



Mustang Musings

MORRIS CENTRAL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

"Dream while others are sleeping. Dare while others are wishing. Do while others are talking. Deliver while others are quitting."

—Matshona Dhliwayo

November/December 2024



MCS STUDENTS HELP RESTORE BUTTERNUT CREEK WITH NATIVE TREE PLANTING

On October 16, 30 students from MCS Earth Science, College Biology, Physics, and Design and Drawing for Production classes teamed up with the Upper Susquehanna Coalition, Otsego County Soil and Water, and the Butternut Valley Alliance to replace riparian (which means related to riverbanks or wetlands) plants along Butternut Creek. The group worked together to plant native trees along the remediation site of Butternut Creek.

The students planted a variety of native trees, including Silver Maple, Sycamore, Black Cherry, and Willow, along with smaller native pollinator plants. This project aims to stabilize the creek banks, improve water quality, and create a healthier habitat for local wildlife. In the spring, students will return to assess the site and replace any vegetation that doesn't survive the winter.

Riparian buffer zones are vital for maintaining the health of ecosystems along rivers. These areas, typically made up of trees, shrubs, and other vegetation, help control erosion, improve water quality, provide important habitat, as well as slow run-off to help prevent flooding, and regulate water temperature for aquatic species.

—Mrs. Heather Grant, Science



YOU'RE
INVITED

Veterans Breakfast

Sponsored by College For Every Student Brilliant Pathways

Friday, November 8, 2024

9:00-10:00 a.m.

Light breakfast will be served in the MCS cafeteria. If you plan to attend, please call the Guidance Office at (607)263-6116 or email kcatella@morriscsd.org.

Senior Citizen Luncheon

December 20, 2024

10:30-11:30 a.m.

The Morris Central School Student Council is proud to announce that we will host our Senior Citizen Luncheon at MCS on December 20. Seniors who reside in the Morris School District please join us for a delicious roast pork dinner, converse with friends, staff and students and enjoy the festive entertainment.

RSVP to Diane Walling by December 15th at 263-6100.



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
April Vunk, Principal

Main Office (607) 263-6100

Guidance (607) 263-6116

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NEW WEBPAGE

www.morriscsd.org

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

A NOTE FROM THE OFFICE

It seems the warm summer days have given way to chilly evenings and foggy mornings. The school year is off and running! Laughter and meaningful conversations can be heard throughout the building while wonderful student-created work adorns the hallways. Students are settling into their classes while fall sports and extracurricular activities are in full swing. As our lives continue to be filled with daily activities that consume our time, please take a moment to engage in a conversation with your child about all the wonderful things they are doing at school.

As a collaborative team, the administration, faculty, and staff at MCS look forward to continuing to provide a flexible and nurturing environment that leverages innovation, collaboration, and a variety of opportunities in all areas to support student growth and learning. Morris Central School continues to be dedicated to providing rigorous academic programs, diverse extracurricular activities, and an inclusive environment where every student is valued and empowered to reach their full potentials. MCS is a vibrant community that embraces your participation in the many activities and events that occur throughout the year. As we embark on another exciting year together, please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns that you may have.

—Lindsey Gifford, Director of Instructional Support Services

SNOW DAYS

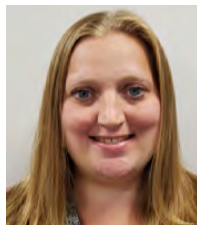
While it seems far away, winter will soon be upon us and will bring with it snow and ice. Some of you may wonder who decides to close school. Well, it is not just one person who makes this decision. Mrs. Maistros, Mr. Tol, and the transportation department are up at the crack of dawn talking to each 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, 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* for closing information, too.

NEW FACULTY AND STAFF

MELISSA BROWN, SIXTH GRADE TEACHER



Hi! I'm excited to be the new Sixth Grade Math and Science teacher at Morris! Teaching has always been my passion, and I feel incredibly fortunate to be here, inspiring and engaging young minds. Growing up in a small community like Morris, I always envisioned myself teaching in a similar environment.

The positive impact my own teachers had on me motivated me to become an educator, and I hope to create the same meaningful connections with my students. I have spent 14 years working with students from PreK to 6th grade in various roles, including lead teacher, licensed teaching assistant, and substitute teacher. I have truly enjoyed working with the staff and students at Morris so far. From the moment I arrived, everyone has made me feel welcome, and I am excited for the school year ahead. When I'm not teaching, I cherish spending time with my husband and our two daughters. We love outdoor adventures like camping and four-wheeling, creating lasting memories together. I look forward to getting to know all of you and making this school year a fantastic experience for our students!

KALLIANN HARRISON, FIFTH GRADE TEACHER



I am very excited to be a part of the Morris team! This is my first full year of teaching Fifth grade. Last year, I taught a portion of the year as a long-term substitute for Fifth Grade at Sidney. I learned quite a bit from my experience of jumping into the lead teacher role during my student teaching. I learned

to be flexible, bubbly, and more confident! Each challenge that I face, I always try my best to overcome. I was once told that there is no such thing as being perfect; there's always room for improvement! I try to reflect that to my students, and I always have a smile on my face. Sometimes students have a lot going on at home and they need someone to bring positivity to light for them, so I try to be that person to help them feel safe and welcomed. I knew Morris was a small district, but it has the biggest of hearts. Everyone is so welcoming and is there for each other. Every question or worry I have always gets answered quickly. Each day I spend at Morris, I continue to like it more and more. I love to participate and visit school programs because it goes a long way with the students! I am excited to see what else Morris has up their sleeves to reel me in more!

