

FIND OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING IN...

#District



Shining a Light on MSD Athletics

The Morris School District's 2023-2024 school year began with a bright light, not from the sun rays, but from the new lights on Morristown High School's Memorial Field. The highly-anticipated lights were the finishing touch to the field's renovation, which included replacing the artificial turf and track, and the installation of a 36-by-24-foot state-of-the-art LED video scoreboard - ensuring fans don't miss a moment of exciting gameplay.

MHS Football, Boys and Girls Soccer, Field Hockey and Boys and Girls Lacrosse teams all felt the rush of playing night games at home for the first time. The new lights also provide more flexibility for practice schedules and use by the community. "Friday Night Lights" is a new tradition well worth the wait as the excitement felt among students and fans throughout the year was undeniable.

Show your Motown spirit and support our Colonials in the school's first Varsity night game of the 2024-25 season on Friday, August 30 at 6:30 pm when MHS Football takes on East Side High School. [more on page 5>](#)



Fostering Professional Development

In the fall of 2023, the Morris Educational Foundation and the Morris School District held its first "Salute to Teachers" event. "Salute to Teachers" was created in celebration of Mrs. Ann Rhines, who after 60 years of service to the District as an educator, volunteer, and Board of Education member, retired from the BOE in 2021. Through the generosity of Mrs. Rhines' family and donors, a fund was established at the MEF to support an annual program specific to supporting our teachers.

This inaugural event featured a panel of teachers, nominated by parents and faculty, to highlight what it means to go above and beyond. Mrs. Rhines, who also spoke about her experience as a District educator, led the panel with MSD Superintendent Dr. Anne Mucci, discussing traits of exceptional educators and how teachers use these qualities to bring out the best in their students.

Congratulations to these District professionals who were part of the panel: Ms. Chang – Hillcrest, Ms. Erlenborn – FMS, Ms. Hall – MHS, Mr. Lee – MHS, Mr. Lieberman – Woodland, Ms. Milesky – Thomas Jefferson, Ms. Martin – FMS, Mr. DiGennaro – MHS, Ms. Rodriguez – Alexander Hamilton, Ms. Rosero – LLC, Ms. Salazar – Alfred Vail, Ms. Stritmater – Sussex, Mr. Vargas – FMS and Ms. Vazquez – Normandy Park.



Inspiring Opportunities for Arts Exploration

The Morris School District is proud to provide ample opportunities in the Visual and Performing Arts from kindergarten through 12th grade. Teachers are extremely dedicated and skilled in promoting and developing creativity, aptitude, and enthusiasm within their respective fields. This year, students explored a range of disciplines from theatre and design to music and the visual arts.

The Morris Educational Foundation proudly funded \$32,000 in cultural arts grants to all 10 District schools to encourage the exploration of creativity. Students performed in various creative writing, dance and theatre residencies, participated in musical programming, sampled new cuisines from featured countries, and enjoyed trips to local theatres, museums and institutions to learn of different cultures, historical works and artists. Partnerships with community organizations – including the Mayo Performing Arts Center and Morris Arts – allowed students to share in these experiences that might otherwise not be possible.



180 Days of Impact: Support Every Student Every Day

The Morris Educational Foundation (MEF) is proud to support every Morris School District (MSD) student on each of the 180 days they are in school. While the MSD provides the essential tools for quality classroom learning, the MEF supports the extras that elevate learning to a class above. From cutting-edge instructional resources to enriching curricular activities, the MEF is committed to helping students not just succeed but excel.

There are 180 days in a school year – each is an opportunity to make a lasting impact. We invite you, our community, to kick off the 2024-25 school year with a gift to launch our students' education above and beyond the standard curriculum. \$1 a day for 180 days adds up to a year of exceptional learning for one student. Can you support a student? How about a small group of students, a classroom, or maybe a bus filled with students? Every dollar the MEF raises this year will be recognized as part of our commitment to reach each of our students. The MEF hopes that, as a community, we can **Support Every Student Every Day for 180 Days of Impact**. Please help us make it a great year for all 5,700 students in the Morris School District!

To learn about our most recent impact, read on. To make an impact, **Donate Today by scanning the QR code.**



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Morristown ONSTAGE Helps Imagine the Possibilities!



In February, community supporters filled all 1,300 seats in the beautiful Mayo Performing Arts Center (MPAC) to enjoy Morristown ONSTAGE, the 17th annual talent show and premier fundraiser of the Morris Educational Foundation. The community staple featured 14 awe-inspiring performances spanning rock, stand-up comedy, theater, pop, and more, all to benefit the Morris School District.

Winners were as follows: \$1,000 18 and Under Winner: Ari Mandel, \$1,000 19 and Over Winner: Jennifer Flynn Brewer, \$500 Audience Choice Winner: Jermaine McElwee (aka Mr. Mac), \$250 Rosoff Rising Star: Naomi Williams.

