



# The Morgan Reader

A Public Information Publication of the Morgan Local Schools  
To Our Stockholders (Taxpayers) of Morgan County  
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## Morgan High School Band Honored by Playing at the Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) Convention in Columbus



# General Information



**Lori S. Lowe,  
Superintendent**

## What a Whirlwind of a Year!

I can't believe we are approaching the holiday season!

A lot of GREAT activities and events have been going on at all our schools and I am thrilled that you will be learning about them in this edition of the Morgan Reader.

One of the greatest honors that has ever occurred for Morgan Local School District happened this fall. The Morgan Band was selected to represent Ohio's Southeast Region at the Annual Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) Conference in Columbus, Ohio.

The conference was held November 8-11, 2015 at the Columbus Convention Center and attended by thousands of board members, school representatives and education advocates. The purpose of this four day conference is to showcase "the best of the best" in Ohio and we are truly honored that our own Morgan Band was chosen to participate! The Morgan Band did an outstanding job representing all of Morgan County by playing beautifully for the packed auditorium area. The attendees were truly delighted at hearing them play and I heard many compliments about how "wonderful" and "awesome" our band is! I must admit that I was very proud to say they were representing Morgan County!

We are also proud of the outstanding work that Mr. Korey Parlin has done with our music program at Morgan Local. The band has soared to great heights with "Excellent" ratings and participation in state level competitions.

I hope you enjoy this edition of Morgan Reader and learn about other great programs, activities and events that are happening at all our buildings.

## Ask Ichabod

*Parents always have questions about school closings on "snow days". So let's review snow day procedures.*

### Snow Day Procedures

Our first concern is always student safety. There are snowy and icy days when it is not safe for our buses to be on the roads. In severe weather the sheriff may announce a level 1, 2, or 3 emergency. The level of snow emergency, road conditions, and the weather forecast all play into the decision to close schools. Water line breaks and electric power outages can also close schools.



**Ichabod Crane**

The decision to close schools is usually made before 5:30 a.m. Parents who have given us their phone number will be notified that schools are closed by an automated phone call. Parents who have not given us a phone number should listen to the local radio or TV stations to hear an announcement if schools are closed.

The automated phone system for emergency announcements will also be used should emergency situations arise that require closing schools in the middle of the day. Therefore, be sure the school has a phone number where you can be reached so you will know if your student is coming home at an unexpected time. It is also important for schools to have a second emergency number to call if you cannot be reached.

We are very judicious in considering closing schools because we realize the hardship it causes parents and we do all we can to protect instructional time.

If you have additional questions about school closings, or the automated phone announcement system, call 962-2377 and ask for Ichabod.

Sincerely,  
Ichabod Crane

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, McConnellsville, Ohio 43756, call 740-962-2377, or e-mail [mc-troutnerh@seovec.org](mailto:mc-troutnerh@seovec.org)

Individual issues of the Morgan Reader are supported by grant funds.

## Large Crowd Enjoys South BCEP Family Night

On September 29, 2015, almost 300 people were in attendance for the South Elementary Title I/BCEP (Building Community Engagement Panel) family night. The evening consisted of informative sessions that enlightened the parents and families of the many innovative programs and curriculum that are offered at South Elementary. The sessions included information on Title I, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Guarantee, Lucy Calkins Writing Pathways, 1<sup>st</sup> grade Information, High School Information about College Credit Plus and Career Technical Offerings, School Safety, Homework Heroes, Change of Heart, Kindergarten test (KRA), and Bus Safety.

The children enjoyed many activities including getting their face painted while their parents attended the sessions. At the end of the evening, there were drawings for two free Kindle Fires and gas cards for anyone who signed up and attended the sessions.

South's Principal, Mrs. Poling said that she was "excited to have such a great turnout from the community" and she also stated that she was "proud of the teacher and staff dedication that it took to put this successful evening together". Many positive comments were given on a parent survey where most said that they were very likely to attend future events.

The staff at Morgan South Elementary is very appreciative of everyone who attended. We would also like to thank the Chesterhill Fire Department for cooking the best steak sandwiches in the county. We hope to see all who attended back for our family night again next year!



Parents listen to staff presentations.



