



# The Morgan Reader

A Public Information Publication of the Morgan Local Schools  
To Our Stockholders (Taxpayers) of Morgan County  
Supported by Grant Funds --- Circulation 7,600  
Volume 13, Number 1 September 2014

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## Morgan Opens New Pre-K



The Morgan Pre-K is on the front of the East Elementary School grounds

Research proves that pre-school is important for every child to gain the skills needed to build a strong foundation for success in school. Pre-school is especially important to children who are developmentally delayed or who do not have the economic advantages of students in wealthy communities. Unfortunately, funding is not yet available for pre-school to be offered to all students in Morgan County.

In the past, Morgan Schools have been fortunate to have three pre-school classes for students who were identified by the Help Me Grow program and through testing. Next, typically developing students were identified through screening to serve as one-to-one role models for these students. In addition, Morgan had one preschool class for students based on income. This year funding from the state was available to add one more class based on income. To accommodate this expansion, the Morgan School Board was able to purchase the former Stay and Play pre-school building pictured here to house two pre-school classes.

There are two classrooms at the new pre-school site. The staff members are Mrs. Cherie Rex and Teaching Assistant Mrs. Debbie Finley and Mrs. Mindy Stegner and Teaching Assistant Mrs. Jane Hutchins.

The new preschool building contains two classroom areas, cafeteria, office, and restrooms. The new environment provides space for circle time, free choice, centers, story time, dramatic play, and block building. Additionally, both indoor and outdoor play space is available.

The new learning standards adopted by the Ohio Department of Education describe key concepts and skills that young children need to develop during the birth through five year old period. These skills include naming colors, numbers, and letters, learning to share and cooperate with other children and adults, language and literacy development, motor development, and physical wellbeing.



Snack Time At PreK



Some of the wall murals were drawn by Karen Johnson, Mrs. Copeland's, sister.



Families visit during open house.

# General Information



**Lori S. Lowe,  
Superintendent**

## Welcome Back!

Welcome Back, Students! I am so excited about the possibilities for the 14-15 school year!

Our students are back in the buildings and the energy and enthusiasm are contagious. The students are as excited as the staff about the new school year and the endless possibilities to succeed!

I want to welcome our new staff members included in this newsletter. They come from private industry, other school districts (Maysville, New Lexington, Marietta, Meigs, and others), from college (as a student), from college (as a teacher), and even one teacher from Arizona.

Even more exciting is that some of these new staff members are former Morgan graduates and are “coming home”!! I know these new teachers will continue our efforts to ensure that every child at Morgan reaches his or her highest potential.

I also want to recognize the hard work of the high school staff. They have been working diligently to ensure that we are offering great career and college pathways for our students. From learning trade skills to earning college credit, (and many options in between) – it is exciting to see our high school students being challenged and planning for their futures.

All of us at Morgan have high expectations for a prosperous 14-15 school year. We will continue to “BE PROUD OF OUR PAST AND FOCUSED ON OUR FUTURE”!

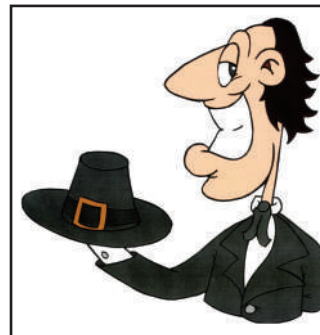
The Morgan Reader is published quarterly during the school year and is delivered to every household in Morgan County. The Morgan Reader is a report to the community about their schools. Your comments, questions, and suggestions are welcomed. Questions and issues raised by readers will be addressed in 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, or call 740-962-2377, or e-mail [mc-troutnerh@seovec.org](mailto:mc-troutnerh@seovec.org)

Publication of The Morgan Reader is supported by grant funds.