Many Morristown High School Broadcasting students also lent their talents to the production of this high-end event. Plans are already underway for 2025! Mark your calendars to audition on Saturday, December 7th, at MHS and to attend the show on Tuesday, March 4th, 2025, at MPAC. Scan the QR code to audition for free through November 10th.



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Enrichment Outside the Classroom

CIVICS
Frelinghuysen 8th-grade Quest students competed against 10 schools in the annual Middle School Model United Nations competition at Drew University. To prepare for this rigorous competition, students researched assigned countries and prepared position papers from that country's perspective on a designated global issue. Students represented delegations from eight different countries and finished the competition with seven impressive awards - a testament to their hard work and dedication during their months of preparation.

Congratulations to this year's Model United Nations award recipients: Best Position Paper: Japan - W. Frost, C. Sheifler & R. Sheifler. Outstanding Position Papers: Chile - C. Exley & L. Hery, Peru - S. Gupta, S. Pukash & S. Temnycky, Kenya - T. Elsayed & N. Temnycky, Best Delegate: Spain - A. Baccaglioni & E. Chan, Russian Federation - T. Hwang, S. Mandal & Z. Snook. Outstanding Delegate: USA - O. Eickmeyer & P. McGuinn.



ELL/BILINGUAL
To improve linguistic collaboration, MHS junior Sarah Carroll established **Intercambios**, a club where students come together to practice language skills in an authentic, fun environment. Activities include crafting days, music appreciation sessions and lively games of Headbanz - to practice extemporaneous speaking, of course! To promote the club's offerings, they hosted an Empanada Lunch event where over 50 students participated in several activity stations and received a complimentary empanada. The club encourages students learning languages other than Spanish or English to attend.



MATH
The **MHS Math Team** placed 1st in the Morris County division of the New Jersey Math League, and 7th in New Jersey in a series of six contests from October to March. The team also placed 3rd at the Joseph W. Andrushkiw Competition, which draws schools from all over the state to compete at Seton Hall University.

Mu Alpha Theta, MHS's national high school math honor society, continues to increase its number of participants as 28 new students were inducted this year and 21 seniors received honor cords for completing 10 mathematical hours for each year that they were members. A new record was also set where over 500 equations were solved on Pi Day in students' attempts to get to "Pie a Teacher."



MUSIC
FMS Music students performed in the Morris County Teen Arts Festival at the County College of Morris, where over 800 middle and high school students submit work to earn the chance to attend the New Jersey's State Teen Arts Festival. The celebration of youth arts featured award-winning performances from the **FMS Falcon Big Band** (2nd place), **FMS Select Choir** (Honorable Mention), and **FMS Chamber Orchestra**. In addition, two MHS students received awards for their artwork! Seniors Sadie Thomas won second place and was accepted to the Rhode Island School of Design and Ana Rivero took home first place for her art and will attend Cooper Union. 177 students participated in the **FMS Choir**, with 209 students in **FMS Band**, and 118 in **FMS Orchestra**.



HEALTH
The **MHS Health Professions Club** became a NJ charter member of the HOSA-Future Health Professionals, an international organization that empowers students to become global health community leaders. The club attended several of its conferences and had the opportunity to learn, lead, serve and innovate.



The club also coordinated Teddy Bear Clinics at all District elementary Science Days. Students educated 2nd and 3rd graders on healthy living habits including dental care and healthy eating as well as doctor visit procedures. Senior Katie Siegel stated, "Being able to give so many elementary students that opportunity to learn is incredibly rewarding."



TECHNOLOGY
The **FMS Technology Student Association** used their passion and knowledge of STEM to compete at the TSA Middle School State Conference - the largest New Jersey conference to date. Congratulations to the outstanding team and to the following place winners: I. Knepper - 3rd place Cybersecurity; I. Knepper and J. Bryant - 3rd place Forensics Technology; C. Lenz and B. Fineman - 2nd place Problem Solving; and M. Ashikhmin and A. Ashikhmin - 3rd place Video Game Design.



MEF And Community Partners Collaborate For Mental Health Training

Thanks to a \$21,000 grant from the Lauren & Emily Failla Foundation (LEFF), all Morristown High School staff received a full day of training to identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental health challenges among students. Community members also attended a parent education program led by

facilitators from the Mental Health Association in New Jersey, Inc. Fantastic conversations between facilitators and attendees revolved around how to support students.

This grant is the bedrock for a long-term investment, with the next phase occurring in the 2024-2025 school year when staff will be certified to train peers to recognize and support mental health challenges in students.

"School years are difficult enough for children, but the impact of COVID, social media, and the increasing suicide rate moved us to find ways to help through the LEFF and MEF," said Frank Failla on behalf of himself and his wife, Kay Failla, Founders of the Lauren & Emily Failla Foundation.

