

# Mustang Musings

MORRIS CENTRAL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



*For last year's words belong to last year's language And next year's words await another voice.  
And to make an end is to make a beginning. —T.S. Eliot* November/December 2020

## Superintendent's Written Directive

All people who enter school property, which also includes school vehicles, or attend school sponsored events are directed and required to follow the District's Re-opening Plan and written protocols. The Plan and written protocols can be found at [http://morriscs.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server\\_117587/File/Morris%20Central%20School/MCS%20Reopening%20Plan.pdf](http://morriscs.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server_117587/File/Morris%20Central%20School/MCS%20Reopening%20Plan.pdf). This includes, but is not limited to, any requirements to wear face masks, wash hands, maintain social distancing, permit temperature checks, and answer screening questionnaires. Failure to follow the Plan or protocols, as well as failure to follow the directive of an appropriate school official relating to following the Plan or protocols, may result in a person being refused entrance, or an administrator directing the person to leave the school property or event. It may also result in further consequences as follows:

- For all people, the District may contact law enforcement for trespass where the person refuses to leave school property as directed, as well as for any other violations committed;
- For students, discipline pursuant to the District's Code of Conduct for insubordination, endangering, the health, safety, or welfare of others, as well as other applicable violations of the Code of Conduct;
- For parents and other visitors, ban on attending school events as well as consequences pursuant to the Visitors' Code of Conduct;
- For school personnel, formal discipline, up to and including termination

# 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. Mr. Sheldon and Ms. Jorgenson 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.

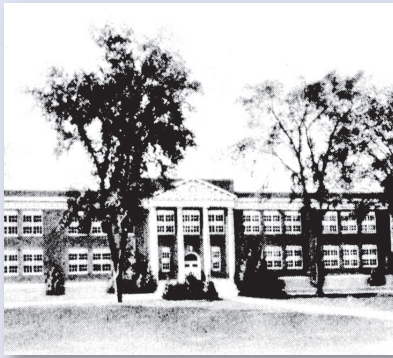
Everyone is aware that sometimes the weather is hard to predict. There are certain factors that come into play when deciding whether or not to close school, but always the final decision comes down to the safety of our children.

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 employed last year, the radio stations that announce our school closings are WSRK, WDOS, WCDO, WSKG, WGY, WZOZ, WKXZ, WCNX, WAAL and WHWK. Also, you may tune your television to Binghamton WBNG Channel 12, Utica WKTV Channel 2, News 10 Now on YNN, WUTR and WFXV Utica channel 33. You can also look at [TheDailyStar.com](http://TheDailyStar.com) for closing information, too.



**Morris Central School  
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Mary Dugan, Vice President  
Emily Boss  
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Michael Walling

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Katharine Smith, Principal  
Gary Williams, Director of  
Pupil Personnel

**Main Office 263-6100  
Guidance 263-6116**

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263-6102  
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Julene Waffle  
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## From the Superintendent's Desk

It is hard to believe that we are nearing the end of the first quarter of the school year. The start of the year has definitely looked different, but things have been going very well. I can't express my gratitude enough to the students, faculty, staff and parents for your patience, cooperation and hard work that helped make the start of the school year safe and successful. As we come to the end of the first quarter and look ahead to the rest of the academic year, we continue to evaluate our reopening plans and look for ways to increase the amount of time that students can safely return to the building. Our number one priority continues to be and will always be the safety of the students, while continuing to promote the academic, emotional, and physical growth of each and every student.

Following the reopening guidance plans from the New York State Education Department, the New York State Department of Health and guidance from our local Department of Health, we would like to combine our Blue and White Cohorts into one and have the students return four days a week. In order to do this, however, all students, faculty and staff will need to wear face coverings throughout the day except during meal breaks and during assigned breaks. We are still wrestling with certain classes that are too large for their assigned classrooms and how to safely allow students to eat meals. This transition back to students attending four days/week may be on a staggered basis, depending on the needs of each grade level. One possible solution always seems to bring a plethora of other problems.

We still hope to commence athletics shortly. The plan continues to provide three seasons with basketball in the beginning of winter, soccer and cross country in the early spring and baseball, softball and track/field in late spring. There will be strict guidelines in place in order to have these sports, including a possible limit on the number of spectators. We will continue to work with the other schools in our league and Section IV to ensure that we follow the New York State Public High School Athletic Association guidelines.

Again, I want to thank everyone for your continued support and cooperation. I know that this has not been an easy start to the school year, but together we will get through this and the students of Morris will continue to excel.

— *Mr. Matthew Sheldon*, Superintendent

## Frisbee Golf



## Elementary PE

In Elementary PE, we have been working on finding safe and healthy ways to move our bodies. We have been lucky to have some nice weather days, and we are having lots of fun outside. With limited equipment available, we have been using our imagination to practice different movements and sports without equipment.