GERARD JOY, TECHNOLOGY TEACHER

I am the new Shop teacher. I am posed with the daunting task of following Mike Packard. He left some rather large shoes to fill. I have coached here at the school for 11 years (10 seasons due to COVID), but I find this new career to be challenging. Having hit reset several times in the past, I am used to the learning curve. I look forward to the challenges of the future and rely on my experience from the past to meet these new challenges head on.

ALEXIS OCHI, ART TEACHER

Hello! I am the new art teacher for grades 3-12. This is not just my first year at Morris, but it is also my first year teaching, and I am super excited for what the school year brings me! Professionally, my artistic roundhouse lies in photography, drawing, painting, mixed media, and graphic design. Along with traditional and digital art, I have a love and passion for art history and integrating curriculum lessons (I am always eagerly awaiting an opportunity to learn something new). I also have a love for networking with local creatives and providing opportunities for my students who are willing to take a deep dive into the world of art. The faculty, staff, and students have been amazing and I am looking forward to bringing a fun, fresh, exciting, and creative atmosphere to the Morris CSD art department!

STEPHANIE MASCIOLA, SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER



Hi! I'm the new middle school social studies and life skills teacher. I am very excited to continue my teaching journey in the small community-driven school here in Morris. I look forward to helping my students build stronger ties with their community and bringing more of the community into the classroom. This is my sixteenth year teaching and each year is a new adventure. I bring with me to the district my two children. My daughter who is in third grade and my son who is second. The school staff and students have been so kind and welcoming to us all and have made coming to Morris a wonderful experience.

NICOLE SCANLON, TEACHER'S AIDE



Hello, I relocated to Morris five years ago. I am a Teacher's Aide at Morris, and even though I just started, I am absolutely loving it. I have three beautiful daughters, one of whom is in 7th grade at MCS, and my two other daughters are twins (fraternal) and just started at Morris Head Start. I am just getting back into the working field after being lucky enough to be a stay-at-home mom and raising my twins for the last almost three years. Helping children learn and grow has always been a passion of mine. I have worked in various daycare centers around the area over the last 14 years, and my most recent job was at the Springbrook Preschool for six years in their integrated preschool program before I left for maternity leave. I chose to work at Morris because of the wonderful school that it is and because it's close to home. I enjoy spending time with my family and my friends, doing arts and crafts with my girls and camping.



PRICE CHOPPER MONEY FOR SCHOOLS

Please consider signing up for Price Chopper's Tools for Schools Program. For every dollar you spend on your regular groceries, Price Chopper donates back to our school. The program costs nothing to participate.

A flier with a QR Code on it that explained the Price Chopper Tools for Schools Program went home with all elementary students early in the school year. But you don't need it to participate.

Anyone, anywhere can participate. Here is the link to sign up: "Tools for School" <https://www.morriscsd.org/protected/ArticleView.aspx?iid=43GGI&dasi=3GI0>

It is very easy to sign up. Please help MCS and sign up today. Thanks, in advance.

Tools FOR Schools

August 18, 2024 - February 15, 2025

Help our school earn FREE Educational Equipment!

Price Chopper / Market 32 has proudly donated over \$15,235,000 worth of educational equipment since 1991 to make a positive impact on local schools!

EARNING IS EASY!



1. REGISTER

Your AdvantEdge Card at
rewards.pricechopper.com

2. SHOP

At Price Chopper / Market 32
using your AdvantEdge Card

3. EARN

Our school automatically earns Stars
for free educational equipment



Sign up to earn for our school at
rewards.pricechopper.com.

100-GOAL SOCCER MILESTONE



Hannah Wist reached a milestone by scoring her 100th career goal in her senior year on October 3, 2024, against Franklin. She might possibly be the first Morris Central School student to score 100 varsity soccer goals in the school's athletic history.

During a 10-0 rout over Franklin, Hannah scored her 100th goal (her fourth of the game). She said, "I knew I would be able to reach the goal, but I didn't really think that I was going to hit it during the

Franklin game knowing how they were playing in the league. I just knew that I needed to trust myself and my team and just play. So I just stayed patient and worked to get to four goals. When I hit my 4th, and hundredth goal it was such a relief. At the beginning of the season, I did not think that I was capable of getting 24 goals by the end of it. But once I saw that I had about ten left, I had hope that I would get it. Kenny, my teammate from Edmeston, was the first one to run to me after I hit it, and Coach Flint came out, too. My sister and family were so happy for me, and we caught some pictures with the ball that was painted for me."

Veteran Coach Rhoda Flint said, "Hannah has been a part of the girls Varsity Soccer program since the third grade. She was the manager for the first four years and then joined the varsity team as a seventh grader. She works hard to improve herself during season and during off season. Her love for the game of soccer shows as she is a great teammate to the Edmeston-Morris team. She always works hard to improve the players around her. I have been coaching for 23 years and Hannah is my first player to reach this milestone at MCS. I can't wait to watch her play at the next level. Congratulations Hannah!"