The project represents a unique partnership of strong organizations, including the Community Foundation of New Jersey-Mental Health Foundation. Collaboration and will act as a pilot for other communities.



STEM Education Through Elementary Science Days

This spring, K-5 students eagerly participated in their school's annual Science Day - an initiative that gives students fun and interactive ways to engage with science. All students attended grade-appropriate classroom activities and assemblies designed to create a foundation for future STEM learning. Interactive experiences included

rock excavation, planting, animal encounters, catapult making, robotic demonstrations, egg drop experiments and more! This day would not be possible without the District's amazing Science teachers, MHS STEM program student volunteers, parents, and community organizations.



Deloitte and Valley National Bank Community Days

On Friday, June 7, Morristown High School and its students were supported by two community partners: Deloitte and Valley National Bank. Deloitte selected Morristown High School as a site for Impact Day, which celebrates their commitment to local communities as its professionals spend the day volunteering with local organizations. 18 volunteers helped the newly appointed MHS equipment manager, Jacob Carpentier, clean out and organize several athletic storage areas, pick up trash from the school grounds, and assist in the MHS Media Center. Many hands truly make light work.

Richard Vitale, a Vice President and Anti-Fraud Manager at Valley National Bank spoke to four business classes at Morristown High School. The students learned about identity theft, fraud and common scams in the one-hour presentation. The MEF and the MHS Business Department are grateful to Mr. Vitale for sharing his professional experience with our students.



2023-24 MEF GRANTS

\$255,000 in grants for Morris School District students and staff were approved during the 2023-2024 school year providing funding in the following areas:

- Athletics: \$72,000
- Arts: \$60,000
- Literacy: \$38,000
- Staff Professional Development: \$25,000
- Social/Emotional: \$22,000
- STEM: \$38,000

Aerospace Engineering and Rocketry Program - Support for rocketry competitions, equipment and curriculum for the Aerospace Engineering and Rocketry Program at Morristown High School.

Athletic Gallery of Honor - Renovation of the Athletic Gallery of Honor hallway featuring new display cases, wallcoverings and reframed images to showcase the history and success of the Morristown High School student-athletes.

Books for Libraries - A gift of new books in each school library.

Chemistry Equipment - Support for cutting-edge materials to enhance chemistry education at Morristown High School.

Cultural Arts Annual Funding - A grant for each of the 10 Morris School District schools to support cultural arts programming.

Dance Residency - A dance residency for Alexander Hamilton students, bringing history, geography, social studies, music, dance and traditional attire to the students.

Eighth Grade Trip - Full scholarships for 12 Frelinghuysen Middle School students with need to attend the two-day trips (Fountain Spring Lake and New York City).

5th Grade Author Visit - An author talk, visit and signed books from New York Times bestselling author, Wendy Mass for all 5th-grade students.

Flexible Furniture - Flexible furniture at Sussex Avenue School.

Jack Hartmann Virtual Phonics Workshop - Virtual workshops focusing on letters, sight words, math concepts, and fitness for the students at Woodland Elementary School.

Jazz for Teens - Tuition for one Morristown High School student to participate in Jazz for Teens at NJPAC.

Jump the Turnstile 2024 - ARTS By the People's Jump The Turnstile program's intensive workshops for the Morristown High School creative writing classes.

Laminator - Funds for a hot laminator for staff use at Woodland School.

Main Lobby Screen and Promethean Board - An 85" television for the main lobby of Frelinghuysen Middle School to share school activities, updates, news and events with the school community plus a replacement Promethean Board for one classroom.

Mayo Performing Arts Center Residency - A school-wide theatre residency at Normandy Park School.

MEF Student Club Advisor - Support for a Morristown High School staff advisor.

Mental Health Grant - Training for all staff at Morristown High School in mental health first aid for youth.

Mosaic Project - A class legacy project for the 2024 8th grade class.

National Society of Black Engineers Jr. - Funding for the registration fees of eight Morristown High School students to attend the annual NSBE Jr. national convention.

Poetry and Books - A gift to support the BJ Ward cultural arts programs at Sussex and Thomas Jefferson Schools and books for "El Recon del Alcalde" in the Morristown High School library.

Project Graduation Support - Support for Morristown High School's All-Night Graduation Party fundraiser.

Reading Readiness: Preschooler-Parent Shared Reading - Preschoolers and their parents enjoyed an in-person monthly Bilingual Book Club.

Second Grade Author Event - All second graders enjoyed a day with JUST LIKE RUBE GOLDBERG author, Sarah Aronson, and the Morris Museum's Spark Lab.

Senior Signs for all Graduating 8th Graders and High School Seniors - To recognize our students' success.

Summer Plus Program Tuition - 11 Summer Plus scholarships for Pre-K-5 students and five Summer Music Academy scholarships for rising 4th - 11th graders.

T-Shirt Shop - A direct-to-film printer to provide entrepreneurship experiences for 3rd and 4th-year graphics students at Morristown High School.

