



The Morgan Reader

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What Do You Want To Be When You Grow Up?

The common question we ask young children is “What do you want to be when you grow up?” While that may seem frivolous at an early age, it becomes a very serious question for students in school. The entire school program ultimately focuses on preparing students to become productive citizens in the work force or in a career field.

Second grade students in Ms. Shaffer’s art class at West answered the question by drawing pictures of themselves as adults working at a job or career. In the picture below you can see how several second grade students answered that question.



Ms. Shaffer with Brianna Shuster who plans to be an artist; Braden Massey who plans to be a policeman; and Jada Riley who plans to be a horse trainer.

At Morgan we begin exploring careers and the jobs people do to make a living in early elementary grades. This all ties back to answer this question students ask in math, science, social studies and language arts; “Why are we learning this?”

Already this year our elementary and junior high buildings have held career exploration activities and the high school has had visits from colleges and student trips to college campuses to learn about career opportunities and the training necessary to successfully get a job or pursue a career. In addition, as a Comprehensive High School, we have our own Career Tech School on campus where elementary and junior high students can visit and high school students learn the skills they will need for a job when they graduate. (See more pictures on pages 7 and 0)



Elementary students learn about cosmetology training from high school career tech students.



Morgan High School Career Tech Automotive Lab

General Information



Lori S. Lowe,
Superintendent

Advantages of a Comprehensive High School

Many aspects of Morgan High School make us unique in comparison with other high schools in Ohio. By housing both a career technical center and a regular high school on one campus, we are technically referred to as a “comprehensive

high school” and this label makes us one of only four such high schools in the state of Ohio. Our students at Morgan can choose a path of purely career technical studies, a mixture of career technical and college studies or a path of purely college preparatory courses. These offerings give our students a very well-rounded perspective of options after high school. They also prepare our students to become productive citizens who are well prepared for life after high school.

In this edition, you will learn about a lot of the exciting things our teachers are working on in the career technical field. We are proud of the hard work our teachers put into making their programs highly competitive with other high schools and in the preparation they do to ready their students for the workforce.

I hope you enjoy learning about our great programs at Morgan!

The Morgan Reader is published quarterly during the school year and is delivered to every household in Morgan County. The Morgan Reader is a report to the community about their schools. Your comments, questions, and suggestions are welcomed. Questions and issues raised by readers will be addressed in future editions of The Morgan Reader.

Send your comments, questions, and suggestions to Howard Troutner, 65 West Union Avenue, PO Box 509, McConnelsville, Ohio 43756, call 740-962-2377, or e-mail mc-troutnerh@seovec.org

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Ask Ichabod

Dear Ichabod,
I am really impressed. My son has been assigned a laptop computer that he can bring home to use for his school work. My concern is, what is his, and my liability, if the computer is lost or stolen or if he breaks it. Isn't this expensive equipment to trust with a child?

Sincerely,
Concerned Parent



Ichabod Crane

Dear Concerned Parent,
We are very fortunate that Morgan Schools have enough computers and laptops to have one available for nearly every student to use at school, and in the case of high school students, to bring their laptop or Chromebook home to use for their school work. Before students can take a laptop or Chromebook home, both the student and parent must sign an agreement to accept responsibility for careful and responsible use of the device.

The cost of the student or parent liability for loss or damage of a mobile device depends on many factors. The cost may be nothing or very little if the damage is because of normal usage or was accidental. It could be the full cost replacement if the damage or loss was caused by carelessness, irresponsibility or by intention. Students who continue to be careless with the equipment or who fail to pay for damages will be denied the privilege of taking mobile devices home.

A detailed policy for general handling and required care of mobile devices is a part of the agreement signed by the parent and student for the use of the mobile device. Parents and students who are not willing to assume liability under these policies will not be able to take mobile devices home.

Learning to be careful and responsible for valuable equipment is important to becoming a responsible adult.

