby Jones  
Aiden Moore  
Ian Payne-Demarco  
Hannah Pope  
Aidan Ryther  
Landen Tyler  
Fiona Ventura  
Ethan Wagner*

### HONOR ROLL

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#### 7th GRADE

*Josiah Dugan  
Hailie Lindberg  
Jason Valentine  
Timothy Wood, Jr.*

#### 8th GRADE

*Shiloh Jones  
Ty Turner*

#### 9th GRADE

*Zeithan Dunham  
Jayden Kolka  
Emmy Lentz  
Brooke McKinney  
Benjamin Newell*

#### 10th GRADE

*Sean Dill  
Tatiana Ives*

#### 11th GRADE

*Jillian Maerz  
Anthony Morano  
Amber Reilly  
Christian Valentine*

#### 12th GRADE

*Madison Aikins  
Laurel Brigham*

### PRINCIPAL'S LIST

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#### 7th GRADE

*Savannah Coyle  
Lainey Fraser  
Jacob Johnson  
Hunter McAdams  
Matthew Schiller*

#### 8th GRADE

*Brodie Coleman  
Alisandra Farmer  
Amira Ross*

#### 9th GRADE

*ZSamantha Coyle  
Madison Moore  
Ethan Nisius  
Grace Schiller  
Hannah Wist*

#### 10th GRADE

*Maddie Coleman  
Maiya King  
William King  
Yana King  
Noah Moore  
Everett Pondolfino  
Madeline Schiller  
Jessica Walling*

#### 11th GRADE

*Sebastian Babbie  
Jonathan Child  
Thomas Pondolfino  
Carissa Richards  
Hannah Swayer*

#### 12th GRADE

*Mackenzie Graves  
Jackson Harp  
Triana Hawkins  
Etain LaLonde  
Alexander Page  
Leah Rehrmann*

# CONGRATULATIONS!

# ANTONIO'S SUMMER SUPERSTARS

This past June the elementary students from MCS received a letter from Antonio Delgado announcing his summer reading program. Antonio's Summer Superstars program was created for students in New York's 19th Congressional District. This program was developed to foster family ties and reading skills. The reading portion of the program ran from June 21, 2021, through September 10, 2021. Students and families were challenged to read 20 books of their choosing. Along with the reading challenge, participating students were given a bookmark challenge. Bookmarks were to depict the importance of reading from a young person's perspective. Submitted bookmarks were honored and celebrated in an online gallery for the public to view. Morris Central had the pleasure of hosting Antonio Delgado on November 10. Congressman Delgado presented Certificates of Special Congressional Recognition to our participants in Antonio's Summer Superstars Reading Challenge. *Isabella Groves*, *Samir Iniguez*, and *Fiorenza Burdick* were recipients of this award. *Isabella Groves* designed the winning bookmark for the entire New York's 19th Congressional District. Way to go, Isabella! It is Congressman Delgado's hope that this program increases in number every year!

Keep reading!

—Mrs. Courtney Mackey, Library/Literacy



Congressman Antonio ...  
@repdelgado

I enjoyed celebrating the incredible students who participated in my Antonio's Summer Superstars reading challenge. Thank you to the families and schools who participated, and congratulations to our bookmark contest winner — Isabella Groves from Morris Central School.

6:04 PM · Nov 3, 2021 · Twitter Web App

2 Retweets 20 Likes

CONGRESSMAN  
**ANTONIO DELGADO**  
NY-19

**ANTONIO'S SUMMER SUPERSTARS READING PROGRAM**

# MATH • SCIENCE • TECH

## Consumer Math

This year for the Consumer Math, The seniors get to have Mr. Roser as a teacher, including myself. Mr. Roser has never taught the seniors let alone a math class since he is a history teacher. I know the seniors were super excited about this, but let's find out how Mr. Roser feels. I asked Mr. Roser how he felt when he was told he had to teach Consumer Math class and was it a big change for him? He responded, "At first I was kind of excited to teach this class because I would be able to teach the seniors, a grade I've never taught before. As far as the curriculum goes there wasn't too much change because I teach similar topics to the 7th Graders in Life Skills. There is definitely a change from teaching 7th Graders to 12th Graders, but so far I love it!" I agree. So far the class is going great and will continue to thrive the rest of the year. I can wait to see what else this course throws at us!

—Kelsey Chase, Senior

## Geometry

In Mrs. Kane's Geometry class, we are learning new material while combining and adding to old material from the years before. The 10th Grade Geometry class is currently learning about triangle congruence and proofs, but before we learned how to prove angles, parallel lines, and if a triangle is even a triangle and how we know it. Most Geometry students can all agree that Mrs. Kane is a "great teacher," as sophomore *Jessica Walling* put it, and "The way Mrs. Kane teaches really works . . . and makes learning easier," added *Maddie Coleman*, *Tatianna Mcadams*, and *Rachel Hill*, sophomores

—Aislinn Ray, Sophomore



MCS students and alumni help clean up plastic in Calhoun Creek, Saturday October 16, 2021.