Such milestones are not easily met. As Coach Flint said, Hannah works hard in the off season, playing for an elite travel soccer team, and she practices on the PE fields with Mr. Roser quite often.

Hannah has big plans for herself concerning soccer. She has committed to playing at D I Canisius University in Buffalo next year. She is one of the very few MCS students who has signed for a D I college athletic team. That is a feat in itself as well. But soccer is not all she has planned for herself. Hannah said, "In the future, I am planning to study health science for two years at Canisius and then apply for Physicians Assistant School for my remaining three years. I hope to specialize in either pediatrics or women's health."

All of MCS wishes you good luck in your future endeavors, Hannah, and congratulations on your milestone achievement!

—Mrs. Julene Waffle, ELA

BOYS VARSITY SOCCER SEASON

This year's varsity boys soccer team had "very high potential," said Carter Swayer, a junior and one of the trusted captains. He wasn't wrong. This year we had seven players who had never played at the varsity level, some haven't played since they were in Morris Rec. Two guys were new to the school and to our country! Ryan Murphy said, "We had a young team," but that didn't mean we couldn't compete. We had a lot of opportunities to "improve our skills throughout the year," and it paid off many times.

Some of the highlights were our Schenevus game where we battled through a tie where Ty Turner scored the winning goal in a "golden goal" overtime. The team also won the Margaretville Tournament where they played a Class C school from near the city. The championship match with Margaretville was very exciting. The only returning senior, Levi Waffle, had over 20 saves that game, including several times where he had back-to-back-to-back saves in the box. Ty said, "He communicated with the defense and saved a ton of goals that game; we handed him the trophy at the end of the tournament as a thanks for saving us so many times."

But the season wasn't all hard work. We had several games where we were able to play in different positions because we were winning by a lot. Coach did well to get all the subs in during those games, too, to give them experience.

In the off season, many on the team are still practicing and improving their skills by participating in travel soccer. Playing for Calcio United, an Oneonta-based team, the people who played were able to get better because they were always practicing, even in the winter. This practice gave them the chance to get even better for future seasons while having fun. Even though this team is still sometimes figuring things out, as long as they work hard and play harder, the titles of Tri-Valley Champions and sectional winners won't be too far in the future.

—Ty Turner, Junior



CAMPUS VISITS

On October 16, the junior class participated in SUNY Cobleskill's College Information Day. The day started with a campus tour of SUNY Cobleskill, led by a current student where we could see what Cobleskill has to offer and we even got to pet some goats! Next up was a college fair which featured over forty colleges, both public and private, two-year and four-year. This was a great opportunity for students to gather information on a variety of colleges and speak to admissions counselors.

After finishing at SUNY Cobleskill, students boarded the bus and headed to SUNY Oneonta where we enjoyed a delicious lunch and toured Oneonta's campus. It was a busy but informational day!

—Mrs. Kelly Catella, Guidance Counselor



COMMUNITY SOCCER GAME

Every Homecoming Weekend, the community is invited to participate in a soccer game between the varsity soccer games, after Senior Recognition. The game consists of a white team and a blue team who face off in two five minute halves. This year the oldest player graduated in the late 90s. The youngest players graduated from Morris last June. It was an exciting match in spite of it being a short game. The blue team won two goals to one.

One special face in the stands this year was Mr. Lynn Joy. Last year Mr. Joy was the oldest player to play—he was one of three generations on the field (one of four in the stands during the game). This year, he returned as a spectator, hanging out for the day with his daughter, Rebecca Barringer, grandkids, and great grandkids.

—Mrs. Julene Waffle, ELA



NYSPHSAA SCHOOL OF DISTINCTION



Congratulations to our Student-Athletes for helping Morris earn recognition as one of the Section IV schools named a “School of Distinction” by NYS Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) for the 2023-24 school year! To be a School of Distinction, all 12 varsity teams achieved a cumulative GPA of 90 percent or higher. One hundred percent of the school’s varsity athletic programs qualified for and received the Scholar-Athlete Team Award. Only 12 schools in the state’s Section IV earned this award. Mr. Iannelli had the honor of collecting the award this fall. He said, “We are so very proud of all of our student-athletes who excel in the classroom and on the playing field.”

Congratulations to all our coaches and athletes! Well done!

PIRATES AT THE OPERA

Last June, a benefactor to students at Morris, Mrs. Gemma Hall generously sent twelve students to Glimmer Glass Opera again. This year they saw the very funny Pirates of Penzance. All the students (and chaperones) enjoyed the show as well as a delicious dinner provided by the Horned Dorset on a gorgeous day late this summer. They enjoyed the show with a packed full house on opening afternoon.

Students were chosen by a group of staff members. To qualify for consideration, students must be interested in literature, art, or music. This year, the students chosen were **Emmy Lentz, Sera Lentz, Mason Linton, Levi Waffle, Grace Wing, Jackson Ross, Evelyn Burke, William Weber, Shiloh Jones, Ben Newell, Brodie Coleman, and Ali Farmer**. Thank you, Mrs. Hall! We had a great time!

