



The Morgan Reader

A Public Information Publication of the Morgan Local Schools
To Our Stockholders (Taxpayers) of Morgan County
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MORGAN EARNS DESIGNATION AS “SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS DISTRICT”

Morgan Local School District recently learned that it earned the designation of “*Significant Progress District*” from the leading education organization, Battelle for Kids. The honor is being based on value added data from the 2014 district composite index in grades 4-8 math and reading. Value added data is the primary source of data used to determine student academic growth. It is based on the amount of academic growth a child makes in a year. Morgan Local students have continually made more than a year’s worth of growth each year and have exceeded predictions for their learning. “We are very proud of our students and staff. They continually demonstrate success and high achievement and have proven that hard work and dedication truly pay off,” Superintendent Lori Snyder-Lowe stated.

South Elementary School also earned the prestigious “*High Progress School*” award from Battelle for Kids. This award is also based on value added data. Superintendent Lowe expressed, “South students and staff exceeded all expectations for growth this past year and are making huge gains with student achievement. The culture of “South Strong” is one that is truly working.”

Morgan Local School District has received the honor of “Excellent District” from the Ohio Department of Education in the past. However, this is the first time that Battelle for Kids has recognized the district’s achievements. A special ceremony was held at the Columbus Convention Center in November during the Ohio School Boards Capital Conference to honor the district and South Elementary.

“Obviously our staff members work very hard every single day to make sure that every single student reaches his or her highest potential. It is great for Morgan to be recognized for all the hard work and dedication our staff members provide to our students on a daily basis” Superintendent Lowe concluded.



Front: Morgan Board of Education Members: Sharon Slowter, Becky Thompson, Mary Pat Hanson, South Principal, Sherry Poling, South Teacher, Mary Beth Hickerson, and Morgan Board Member, Jeff Shaner Back: Lori Lowe, Superintendent, Richard Ross, State Superintendent, Jim Mahoney Battelle For Kids, and Susan Gable Morgan Treasurer.

General Information



Lori S. Lowe, Superintendent

We Are Blessed!

Where has the school year gone? I can't believe we are almost half-way through!

In this edition of the Reader, you will see the many great things that are happening in our schools. From concerts and academic programs to sports accomplishments and

art examples; we truly have a lot to be proud of here at Morgan!

In addition to all these great programs and events for our children, we are working "behind the scenes" to add more opportunities for our high school students to expand their learning. From dual enrollment options (where students earn both high school and college credit for their classes), to online and blended learning (combining online learning with direct classroom instruction) options, there is truly something for everyone.

An often overlooked asset of Morgan High School is our career technical (CT) offerings. These are a HUGE asset to our students and we are really fortunate that our students have access to these great programs on our own campus so they do not have to travel outside the county to learn career skills.

Obviously, these outstanding programs enhance learning opportunities for children and help us find ways for every single child to reach his or her highest potential. These programs would not be possible without the dedicated staff members who make them happen! We are very blessed to have such outstanding teachers, custodians, aides, secretaries, cooks, mechanics, bus drivers, maintenance workers, and administrators who care so deeply about our children!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Ask Ichabod

*Dear Ichabod,
Why do our students take so many tests? It seems that almost every week my child has some big exam coming up. Doesn't all of this testing take up a lot of time from actual teaching and learning?*

Concerned Parent



Ichabod Crane

Dear Concerned Parent, Assessments (tests) are used to guide instruction by measuring individual student progress to determine what to teach each student, and the class, next. Tests are also used as a measure of teacher effectiveness.

Tests like the Ohio Academic Achievement (OAA) tests given in grades 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8, and End Of Course (EOC) exams given in high school, are required by the state to assure our students are mastering the required curriculum. The "third grade guarantee" and the Ohio Graduation (OGT) (also required by the state) are examples of "gate keeper" tests. The student cannot go on until they pass these tests.

The assessments that are most important in determining the pace of instruction and student learning are the informal assessments teachers conduct daily as they analyze the responses students give during classroom discussions and activities. The grading of daily work contributes to the "grades" given on the progress report card.

Tests are an important component of instruction and student learning. Just as a physician uses tests to diagnose health problems and plan a course of treatment; teachers use tests to diagnose learning problems and plan the course for learning.

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, McConnelsville, Ohio 43756, or call 740-962-2377, or e-mail mc-troutnerh@seovec.org

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Morgan Girls' Cross Country Sets New Records



The Meet Begins



Britney Hegley Catches up



And the winner is -----?