Sincerely,
Ichabod Crane

High School Electronics Class Creates Riverfront Park Christmas Tree

Morgan High School electronics teacher John Robbins, along with students Stephen Rochotte, Christian Benton, and Alex Church, spoke to council about the holiday lights at Riverfront Park. Rochotte, who spoke for the group, said they have a new tree to set up this year, along with the existing lights. Rochotte said the tree was designed by himself, Church, and Dylan Ratliff, and was created with the help from the High School precision machining class. The ten-foot tall tree is made from cold-rolled steel, is shaped like a triangular prism, and is green with a white star.



Homecoming Festivities at Morgan High School

Homecoming week at the high school was October 3rd to 8th. The students participated in many spirit building activities including hallway decorating, different dress-up days, spirit chains, and even collecting canned food items for the community. The week was topped off by a win on the field against Maysville 28-12 followed by a Homecoming dance for the students on Saturday evening.

“Twins” Day At MHS



Carlee Schramm and her father, the Head Custodian at Morgan High School, dressed up as “twins” as part of the home coming week festivities at the high school.

West Pre-School Receives 5-Star Award



Greg Gifford, Principal and Pre-School Staff members Denise Wallace, Amber Weaver, Cindy Barringer, and Deborah Scott are proud of their award. East Pre-school also received the award. (see page 12)

South Elementary Donates Tree to Habitat For Humanity



Morgan South Elementary decorates a tree every year for Habitat for Humanity. The money our tree raises for Habitat contributes to build 5 new houses in the Morgan County area! Our tree this year was decorated by the South Elementary art students in Mrs. Strauss's classroom. Each ornament was hand painted by our students and reflected our school pride as each one was decorated using our school colors. To top off our tree Miss Rishel made a blue and white star topper with an M for Morgan Schools. Since we raised \$398.14 through our annual coin drive we were also able to include a \$250 dollar gift card with our tree. The Station from Chesterhill purchased the South tree for \$310.

What About The Arts?

Susan Troutner, Assistant for Instruction

Our purpose for this edition of the Morgan Reader has been to highlight the many aspects of student life presented to our children through programs and curriculum in Morgan Local Schools. We all know the value of the core content of school. The learning that takes place in reading, math, science and social studies classes is essential to preparing students for their futures. Technology is an essential part of life today. It impacts everything we do, and we have an obligation to prepare students for the world in which they will live and work. We must also help our students learn, through physical education, how to keep their bodies healthy. Then, what about the arts? Why is Arts Education crucial to our students?

Research shows that if we consider what we as a nation say we want for our children: to achieve in academics; to develop socially and emotionally; to be able to engage as productive citizens; and to have equal opportunities for a successful future, that education in the arts is essential. Making gains in math and reading, gains in cognitive ability, being able to reason and think critically, and increases in verbal skill occur with learning in art and music. We probably all know students who gain confidence and become more motivated in school when they participate in art and music. An integral part of teaching and learning in art and music involves team work, critical in the workplace today. The arts are central to what we want students to learn and are tied directly to those things we say we want for our children.

Many school districts in Ohio have either reduced classroom time devoted to the arts, or eliminated the arts completely below the high school level. Recently Ohio removed the required minutes for art, music and P.E. from the elementary curriculum. Morgan Local Schools remains committed to providing these subjects to our students. We know, from research, that there is a direct connection between arts education and academic achievement.

If you have not had an opportunity to see an art show, or to attend a concert at one of our buildings, we hope you will continue to check our school calendars for future events. We are proud of the growth of our music program. This week 59 elementary students, 34 seventh and eighth graders, and 29 high school students performed in the holiday concert. Each of the three elementary buildings had Veterans' concerts in November and Christmas concerts, and there will be concerts in the spring as well. Visit our buildings and view children's art in the hallways. Learn about how we are coordinating with MCCA, a community group that provides opportunities for our students. The Arts are alive and well in Morgan County, in Morgan Local Schools, and our students benefit from these programs.

Morgan Students Participate in Community Heritage Days



Morgan High School students from the Drama Club portray Morgan County historical figures during Heritage Days.