Group picture from counter clockwise from left: Recent graduate, *Sierra Ratliff*; Senior, *Jackson Harp*; Sophomore, *Everett Pondolino*; Junior, *Jonathan Child*, and Senior, *Mackenzie Graves*.

# MATH • SCIENCE • TECH

## Elementary School Environmental Club

This fall, several students really took an interest in learning about and taking care of their environment, so they decided to start their own club. Original, founding members are *Eden Boss* (3rd Grade), *Holden Boss* (5th Grade), *Silas Jensen* (2nd Grade), *Coraline Jensen* (4th Grade), *Ella Moore* (7th Grade), and *Isaac Moore* (4th Grade), but the club has grown exponentially over the months. They often meet during their recess to plan and inspire.



Mrs. Marino helped spearhead an interview with the students involved.

**Q:** Tell us what and/or who inspired you to form this environmental club.

**A:** Two of our original founders went out to a creek by their house and that creek was full of trash, so we wanted to help clean it up.

**Q:** Does the club have a formal name? A motto?

**A:** Yes, the club name is Environmental Club and our motto is “Make everyday an earth day.”

**Q:** Why do you feel this is an important contribution to our school and community?

**A:** We wanted to show respect to nature and earth and inspire everyone else to do the same.

**Q:** Have you completed, or are you working on projects to promote awareness of environmental conservation?

**A:** We have been setting flyers around. We are organizing a creek clean up and we have also been working on putting a letter at the post office.

**Q:** How would you encourage other students and community members to participate?

**A:** We would put up flyers, create documentary videos, and give people information on how pollution is impacting the earth and climate change.

**Q:** Does your group have meetings or is much of the work and communication done online?

**A:** We have in-person meetings with the original founders in the Moore’s garage and other members have meetings during school at recess and free times.

**Q:** How can one become a member of your club? Is there a contact person?

**A:** Anyone can just tell the founding members they want to participate. All people have to do is sign a piece of paper saying they were at the meeting.

**Q:** What advice can you offer our community members?

**A:** Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rethink. Don’t litter. Donate.

There is a lot to learn from these budding environmentalists. Caring for our environment is just one lesson!



## Living Environment

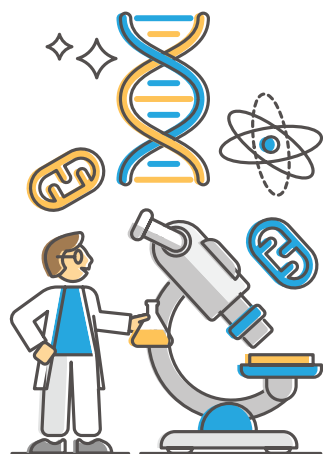
Living Environment students have been working on some hands-on learning lately! In our last unit students learned about cells and the characteristics of living things in order to create a timeline of life on Earth. In our current unit, students are practicing using models to better understand the relationship between photosynthesis and cellular respiration.



History of Earth Timeline: Students *Samantha Coyle*, *Brooke McKinney* and *Ethan Nisius* consider the arrangement of organisms and events in Earth's history based on what they have learned in class.



Photo & CR Modeling: Students *Levi Waffle* and *Mason Linton* work on their pop-bead model to show the rearrangement of atoms during photosynthesis and cellular respiration.



## Earth Science: Read All About It

In 10th grade (or earlier), your science credit for that year is Earth Science. You learn about earthquakes, astronomy, the rock cycle, and so much more. With Ms. Grant as your teacher, it is pretty hard not to like this class, as she makes it so much more interesting.

### About Earth Science

Earth Science is defined as “the study of the Earth’s structure, properties, processes, and four and a half billion years of biotic evolution” ([www.nsf.gov](http://www.nsf.gov)). Earth Science in high school is typically used as an introduction to this field of science. It covers the origin of the universe and the solar system, Earth’s interior and plate tectonics, landscapes and surface processes, geologic history and the evolution of life, the Earth, sun and moon systems, weather, and geography, climate and human cities.

### What The Students Say

“Earth Science brings light to what’s really happening around you. There was one video in the beginning of the year that Ms. Grant, our Earth Science teacher, showed us. The video revealed how big the universe is relative to a person. I was astonished and amazed. Earth Science has been a journey and has given me a new perspective on how I see the world,” said *Yana King*, sophomore.