The Morgan Girls' Cross Country Team has had a fantastic year. They won the first MVL Championship in 12 years. This team was the first District Runner-up since 2000. This year was only the third time in Girls' Cross Country school history to be Regional Runner-up (1986 and 1994). Five of the seven team members are Ohio All-Academic only because two freshman girls were not eligible.

The team started the season placing Second at Claymont Invitational, First at Newcomerstown, and Second at the Watkins Memorial. They continued the season First at the Medbery Invitational, Third at the Malone Invitational, First at Cambridge Invitational, Second at the District Meet, Second at the Regional Meet, and finally Sixteenth at the State Meet.

At the Nike Midwest Regional Meet at Terre Haute, Indiana the team finished 15th out of 29 teams in the Open division from a five state area (Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, and Kentucky).

Congratulations girls!

Morgan Raider Junior High Football Awards



Michael Scott and Ethan Fisher are the recipients of the Marty Henderson Coaches Award.



Clayton Cook is the recipient of the Terry Patterson Coaches Award.



Student Learning

The 8th grade Pre-Algebra classes and the 7th grade ROCHS class recently finished a unit on transformations. As a culminating activity, Mrs. Bebout, Mr. Copeland, Mr. Fleming and Mr. Zumbro had their classes create a dilation of a Washington D.C. monument. The students chose a monument and researched it. They found the dimensions of the structure and facts about it. They were then given the scale factor of 2 meters = 1 centimeter. They made sketches of their design. The students then chose what to build their structures out of and worked in class creating them. The students presented their projects to the class.

After the presentations each class voted for their top 3 designs. The top 3 designs from each class were then displayed in the gym. The participating students voted on their favorite 3 designs and the top 3 were announced. First place was The Jefferson Memorial constructed by Amy Hornacek and Joe Carpenter. Second place was also The Jefferson Memorial constructed by Josie Wells and Riley Coon. Third place was The Washington Monument constructed by Kaleb Kloh and Spencer Misuraca.

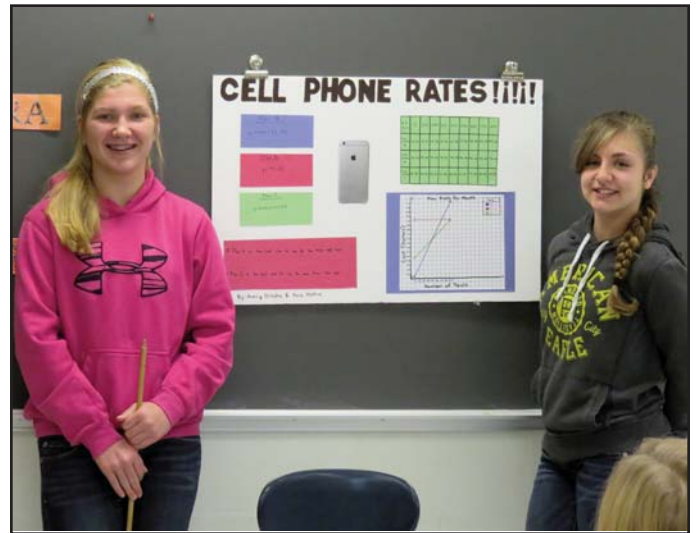


Josie Wells and Riley Coon with the second place design.



Kaleb Kloh and Spencer Misuraca with the third place design.

Applying Algebra to Everyday Problems



Kara Hopkins and Avery Dillaha compare cell phone plans using Algebra.

Mrs. Bebout's 8th grade Algebra classes recently finished a unit on linear equations. As a culminating activity, the students were given 3 cell phone plans. They were to write a function rule for each plan. They then made a table of values for each plan from 100 texts through 800 texts. They graphed all 3 plans on the same coordinate plane. The students then found out which plan was better for less than 400 texts and which plan was better for more than 400 texts. The students put all of this into a poster and presented it to the class.



Amy Hornacek and Joe Carpenter display their first place design of the Jefferson Monument

South Students Combine Art with Science to Make Their Study of Ecosystems More Meaningful

At Morgan South Elementary, Mr. Fields and Mrs. Strauss worked together on a cross-curricular science and art lesson with their 5th grade students. In science class, with Mr. Fields, the students were assigned an ecosystem project. This project was an in depth lesson which required the students to research important facts about their ecosystems and then create a detailed diorama as a creative way to showcase their learning.

