Why Morriss Elementary?

Now in our 19th year of operation, Morriss Elementary School offers students instructional opportunities not commonly found elsewhere, specifically in the areas of math, engineering and technology. Our students enjoy a curriculum designed to be compelling to move them beyond basic knowledge and support the transfer of learning. Our rigorous and seamless STEM education has been cited nationally numerous times as a model for how young children can become engaged and educated.

In addition to the extraordinary academic opportunities, Morriss Elementary is one of more than 600 schools worldwide proud to be known as a "Leader in Me Lighthouse" campus teaching all students Dr. Stephen Covey's 7 Habits of Highly Effective People. The 7 Habits is a synthesis of universal, timeless principles of personal and interpersonal effectiveness, such as responsibility, vision, integrity, teamwork, collaboration and renewal. Research shows teaching these habits at an early age gives students an increase in self-confidence, teamwork, initiative, creativity, leadership, problem solving, communication, diversity awareness, and self-directed learning. Our faculty members use an integrated approach and make leadership training part of everything we do. Instead of seeing children through the lens of a normal distribution curve, The Leader in Me paradigm sees that every child is capable, every child is a leader.

Here at Morriss Elementary, we've created an environment in which students assume the responsibility for their own learning, and autonomy and initiative are encouraged. We are truly raising the bar of excellence!

BEST ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
U.S.News & WORLD REPORT
2025

Patti O'Bannon
Principal

Alice McKinnon
Assistant Principal

Kelly Day
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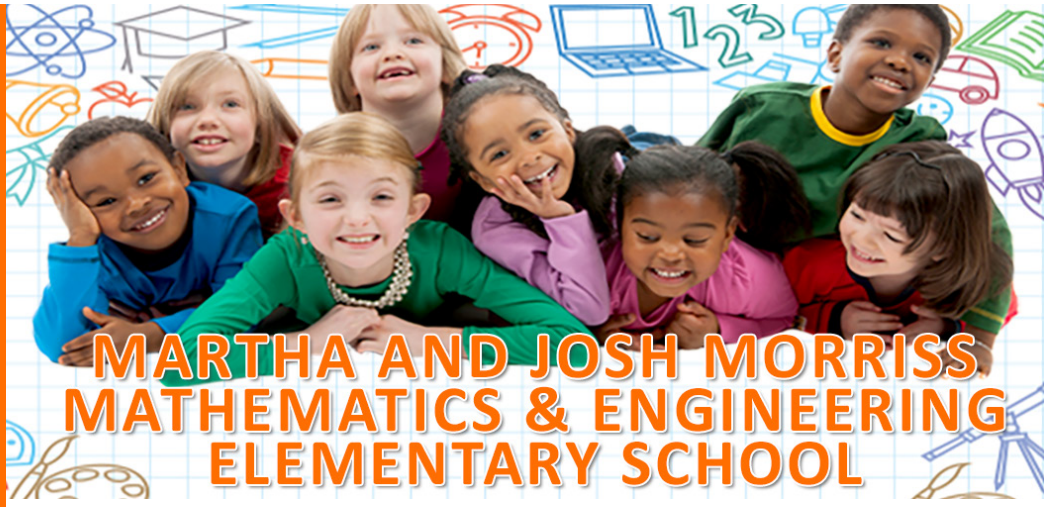
A Leader in Me™
Lighthouse Campus



Dear Morriss Elementary Family:

We are excited about the 2026-2027 school year and the many learning opportunities for your student.

The mission of the Martha and Josh Morriss Mathematics & Engineering Elementary School is to provide a high-achieving STEM education that promotes growth, critical thinking, and leadership for ALL Morriss students. In doing so, we provide a rigorous and seamless STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) education that serves as a national model for how young children can become engaged and educated.

Our curriculum is standards-based, integrated, and connected to the lives of learners. It is designed to be compelling in order to support the transfer of learning. Instruction is student-centered, hands-on, and concept-based. Teachers facilitate inquiry-based learning in which they tap into the student's natural interest in problem-solving. Additionally, students participate in an engaging variety of curricular and co-curricular activities that include hands-on artistic expression, technology applications, robotics, holistic fitness, dramatic and musical productions, and leadership development.

Thank you for choosing Morriss Elementary School. We welcome your involvement and participation in the educational opportunities for your child.

Patti O'Bannon, Principal
Morriss Elementary School

TEXARKANA™
Independent School District

SCHOOL PRACTICES & PROCEDURES...