Technology Student Association (TSA) - Registration fees for six students to attend the NJ TSA conference.

Theatre Department - Support for the Morristown High School theatre program.

Tutoring at Frelinghuysen Middle School - Funding for the after-school math and language arts tutoring program.

Uniforms for HOSA - Future Health Professionals - Uniforms for Morristown High School's HOSA - Future Health Professionals students to attend and compete in NJ HOSA Chapter Competitions.

Video Monitor Display System for Studio Set - A two-monitor video display system to allow students to use images and video clips as backdrops for segments.

Over the past 32 years, the Morris Educational Foundation has generated \$5.8 million in impact across academics, arts, athletics, and other activities. Scan the QR code to view the full list of grants awarded in the 2023-2024 school year.





WE ARE



Student-Athletes Excel at Frelinghuysen Middle School

FMS is proud to offer all students a comprehensive interscholastic athletic program that includes 12 sports across three seasons where 626 student-athletes competed against Morris County schools. These opportunities are an important part of the mission at FMS to foster positive connections among students and with adults during and after the school day. FMS teams achieved at the highest level during the 2023 - 2024 school year with the following highlights:

Girls Soccer repeated as Group 4 Morris County Champions by beating Mount Olive 2-1. This was the culmination of an incredible season.



Boys Basketball finished an amazing season by winning the Morris County Championship over Brooklawn Middle School. Congratulations to all players for their effort, pride, and dedication they put into the season.



FMS Wrestling closed its season with an undefeated record and an impressive second-place finish at the Morris County Tournament. Of the 13 wrestlers who competed, 10 placed in the top four! 2024 County Champions include Cian Stork, Colin McDonald (2-time champion), and Meshach St. Agathe. Congratulations to all the wrestlers on a phenomenal season!



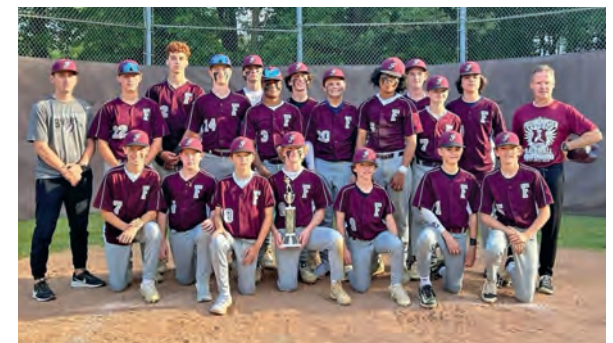
MHS Unified Flag Football Soars High with the New York Jets

In the spring, the New York Jets piloted a Unified High School Flag Football League in Northern New Jersey in partnership with Special Olympics New Jersey. The league consisted of a 4-team league consisting of 15-to-30 players from Morris Knolls, Morristown, Roxbury and West Orange with approximately a 2-1 ratio of Unified players to Unified partners.

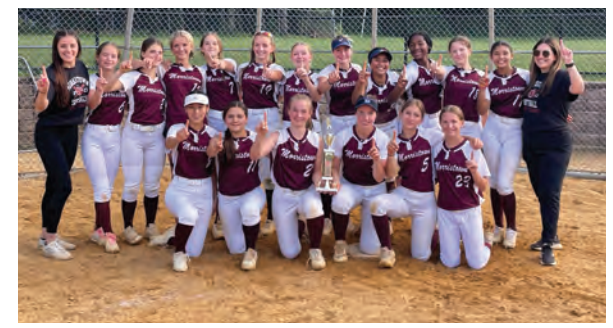
The season began with a kick-off event in the Jets indoor facility where teams learned the rules of the game and participated in drills with current Jets players. Each team played six regular-season games over six weeks leading up to the playoffs, which were held at the Atlantic Health Jets Training Center.



FMS Baseball defeated Roxbury 4-2 in the championship game which was played on the MHS Varsity Fields at Robert Taratko Complex. They finished their season with a record of 11-1.



FMS Softball had a fantastic season with an overall record of 8-1. The team was then named as the number 1 seed in their division and won the Group 4 County Championship by defeating Mount Olive 7-1 – their second championship in a row!



FMS Girls Lacrosse went undefeated with a 7-0 record and made it to the County Championship. The girls also had opportunities this season to work with the MHS Girls Lacrosse team, sharing the field during practices, and ended the season with an FMS/MHS scavenger hunt.



FMS Boys Lacrosse won their first-ever tournament championship and beat Delbarton 10-8 in the semi-final and Heritage 10-2 in the final.



MHS Unified Flag Football Soars High with the New York Jets

The semifinals and finals were electric, with fans cheering on our athletes. Morristown was crowned Champions of the first Unified High School Flag Football season with an overall record of 6-1.