—Mrs. Julene Waffle, ELA

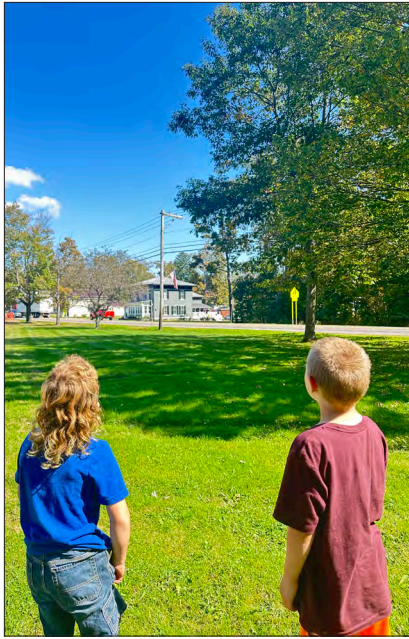


BUTTERFLIES

In September, Ms. Callea's First Grade class explored the life cycle of the monarch butterfly. Students observed and documented the process of metamorphosis. In total, they released seven butterflies this year. Ms. Callea has worked with *monarchwatch.org* for many years through their nonprofit education, conservation, and research program. The organization focuses on the monarch butterfly, its habitat, and fall migration.

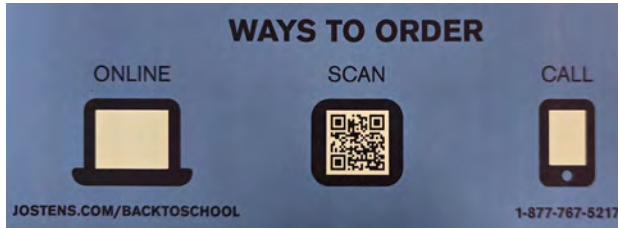
The program also provides resources to tag and track the butterflies during their migration. To learn more about the monarch butterfly and/or the tagging process, go to <http://www.monarchwatch.org> for more information.

—Ms. Christine Callea,
First Grade Teacher



IT'S NOT TOO LATE

IT ISN'T TOO LATE TO ORDER
YOUR YEARBOOK



Please contact Mrs. Waffle (jwaffle@morriscsd.org) if you missed the early deadline. She can fill you in on the details about ordering.

INTERVIEW WITH A SEVENTH GRADER AND SENIOR

Many underclassmen are excited to become seniors and finish high school. Other students are excited to start high school and see how their journey unfolds. Seventh graders were nervous to start school and have new teachers. They worried about homework and switching classes and new pressures. Seniors were worried about planning for college and getting ready for work. They worried about graduation and applying for colleges too.

When asked "When you were in seventh grade, what did you look forward to the most?" Senior **Levi Waffle** said, "Playing sports and going home and sleeping. I am a little nervous about applying for colleges too." Some seniors worried about SATs and enjoyed college visits too. When I asked Seventh Grader **Luke Raudibaugh** what he was most excited for, he said, "Playing modified soccer with my friends." Both Levi and Luke play a couple of different sports during the school year. When I asked Levi what has changed in sports from Seventh Grade to now? He said, "Sports have gotten more competitive and more teamwork is required." I asked Luke what he thought would change in sports throughout his high school journey, he said, "My skills will improve, and I will make more progress throughout high school."

—Brooke McKinney, Senior

WE'RE ON FACEBOOK!

Morris Central School



SUMMER LEADERSHIP PROGRAM HONORS

This summer several of our students were Honored to attend Boys and Girls State as well as Outward Bound.

Ethan Nisious and **Levi Waffle** were selected to attend Boys State this year. To qualify, the young gentlemen had to demonstrate scholarship, character, and leadership. They also needed recommendations by faculty and staff. Boys state is organized a bit like the military, complete with morning physical training and uniforms. They learn how to march and chant while marching. In addition, they learn about our country and government. It wasn't all drills though, Levi Waffle said, "I made a lot of friends that I still keep in touch with." Both boys are thankful to the American Legion for allowing them to represent Morris at this statewide event held at SUNY Morrisville.

Delaney Coveny, who was selected to attend an intense Outward Bound program, said, "It was a great experience where I learned a lot." **Leah Gregory** was also selected for Outward Bound. She agreed it was a good experience and that "it was way outside my comfort zone. It was hard, but I learned a lot."

Outward Bound is another benefit to being a Clark Scholarship school. The program is paid for by them. What a great opportunity for these young people. In addition, they send younger students to Odyssey, which is similar to Outward Bound. This year attendees were **Aniya Kogut** and **Delilah Triolo**.

—Mrs. Julene Waffle, ELA

A poster for "MUSTANG MUSIC" featuring a background of various musical notes and instruments. The text is as follows:

MUSTANG MUSIC
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2024, 9:00 A.M.-NOON
Wizard of Oz Auditions will be held in the auditorium. Students should sign up for an audition slot and grab an audition packet from Mrs. Thompson.
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2024, 9:00 A.M.
Veterans Day Breakfast, featuring the Elementary Chorus
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2024, 3:00 P.M.
Area All-State Concert in Walton, featuring Junior **Brodie Coleman** in the Mixed Chorus
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2024, 1:00 P.M.
UPK-3rd Grade Winter concert in the auditorium.
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2024, 7:00 P.M.
7-12 Grade Winter concert in the auditorium.
—The MCS Music and Drama Departments

JOHNNY APPLESEED DAY

On September 26, 2004, Kindergarten students had fun learning about Johnny Appleseed. We listened to a story, made our own Johnny Appleseed hats, taste tested apples, and voted on our favorite, and even made applesauce. Yum!