## Ask Ichabod

*Dear Ichabod,*  
*It seems to me that our children are missing a lot of instructional time when schools are closed for waiver days and late start days. Are these days of missed school really necessary? I understand that these days have something to do with teacher training. Didn't they get the training they needed in college?*  
*Concerned,*  
*Parent*



**Ichabod Crane**

Dear Concerned Parent,

Waiver Days (Professional Development Days) and Late Start Days do not count against instructional time. Professional Development days occur on days when schools are not in session. The State of Ohio no longer counts days schools are required to be in session. Instead, the state requires that schools be open for instruction a minimum of 1,001 hours. In Morgan Schools, teachers are required to work more days (1,281 hours) than students are required to be in school. Therefore, Professional Development Days and Late Start Days do not count against instructional time.

Morgan Schools are scheduled to be in session 1,062 hours this year. This provides a “cushion” in case schools are closed because of snow. If schools are closed for snow, we may need to add additional hours.

As other articles in this edition of The Morgan Reader show, (see pages 4, 8, and 14) the way education is delivered, the curriculum standards, and instructional practices are changing rapidly. We must provide training to keep our staff on the cutting edge of these improvements. On-the-job training is common in most jobs and particularly in the professions to keep employee's skills up to date.

More important however, is the need to collaborate. Teachers no longer work in isolation; they work in grade level and subject area teams to share their instructional plans and best practices with each other. Because of this training and collaboration, students are the ultimate benefactors as a result of improved instruction.

Sincerely,  
*Ichabod*



# General Information

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## Twenty New Teachers Join the Morgan Staff



**Greg Becker,**  
Choir MHS



**Brooke Cunningham,**  
2nd Grade East



**Aaron Dulaney,**  
Technology MJHS



**Adam Hollingshead,**  
6th Grade East



**Ashley Knight,**  
2nd Grade East



**Colton Kreager,**  
Vo. Ag. MHS



**Pierrette Morales-  
Hanning,** Spanish MHS



**Donna Morrison,**  
PE/Health MJHS



**Rachel Newlon,**  
3rd Grade East



**Kelsey Robinson,**  
1st Grade West



**Katherine Roush,**  
5th Grade East



**Jemma Shepherd,**  
2nd Grade East



**Angela Shriver,**  
6th Grade East



**Brian Simms,**  
Machining MHS



**Christopher Stanton,**  
Intervention South



**Drew Stemen,**  
4th Grade East



**Christopher Treen,**  
Math MHS



**Alyson White,**  
French MHS



**Grant Wilcoxon,**  
English MHS



**Sarah Wiseman,**  
Kindergarten West



# General Information

## School Started Four Days Early For School Staffs



**Susan Troutner, Curriculum Director, meets with all district elementary teachers to discuss the topics listed in the article below, that they will be working on throughout the year.**

Morgan teachers met on August 14, 15, 18, and 19, four days before school started, to prepare for the coming school year. New teachers met on August 14 for orientation, all teachers met on the 15th for training in the topics below. All teachers met together on the 18th for the general district wide orientation and on the 19th they met at the building level on building issues and to prepare their classrooms for students.



**Sherry Poling, Principal at South, works with a group of elementary teachers doing an on-line training in Formative Instructional Practices (FIP).**

Some of the topics covered in the four-day meetings are listed below:

**Formative Instructional Practices:** Teachers learned how to use formal and informal measures to gather evidence of student learning to accelerate the progress of each student.

**New State Standards:** Teachers became familiar with the more rigorous curriculum expected in all content areas and at each grade level.

**Assessment Literacy:** Teachers learned how to develop tests that accurately measure what a student knows.

**Pathways:** Teachers designed course sequences that can lead to a career or a college degree in four pathways: business, the sciences, health and human services or arts and communication.