In art class, the students worked with Mrs. Strauss to create their dioramas. They started with an ordinary shoe box and then brought their ecosystems to life using their artistic skills. Students worked with Mrs. Strauss to cover their shoe boxes with paper and then draw, paint, and adorn the boxes to create a replica of their ecosystem. They were asked to include animals, plants, and elements that were found strictly in their assigned ecosystems. Students also were encouraged to use objects from nature or home to enhance their dioramas such as sand, grass, sticks, and plastic animals.

The students discovered that combining science with art made their learning much more complete and realistic.



Mrs. Strauss helps students assemble their dioramas in Art Class.



Chloe Snyder collects research on the Internet for her diorama.



Natasha Mayle works on assembling her ecosystem diorama.



Mr. Fields gives advice to Sarah Parsons and David Norris about the content to place in their dioramas.

Student Learning

Junior High Outdoor Education at Camp Hervida



Ainsley Olney is concentrating as she works at the polymers station.



Che Venoy (accent on the “e” of Che) and Amya Carnes are looking for salamanders.



Brady Tigner, Tiara Butcher and Derek Little are playing one of the outdoor games.



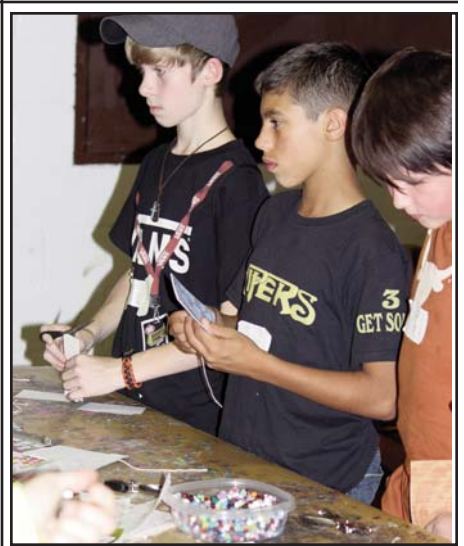
Madison Craig, Shakira Wardrip, Collin Jackson, Colton Young and Abigail Johnson play a game of War.



Bradley Morrow is working on Japanese printmaking.



Sarah Woodall is working on her archery skills.



Mason Savage, Colton Young and Keaton Brownrigg are learning about recycling.

Firemen Visit South Kindergarten and Pre-School



Bryson Mayle looks like a real fireman.



A fireman shows how to crawl under the smoke of a fire.



The students see how patients are cared for in the EMS van.



Kindergarten students with the firemen and truck.

Math Night Activities At West



Tristen Smallwood, Angela Smallwood, MaKayla Penrod, and Taylor Waggy

Building an Ecosystem Diorama



Ezekiel Hooper designs his ecosystem diorama.



East Elementary collected over 1000 cans of food for the Food Drive. Mrs. Cunningham's 2nd Grade Class received donuts from Par Mar for bringing in the most non perishable items.



The second graders performed in a Veterans Day Concert on November 13, 2014 on the East stage. They went on tour and performed their songs at Riverside Landing and Highland Oaks the following day. Their concert was fantastic!



Second Grade students have gingerbread classrooms.



Second Grade students display their drawings and descriptions of cloud types in their study of the weather.



Mr. Hollingshead's Sixth Grade students find a comfortable way to read.



Mrs. Jenkins' Fifth Grade students watch a news article about the visit of Prince William and Princess Kate on their classroom Promethean Board.

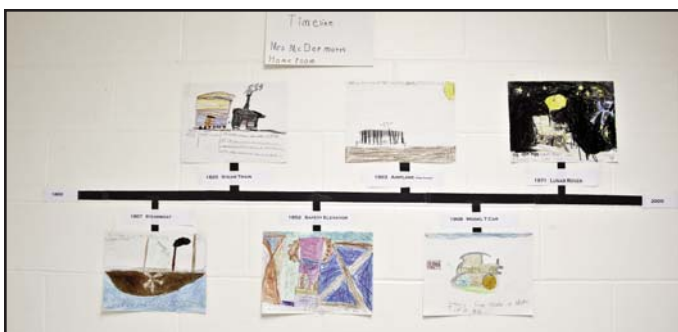
Pre-K Creates Cancer Awareness Display



The South Preschool created a bulletin board for the month of October Cancer Awareness. The theme was "Kick Out Cancer In Our Lifetime" Pink ribbons were passed out to all staff and students. They were posted on the board with names to honor loved ones battling cancer. Footballs with the names of each preschool student were shown being kicked through the goal post.