LIBERTY PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM

The Liberty Partnerships Program is all about leadership activities and community service projects. Students who participate in the LPP After-School Program recently completed their first project of the year. Using a donation from an LPP parent, students used crayon molds to create some fun shapes for Mrs. Mackey to use with students in the library! They presented them to her during CROP, and spent time coloring with some of our younger MCS children.

—Mrs. Lisa Marino, LPP Coordinator



*Photos by Cameron Bankowski

MCS AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM: CROP

Since the 2000's CROP has been a significant part of MCS' after school activities. CROP allows children, grades Pre-K through 8th grade, to participate in fun activities and interact with their peers outside of school. This free after school program is a great opportunity for kids to stay and have fun while their parents are still at work. They do homework, get tutoring, play, and have snacks. There are often guest speakers too that show them unique things. This after school program also allows teens who are looking for a job to experience working and it allows them to help kids.

Our staff help each other come up with fun ideas that the students will enjoy. Before students do these activities, they have to complete their homework, the peer tutors and staff help the children with their homework if need be. After homework is finished, students can go outside if the weather is nice. They then go back inside to do activities that are fun and educational. Friday fun is on every Friday where the students participate in activities that wouldn't be available during the rest of the week.

Leah Gregory, a MCS senior who started working CROP this year, said, "Even though I haven't worked CROP for long, I absolutely love it! The kids are so fun, and energetic. I couldn't be happier working here." **Matthew Schiller**, a tenth grader, said, "CROP helps kids find friends and connect together outside of school hours." **Grace Wing**, a junior, said, "It's very fun to help and interact with the kids."

—Shiloh Jones, Junior

STUDENT VOICES, STUDENT CHOICES

Morris Student Council has once again been selected to be a part of a special initiative through Otsego County called Student Voices, Student Choices. Student Voices, Student Choices 2024 is a project of the students and schools of Otsego County with support from the Community Foundation of Otsego County and other non-profit community organizations through funding and hands-on assistance to address a need in our community.

During September, October and November our MCS representatives: **Brodie Coleman**, **Savannah Coyle**, **Robert Hill**, and **Matthew Schiller** have been hard at work doing research to improve our current Second Saturday Food Pantry which began in February 2024. They have created a plan to expand our pantry and have ideas for a permanent location for our pantry, so that we may better serve our community. On November 25, 2024, from 6-9:00 p.m. at Slade Theater at Hartwick College, all the area schools will present their projects to local leaders and an audience of 200 people to compete for funding of up to \$2,500 to carry out our proposed plan. Family, friends, and community members are encouraged to attend this event, so mark your calendars.

—Mrs. Diane Walling, Student Council Advisor

THREE CHEERS TO . . .

- MCS students for working to always do better and more for our school and community
- *All the new class and club officers! Way to be role models and leaders in the school and community.*
- Welcome new MCS faculty and staff!
- *Bus drivers and Transportation Director, Beth Bubadias, for keeping us safe on the roads.*
- The continued progress of the building project.
- *Our caring faculty, staff, and administration for doing their bests to make MCS an awesome learning environment for all.*
- The community for the support of the sophomores during their mum sales.
- *The Booster Club for a great Homecoming weekend.*
- Mrs. Dugan and Mrs. Wist for spending a lot of time in the hot sun and the pouring rain as they put up the "Morris Mustangs" and mustang cups in the parking lot fence. Thank you to the Booster Club for purchasing the public display of support.
- *Morris Rec Youth Sports for supporting the development of MCS' young athletes.*
- Mrs. Fredette, with the help of Mrs. Thompson and current NHS members, for hosting a beautiful National Honor Society induction ceremony! Thank you to all of the faculty, staff, friends, and family who attended!
- *Mrs. Baker for organizing a flu clinic. Her ability to navigate between student concerns, Bassett, and supporting the community as a whole is appreciated.*
- The new National Honor Society Members! Congratulations!!
- *The Booster Club for a great Carnival and Homecoming weekend. Thanks for making Homecoming special for seniors, too.*
- Student Council for a fun Homecoming Dance and Spirit Week.
- *All the faculty and staff who dressed up in fun blowup costumes for Homecoming.*
- The Athletic Club Officers and Senior Class for helping to make the Homecoming Pep Rally fun!
- *Our Safety Patrol students for keeping our students and hallways safe.*
- To the hallway coworkers who make coming to work easier some days.
- *Good luck to Mrs. Johnson as she begins her new job away from Morris. We will miss you.*
- Mrs. Parker for all she does to help yearbook students out and for all her hard work at learning a new program—it wasn't easy!
- *Mrs. Matson for knowing all the things that she knows and helping where she can.*
- Mrs. Knapp for being ready to help when needed. The front office is busy and distracting—it does not go unnoticed that you get your work done, help others, and do it all with an open door and busy surroundings.