Photo Credit: NY Jets Football

MHS Champions Honored in the New Athletic Gallery of Honor



Morristown Colonial Nation is the District's network for alumni, students, staff and supporters to stay connected and get involved. It provides meaningful ways to engage with others and the opportunity to give back and support various areas of interest.

The decade-long vision of renovating MHS's Athletic Gallery of Honor became a reality when the Goryeb Family generously donated a leadership gift to the project. Joe, Class of '75; Rick, Class of '78; and Lynne, Class of '84 credit Morristown Football for being a big part of their school experience as Joe and Rick were a part of the State Championship Team in 1974 and 1975, and Lynne was the mascot for the high school football team.

Thanks to the Goryeb Family's gift and donations from alumni and families, the redesigned space features vinyl wallcoverings, new lighted display cases, and reframed images capturing the history and success of the Morristown High School student-athlete.

The beautiful new design gives community members, families, visiting guests, and past, present, and future students a glimpse into the school's athletic glory.



MHS Heritage Club Honors Alumni Athletes

To celebrate the coaches, players, teams, and friends who helped shape the rich MHS athletics history, the school's Heritage Club stepped up to the plate to honor the 2024 Athletic Gallery of Honor inductees.

15 dedicated students were paired with inductees to research their contributions and impact on MHS athletics. Heritage Club Advisor, Kevin Rooney, said students went "above and beyond" by combining nomination information with the stories they learned from interviewing inductees' friends and family members.

Nine individuals and three teams were selected on their athletic accomplishments, exceptional team contributions and how they represented Morristown High School while competing. Their pictures now hang in the newly renovated Athletic Gallery of Honor.

Congratulations to the 2024 Athletic Gallery of Honor inductees: Jim Chironna, Jerry "Chip" DePalma, David Flynn, Kathy Perri, Dave Perry, Dorian Ritchie, Alicia Ryan, Robert (Bob) Simone, Nick Vena, the 2001 – 2002 Boys Basketball team, 2024 Boys Baseball team and 2009 Boys Swim team.



MORRISTOWN

MHS Varsity Teams Achieve High Honors

MHS athletics had a tremendous year with many teams advancing to the post-season and receiving much-deserved awards and honors. Those shaded below were also crowned champions.

Girls Tennis: There was a lot of success on the Girls Tennis team. Despite a slow start in the beginning, the team continued to improve and after winning some tough matches, they kept their focus and won fourteen matches in a row. Highlights of the season include placing second in the Morris County Tournament and reaching the semifinals of their section of the State Tournament.

Girls Volleyball: The Girls Volleyball team had their minds set on getting the championship ring this year, but they could not have imagined the incredible season they had. They ended their unforgettable season undefeated and earned the titles of Division Champions, Conference Champions, Morris County Champions, and State Sectional Champions. The girls worked hard and pushed each other every day by persevering through tough moments and always lifting each other up. The team was filled with talent, but they had the heart and love for the game to make it all the way to Group 4 State final.



Girls Basketball: The senior leadership rippled through the Girls Basketball team and guided the team to achieve their first-ever Group 4 Sectional Championship Title, with the opportunity to compete at Rutgers University for the Group 4 State Title. Although they fell short of the ultimate crown, the team competed until the last whistle with the Morristown community supporting the girls throughout this pursuit. The team also celebrated the retirement of Coach Pisciotto and Coach Newman, who raised the standard and the expectation of Morristown basketball.



Indoor Track: It was another banner year for the MHS Winter Track and Field program. Both the Boys and Girls teams set and re-set multiple school records. The crowning achievement came when both teams captured the Morris County Championship, a feat that does not happen often. The program sent over a dozen athletes to the NJIAA State Group IV Championships, where there were multiple individual county, sectional and group individual winners. New Jersey Milesplit ranked Morristown's Boys program among the top 10 in New Jersey and the Girls program 19th in New Jersey.



Golf: Morristown Golf had an incredible season in 2024. The team won the state sectional tournament and placed second in the Morris County Tournament. In addition, the team had plenty of individual achievements. Caroline Fixter won the Girls Morris County Tournament (MCT) and Maya Burton placed second in the Girls Morris County and NJAC Tournaments. Cormack Meldrum placed 3rd in the MCT and shared first place with Liam Pasternak in the State Sectional Tournament. Additionally, Liam Pasternak placed 2nd in the MCT and won the State Tournament of Champions.

Girls Lacrosse: The Girls Lacrosse team continued to make history in 2024. The team captured the first-ever triple crown – Stars & Stripes Red Co-Championship, back-to-back County Championships, and NJ Group 4 Sectional and State Championship. The team's senior captains collectively guided them in the right direction under their tremendous and collaborative efforts.



Softball: Morristown Softball went through a lot, facing many mental and physical hardships, including a tremendous obstacle in the first half of the season. Through resilience, teamwork, trust, and motivation, the team found and reignited their spark. They were ranked 12 out of 16 in the state tournament and went on a historic run defeating the #4, #5, #8, and #3 seeds, ultimately winning the Group 4 State Sectional Championship for the first time in program history.