Mrs Kidd's Third Grade developed a timeline showing the history of transportation from steamboats to Lunar Rover.



Mrs McDermott's Third Grade developed a timeline showing the history of communication from telegraph to satellites.

South Elementary Recognized As A School of High Progress



Morgan South Elementary was recently recognized by Battelle for Kids as a School of High Progress. South was among the top schools of all participating SOAR schools, based on the 2014 annual school composite index. South was included in the Grades 4-8 group in reading and math data in the analysis.

The South staff is very proud of this recognition as only 15 schools in the State of Ohio was recognized as a School of High Progress. South was given a banner and a plaque as a memento of their accomplishment.



Here the South staff celebrates with a cake presented by Central Office.

See more South pictures and article on page 5.

Math Night at West



Kindergarten, grades 1, and 2, Make It-Take It table



Mrs. Adams, Wyatt Weaver, Conner Adams, and Vanessa Adams



Nick Porter, Zach Porter, Peyton Drake, Angela Drake, Dalton Drake, and Misti Clemens



Broedy Greuey, Peyton Drake, and Haley Hambel,

Kingdom of Learning

West Elementary had a wonderful turnout from students and families as they “Entered the Kingdom of Learning”. Families participated in games with their children and learned about the new Early Learning Content Standards and PARCC testing. Students left with new treasures as they attended make-it, take-it stations while parents met with teachers.



Kingdom of Learning activities

October Students of the Month



Shelby Lockwood



Gabby Morrow



Kylie Rose



Chance Myers

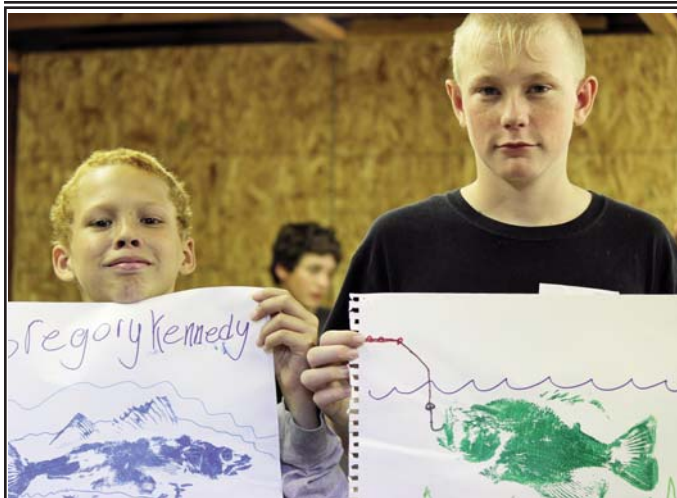
Hands on Science Through Outdoor Education at Camp Hervida



Logan Alsop and Greg Kennedy participate in the Stream Exploration session.



Josh Wells, Jalen Waller, Malachi Morrison and Michael Skellett are preparing their plastic bottle rocket.



Greg Kennedy and Sheridan Gillespie share their art work.



Their bottle rocket deployed its chute perfectly. NASA here we come.

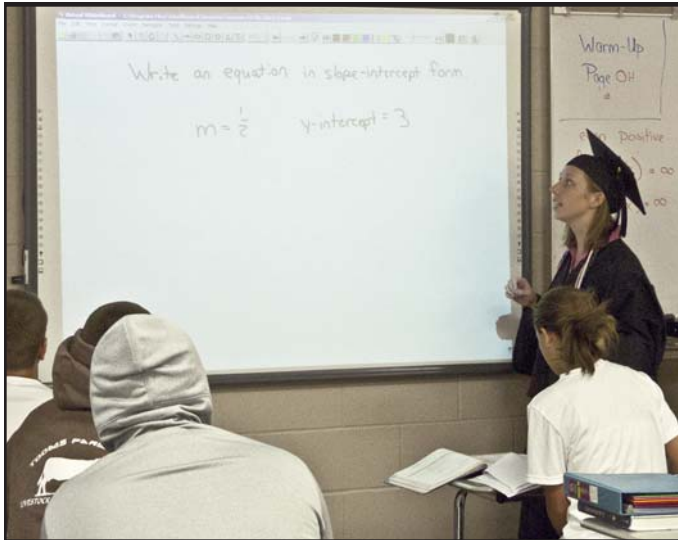
See more Camp Hervida pictures on page 6