Chesterhill Fire Dept. fry steaks for the meeting.



Student activities



Children receive face paintings.

# General Information



**Korey Parlin is honored with a plaque by the Southeast Region of the Ohio School Boards Association as the Outstanding Educator from SE Ohio for his accomplishments with the Morgan High School Band.**



## Donation of Morgan Goodie Basket

The Morgan Local Education Association donated a basket containing items that show pride in Morgan Local Schools. Some of the items contained in the basket were an MHS blanket, t-shirt, coffee cups and other goodies that show the teachers' pride of working for such a great school district and to support the students of Morgan South Elementary for their Fall Festival. The teachers can't wait for East's and West's Festivals because they have baskets to share to support those students as well.



**Jeff Shaner, Morgan Board of Education President, presents a plaque from the Ohio School Board Association (OSBA) to Korey Parlin and several band members. The Morgan High School Band was honored by being invited to play at the OSBA Conference in Columbus.**

## MHS Dinner Theater: A Great Success



**Notice the beards on "them thar ladies"  
(See page 8)**

## Exploring Careers

Exploring careers begins early in our elementary schools and continues through high school as students prepare for college, **and a career!!** The pictures on this page, and on page 10, show how our elementary schools help students explore careers that might interest them. Students from the Morgan High School Career Tech Programs display the career training that is available in the Morgan Career Tech Program.

Representatives from local industry and business were present to demonstrate and discuss career opportunities available here in Morgan County.

Although these pictures were taken at the West Elementary Career Day, similar activities take place in all of our elementary schools.



The Morgan Career Tech Electronics Program demonstrates their activities for elementary students



Robots created in the Career Tech program fascinated elementary students.



David Griesmyer, owner of DG Welding demonstrates how he uses an MIG welder to create sculptures.



Chris Penrose discusses the Fracking and careers in the oil industry.

# Student Learning: The Arts

## 3rd and 4th Grade Students Enjoy Artsbridge Play



Third and Fourth Grade students in the Morgan Local School District recently attended a play at the Opera House in McConnellsville. The play was an Artsbridge performance presented by the Mad River Theater Company. The play highlighted the life of Eugene Jacques Bullard who was the first Black American fighter pilot.



## Veteran's Day Concert

On November 12, East 2<sup>nd</sup> graders performed a Veteran's Day concert for their families and the community. The local VFW began the program with a flag ceremony. Under the direction of Ms. Schultz, the students sang patriotic songs including: The Star Spangled Banner, God Bless America, and the 50 States song. Students read thank you letters they had written to veterans. Some were to family members and some were general letters of thanks. The cafeteria was decorated with American windsocks made in art with Ms. Lutkus and a military inspired craft with a short writing piece. The second graders and East staff members collected names of veterans in their families. Each of those names were written on stars which were put together to form an American Flag.

## Ohio University Holds Art Auction for West Art Students.

The art auction was November 16th in the Lindley Hall lobby at Ohio University. There was a great turn out as the public placed bids on the student artwork.

There were 30 students who had work at the auction. The student artists received 50% of the what their piece sold for. The other 50% was spent on buying new art supplies for the West Elementary art room. The total amount raised was \$965.00. The art room received the supplies on November 23. On Nov. 24, The students made thank you cards in art class to send to O.U. WE ARE SO VERY GRATEFUL!



Mrs. Shaffer and her art students give a "thumbs up" thank you to O.U for the Art Auction. Note the art supplies on the table that were purchased with funds from the Art Auction.



Audrey Kirkbride, Sierra Jarrell, and Cameron Jarrell looking at the bids placed on their artwork at the auction.

## Skills USA Sold 39 Mattresses: Earned \$6,350



L-R: Conner Campbell, Alyssa Tabler, Devin Greuey, Colin Veyon, Denver Curtis, John Thompson, and Megan Cle. Each student earned \$25 for each mattress they sold, for a total of \$800; and \$5,000 for the Skills USA Club.

## Parent and Community Engagement

Schools belong to the community so naturally we want the community to be involved in our schools. All buildings hold Building Community Engagement Programs (BCEP) and/or Title 1 Programs to meet with community members to discuss school programs.