Boys Tennis: It was a very competitive year for Boys Varsity Tennis. They came in 2nd place as a team in the National Conference and reached the North NJ Group 4 Section 1 Team Tournament Quarterfinals. They also placed 3rd as a team in the Morris Invitational Tournament, making it to the finals at two positions.

Boys Track: The Colonials had a winning dual meet season with 3-1 in the NJAC Conference. Jason Meza set a new school record in the Discus and Ronald Morgan also set a record in the Javelin. One of the highlights this season was watching the team score enough points to win the NJAC Conference title in the Large School division. The boys placed third at the Morris County Championships and were the Runners Up at the NJIAA North I Group IV Championships.

Girls Track: MHS Girls Spring track had an amazing season. For the dual meet season, the team went 3-1, losing only to Chatham. They successfully ran at the Penn Relays with a time of 52.3 in the 4x100 relay and in the 4x400 relay, the Colonials ran the fastest time of 4:00 in Morris County this season. Highlights of the Varsity season included capturing 3rd place in the Morris County Relays, 5th place in the NJAC Championships and 6th place in the NJIAA Group 4 sectionals.



Scan the QR code to view all varsity teams' accolades and honors.

Shining a Light on MSD Athletics cont'd

The excitement of "Friday Night Lights" may have been the most publicized addition, but many athletic improvements had an immediate impact. Refinished floors in the MHS main and auxiliary gyms, new uniforms across MHS and FMS sports, new metal team benches at all MHS and FMS sports venues and a new weather-protected scorer's table to house student scorekeepers were noticeable changes.

Aesthetics helped increase morale, and several small but significant changes resulted in a visible shift in Morristown athletic pride. Enhancements included consistent Colonials signage and banners installed on light posts and windscreens around Memorial Field, new field mats and protective coverings, and the beautification of MHS and FMS grounds and storage spaces.

Athletic staffing received a boost in attention as well. The scope of responsibility for the MHS Athletic Director was changed to a new District-wide focus. A new FMS Athletic Director position was filled to place additional focus on middle school athletics. As a result, the coaching staff at MHS reports to the MSD Athletic Director and coaches at FMS will report to the FMS Athletic Director, Jess McGinn. All coaches are also supported with professional development opportunities.

The District hired a dedicated FMS Athletic Trainer – a first in NJ for middle school sports. A new MHS Equipment Manager position was created to oversee sports-related inventory and equipment and a new MHS Athletics Security position was made to attend games and oversee sports facilities.

Coaches are creating a continuous student-athlete pipeline from elementary to middle to high school by attending recreation games and collaborating with Guidance to identify high-performing student-athletes proactively.

To honor student-athletes and their dedication to their team, congratulatory Senior Banners were hung at all MHS athletic complexes during their team's season. In addition, banners for Division 1-committed student-athletes hung in the MHS atrium proudly showcasing their college commitments – of which the District celebrated the following 12 this year! C. Collins: Rutgers University – Women's Lacrosse, C. Moran: Temple University – Women's Lacrosse, M. O'Brien: University of Connecticut – Women's Lacrosse, K. Pfeffer: St. Bonaventure University – Women's Lacrosse, A. Rivetti: Lehigh University – Women's Lacrosse, A. Szporn: Vanderbilt University – Women's Lacrosse, C. Ross: U.S. Naval Academy – Men's Lacrosse, J. Myers: University of Virginia – Men's Wrestling, J. Meza: Cornell University – Men's Track and Field, A. Murphy: Troy University – Women's Track and Field, N. Slaughter: St. Bonaventure University – Women's Track and Field, M. Summerville: Northeastern University – Women's Basketball.

Congratulations on an exciting year for our Morristown Colonial Nation!



Elementary Schools and Pre-School Encourage Curiosity and Fun

The SNAP ambassador program teaches the importance of empathy, acceptance, and kindness. At **Alexander Hamilton School**, 5th grade "SNAP Ambassadors" led the 3rd grade classes through disability awareness activities and simulations to demonstrate ways to include others in daily activities throughout the school day.



Thomas Jefferson students experienced American Civil Rights history in a new way with Hip Hop Fundamental's program centered around Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s message of LOVE. This lesson on Civil Rights utilized dance and movement to engage students in a high-energy performance.



Sussex School held its inaugural classroom Spelling Bee event where top performers represented their class at the grade level spelling bee. All three grades crowned a Spelling Bee Champion, earning them special Sussex Shark prizes as well as additional class prizes.



Lafayette Learning Center students learned how to plant garlic bulbs for effective and healthy growth at Grow it Green Morristown. Throughout the year, preschoolers were exposed to a variety of topics, including the process of planting and the life cycle of a seed, pollination, and harvesting.