**Janet Suhoski and Lynn Copeland, reading specialists, discuss reading instructional strategies with new teachers.**



**Anita Eldridge, High School Principal, discusses the development of course pathways that will lead to college credit while still attending MHS.**



**Doug Hughes,**  
**Director of Facilities**  
**and Transportation**



## Transportation: Getting to School Safely

Morgan Local is the fourth largest school district in the state ---- by area. Our attendance area covers an entire county. Since we operate our schools on two schedules, (junior high and high school early and elementary schools late), our buses must cover a 420 square mile county four times each day to collect 2,040 students. For safety reasons, none of our students walk to school, not even in McConnelsville. To accomplish this task, 26 buses travel 4,266 miles each day. This is a major expense that most school districts do not have. To keep costs as low as possible, our transportation department uses a computer program called Transfinder Pro to design our bus routes for the greatest efficiency possible.

Student safety is our first concern. All of our buses are checked by the State Highway Patrol annually and then spot checked quarterly for mechanical safety. In addition, only drivers with safe driving records are hired and they are provided regular training on safety procedures.

Student behavior on the bus is rigidly controlled to avoid distracting the bus driver. Think about it. A classroom teacher gets to face the classroom of 20-25 students while they maintain control. The bus driver, with their back to 40 or 50 passengers, must drive the bus safely and maintain control of student behavior. To assist with student control, buses have video cameras that record student activity on the bus. Students who engage in behavior that is distracting to the bus driver will be disciplined and if they persist in disruptive behavior, they may be excluded from riding. We ask parents to remind their students of correct bus behavior listed in the student handbook. School buses have one of the best safety records of all forms of transportation.

## Excited to be Back



**On the first day of school, parents and students line up at East Elementary waiting for the doors to open.**



**Students arrive ready to begin a new school year.**



# Recognitions

During the first general meeting of the entire Morgan School staff on August 18, staff members were honored for length of service and retirees were recognized.



**5 Years Service:** Angela Reed, Amy Dew, Amanda Palmer, Kristen Morrow, Paula Finley, Thaddeus Fields, and Darren Hann



**10 Years Service:** John Robbins, Patricia Clouse, Christine Voytko, April Copeland, Greg Gifford, Lesley Mansfield, Cary Apperson,



**20 Years Service:** Russell Clifton, Ralph Clouse, Susan Buchanan, Barry Ross, Neva Davis-Richardson, Kimberly Duskey, Dawn Nesselroad, Norvel Crandall, Marilyn Crouse, Shawna Tabor (Not pictured Jane Palmer and Paul Voytko)



**25 Years Service:**  
Beth Wise



**30 Years Service:** Laura Chordas, Julia Quaintance, Kelley Huck, Anita Eldridge



**Retiring:** Kim Bragg, Dianne Patterson, Teresa Bowen, Candy Totman (Not pictured Norma Cooper, Deb LoFrumento)



# Recognitions

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**Kudo Awards:** Staff members who were identified by the public or another staff member for doing something beyond and above their regular duties were given the Kudo Award.

**(Not listed in picture order)**

Paul Voytko, Glendon Bennett, Tom Heppner, Vicki Sayatovich, Pam Lanning, CJ Wilson, Robin Hardesty, Howard Troutner, Bob Lahmers, Wayne Robinson, Kerri Beam, Ron Helle, Doug Hughes, Dean Wright, Lorrie Bowman, Melanie Robison, April Copeland, Patti White, Lori Snyder-Lowe, Charles Grubb, Mark Schramm, Rick Hook, Robert Itnyre, Jamie Tredway, Susan Troutner, Billie Ross, Marge Tharp, Patti McDermott, Lynn Copeland, Ralph Clouse, Jeffrey Bragg, Amber Weaver, Denise Wallace, Lynn Copeland, Patricia Clouse, and Stacey George

## Muskingum Valley Educational Service Center Honors Morgan Educators



Jeff Bragg was recognized as an MVESC Aspiring Principal.



Cindy Barringer was recognized as the MVESC Exemplary Educator from Morgan.



**Paul Bailey,**  
Ass't Principal MHS

## New Assistant Principal At MHS

Paul Bailey joins the Morgan Administrative staff as Assistant Principal at the high school. He began his career in education as a math teacher at North Charleston High School in South Carolina. For the past 8 years he has been a math teacher in Maysville.