—Mr. Jacklitsch, PE



*2nd grader, and birthday girl Kaylee Miller as she shoots an imaginary basketball.*



*2nd grader Jakob Gould using his reading skills, looking onto a cue card to determine what he is supposed to do!*



*2nd grader Mackenzie Atcher does a plank, to work on her abdominal and back muscles.*



*2nd grader Lucas Galesky can not only balance on his hands, but he can contort his body in different ways while he balances! See above, as Lucas struck a pose for the camera.*



*2nd grader Abby Connally follows through as she shows us how to throw!*



*2nd Grader Sydney Coyle seeing things from a different angle while she tries to balance on her hands!*

## Health Class

In Health Class, we started the year by learning about stress as well as mental health. It seemed like a great time for this information, as many of us are dealing with new stressors in our lives. At a time where activities and travel are limited, and many of us are not able to partake in things we typically enjoy, mental health is as important as ever to monitor and respond to. Students have worked on identifying stressors in their own lives, and were able to learn about methods and strategies for dealing with their personal stressors. Students have presented to their classmates about various mental health challenges as well, each becoming an “expert” about these illnesses. We will cap this unit off by learning about and identifying community resources that could help a person or someone they know to get help when dealing with mental health challenges.

—Mr. Jacklitsch, Health

# Bricks R Us

We invite you to participate in the Morris Central School Athletic Club Brick Campaign, a project that will forever link your name to MCS. Friends, faculty, staff, alumni and current students have the opportunity to celebrate their committed relationship to Morris Central School by purchasing an engraved brick. Celebrate a graduation, milestone; honor a classmate, family member, an influential person in your life, or an athletic team. In addition, a brick can be named in honor or in memory of a classmate, teacher, coach, or friend. We are selling two sizes of bricks 4x8 for \$50.00 and 8x8 for \$100. Bricks will be located on either side of the main entrance of the school. Your support will be a permanent reminder of your partnership and involvement with Morris Central School, community and athletics. It is recommended to use all capital letters. If you have any questions, please call Mike Iannelli at 607-263-6100.

**Yes, we'd like to reserve a permanent brick. Please engrave our brick as follows:**

Any Symbol Is Considered One Space (Period, Comma, Dash)  
All Text Is Centered Unless Otherwise Noted

**4x8 Brick**


**8x8 Brick**


**Example**

G	O		M	O	R	R	I	S		M	U	S	T	A	N	G	S					
S	T	A	T	E		C	H	A	M	P	I	O	N	S								
2	0	1	2	,		2	0	1	5	,		2	0	1	6							

**Please return this form and your check payable to:**

Morris Athletic Club  
PO Box 40  
Morris, NY 13808

Name:		Phone:	
Address:			
City:		State:	
Email Address:		Zip:	
		Amount Paid:	

You Can Also Order On Our On-Line Ordering Website:  
[www.bricksrus.com/order/morris](http://www.bricksrus.com/order/morris)

## From The Waffle Works

So far Mrs. Waffle's English 10, 11, and 12 grade students have finished a short story unit that reviewed the elements of a story. In addition, the Juniors focused on Edgar Allan Poe for their stories. Each class culminated their units by writing their own short stories and peer editing them. Mrs. Waffle put the stories for each class together in binders and they quickly went around to their peers as they were eager to see what their other classmates wrote.

After short stories, the sophomores moved on to Beowulf, a traditional Anglo-Saxon Epic poem that tells the tale of a hero (Beowulf) who saves a far off kingdom from a murderous monster (Grendel). Juniors began a unit on the college application process where they wrote resumes they could use as well as an experience essay. Seniors began a business writing unit where they updated their college application resume as well as made one for job applications. They also learned about business letters and memos, and they talked about their civic responsibilities in this interesting election year.

From on-line to two days a week and other uncertainties, this year has certainly started off strangely, but students are adapting and rising to the challenge. Kudos to them! Kudos to parents as well—it has not been easy on you either.

—Mrs. Waffle, English



## Technology Department

The Technology Education Department is being supported by support staff and a very hard working permanent sub teacher at MCS. With their help technology education is in a better place during our current learning situation.

I want to thank the MCS aides during the first and second weeks of school for stepping up to make copies and print hard copy learning packets for the Tech Ed program. The MCS Maintenance Department worked countless hours to create a clean, safe, and functional learning environment in my classrooms. Brian Roser stepped up as a trainer to help me create classroom learning videos and was a test student for me during the process. Greg Thom, MCS Educational Technology Coordinator, set me up with equipment and tools to deliver lessons to some remote students. Without this kind of support, MCS technology education would not be possible.