“Earth Science is a very interesting learning experience. You learn new things every day, and Ms. Grant makes the class so much fun!” said sophomore *Maddie Coleman*.

“The best part of Earth Science is when we get to do hands-on activities; it helps me grasp the material more, and gets us up and moving,” said sophomore *Aislinn Ray*

—*Tatiana McAdams*, Sophomore



## Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences

I took the opportunity to spend part of my summer participating in a program through the Otsego County Conservation Association focusing on MWEE's or Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences. Normally the course is a five-day, in-person, field-based course; however, COVID forced the program to be reimagined as an online experience, with an in-person field day. While that was a bit disappointing, what I came away with, and what I have since been able to incorporate into my classroom has not been.

This year, the Environmental Studies students are taking on a year-long watershed learning experience that I have been able to tie in nearly every aspect of their curriculum. We were able to start the school year off with a site visit to our local stream. Here students had the opportunity to sample macroinvertebrates, analyze the chemistry of the stream, of which we continue to do monthly through another citizen science organization, identify trees and observe the immediate area around the stream. The year-long "project" involves looking at different "units" of the curriculum, through the lens of our local watershed. Some of what we are currently focusing on is identifying trees around the Butternut Creek watershed, where students created beautiful leaf collection books and pollution within our watershed. Each unit culminates in a project, preferably with a civic action attached.

Currently, students are working on a variety of projects on reducing and reusing waste that would normally make its way into our landfills. Our school is a collection site for plastic film recycling, which is dropped off at the local grocery store, to be turned into recycled plastic products. Some of the pollution projects include, education campaigns in the elementary school, recycling bins placed on our athletic fields, and a repurposed plastic art project. During the winter months, we will be focusing on our stream chemistry data, and make ties to the watershed geology and land-use. Once spring comes back, we will set out to investigate invasive species. The beauty of this project is that students investigate what interests them. Students are expected to complete a project each marking period, and at the end of the year, choose from a selection of final projects as their final assessment, before we end the year with a fun, ungraded, group project. While I always have projects that I hope they will choose, I am usually surprised by what they come up with, when I step back and let them take the (guided) reins.

—Mrs. Heather Grant, Science





## ALL COUNTY Musical Congratulations

The following students were accepted into All-County

### Senior Band

- ★ *Yana King*,  
First Chair for Trumpet
- ★ *Maiya King*
- ★ *Jessica Walling*
- ★ *Ethan Franklin*
- ★ *Thomas Pondolfino*

### Senior Chorus

- ★ *Aaron Pondolfino*
- ★ *Everett Pondolfino*
- ★ *Lincoln Waffle*

### Junior Band

- ★ *Matthew Schiller*
- ★ *Levi Waffle*,  
First Chair for Tuba

### Junior Chorus

- ★ *Lucas Waffle*
- ★ *Levi Waffle*

### Elementary Band

- ★ *Samuel Schiller*
- ★ *Delilah Triolo*
- ★ *Richard Pegg*
- ★ *Broden Connally*

### Elementary Chorus

- Kristena Barringer*
- Kendall Gould*
- Aurora Kopp*
- Liana McAdams*
- Hannah Moore*
- Chloe Ross*

## Seniors Take the Stage

Micah only has twenty minutes to finish her paper on *The Great Gatsby*. She just needs to check a few facts on the Internet first. Unfortunately, the web is a nefariously wacky place where boxing cats, Facebook lurkers, and pig-throwing games threaten to take over Micah's schoolwork, or worse. Will she finish her paper and escape with her life before the school bell rings? The Seniors put on a high-octane comedy that explored the rabbit hole of distraction we all go down everytime we go online in October.

*Landon Tyler*, one of the actors, said, "The senior play was truly a very fun experience. Practices were definitely the best part, except for having to be at school early for them. We had so much fun throwing out ideas for the show and messing up until we got it right, even though we usually didn't get it right at all. The show itself was definitely good by no means, but we had a lot of fun doing it. Every screw up made it that much more fun, and there were a lot of them. We spent about 90% of both the practices and the show just messing around, but it was completely worth it in the end. Every one of us enjoyed it thoroughly, and even the audience enjoyed all of our hilarious mistakes. In the end, the show was a very enjoyable crash and burn, just like Alex falling into that table."