"I am impressed at how friendly and welcoming the staff and community have been since I arrived. It is wonderful to see the students excited to be back in school and eager to learn", Mr. Bailey said. "It is a great opportunity for me to be a part of a high school with so many advantages for students to learn. Few high schools can offer the broad range of courses from machining, automotive, and electronics in career tech all the way to college level courses while students are still in high school. I look forward to getting students ready for any job or career they choose", he said.

## New Home for Raider Academy

Raider Academy is an alternative program offered to junior and senior high school students who learn best in a controlled environment with direct teacher tutoring and the opportunity to do supervised on-line learning.

With the purchase of the former Stay and Play Pre-School building, it has been possible to provide Raider Academy with the modern classroom shown below in a separate area of the building.



**The Raider Academy Classroom**

## High School Staff Develops Pathways



Anita Eldridge, High School Principal, leads the entire high school staff in a discussion about the development of career pathways that can lead to job certification and college credit. Ms. Eldridge said, "Our goal at Morgan is to use the resources of our career tech program, our academic program, and our ability to offer college dual enrollment courses to assure that every student who graduates from Morgan will have the courses to be college and job and career ready".

Four broad career pathways will be developed: STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math), Health and Human Services, Business and Entrepreneurship, and Arts and Communication. From these broad pathways, virtually any job or career can be pursued. Each pathway has the potential for a student to graduate from Morgan with a College Associate's Degree as well as a High School Diploma.

Career pathways will begin as early as sixth grade and include job and career exploration and awareness, the basic academic courses needed to succeed in school, and project-based activities that have a career application. During the high school years, students will take academic and/or career tech courses that relate to their career pathway. Internships and on-the-job opportunities will be included. Each career pathway will include dual enrollment college courses that can lead to a College Associate's Degree.

These career pathways are being developed under the guidance of Battelle For Kids and The Ohio Appalachian Coalition with funding from a \$15M Straight A Grant. Morgan and 26 other school districts in the coalition will share in the development of these pathways and the offering of college level courses.



**Josh VanHorn,** Raider  
Academy Teacher





**8th Grade Mahle Students of the Month**

**Front:** Mindy Whited, Lyndsey Johnson, Brandy Ross, Athena Lowe  
**Middle:** Weston Ray, Dakota Leopold, Colton Hanson, Cole Earich  
**Back:** Baylee Neff, Danielle Konkler, Ethan Newton, Andrew Buchannan



**Archie Griffin Sportsmanship Award: Athena Lowe and Andrew Buchannan**

## Morgan Junior High Honors Student Achievement

Junior high students are at the age when they are testing the limits to discover who they are and what they are capable of becoming. To authenticate positive accomplishments and encourage even greater successes, the staff at Morgan Junior High never miss an opportunity to recognize student achievement. Last May, at the end of the school year, many students received awards and recognition. Just a few are represented here.



**Laci Veyon Perfect Attendance for 2 years**



**Academic Athlete of the Year: Jensen Greer and Ethan Newton**



**Archie Griffin Award of Excellence: Cole Earich**



**All "A"s All Year: Danielle Konkler**



**Robin Mead teaches music notation.**



**Lauras Chordas, Media Specialist, helps students check out books.**



**Math problems can be perplexing.**



Saturday, July 19, 2014 marked the First Annual Neighborhood Walk for Children with Apraxia of Speech at Morgan West Elementary. The walk was organized by the family of Lexis Rinehart, a second grade student at West. Lexis is diagnosed with Childhood Apraxia of Speech (CAS), a neurological speech disorder affecting a child's ability to clearly and correctly produce syllables and words.

Lexis' family, friends, fellow parishioners, and Morgan Local employees all showed up to walk in support of Lexis. Donations went to the Childhood Apraxia of Speech Association of North America. CASANA is the only national nonprofit public charity exclusively dedicated to children with apraxia of speech and their families. The event raised \$2,533 for CASANA, which will fund child/family support, professional development for Speech Pathologists, and research. Food and door prizes were donated by numerous area businesses.