Lastly, I'd Like to thank Liana Garry for her hard work. Liana, a permanent sub at MCS, was busy creating learning kits for students to take home or deliver to remote students. She prepared enough kits and manipulatives for classes to put me weeks ahead. So far, she has created six different take home kits. These kits would have taken hours for me to create alone. She continues to help me while performing her regular duties.

—Mr. Packard, Technology

## Important Photo and Yearbook Dates

- Retake and Club Photos: December 6
- Club photos: December 6
- Winter Sports Photos: December 6 (after school)

### Senior Specific Dates:

- Public Displays of Affection Ads: As soon as possible. Call or email Mrs. Waffle for more information as well as payment options.
- Photos (formal, informal, baby, and possibly other TBA photos): due as soon as possible

### Yearbook Sales Deadlines:

- Pre-order deadline: Nov. 30: \$45 plus tax for a full-sized yearbook, \$15 for an elementary yearbook (fifth and sixth graders must order a full-sized yearbook if they want to remember their whole class).
- Personalization and extras packages: January
- While supplies last, you may order your yearbook until delivery date at a more expensive price (\$50 plus tax).
- A few years ago, we sold out of yearbooks and people lost the opportunity to own one.

### Other Important Yearbook Dates:

- Business Ads: Due End of January.
- Call or email Mrs. Waffle for more information as well as payment options.

**Yearbook Delivery Day: Late June**

# Please wear a mask.



**Maintain a distance of 6 feet  
whenever possible.**



CS 317176-B 08/05/2020

[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus)



## 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	Ms. Smith Mr. Williams	Mr. Sheldon
Technology/ iPads or Chromebooks	Teacher	Mr. Thom	Ms. Smith Mr. Williams	Mr. Sheldon
Scheduling	Teacher	Mrs. Catella	Ms. Smith Mr. Williams	Mr. Sheldon
Special Education	Teacher	Mr. Williams	Mr. Sheldon	
Classroom Rules/ Policies	Teacher	Ms. Smith Mr. Williams	Mr. Sheldon	
Athletics	Coach	Mr. Iannelli	Ms. Smith	Mr. Sheldon
Clubs	Advisor	Ms. Smith	Mr. Sheldon	
Discipline/ Behavior	Teacher	Ms. Smith Mr. Williams	Mr. Sheldon	
Peer Issues/ Bullying	Adult in Charge or >>>	Mrs. Miller Mrs. Catella	Ms. Smith Mr. Williams	Mr. Sheldon
Cafeteria	Ms. Foerster	Mr. Sheldon		
Health Office/ Nurse	Mrs. Baker	Mr. Williams	Mr. Sheldon	
School Bus (Routes/Behavior)	Bus Driver	Ms. Jorgensen	Ms. Smith Mr. Williams	Mr. Sheldon

Main Office .....	(Teachers/Mrs. Smith, Principal) .....	263-6100
Guidance Office .....	(Mrs. Catella & Mrs. Miller).....	263-6116
District Office.....	(Mr. Sheldon, Superintendent) .....	263-6102
CSE Office.....	(Mr. Williams, Director of Pupil Personnel) .....	263-6109
Athletic Director.....	(Mr. Iannelli) .....	263-6124
Cafeteria .....	(Mrs. Foerster).....	263-6112
Nurse/Health Office.....	(Mrs. Baker).....	263-6111
Transportation .....	(Ms. Jorgensen).....	263-6117

Morris Central School  
Morris, New York 13808



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## Three Cheers to:

- ☺ To all our students and their families who are working hard to make our transition back to school a success.
- ☺ Cafeteria Staff for winning a grant to supply our entire student body free breakfast and lunches.
- ☺ The custodial staff for keeping our school clean and safe.
- ☺ The bus drivers and Ms. Jorgenson for getting our students to and from school safely as well as making many extra bus runs to deliver school supplies to remote students.
- ☺ To the many committees devoted to making our return to school safe and effective.
- ☺ To Student Council for organizing a fun Spirit Week.
- ☺ To new Co-Editors-in-Chief, Erin Herring and Matt Wendler, as well as Treasurer, Erin Herring; Secretary and Design Editor, Leah Rehrmann; Copy Editor, Aidan Moore; and Photo Editor, Laurel Brigham.
- ☺ To the new Class of 2023 Officers: President, Hannah Swayer; VP, Justine Norton; Secretary, Aaron Pondolfino; Treasurer, Ethan Franklin, and Representatives, Lincoln Waffle, Ethan Franklin, Hannah Swayer, Justine Norton, Aidan Armenti, Carissa Richards, and Jon Child. A Special note: never has there been such an exciting election. We had to vote three times to break ties for VP between Justine Norton and Kiernan Burke and between Ethan Franklin and Lincoln Waffle for treasurer.

hip hip  
HOORAY