College Visits



Group discussions about adjusting to college expectations.



Reviewing college resource materials



Experiencing the college classroom environment



An excited group of college prospects

Student Learning

Elementary Schools Present Concerts



Afternoon performances gave the students at each school the opportunity to see the concerts. Evening performances give the parents and the public the opportunity to attend.



The 3rd through 6th grade students at South Elementary perform for the honored veterans shown in the front row above. Performing “live” before an audience is a great learning experience that is part of the Morgan music program.

Career Exploration Days

Learning about jobs and careers from the people in those jobs and careers is an excellent way to begin thinking about what you want to be when you “grow up”. Below are pictures from the West Elementary Career Exploration Day that illustrate that point. (See more examples on page 10)



Representatives from Shrivvers Pharmacy discuss what pharmacists do and the training needed to become one.



Representative Troy Balderson, from our legislative district, tells students what a state legislator does and how the State Legislature works.



Robotics is always a popular Career Day topic. Here a high school Career Tech Electronics student discusses robotics with young elementary students.



Agriculture is a natural for Morgan County, but students learn from Chris Penrose, from OSU Extension, that careers in Agriculture can be much more than farming.

Career and College Preparation



Students in the Morgan Health Tech Program sport their new uniforms



Skills USA Installation

Skills USA is a special club for high school students interested in pursuing a career in business.



MHS Students Visit Colleges

As the pictures on the right show, college visits are an important way to select a college to attend. Also see pictures on page 5.



**Teacher Mrs. Zumbro with
Katrina Getz**

Katrina Getz Places 2nd. in Maretta Times Scariest Story Contest

**“Lifeless”
Katrina Getz
7th Grade Morgan
Junior High**

It was a beautiful brick house, right on the corner. The house was big, it had a beautiful white porch, and a big, green lawn. I had just moved in today, Halloween. I was worried that some kids would do something to my house, since it was believed to be haunted. I live alone right now, my friend, Lilly, was coming over in a few minutes to help me unpack though.

Lilly ran up to me, grabbing me into a hug, her long blonde hair grazing my nose. I laughed as she pulled away, admiring the new house. I invited her in, of course she said yes, but when we took our first steps into the kitchen we noticed something odd, every cabinet in the house was swung open. I shook it off, thinking I must’ve done it, not remembering. I started to think about my older sister, Juliet. She was 32 when she got sent to North Bridge mental asylum. She tried hurting our cat, and that’s when our parents knew she wasn’t O.K. I went to get Lilly a glass of Ginger Ale only to turn around and find that every single cabinet had been shut, well slammed, seeing that there was broken glass from my ceramic mugs on the floor. Lilly walked in, not seeing the glass. She stepped on a larger piece, cutting her foot. I started to panic. I needed my inhaler, dearly, but it was in my car. I passed out.

I awakened to dark pupils staring into my deep blue eyes, I struggled to get up, realizing that what was atop me, wasn’t human. I kicked and screamed trying to push my body up, but this creature looked familiar. Like I’ve seen it somewhere. I panicked, wishing I was home in my soft blankets. That’s when I saw her in the opposite corner. It was Juliet, she wore a dark blue hospital gown, now scratched and torn. But her face looked completely normal, even beautiful some would say.

“Why are you doing this?” I screamed while shuffling my gaze trying to adjust to the lighting.

No reply. I felt cold fingers, with rough skin, wrap around my ankle and pull me down. Down where? I didn’t have an answer.

I awoke, drenched in sweat, wanting to just collapse. I gasped realizing that what had happened was just a sick nightmare, it was over now. Or was it..? I didn’t have an answer. Where was Lilly?

“Oh Gosh, no!” I screamed frantically as I saw an un-human version of her in the corner. She wasn’t human, that’s all I could say for now. I was helpless. She was lifeless. Coincidence? Maybe. Probably not, I laughed realizing everything was over now. Then all I saw was darkness.