NEW CLASS, CLUB, AND STUDENT GOVERNMENT OFFICERS

YEARBOOK

Editor-in-Chief and President: Grace Schiller
Secretary and Co-Photo Editor: Jackson Ross
Co-Photo Editor: Brooke McKinney
Design Editor: Delaney Coveny
Business Manager and Treasurer: Ty Turner

STUDENT COUNCIL

President: Brodie Coleman
Vice President: Madison Moore
Secretary: Grace Schiller
Treasurer: Robert Hill

SENIOR BAND

Co-Presidents: Brodie Coleman and Levi Waffle
Vice President: Robert Hill
Treasurer: Grace Wing
Librarian: Hailey Canfield

SENIOR CHORUS

President: Brodie Coleman
Vice President: Mason Linton
Communications: Will Weber
Treasurer: Robert Hill
Secretary: Kiarra Walker
Historian: Ali Farmer
Librarian: Marjorie Ostroff
Assistant Conductor: Delilah Triolo

CLASS OF 2025

President: Grace Schiller
Vice President: Levi Waffle
Treasurer: Makenzie Hoyt
Secretary: Delaney Coveny

CLASS OF 2026

President: Robert Hill
Vice President: Brodie Coleman
Treasurer: Ali Farmer
Secretary: Grace Wing

CLASS OF 2027

President: Savannah Coyle
Vice President: Matthew Schiller
Treasurer: Jacob Knapp
Secretary: Ella Moore
Representatives: Hayden Kolvik, Lucas Waffle, Ella Moore, Savannah Coyle, Lainey Fraser, Kara Hand, Will Weber

CLASS OF 2028

President: Chloe Ross
Vice President: Sam Schiller
Treasurer: Kylee Canfield
Secretary: Marjorie Ostroff
Representatives: Ricky Pegg, Brody Connally

ATHLETIC CLUB

President: Makenzie Hoyt
Vice President: Grace Schiller
Secretary: Levi Waffle
Treasurer: Carter Swayer

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

President: Mason Linton
Vice President: Robert Hill
Secretary: Brodie Coleman
Treasurer: Carter Sawyer

NHS INDUCTIONS

After Open House in October, The National Honor Society (NHS) welcomed its new members into their ranks. Senior members read passages from the NHS handbook, explaining the honor

and responsibilities of being a member of the NHS. They lit candles as well to commemorate each of the four qualities that the NHS represents: scholarship, service, leadership, and character.

Afterwards, the new inductees, faculty, staff, friends, and family celebrated in the cafeteria. Congrats to all the NHS members for being role models in our school. New members are noted with an asterisk:

Jonah Baldo *
Hailey Canfield *
Brodie Coleman
Savannah Coyle *
Luis Cruz *
Alisandra Farmer
Lainey Fraser *
Robert Hill
Jacob Johnson *
Jacob Knapp *

Hayden Kolvik *
Mason Linton
Ella Moore *
Ethan Nisius
Grace Schiller
Matthew Schiller *
Carter Sawyer
Levi Waffle
Grace Wing*
Hannah Wist



HOMECOMING CARNIVAL

Every year our school holds a carnival during homecoming weekend. It is sponsored by The MCS Booster Club. This year, the event is filled with many activities from ring toss games and corn hole, to faculty dressing in blow up costumes and playing relay games, and so much more. Many of our teachers were involved in making this event more entertaining. Ms. Turner said, “The Homecoming carnival was such a blast! It felt like the whole school came alive with energy, from the colorful booths to the excitement of the games. It was the perfect way to bring everyone together.” Ms. Turner participated by dressing up in a blow up ballerina costume. The kids loved watching their favorite teachers be so involved at the fun event.

The third graders were filled with joy when they were asked about their time at the carnival. One student claimed, “I liked it. The free stuff and watching the players run out at the pep rally were my favorite parts.” While another student said, “It was very fun. I loved dancing and playing in the games.” Everyone had a good time at our homecoming carnival thanks to the teachers and the fun events that took place and, of course, The Booster Club.

—*Ryland Boss, Junior*



PEP RALLY

Spirit Week ended with a pep rally, getting all the students excited for the big game! We had an exciting pep rally including fun interactive games for everyone to enjoy like we do annually! First, all the athletic teams stormed the gym to crowded stands full of students and faculty and staff.

Grace Schiller ('25) MC'd the games with the help of the athletic club officers and other seniors. Grace had the fun of pitting different grade levels against each other in the many games they had planned. One of the games was to see what class would dress their teacher up the best. Mr. Roser, who had to be dressed up in silly costumes and props by a team of junior volunteers, said the pep rally was "exciting, and challenging at the same time! It was not so easy trying to balance on one leg, blind folded, while putting on clothes and props. I was glad the juniors and I were able to win." These activities were engaging for everyone even in the stands. Teachers played soccer in funny costumes provided by the Booster Club to make everyone laugh. This game was intense and Ms. Rhone scored the most points during the game. Mrs. Waffle enjoyed the Tug o' War against the seniors. The teachers remain undefeated.

Seniors tossed candy to the students in the stands and got them all hyped up for the coming weekend's games.

Ms Ochi, MCS' new art teacher, said, "It was really nice seeing the school spirit and everyone having fun." Our 2024 pep rally was fun for everyone included and everyone had a great time.

—Delaney Coveny, Senior



SPIRIT WEEK

Leading up to Homecoming Weekend, Spirit Week was filled with fun dress up days. This year students dressed up for Decade Day, Twin Day, Hero vs Villain Day, and Crazy Sock and Hat Day. The week ended on Friday with school spirit: Blue and White Day.