## Lady Mustang Basketball

This basketball season was expected to be a rough one for the Lady Mustangs. Coach Flint and Coach Fraser had expected there to be low numbers due to the large number of graduated seniors. Between the girls Varsity and the JV basketball teams there were only 15 girls, seven on Varsity and eight on JV. However, numbers do not seem to affect the Mustangs. In the season opening scrimmage between Unadilla Valley Central School and the Mustangs, MCS noticed some improvements that needed to be made and got to work immediately. Shortly after, the Mustangs competed in the Richfield Springs Tournament as the home team. During the first game, the varsity team was determined to start the season strong by defeating Oppenheim-Ephratah-St. Johnsville 79-19 to advance to the championship. Thanks to the amazing pre-game talks from Coach Flint, the girls were driven and excited to take home the tournament win. The following day the girls beat Fort Plain 58-38 to take the win and the hope of growing closer as a team through the season. *Madison Aikins* received an All-Tournament selection team award and *Carrisa Richards* was named Tournament MVP. What a great way to start the season for the Mustangs!

—*Hannah Wist*, Freshman

## Varsity Boys' Basketball

This year for basketball will be a good one. There are a bunch of good players on the team, and they are off to a great start. Their Coach, Gerry Joy, has some high expectations as usual. Coach Joy said, "My best base goal is to hang a banner in the rafters this year." But as a whole, he said, "Missing a whole season [due to COVID] has left us inexperienced. As a team, my practical goal is to lay a foundation to touch the sky next season."

The boys on the team agree with those goals and have told him some of their own goals for the season as well. Junior, *Garrett Aikins* said that he "Wants to win sectionals." Sophomore, *Tiger Stancil* said, "As a team I would like to grow." As a whole team, we all want to win it all. We want to win Tri-Valley and Sectionals and even States. This year so far, our team won a trophy for the Deposit-Hancock Eagles Tournament and our own Ray Clement Holiday Tournament Trophy. The boys want to win all the trophies then can win. They will not just stop there, they will go for banners as well.

—*Ethan Franklin*, Junior

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## JV Boys' Basketball

This year our JV Team looks really promising. First Year Coach, Cam Best and Coach Shawn Aikins would agree. Coach Best was very excited to start his coaching career. He has taken classes and has hoped to land a job at his alma mater. He said, "Being a first year coach was definitely nerve-wracking because I wasn't sure what to expect. There is really a lot more that goes into coaching than most people realize, but I'm glad I was given the opportunity to be a part of the program. I'm lucky to be in the position I'm in right now, with Coach Shawn Aikins and Coach Gerry Joy alongside me, really showing me what it takes to be a coach. I'm thankful that we found a way to all help excel the program, and really take it to the next level. With that being said, the JV team is full of talented young athletes, and I believe with the right coaching, they will be more than prepared for the next step, and that is Varsity."

Coach Aikins has assisted Coach Joy for years and has helped out with our local AAU Basketball teams years too. Coach Aikins said, "With the off year a few younger boys were starting with the basic's again. We're going to refresh

and polish what we do and don't know and build from the bottom up. The purpose of the JV level is to build and prepare, not only for basketball but in everyday life situations. Our goals will be timed goals and not too far reaching. We will be focusing on today and not be looking forward to where we'll be at the end of the season. We will set daily practice goals and game time goals for each individual and the team. We're trying to build a program. That starts with everyone understanding our goals, building as a team, yet understanding one's personal goals that mold that team concept. To put a win and loss number as a goal would handicap our ability to grow all season. We'll set our sights on learning and team-building, getting stronger with each practice and game. No one individual will be counted above the team. Complete success as a whole would come from strong success as individuals (basketball court and school; coming together and setting the tone with an accomplished team concept."

So far it has been a real pleasure to watch the JV grow and play. They are really turning into a great team.

—*Joshua Benjamin*, Junior

# WAY TO GO!

## THREE CHEERS TO . . .

- ★ Seniors for a fun senior play!
- ★ Varsity girls' soccer for making it to sectionals.
- ★ Varsity boys' soccer for ending the season with two really exciting, winning games.
- ★ Modified soccer—for playing hard.
- ★ Coach Joy, Mr. Aikens, Coach Roser, Coach Flint, and Ms. Turner for manning the open gym and to the experienced players who helped guide the players through fun basketball activities before the season started.
- ★ Our new administrator, faculty, and staff—Welcome to MCS!
- ★ Jill Foerster and her awesome staff for making delicious lunches and getting the kids excited to try new things like KALE!
- ★ All the festive sweater-wearers on Ugly Sweater Day.
- ★ All the students who were selected for All-County Chorus and Band.
- ★ Zackary Chase and Brandon Mitcham are playing Modified Basketball. I am super proud of them!
- ★ All of the students adapting to changes so well.
- ★ The wonderful staff at CROP! Thanks for always showing up, filling in where needed, and making it work no matter what.
- ★ To all the Booster Club Volunteers who made our annual Ray Clement/Joan Martin Holiday Tournament great!



PreK learned about Veterans Day and our American Flag. Red, white and Blue!