The End

Junior High Halloween Dance



Kylea Holloway and Josie Knierim



Adrian Flowers and Sieria Gandee

Career Exploration



Superintendent Lowe discusses a robot display with a group of West students.



The Ohio Department of Transportation shows students what people who build and maintain our highways do.



An AEP worker describes the job of an electric company lineman.



A member of the US Air Force describes the jobs available in the Air Force.



A policeman describes the work a policeman does.

Career Exploration Days provide students the opportunity to see the equipment used in various jobs and to ask questions of someone who actually makes a living doing the job. This starts students thinking about and discussing how they might enjoy doing that kind of work.

This early experience starts students thinking about the world of work and can lead students to make better course selections in junior high and high school. It helps them understand why they need the math, science, reading and writing skills they are learning.



South Elementary has a Change of Heart

The students of South Elementary are enjoying a “Change of Heart.” This is the fourth year for the “Change of Heart” program at South Elementary. The program is essentially a combination of student council and an anti-bullying program for elementary students. Fifth and sixth grade students are chosen, based upon good character traits and teacher recommendations, at the beginning of each school year. The recommendations are then narrowed down to approximately five to six students from each of the fifth and sixth grades by the Building Leadership Team.

The students then meet throughout the year to plan and help with activities around the school. The students hold meetings and plan different activities for the entire South student body; much like a student council, only on the elementary level. One of their many jobs includes distributing the monthly ice-cream reward that every student has a chance to earn based upon their good behavior. They also provide child care and activities at the monthly PTO meetings; as well as becoming group leaders for the BCEP nights that South holds annually. One of their latest endeavors was creating the “Newcomers Club.” This is a gathering to help students new to South become acquainted with the school, staff members, guidelines, and even other students. Much like the student council in upper grade levels, these students plan special days and activities for South students such as “Blue day.” This is held the first Monday in October and is a worldwide campaign to “Stomp out Bullying.”

The Change of Heart Program has become very successful at South Elementary. It helps to create a sense of community and fellowship within our school and

allows the students time to learn the skills needed to become productive, involved citizens later in life. The students are excited to get started every year and look forward not only to the meetings, but also finding new ways they can be involved in the success of our school community.

Fire Safety

In honor of fire prevention week, Morgan South Elementary school was asked by the Stockport Volunteer Fire Department to participate in a Fire Safety poster competition. The 6th, 2nd, 1st and Kindergarten grade art students were asked to make posters during their art class with positive behavior statements to encourage fellow students to prevent fires from happening. The posters were given to the Stockport Volunteer Fire Department and two finalists were selected as our local winners, Kodey Shuster a 6th grader in Mrs. Kidd’s homeroom and Caleb Six, a 2nd grader, in Mrs. Kidd’s homeroom. The two winning students were presented with an art certificate of achievement from Mrs. Strauss along with a bag of prizes for their hard work and great efforts.

Fire Safety Day is always a favorite day here at South Elementary and all of our students enjoy meeting with the firemen from the local participating departments and learning new safety procedures. The kids especially look forward to their turns sitting in the fire trucks and exploring the fire equipment.



Caleb Six and Mrs. Strauss

Kodey Shuster and Mrs. Strauss

East Pre-School Receives 5-Star Award

Morgan Local East Preschools received the highest star rating for their Step Up to Quality Assessment. Step Up To Quality recognizes and promotes learning and development programs that meet quality program standards and exceeds licensing, health, and safety regulations. The 5-star rating was awarded from Ohio Department of Education and Ohio Department Job and Family Services.

Teacher and Aide: Mrs. Patterson and Mrs. Finley
Teacher and Aide: Mrs. Stegner and Mrs. Bryan



Winning Student Author



Edén Ponchak,
winning author

In October the Marietta Times hosted their annual Scary Story Contest. Students wrote scary stories and the teachers submitted them for review. East Elementary was proud to learn that one of the 5th Grade students was a winner. Edén Ponchak, daughter of Zach and Lanie Ponchak, won for her story titled "The Cliffhanger". Participating students had their

names printed in the Marietta Times. Edén's story was published and was also read by one of the local radio stations.