If you missed this event and would like to donate to CASANA via Lexis' neighborhood walk please go to <http://www.apraxiawalk.org/neighborhood-apraxia-walks/> and "click here to Register!" You can search Lexis Rinehart under "find a participant" or Lexis' Angels under "teams" on the right hand side of the web page. This event will be open for additional donations through the month of October.



## South Open House

All five Morgan schools held an open house before school started. These are pictures from South.



Heather Casto arrives with her children Haley, Remi, and Rylee.



Roger Welsh with his children Coleman, Greyson, and Campbell.



The west staff was pleased with the hard work of custodians Sally Smith, Gary Armstrong, and Pat Zeigler who had the building sparkling.



Students in Mrs. Strauss's art class select pictures to decorate their note books.

## South Staff Accepts the ALS Ice Water Challenge



The staff at Morgan South accepted the ice bucket challenge from Morgan West Elementary. The staff at South were able to wear jeans for a day, and get a bucket of ice water thrown on their heads. The staff paid \$5.00 to wear jeans and the money will be donated to a local family in which one family member has ALS.

The money will also be donated in memory of Dr. Scott Davis, a past superintendent of Morgan Schools who died from ALS.

South also posted the ice bucket challenge to the bus garage, Morgan Junior High School, and Morgan High School.



## School is Fully Under Way at East



Mrs. Brown's music class sings an action song.



Skipping rope in P.E.



Storytime in Ms. Post's kindergarten



Rules for independent reading



Planning the day's activities



The three kindergarten teachers meet with parents and students on the first day of school.





## Mousetrap Award

**Megan Ellism, Danielle Konkler, Caleb Hambel, Caden Williams, Lane Sheppard, Tristen Lacy**

At MJHS each year, students in Mrs. Lanning's science classes build mouse trap cars as part of their unit on physical science. Students compete to see whose car goes the farthest and the fastest. These students were the winners in their science section.

## Find MHS on Twitter

Morgan High School will be using our website and social media to celebrate the successes that are occurring each and every day by our students and staff. We are proud to be Raiders and want to display our Raider Pride. Through the use of the high school website and social media, students, parents, and community members will have the opportunity to see the engagement and learning that takes place each and every day within the halls of Morgan High.

The Twitter hashtag, #mrp, will be used to share our celebrations at Morgan High School. The hashtag is an abbreviation for Morgan Raider Pride. When you tweet something happening that celebrates our successes at Morgan High School and makes you proud to be a Raider, share it with #mrp for our community and world to see. In our short time on Twitter, Morgan High students and staff members have been favorited by a person from Australia and California. Senator Troy Balderson has also followed the high school account (@Morgan\_HS) and re-tweeted Mathew Downs' recognition at the National FFA Convention. Continue to be "proud of our past and focused on our future." (Paul Bailey, Assistant Principal)



## Change of Heart

**Row 1: Kai Mayle, Jabin Treadway, Nikki Pugh, Ashley Hotlett, Harley Leopold**

**Row 2: MacKensie Fisher, Alexis Masterson, Danielle Konkler, Shaylyn Pierce, Athena Lowe, Allyah Baker**

**Row 3: Jordan Norris, Griffin Burkhardt, Hunter Griffin, Chris Langerman, Isaac Pepper**

**Row 4: Austin Boyd, Cole Earich, Jacob VanFossen, Dakota Allen, Ethan Newton**

Our 8th grade Change of Heart students work with Mrs. Tharp to enhance the positive atmosphere at MJHS. Not only do they complete community hours, but some of them tutor and work with other students during the school day.

## Morgan Central Office Staff Accepts the ALS Ice Water Challenge



Superintendent Lori Lowe announced, as the water flowed, that the donations would go to ALS Research in memory of Dr. Scott Davis, a beloved former Superintendent of Morgan Schools, who died of ALS several years ago.