Normandy Park School buzzed with excitement as its annual Fun Fair brought smiles to everyone's faces. The joyous event featured game booths, face painting, delicious food and more in a festive atmosphere for the whole NPS community to enjoy.



Woodland School proudly celebrates Wildcat Ways, a character education program that helps students develop ethical, social, and emotional skills. Values promoted include respect, responsibility, and integrity to name a few. Each month, teachers and staff highlight and reward students for the Wildcat Way of the month.



On April 26, volunteers from Barclays Bank Whippany visited **Alfred Vail, Hillcrest, Normandy Park** and **Woodland** schools to celebrate Arbor Day. Volunteers worked with the school principals and science teachers to inform second graders on the value trees provide to our community and how to keep our trees thriving. All students received tree saplings to take home and participated in the planting of a ceremonial tree on school grounds as seen below at Alfred Vail and Hillcrest.



FMS and MHS Students Are Bursting with Creativity

ART
MHS partnered with Art in the Atrium to host the **ATA STEAM** program for seven nominated MHS students. The program brought a unique opportunity for students to explore and engage in a multidisciplinary learning experience around the value of black visual arts and its role in culture. Classes were held at MHS to foster art appreciation and creation, with two field trips to ATA exhibits at the Morris County Courthouse and the Novartis Gallery in East Hanover.



FMS held its annual Art Show in May. This year's invitation was designed by 8th-grader Ryan Brady in Graphic Design, led by Ms. Francesco. Students used Canva tools to create digital art show invitations that emphasized balanced space and conveyed the themes of creativity and community. The event was an incredible showcase of creativity and hard work from our student artists.



THEATRE
MHS Theatre captured the hearts of our community with the spring production of *Mary Poppins* with dazzling tap numbers, captivating vocals, delightful orchestration, spectacular set pieces, and stunning lighting displays.



The talented cast and crew of the MHS fall production of *The Tempest* delivered an unforgettable performance of this Shakespearean classic.



These captivating shows, along with the spring 2023 production of *Cinderella*, truly deserve a round of applause. While very different, they took home multiple awards and nominations, including a record-breaking fifteen nominations at Montclair State University's Theatre Night Awards and recognition from Paper Mill Playhouse's Rising Star Awards with six nominations and four Honorable Mentions. Congrats to all for their individual and group achievements.

Bergen PAC Theater Awards:
Mary Poppins (Spring 2024)
Best Orchestra: David Gallagher and the Pit Orchestra
Outstanding Female Identified Lead: Julia Cama

Montclair State University Theatre Night Awards:
Tempest (Fall 2023)
Actress in an Elevated Language Play: Josie Gulsano
High Superior Scoring

Cinderella (Spring 2023)
Outstanding Student Costume Technician: Julia Cama

Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*, the **FMS Spring Musical**, was a smash hit! The program featured over 100 cast and crew plus the full pit orchestra made of middle and high school students, teachers, and alumni. It is one of only a few middle schools in New Jersey that employ a full pit, creating an amazing experience for everyone in the show and the audience.



MEF Awards \$330,000 to MHS Graduates

Thanks to alumni, individuals, families and local organizations, the Morris Educational Foundation provided \$330,000 in scholarships and awards to Morristown High School (MHS) graduates and alumni in the 2023-2024 school year alone.

As the leading provider of scholarships for MHS students, the MEF is proud to offer many opportunities for seniors and the largest award of scholarship dollars to the class each year. Through the generosity of MEF scholarship donors, twenty-seven graduating seniors received scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$100,000 to help them pursue their dreams in college and beyond.

They include:

Judy and Eliot Steinburg Scholarship
Ashley Herrera, Rutgers University
Kaileen Lazo, Rutgers University

Wong Family Scholarship
Madelyn Funk, Cornell University

George and Michele Becker Scholarship
Mary Gillen, Rutgers University

Stephen B. Wiley Scholarship
Kathryne Morales-Ward, Drew University

Captain Brian J. McNally, USMC Scholarship
Anna Grace Yurek, Fairfield University
Conor Richardson, Duquesne University

Dorothy F. Johnson Scholarship
Allyson Smith, Villanova University

Javier Avelar Scholarship
Ana Mejia, Rutgers University
Anderson Soriano, New Jersey Institute of Technology

Class of '79 Morris 8 Scholarship
Hanna Cochran, University of Vermont

James B Galbraith, Jr. Scholarship
Charlotte Cama, Muhlenberg College

Fred Sporer Scholarship
Jordan Carrington, the University of Rhode Island

Morristown High School Class of 2020 Resilience Scholarship
Isabella Eberhart, Montclair State University

Morristown Distinguished Wrestler Scholarship
John Myers, University of Virginia

John T. Cunningham Scholarship
Lilian Crean, Fordham University

Feldman Family Scholarship
Ariel Cuyo, Montclair State University

Mary Bentzin Scholarship
Sarah Bogert, Rutgers University

Bruce Chamberlain Scholarship
Elizabeth Gillen, Rutgers University

Douenian Family Scholarship for Scholar Athletes
Jonah Gardberg, University of Missouri