Pictures here show a parent/community cook out at East and the MHS Basketball Team meeting the community for breakfast. (See page 3 for more BCEP pictures)



Community members at East enjoy a cookout.



The boys basketball team hosted their 3rd Annual Flapjack Breakfast in order to meet the community.



East students enjoy a marshmallow roast during parent meetings.

**The Morgan Drama Club hosted the Second Dinner Theater Titled "The Groom Has Cold Feet"**



**The Cast Picture**

The following high school staff members also participated in helping to produce the dinner theater: Alison Rucker, Jon Shuster, Gabe Hickerson, and Adam Copeland all volunteered their time to star in the show with the Drama Seniors

Our set was built by the carpentry class and painted by the art classes. Mr. Garber and Mrs. Morrow did outstanding work.

This was the second year for a dinner theater performance. The play was a sold out performance with a capacity crowd of 215 in the audience



**Trace Schaad**

**Makayla Keller**

**Riley Newton**

**Mason Edgell and Terra Hogue**





**Mr. Cory Scott is playing a Chapter Review game with students in Mr. Bragg's 8th grade Social Studies class. Students in this class are W.C. Wiseman, Kyle Nolen, Levi Jarvis, Ryleigh Keirns, Mikasa Mayle, Tyler Neal, Sierra Finley, Maddison Qualls, Kayli Michaels, Zoe Holcomb, Kiara Murphey, and Bradley Morrow.**



**Taylor Gorrell, an 8th grade student, tries out Cosmetology during the Career Tech visit at MHS.**

## Morgan Junior High Students Learn About the Legal Aspects of Alcohol Use

Morgan Junior High Health classes appreciated their up close and personal visit by Agent Michael Betts of the Enforcement Agents of the Ohio Investigative Unit. Agent Betts is part of The Sober Truth Program which is designed to increase student's knowledge about the effects of alcohol and to encourage responsible decision making.

Agent Betts focused on the legal aspects of alcohol use through personal enforcement experiences, role-playing and a question and answer session.

Agent Betts is assigned to the Athens District Office which has 19 counties in its jurisdiction. Students were quick to volunteer and were polite and respectful, according to Agent Betts. He looks forward to coming back to Morgan Local Schools



## Career Day At West



The High School Career Tech Cosmetology students demonstrate their skills on West students.



The High School Career Tech Electronics department demonstrates drones.



Jake Woodward, owner of Jake's Cafe, discusses a career in the food service business.



Representatives from MIBA discuss careers in precision machining.



A career in furniture design



Board of Education President, Jeff Shaner shares his hobby of woodworking.



## Morgan South Elementary School's Author Day

Morgan South Elementary hosted Author's Day on September 29, 2015. The students enjoyed hearing Susanne Best, music teacher at South and new author of the book "The Musical Adventures of Logan and Reed", and Julia Wagner the illustrator, retired art teacher from Morgan Local Schools.

The students listened as Mrs. Best read the story and explained why she wrote the book. Mrs. Wagner picked a student from each group and demonstrated how she could draw a caricature and how she and Mrs. Best collaborated by e-mail to make the characters in the story. What was so exciting was that many of the students and some staff members were characters in the book.

Mrs. Best took pictures of the students and e-mailed the photos to Mrs. Wagner to make the characters. Mrs. Best and Mrs. Wagner were very impressed by how attentive and welcoming the students were about the author/illustrator visit. This allowed the students to get another perspective of and about Mrs. Best outside of the music classroom. A great day was had by all.



In response to the tragic accident that claimed the lives of two Morgan High School Band members, "Green for Hope" became the color of choice at many of our schools.

## Chesterhill Fire Department Sponsors Fire Prevention Poster Contest



### Poster Contest Winners Hope Ellis and Payge Backus with the Chesterhill Fire Department.

In honor of fire prevention week, October 4-10th, Morgan South Elementary school was asked by the Stockport Volunteer Fire Department to participate in a Fire Safety poster competition. The 4th, 5th, 2nd, and 1st grade art students were asked to make posters during their art class with positive behavior statements to encourage fellow students to make the right choice with fire and to emphasize fire safety issues. The posters were given to the Stockport Volunteer Fire Department and two finalists were selected as our local winners, Hope Ellis a 4th grader in Mrs. Shuster's homeroom and Payge Backus, a 2nd grader, in Mrs. Kidd's homeroom. These students were presented as the winners and met the firemen during the fire prevention day at South Elementary and had their picture taken in front of the fire truck. These two local winners will now have their posters submitted to a committee established by the Division of State Fire Marshal to be considered for the finalist in the statewide poster competition. The winning entries from the statewide competition will receive a special recognition by the Division of State Fire Marshal in the late winter/early spring of 2016.