College and Career Day

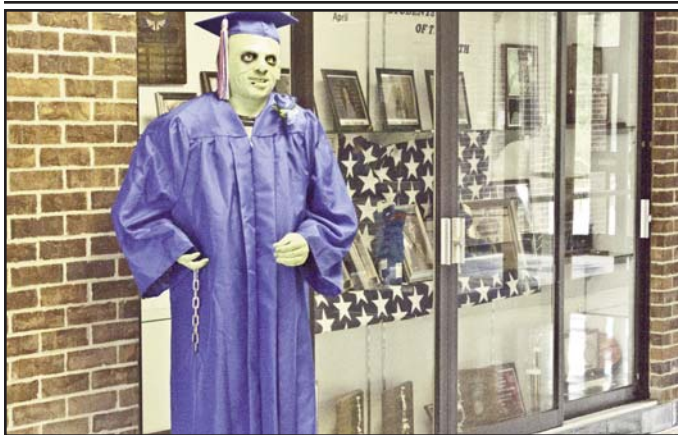
High school teachers taught in caps and gowns to illustrate the importance of a college education to achieve a professional career.



Mr. Shuster teaching an English class



Mrs. Scott teaching a math class



Even Frank got into the act.

FFA Demonstrates Parliamentary Procedure to Morgan Board of Education



The Morgan FFA Chapter is shown here demonstrating their skill with Roberts Rules of Order (Parliamentary Procedure) for the Morgan Board of Education. Learning how to properly conduct a meeting is one of the skills taught in the Vocational Agriculture program.

Preparing for Careers In Cosmo and Precision Machining



A fantastic Christmas Concert was presented by the Music Department of Morgan Schools to a full house in the McKinney Theater at MHS. By their applause, the audience agreed that band and choral music were alive and well in Morgan Schools. This page and the next show the involvement of our students in music.



Mrs. Mead directs the Elementary Band during the Christmas Concert.



Mr. Parlin directs the Junior High Band during the Christmas Concert.



Mr. Parlin directs the High School Band during the Christmas Concert.



Mr. Becker directs the High School Choir during the Christmas Concert.



Mr. Becker directs the Combined Junior High and High School Choir during the Christmas Concert.

Calendar

January

<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 East PTO Meeting 3:30	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 MLK Day No School	13	14	15 Two hour late start	16 END OF 2ND NINE WEEKS	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February

<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 Elem.PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCE 4:00 - 7:30 MJHS & MHS 3:00- 6:00	6	7 East Winter Festival February 7th 4:30-8:00 Fun & Games
8	9	10 East PTO Meeting 3:30	11	12 MJHS & MHS 3:30 pm -7:00 pm Parent-Teacher Conferences	13	14
15	16 NO SCHOOL Presidents Day (Fed)	17	18 West Jump Rope for Heart 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.	19 MHS & MJHS Winter Holiday Concert	20 SPECIAL REPORTS	21
22	23	24	25 East Jump Rope for Heart 3:30-5:30	26 8th Grade NAEP Assessment	27	28

Calendar

March

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
1	2 Artsbridge 3rd & 4th Grade Opera House " Juggernaut Jug Band" 10:00 - 11:30	3	4	5 BCEP Meeting at South 5:30- 7:30	6	7
8 Start Daylight Savings Time	9	10 East PTO Meeting 3:30	11	12	13	14
15	16 OGT BEGINS	17 East Spring Pictures/Class Pics	18 OGT	19 OGT	20 END OF 3RD NINE WEEKS	21
22	23 OGT	24 OGT	25 OGT	26 OGT	27 OGT	28
29	30	31				

2015

Raider Academy Students Assemble Pre-K School Equipment



Tyler Geelen and Dalton Sanders

Students (above) in the Raider Academy helped by assembling easels and cubbies for the new preschool as part of their Raider Academy program. The activity required them to follow precise instructions to assure that they were assembling the equipment properly.

Morgan Freshman Girl's Volleyball Team Wins MVL Championship



L to R: Alexandra Sebring, Athena Lowe, Alexis Masterson, Chelse Hill, Coach Susan Buchanan, Alexa Scott, Jensen Greer, Jaden Ashton, and Audrey Porter