Celebrating Veterans Day

To celebrate Veterans Day and honor all of those who have served or are still serving in the United States Armed Forces, the students at East Elementary did different activities to learn about the importance of this commemorative holiday. The second grade students, under the supervision of music teacher Katelyn Schultz performed two concerts, one during school hours for the student body and staff, and one in the evening for the public. The second graders completed papers about freedoms that they enjoy because of the sacrifices of our veterans. The student body was invited to bring in pictures of family members who served and attach them to papers showing the person's name and number of years served. All of the papers were hung in the cafeteria for all to see. Patriotic songs were performed. Some 6th graders joined in the festivities by singing the National Anthem. All veterans in attendance were recognized.



Morgan Junior High-Counselor's Corner: Dr. Vitale

Seventh grade students began career exploration by creating their student success plans. With the assistance of Dr. Vitale and Mrs. Nesselroad, students accessed the Ohio Means Jobs website, took the career profiler survey, and participated in a career exploration activity to discover their Holland Code. Each Holland Code describes a different personality type, and personality types match to potential careers. The students used their code to explore careers that would match well with their personality. Students in technology class further explored careers with Mrs. Russell by researching the careers that were of interest and presenting their findings to the class.

The month of October was Bullying Prevention month. Students engaged in activities throughout October to learn more about bullying and what they can do to prevent it. There were posters and bulletin boards throughout the school that gave suggestions on what to do to prevent bullying and students watched a video about bullying.



The backpacks program was started at the junior high in the month of October. The Backpacks Program offers a supply of nutritious meals and snacks to children for the weekend. The Backpacks Program is intended to help those children whose families find it difficult to have enough food for the entire month. Parents must sign approval for their students to participate. Students pick up the backpack at the school office on the way home. The food is purchased in pre-made packs from a local food bank or bagged by volunteers. The Backpacks Program is funded through a generous gift from the estate of Mrs. Syphers and other community members. Bags contain two breakfasts, two lunches, and two snacks. The bags are picked up by the student and are offered free of charge to students who qualify.



Students focused on "kindness" each school day in November. Students were challenged to participate in a specific random act of kindness. Examples of random acts of kindness performed by students at MJHS included: sitting by someone who was sitting at lunch alone, giving someone a sincere compliment, saying "hi" to a student or teacher they wouldn't normally talk to, holding the door open for someone and many more. Students listed suggestions for the random acts of kindness challenge by writing on the "kindness wall" in the cafeteria.



The staff at the junior high was actively involved in the events of October and November. Teachers, administrators, secretaries, custodians, and cooks put posters in their rooms, reminded students of the theme of the month, and modeled positive behavior for students. Their support was instrumental in assuring the success of the activities. Mrs. Helle, Mrs. Tabor, Mr. Hopkins, and Mr. Moore helped with distributing backpacks and announcing the kindness of the day. The cooperation and assistance of the staff at MJHS made it possible to implement all of these activities.

Health Tech Program

This is the first in a series of articles planned for future issues of the Morgan Reader that will highlight programs in our schools that prepare our students for academic success and for job and career readiness. Some of the programs we will highlight are at the early elementary through junior high levels that prepare students with the skills to succeed in reading, math, science and social studies. Other programs offer students the opportunity to take college courses without leaving our high school campus. Our Career Tech programs prepare students to be “employment ready” in one of 9 career fields when they graduate. We are highlighting one of those career fields in this issue of the Morgan Reader: The Health Tech Program.

By Mrs. Suermondt, Instructor



Welcome, Juniors and Seniors! Our classroom this year will be a very active one! Juniors, you will start off with medical terminology and nutrition classes, and take the State-tested nursing assistant modules in the second semester. Seniors, you will study for certifications in ECG and Phlebotomy, and learn a little more about medical math, law and ethics, cultural diversity, and health and wellness. You will all have an opportunity to visit different health care facilities, have a few field trips, and have fun learning! Some of you will be taking courses for college credit, some not. Some students taking medical terminology are not on the health tech pathway. Whatever your journey, welcome!