**East 2nd graders enjoy new playground equipment purchased with Boxtops for Education collected by the students and staff of the school.**

Through the efforts of the students and parents of Morgan East Elementary who have been collecting Boxtops for Education for the past few years, Morgan East PTO was able to purchase a new playground set for students in grades three and younger. We were only able to complete this project with the help of Morgan Local schools, who purchased the mulch for us. We would like to thank Mrs. Snyder-Lowe and the school board for their generosity. We would also like to thank Mike Copeland for getting the ground ready for the crew to set up the structure.



**The Trial Participants**

## East 5th and 6th Grades Conduct a Mock Trial



**Conducting the Trial**



**Students collect and prepare evidence**

In Mrs. Jadwin's 6th/5th grade language arts, the students have just started on opinion/argument writing. As a way to motivate the students and get them thinking about using evidence to back up their claims, we held a mock trial. The trial was based on Spongebob Squarepants (a very popular show for this age group). Students were put into teams of prosecution and defense lawyers with various evidence to form their case around. Both 5th and 6th graders did an amazing job at getting into their roles. Many dressed in professional clothes, brought in samples from the "crime scene," carried brief cases, and most importantly, were able to link all the evidence together in a very convincing way!

## Morgan High School French classes show their support for the victims of Paris terrorist attacks.



By Alyson White, French Teacher

Liberté, Égalité, Fraternité – Freedom, Equality, and Brotherhood: three principles that the nation of France was founded on. The same three pillars that the French people are leaning on pretty heavily these past few days, as they are left reeling after a terrorist attack killed 129 and injured hundreds more.

As Americans, we pride ourselves on similar statutes, and we work hard to instill the same pride and strength in our own children. This is why explaining these events to our kids and students can be so difficult, we never plan for the worst-case scenario. It goes without saying, that I approached class on Monday with a heavy heart, wanting to find a way to turn this into a teachable moment for my classes.

After hearing of the events, and processing all of the information, it seemed that perhaps the best way to approach the situation was with peace instead of anger, and the first thing that came to mind were prayer flags. These flags are colorful pieces of cloth or paper that are used to promote peace, compassion, strength, and wisdom. Tradition states that the flags are a gesture of good will to spread to all those who need it. Simple enough, these handmade flags share words of hope, kindness, and positivity for the people of Paris. Each one of my students embraced the project, and created their own prayer flag to show their support and thoughts for the

people affected by the tragedy.

Refusing to be brought down, the students turned these horrible events into ones of light and optimism. Much like the people of France, these young people refused to be defeated by these events and chose, instead, to persevere and shine despite the storm—one of the best examples that could come to mind when one considers the ideals of Freedom, Equality, and Brotherhood. I am proud to say that these students rose to the occasion, and they now know what it means to be a true ally.

## Morgan Archery



**Morgan Archers 4-12 prepare for the Muskingum Valley Archery League. The League begins in Feb. The league shoots will be in Crooksville at the Southeastern Sportsman Club.**

Morgan Archers are holding a Gift Card Raffle: \$500.00 gift card from Cabela's & two \$25.00 gift cards. 1 ticket for \$5.00 or 3 tickets for \$10.00 contact Coach Wheeler or any archer if interested. Drawing will be Dec. 19. The winner will be contacted.

# Special Programs



The Cross Country Team: Jordan Penrod represents Morgan at the State Cross Country Meet.