# ROCHS: College Dual Enrollment



**Receiving a college chemistry class taught remotely by Mr. Sheets from Crooksville.**



**Sending a college English class taught by Mr. Wilcoxon to Crooksville (note Crooksville class on two-way monitor).**

For the past three years, our grant funded Rural Ohio College High School (ROCHS) coalition with Crooksville and New Lexington has given us the opportunity to share dual enrollment college courses with each other. Now, under the funding of a \$15M Straight A Grant, 27 school districts in the Ohio Appalachian Coalition will be able to share college courses. As these districts come on line, we should be able to offer a complete set of courses in four different career pathways that could lead to an associate's degree along with a high school diploma at graduation.

## Job and Career Ready

In addition to the opportunity to earn college credit, Morgan students also have the opportunity to earn job skills and certification in such fields as Electronics, Cosmetology, and Health Sciences by taking advantage of courses offered in our Career Tech program as illustrated below.



**Mr. Nichols advises students on a brake repair.**



**Mr. Simms introduces students to Precision Machining**



**Planing a board in Carpentry**



**A Carpentry Project**



# Calendar

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## September

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	<b>1 LABOR DAY</b>	<b>2 NO SCHOOL (FAIR) Staff Development</b>	<b>3 NO SCHOOL (FAIR) Staff Development</b>	<b>4 NO SCHOOL (FAIR)</b>	<b>5 NO SCHOOL (FAIR)</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9 East PTO Meeting 3:30</b>	<b>10 MJHS Individual Student Pictures Taken</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17 East Fundraiser Kick off 2:45</b>	<b>18 Two Hr. Late Start West PTO Meeting 3:30 p.m.</b>	<b>19 Special Reports</b>	<b>20 MHS ACT 8:00 – 12:30</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24 BCEP @ South 5:30-7:30</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26 MJHS Outdoor Education Camp Hervida</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>Oct 1</b>	<b>Oct 2</b>	<b>Oct 3</b>	<b>Oct 4 South Fall Festival 4-7 p.m.</b>

## October

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4 South Fall Festival 4-7 p.m.</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>6 Artsbridge 5<sup>th</sup> &amp; 6<sup>th</sup> Grade @ Opera House 10:00-11:30</b>	<b>7 East Fund Raiser Turn in 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade OAA Reading Test</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14 East PTO Meeting 3:30 South Student Pictures</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16 Two Hr. Late Start</b>	<b>17 East Fall Pictures</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24 END OF 1<sup>ST</sup> 9 WEEKS</b>	<b>25 MHS ACT 8:00-12:30</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27 OGT</b>	<b>28 OGT</b>	<b>29 OGT MJHS Picture Retakes</b>	<b>30 OGT</b>	<b>31 OGT Halloween</b>	<b>NOV 1 OGT</b>

# Calendar

## November

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
						<b>1 OGT</b>
<b>2 End Daylight Savings Time</b>	<b>3 OGT MHS Parent Teacher Conf 4:00-7:30 East Fundraiser delivery</b>	<b>4 OGT ELECTION DAY</b>	<b>5 OGT MHS Sports Awards 6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>6 OGT Parent Teacher Conf 4:00-7:30</b>	<b>7 OGT MHS Patriotic Concert 2:00</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>10 NO SCHOOL</b>	<b>11 NO SCHOOL Veterans Day</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13 East Veterans Day Concert 7 p.m.</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18 East Picture Retakes</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20 Two Hr. Late Start</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26 NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break</b>	<b>27 NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break</b>	<b>28 NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>Dec 1 NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break</b>	<b>Dec 2</b>	<b>Dec 3</b>	<b>Dec 4 West Christmas Program 2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 4<sup>th</sup> grades 7 p.m.</b>	<b>Dec 5 Special Reports</b>	

**2014**


MJHS students Jensen Greer, Ethan Newton and Isaac Pepper are pictured with Nina Mayle as they prepare to represent the Morgan County Suicide Prevention Coalition in the Memorial Day Parade.