Students will receive information about the student handbook and code of conduct. The handbook contains detailed information about policies at elementary schools in TISD. It is also available on the TISD website – **www.txkisd.net**. In addition, here are a few important things you will want to know about Morriss Elementary School.

SCHOOL DAY TIMES:

Doors Open: 7:15 a.m.
Class Begins: 7:40 a.m.
First Period Attendance Recorded: 7:50 a.m.
Students Dismissed: 3:30 p.m.

Doors open at 7:15 a.m. in the cafeteria and on the west entrance end. Students have the opportunity to participate in various early morning activities between 7:15 a.m. and 7:40 a.m. At 7:40 a.m., students report directly to class to begin instruction. Any student not present and participating in class by 7:50 a.m. will be counted absent for first period.

DROP OFF LOCATIONS:

Students are not allowed to be dropped off in the parking lot. Parents must drop students off along the curb following the line of traffic.

For safety and efficiency, it is preferable that parents remain in vehicles and in line during morning drop-off. However, if you must enter the building for any reason, you must park in a marked space in the front lot, walk into the building crossing traffic only at the designated crosswalk, and enter through the front office.

Kindergarten and First Grade students should be dropped off at the west end entrance beginning at 7:15 a.m. Students will be given the opportunity to participate in various enrichment activities in either the Art Room or Pod A between 7:15 and 7:40 a.m. However, if they plan to eat breakfast, they must be dropped off at the front entrance nearest the cafeteria.

Second thru Fifth grade students should be dropped off at the cafeteria beginning at 7:15 a.m. If they plan to eat breakfast, they may do so upon entering the cafeteria. Students not planning to eat breakfast will be given the opportunity to participate in various enrichment activities throughout the school between 7:15 and 7:40 a.m.

Do not drop off students before 7:15 a.m. There will be no supervision of students prior to that time.

DON'T BE LATE!

Students enter classrooms at 7:40 a.m. each morning to begin instruction. Students are marked absent from first period if they arrive in their classrooms after 7:50 a.m. Being on time is a standard that must be met at Morriss Elementary.

ABSENCES:

When your child is absent, please call the school with an explanation and write a note when he/she returns to school. There are no tardies. Students are counted absent for first period after 7:50 a.m. The State of Texas has very strict laws for absences, even if the absence is only for one period. Students may not be promoted to the next grade level if they have more than 17 absences in a year. Parents will be summoned to court and possibly be fined for excessive student absences. (Additional information can be found in the Student Handbook.)

DISMISSAL IN THE AFTERNOON:

School is dismissed at 3:30 p.m.

Parents will not be allowed in the building for pick-up. We ask that you remain in your vehicle. Upon dismissal, students will be brought to your car.

All parents will be required to use the PikMyKid app to "announce" their arrival during afternoon dismissal. This allows us to efficiently release students in the correct order and keep the pickup line moving smoothly.

Kindergarten & First grade students are dismissed and can be picked-up from the west end entrance. We ask that you stay in your vehicle and stay in line. Dismissal is much more efficient when this procedure is followed by all.

Second thru Fifth grade students are dismissed and can be picked-up from the south parking lot in front of the gym/cafeteria. We ask that you stay in your vehicle and stay in line. Dismissal is much more efficient when this procedure is followed by all.
NOTE: Older siblings will be picked-up at the location of their younger sibling.

Rainy Day Procedures: For morning and afternoon, please pull under the covered area when dropping off or picking up students.

The north entrance off McKnight Road is used only by buses, daycare vans and maintenance vehicles. No other traffic will be allowed to enter or exit the north entrance.

REMEMBER . . .

There is no supervision for students after 3:50 p.m. The pick-up of students on time is a standard that must be met at Morriss Elementary School. TISD has very strict guidelines about students not picked up on time and Child Protective Services will be called (see guidelines in student handbook).

PLEASE OBSERVE TRAFFIC PATTERNS:

Please follow the practices and procedures that have been set. Student safety is our utmost concern. Following the practices and procedures allows us to keep all our students safe.

CHANGES IN PICK-UP ROUTINE:

The office must be notified by phone no later than 2:50 p.m., or the change must be made using the PikMyKid application. Keep in mind that a consistent routine is important for your child.

PARKING:

Visitors should only park in legal parking spaces in front of the school. Do not block the front driveway.