In addition to a pep rally, the week ended with a Booster Club Carnival. The Carnival hosted food and local vendors as well as many teachers dressed in funny blow up costumes. They strutted their stuff as they danced in to theme songs. Mrs. Waffle dressed as a chicken. She danced her way out on the fields to the Chicken Dance. Mr. Roser was a shark Mr. Harmer was Mr. Potatohead—he said his costume was super hot! Mrs. Vunk stretched her neck out into the crowd as a giraffe. Student who were watching fed Mrs. Kane grass because she was a cow. Ms. Turner and Mrs. Marino were the athletes of the bunch—a ballerina and a sumo wrestler respectively. Mr. Szokoli and Ms. Callea were a baby boy and girl. Will Weber introduced each teacher, listing their favorite foods and hobbies among other things. Mr. Joy was dressed as a hot dog whose favorite hobby was “Slow rolling at the Quickway.” All the hobbies made everyone laugh. In addition, there was a mysterious blue man. The staff had to compete in several races as part of the entertainment. Ms. Turner and horse rider Ms. Rhone tied one race while there was an all out funny foot race to win the relay. On behalf of the Booster Club, Mrs. Dugan awarded all the participants a t-shirt and gold medal for taking part in the fun.

Community members, students, and family also played corn hole games, listened to music from a DJ, had their faces painted by the student council, and ate tons of food from the Booster Club. It was a fun night.

Afterward the Student Council hosted the first dance of the year. For many, it was their first dance ever. So many of them danced and laughed and had fun. About half way through, the President of the Student Council, **Brodie Coleman**, announced the Homecoming Court and King and Queen. The court was **Levi Waffle**, **Delaney Coveny**, **Hannah Wist**, **Jackson Ross**. The Queen was **Grace Schiller** and the King was MCS’ new Rotary Exchange Student **Matheus Martins**. “It was such a nice surprise,” Matt said “I didn’t understand much of what was going on all day (we don’t have anything like that at home), but it was so much fun!”



NEW TRADITION: VIP LUNCHEON

This year MCS started a new tradition, a Very Important Person (VIP) Luncheon. Students in all grades were able to invite their very important people to a delicious lunch served by Morris' very own awesome cafeteria staff. They had salad and pizza. Some guests were parents and guardians, some were grandparents, some were former teachers. Some ate in the cafeteria, some ate in the classrooms. The food was great and everyone smiled a ton!

Keep an eye out for another VIP day in the spring!



OFF AND READING AND WRITING

ENGLISH 11

Mrs. Waffle's ELA 11 started the year with writing the first drafts of their resumes. This draft will be updated throughout the year and into next year. Eventually, students will end up with a college application resume and a work-ready resume. They also wrote beautiful and personal essays as practice for college applications they will write next fall. I thought they were the most personal essays, most heartfelt essays I have seen in a very long time. I actually encouraged many of them to revise and give them as gifts to the people they are about. They were truly touching and honest. In addition, juniors started and finished their TUCCR book, and by the end of October, they will be deep into Edgar Allen Poe's work—just in time of the spooky season. Students are learning how to lead good class discussions using our readings. Juniors are off to a strong start!

ENGLISH 12

In English 12, students learned how to update their resumes from last year and learned what the difference is between a college application resume and a job resume. We revised old resumes and learned what a job "objective" is. Their work resumes were ready to use in real life by the end of October. In addition, seniors learned business writing—friendly letters, thank you cards, and business letters. They also learned how to address an envelope. Business writing skills are learned throughout the year culminating in mock interviews.

Seniors also started and finished the TUCCR book as well, using it as a review of the parts of a piece of fiction such as theme, character, setting, etc. In addition, seniors wrote new college entrance essays to use for their actual application process. They timed it perfectly for the free SUNY app submission period which was the end of October into the very beginning of November. Students were given time in class to fill out their applications and Mrs. Catella was on hand to help with questions. Those not preparing to go to college wrote personal statements they might be able to use on job applications they will fill out in the future. **Ben Newell** said, "Writing for college led to some of my best work because for one of the first time in my school career I could write about myself and something I am passionate about."

Students, by the middle of October, had finished their TUCCR Program book (The UnCommon Community Reading Program). The TUCCR book for grades 9-12 this year is *The Book of Unknown Americans* by Christina Henriquez. This book also happens to be SUNY Oneonta's Common Read.

ENGL 101 ACADEMIC WRITING

Students in ENGL 101 earn college credit through TC3 (Tompkins Cortland Community College). This year's class is small, but it is cozy. They, too, started off on a busy foot by revising old resumes and getting ready for college applications and the work world as well. Students learned what academic writing is and we began a cross-curricular project with College Bio where they will research an ecological problem that they are interested in, culminating in a written paper as well as a Public

Service Announcement. This class also read the TUCCR book, but they did it differently than they usually did. Instead of reading each chapter together, students decided how many pages to read in a week and then on Fridays they discussed the things they wanted to from that section. In September, students reviewed and relearned the parts of speech over again, and worked through their fears of public speaking during a public speaking unit where they also studied rhetorical writing techniques such as parallel structures, antithesis, and poly- and asyndeton. What is different about this class and writing is that there is also a workshop component to it which allows for a whole new level of the revision process. Students read their work aloud to the group and listen to their classmates tell them what was awesome about it and what could use some improvement and how they might do it. Soon this class will be studying descriptive writing. **Grace Schiller** said, "I've really enjoyed learning more about rhetorical devices. We get to learn about writing in a way we haven't since middle school. It's a great class, and I have more fun with my writing."