I have been so honored to embark on this journey! Allow me to tell you more about the program, but the story is really about the students in the program...their diversity, their richness, their dedication and eagerness as they learn ways to express their compassion for their fellow humans.

Currently, students begin our coursework their junior year. First semester are Medical Terminology and Nutrition. Both can be taken for college credit if the student meets criteria. They study the language of medicine and general background about the body systems. In Nutrition class, students learn how to identify healthy eating patterns and the effect nutrition has on human health and disease processes. Armed with new knowledge of proteins, carbohydrates, simple and complex sugars, nutrients, calories and energy, they discuss more healthful choices and learn to guide others for health. And, just ask about FOOD FRIDAY! They get to bring in food for a Friday feast. Of course, the fun has a price...we have to discuss how good it is (or not) for us!

Juniors also get an exposure to the varied professions a health pathway can lead to, and begin to learn how to physically care for those who cannot care for themselves. And that’s just the first semester! Second semester, the juniors will continue with medical terminology. Additionally, they train for their State Tested Nurse Aide designation, and will be able to work in a variety of health care settings by the time summer comes.

The senior year, students learn skills such as drawing blood and performing electrocardiograms, and will be eligible for national certification in those skills. They will also be learning medical mathematics and attend a capstone health and wellness course, putting their knowledge into a world perspective. Students can earn a total of 14 college credits over the two years if eligible.

Students in our program also learn the “soft skills” that employers often seek...how to communicate effectively, hallmarks of a good employee, and how respect, responsibility and professionalism play into successful employment.

Our mission at Morgan High School health tech is two-fold: one is to feed and grow the passion for care our students have. The other is to prepare them for successful employment after high school as they decide how to continue their journey, whether in the workforce, the university, or both. You see, we feel our students are our greatest asset. Indeed, they are our future.

Calendar

January 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Year's day	2	3	4 SCHOOL IS OPEN	5	6	7
8	9 MHS Semester Exams	10 East PTO 3:30 MHS Semester Exams	11 MHS Semester Exams	12 MHS Semester Exams	13 End of 2 nd 9 Weeks MHS Semester Exams	14
15	16 MLK Day NO SCHOOL	17 MHS-CCP Spring Term begins Second Semester Begins	18	19	20 East Hat Day	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 East WOW Assembly	28
29	30	31				

February 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 East Yearbook Candid Pictures 9:30	3	4 East Winter Festival 11:30-3:00
5	6	7	8	9	10 Special Reports	11
12	13	14 East PTO 3:30 Parent/Teacher Conferences Elementary 4:00-7:30 MHS 3:00-6:00	15	16 Parent/Teacher Conferences Elementary 4:00-7:30 MHS 3:00-6:00	17	18
19	20 Presidents Day NO SCHOOL	21	22 MHS Winter Choir Concert 7:00	23 Winter Band Concert w/ Crooksville and Maysville 7:00	24	25
26	27	28				

Calendar

March 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 East Jump Rope for Your Heart 3:30-5:30	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10 NO SCHOOL Staff Professional Development Day	11
12	13	14 East PTO 3:30 East Group Pictures and Pre-pay Individual Pictures	15 OGT TESTS	16 OGT TESTS	17 OGT TESTS	18
19	20 OGT TESTS	21 OGT TESTS	22 OGT TESTS	23 OGT TESTS	24 END OF 3 RD 9 WEEKS OGT TESTS	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 East WOW Assembly	

April 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 K-2 Artsbridge Opera House	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 East PTO 3:30	12	13 NO SCHOOL Spring Break	14 NO SCHOOL Good Friday	15
16 Easter Sunday	17 NO SCHOOL Spring Break	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 SPECIAL REPORTS East WOW Day	29
30						