There are designated parking spots at the front of the pick-up line for our "First In Line" Silent Auction winners. No other vehicles should be stopped or parked west of the overhang area in front of the office during drop-off or pick-up times.

BUS SERVICE:

TISD provides bus service for eligible Morriss Elementary School students. You must fill out a bus service request in the office.Riding the bus is a privilege. If students do not follow bus rules, they will lose their bus riding privileges.

LEAVING DURING THE SCHOOL DAY:

Because our instructional time is so valuable, we request that students not be picked up early except for medical appointments or family emergencies. If your child has an appointment, you must go to the office to sign him/her out. Office personnel will then call your child to the front office to meet you. Students will not be dismissed from the office after 3:15 p.m.

VISITING ON CAMPUS:

Visitors are welcome in our school. For the safety and protection of staff and students:

- All visitors must sign in at the front office with a valid photo id and wear a VISITOR identification badge while on campus. Upon leaving the building the visitor will return the badge to the front office.
- Please use the front entrance since all other exterior doors are locked during the school day.
- Visits to individual classrooms during instructional time shall be permitted only with the principal's and teacher's approval. These visits will not be permitted if their duration and frequency interferes with the delivery of instruction or disrupts the normal school environment.
- Visits will not be permitted during student assessments to ensure the privacy of students.
- Campus playground areas are restricted and visitors are not permitted.

To protect and maximize learning time, we request that parents not engage teachers in conversations during class time. We love to visit with parents, but parents should make appointments with teachers during conference periods or speak with teachers after school.

REPORT CARDS:

Report cards will be issued each six weeks. Progress reports will be sent home every three weeks. An early dismissal parent conference day will be scheduled after the first six weeks grading period.

TUESDAY FOLDERS:

Each Tuesday, your child will bring home a folder containing his/her graded work along with flyers and notes from the school and the district. The folder will need to be reviewed, emptied and returned the following day. This is just one of the ways we keep you informed of your child's progress and upcoming events.

Additionally, your child's grades can be viewed at the TISD Parent Access Center (PAC) by completing an online application at www.txkisd.net.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES:

School supply lists can be found in the office or on the TISD website - www.txkisd.net.

PARENT INFORMATION:

Stay connected to school news and events via:

Facebook – facebook.com/TexarkanaISD
Facebook – facebook.com/TISDMorriss
Instagram – instagram.com/texarkanaisd
Website – www.txkisd.net

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES:

If you would like a conference with a teacher, please send a note to your child's teacher, or call the school office at 903.791.2262 to schedule a time.

Teacher Conference Periods:

Kindergarten	8:25 - 9:30 a.m.
First Grade	9:30 - 10:35 a.m.
Second Grade	10:35 - 11:40 a.m.
Third Grade	12:15 - 1:20 p.m.
Fourth Grade	2:25 - 3:30 p.m.
Fifth Grade	1:20 - 2:25 p.m.
Activity Staff	7:40 - 8:25 a.m.

MEAL INFORMATION:

All families are encouraged to complete an application for free or reduced meals. Applications can be found on the district website under the Child Nutrition page. Please call the office if you need assistance or a paper copy.

Regular price:	Breakfast $2.45	Lunch $2.95
Reduced price:	Breakfast Free	Lunch Free

You may pay daily, weekly, monthly, etc.

For adults who wish to have lunch with their student, Breakfast is $3.50 and Lunch is $5.50

Current student and adult meal prices reflect last year's rates and are subject to change pending updated guidance from the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) and USDA. TDA has signaled price adjustments may be necessary, but final rates have not yet been released. Prices will be updated accordingly once official guidance is provided.

No food deliveries for students will be accepted.

SNACK:

Students are encouraged to bring one small healthy snack to school each day to be eaten during class at the teacher's specified time.

WATER:

Students are encouraged to bring a water bottle to school with their name clearly labeled.

BREAKFAST:

Breakfast time: 7:15 - 7:35 a.m.

Students who plan to eat breakfast must be on time. Students must be finished eating breakfast when the allotted time is over, no later than 7:40 a.m.

LUNCH TIMES:

Kindergarten	11:05 - 11:35 a.m.
First Grade	11:05 - 11:35 a.m.
Second Grade	11:40 a.m. - 12:10 p.m.
Third Grade	11:40 a.m. - 12:10 p.m.
Fourth Grade	12:30 - 1:00 p.m.
Fifth Grade	12:15 - 12:45 p.m.