THE BOOK OF UNKNOWN AMERICANS

Chrisina Henriquez is the author of this year's TUCCR book for grades 9-12. It is entitled *The Book of Unknown Americans* and plots the story of at least 20 different immigrants, mostly from Central and South America. The book focused on Alma, the mother of a young girl who had a major brain injury. She and her husband Arturo traveled to the US with the intention of seeking proper medical care for their daughter, Mirabelle. The other character the story focuses on is Mayor, a 14-year-old boy who is bullied, living in the shadow of his "perfect" older brother, and the new best friend of Mirabelle. The two teens become fast friends. They both help each other feel "seen" in a world that chooses to ignore them. The story is told from the first person point of view alternating chapters between Alma and Mayor and many other immigrant characters between their chapters. Looking at all the characters together, allows readers to see what life is like for immigrants, and it helps readers learn all the many reasons why people come to America, how hard the American Dream is to achieve, and understand how hard life is outside the US sometimes. In addition, readers learn how mean people can be towards people who are different. Surpassing political boundaries, this book pulls on the heartstrings of all who read it. It truly opens readers eyes to lives other than our own and helps us have empathy for those who have to suffer, seemingly for no reason. It is an easy and quick read.

This book is also the SUNY Oneonta Common Read book. To celebrate finishing the book, our students had the opportunity to see the author, Christina Henriquez, speak on October 21 at the Alumni Field House on campus. What an awesome experience. Stay tuned for an article about that as well as other TUCCR book updates for the other grades at MCS.

—Mrs. Julene Waffle, ELA

THE UNCOMMON COMMUNITY READING PROGRAM (TUCCR)

WHAT IS THE TUCCR PROGRAM?

A school/community reading program that encourages the community, parents/guardians, faculty, staff, administration, and students to read commonly-themed texts from year-to-year.

HOW DID IT COME TO BE?

Mrs. Mackey and Mrs. Waffle thought of the program quite a few years ago at a conference they attended. It is the brainchild of late-night-after-conference inspiration English teacher excitement.

WHAT IS THIS YEAR'S THEME?

Topic: Appreciating differences

Theme: Embracing our differences enriches our experiences and broadens our perspectives, creating a world where diversity is celebrated and valued.

Elementary Theme: Celebrating our differences helps us learn from each other and makes our world more interesting

WHO CHOOSES THE BOOKS AND THEMES EACH YEAR?

Mrs. Mackey and Mrs. Waffle are the core members of the TUCCR Committee, but Ms. Turner, Mrs. Walling, Ms. Norton, and many others participate in the process and planning. It is a truly group effort. We start planning our budget for the next books in January, but we have already started brainstorming. We decide on topics and themes in June, and over the summer we plan activities and gather details for ordering all the books. Mrs. Shannon Harrington in the office is the best help ordering all our many, many titles at the cheapest prices we can get. Many thanks to her!

WHO GETS TO KEEP THE BOOKS?

All students get their TUCCR book to keep for their own personal libraries. All ELA teachers and Special Education Teachers, The Morris CS library, and the Village of Morris Library. Feel free to borrow the books or read your children's book with them! What a great conversation you could have!

WHAT ARE THIS YEAR'S BOOKS?

PK-K: I Need a Hug by Aaron Blabey

First Grade: We Are All Wonders by R. J. Palacia

Second Grade: Elmer by David McKee

Third and Fourth Grade: Thank you, Mr. Falker by Patricia Polacco

Fifth and Sixth Grade: Loser by Jerry Spinelli

Seventh and Eighth Grade: Firegirl by Tony Abbott

Grades 9-12: The Book of Unknown Americans By Cristina Henriquez

WHAT DO WE DO WITH THE PROGRAM?

Throughout the year, we learn about the books, promote the themes, and eventually, we put some of our work on display at the Academic Fair in the spring. Please make sure to notice our awesome work.

HOW IS THIS PROGRAM FUNDED?

When the program first started, Mrs. Mackey and Mrs. Waffle secured a 5-2-1-0 grant as well as a few others. We also hosted several 5k color run/walks. Eventually, it was worked into the budget, and during COVID we had government program money. Now that money is gone, we are back to being self-funded. This summer, Mrs. Waffle and Mrs. Mackey secured several grants and donations. The Oneonta Charity Cup donated almost enough for a whole year's programming. And Not Going Back to School Retired Teachers Golf Tournament Organizers (The Byams of Oneonta and members at Colonial Ridge Golf Course) donated enough for almost a whole year as well. In addition, we have some private donations and a local chapter of the Masons also donated. We are excited to have the support and will keep looking for more. If you have ideas, please share them with Mrs. Mackey or Mrs. Waffle at school at 607-263-6100.

Please feel free to read with us—we would love to chat about our books.

—Mrs. Julene Waffle, ELA, and Mrs. Courtney Mackey, Library Media Specialist and ELA