Ferrara-Myers Grandparents Scholarship
Ana Rivera, Cooper Union

Fraternal Order of Eagles Morristown Ailee 1311 Scholarship
Aidan Clarke, Villanova University

Estelle Walker Hinkins Memorial Scholarship
Gabrielle Neely, Delaware State University

Hess-Mulcahy Scholarship
Nathaniel Ross, Virginia Tech

William Darell Johnson "Let Get It Going!" Memorial Scholarship
Isaac Litman, University of New Hampshire

Ruth Marantz Cohen French Award
Elise Hinrichs, Skidmore College

Coach Gil Shaffer Scholarship
Amanda Ramirez, University of Lynchburg

Making More Students College-Ready



County College of Morris (CCM) and the Morris School District announced the Morristown College Promise (MCP) Program, aiding income-qualified middle and high school students with free services like tutoring and mentoring to prepare them for college. The partnership was launched on October 3rd at Morristown High School, attended by state, county, and local officials.

"As the community's college, CCM's programs ensure all students have access to a great education," said Dr. Anthony J. Iacono, President of

CCM. Senator Anthony Bucco praised the initiative, saying it sets Morris County as a model for the state. Dr. Anne Mucci, Superintendent, emphasized the program's role in supporting first-generation students.

Special thanks to the Mimi Washington Starrett Foundation as the inaugural funder of the program's expansion into Morristown. The partnership reflects a strong commitment to education, aiming to help students overcome barriers and succeed.

Stay current on important District news and events all year. Scan the QR code to receive emails on the school budget, construction projects, fine arts, athletic events, and more.



Eight exceptional MHS alumni were each selected to receive a \$5,000 Myles Smiled on You Award for secondary education loan reduction. They include:

Grace Beston, MHS Class of '17
Emilie Breslin, MHS Class of '15

Jackson Campbell, MHS Class of '19
Catherine Clinton, MHS Class of '15

Tia Elizey, MHS Class of '11
Maggie Jones, MHS Class of '16

Danielle Powell, MHS Class of '12
Ashlynn Wolff, MHS Class of '12



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WHAT'S HAPPENING IN... #TheDistrict

2023-2024

A joint publication from The Morris School District, The Morris Educational Foundation and Morristown Colonial Nation

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Escanea el código QR para una traducción al español

IN THE DISTRICT



Thanks to a generous donor, the MEF and the District hosted Wendy Mass, New York Times bestselling author of over 30 novels for young people. All fifth-graders were bussed to FMS to learn about how Ms. Mass develops her stories from idea conception to publication. Students and teachers were especially eager to hear insights into her novel, "Bob," which they received a signed copy of and read in class.

Pinned by [Morris School District](#) Pinned by [Morris Educational Foundation](#)



The FMS eighth-grade class received a grant from Morris Arts to create the class of 2024 Mosaic Legacy Project. In multiple sessions, students learned about the mosaic process and the planned design while understanding how to create a mosaic panel, clay parts, color and underglaze techniques, pattern making and more. The inspiring piece captures the spirit of the FMS house community.

Pinned by [Morris Educational Foundation](#)



Marcia Heiden, Josephine Foster and Joanne Belmonte presented Saul S. Swanger presented Saul S. Swanger Teacher Fellowships to MHS Language Arts teacher, George LaVigne, and MHS Guidance Counselor, Monica Tate. LaVigne studied with the Royal Shakespeare Company in the UK this summer, focusing on how to make the works of the Bard more accessible to students. Tate used the funds to expand the "Be The First" program to further support the college application process for first-generation students.

Pinned by [Morris Educational Foundation](#)



Thanks to an Excellence in Education Award from the Morristown Knights of Columbus, Mark Manning, Morristown High School Principal, spent two weeks in Heredia, Costa Rica this summer attending a Spanish language immersion program at Tico Lingo to further develop his Spanish language skills. Mr. Manning participated in six hours of instruction during the week – four hours in a small group and two hours in a private lesson – and traveled with his Costa Rican host family on the weekends.

Pinned by [Morris Educational Foundation](#)



On April 20th, the Morris School District held its first Autism Acceptance Celebration, where students participated in a variety of activities and games. The event was organized by Pupil Services to celebrate all students and their families. Thank you to the many local organizations and District staff for making it a success.

Pinned by [Morris School District](#)



On April 28, Morristown High School students were honored as Mayo Performing Arts Center (MPAC) Music Students of the Month – Outstanding Brass Players – and performed "In the Mood" with the Glenn Miller Orchestra in front of 1,200 patrons. Students were nominated by their teachers and chosen by MPAC's Education Department based on their commitment and excellence in the performing arts. Learn more by scanning the QR code.

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