## The Power Team

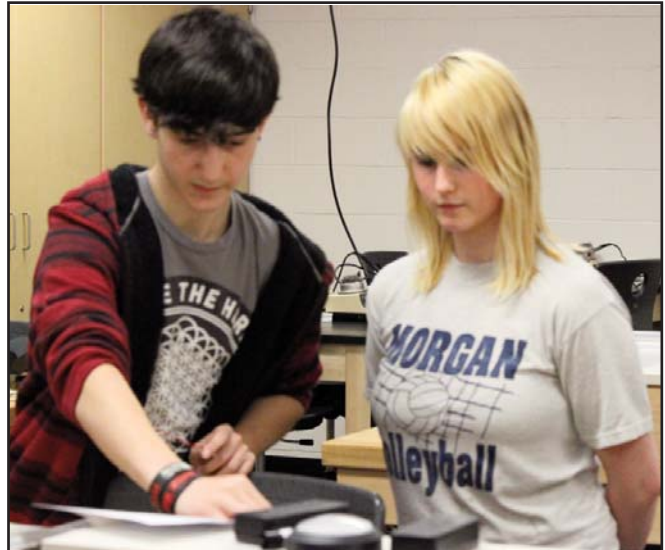


During a Junior high assembly, a Power Team Member is using Kyle Nolen to illustrate the point that students should aspire to become dream makers, not dream takers.

## Junior High Students Check out Career Tech Opportunities

Eighth grade students spent class time exploring the many career opportunities available if they choose one of the Career Tech programs when they get to high school next year.

In the pictures below students are learning about careers in electronics. In addition training is available for careers in Precision Machining, Agriculture, Carpentry, Auto Mechanics, Health Services, and Cosmetology, just to name a few.



A Career Tech Student shows his electronics project to Amrie Sites



MHS Electronics student, Adam Nicewander, shows Harmon Weaver, an 8th grade student his project.

# Calendar

## December

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 West Christmas Program 2:00 p.m. students 7:00 p.m. parents	15 East 3rd and 4th Grade Christmas Concert @ the Opera House 7p.m.	16 South Christmas Program 7:00 p.m. MHS Local Scholarship Info for Seniors 10:58-11:28	17 West Green Arrow Assembly 2:45 p.m. West PTO 4:00 p.m. MHS Holiday Music Concert 7:00 p.m.	18 East raffle turn in	19 East Basketball Games
20	21 Christmas Break NO SCHOOL	22 Christmas Break NO SCHOOL	23 Christmas Break NO SCHOOL	24 Christmas Break NO SCHOOL	25 Christmas Break NO SCHOOL	26
27	28 Christmas Break NO SCHOOL	29 Christmas Break NO SCHOOL	30 Christmas Break NO SCHOOL	31 Christmas Break NO SCHOOL		

## January

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
					1 Christmas Break NO SCHOOL	2
3	4 SCHOOL BEGINS East Raffle Turn in	5	6	7	8 East Raffle Turn in	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 East Raffle Turn in END OF 2 <sup>ND</sup> 9 WEEKS	16
17	18 NO SCHOOL MLK DAY	19 East Student Raffle begins	20	21	22 East Raffle Turn in	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 East Raffle Turn in MHS Morgan Youth Basketball Tournament	30 MHS Morgan Youth Basketball Tournament
31						

# Calendar

## February

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1	2 West Bookmobile	3	4 Parent Teachers Conferences Elem 4:00-7:00	5	6 East Winter Festival 11:30-3:00
7	8	9	10 West Bookmobile	11 Parent Teachers Conferences Elem 4:00-7:00	12 Special Reports	13
14	15 NO SCHOOL PRESIDENTS' DAY	16	17 West Jump Rope for your Heart 3:30 – 5:30	18	19 MHS Archery Tournament 6:00-8:00 pm.m	20 MHS Archery Tournament 7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
21	22	23	24 East Jump Rope for your Heart	25 MHS Winter Music Concert 7:00 p.m.	26	27
28	29					

## March

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 START DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME	14 OGT	15 OGT East Spring Pictures	16 OGT	17 OGT West Pictures	18 OGT END OF 3 <sup>RD</sup> 9 WEEKS FFA Banquet	19
20	21	22	23 SPRING BREAK NO SCHOOL	24 SPRING BREAK NO SCHOOL	25 SPRING BREAK NO SCHOOL	26
27	28	29	30	31		