



Morris School District

Monday, October 12, 2026

Strategic Planning Public Forum

Welcome



Dr. Anne Mucci, Superintendent of Schools

- Welcome and introduction
- Synopsis of the Strategic Planning Process
- Overview of the evening's agenda
- Fostering Community Partnerships & Learning Beyond the Classroom

Matthew Kriley, Assistant Superintendent

Sophia Kenny, Director of Guidance, MHS

- Academic Programming, Teaching, and Learning

Anthony Lo Franco, Business Administrator

- Building Optimal Environment for Learning
- Referendum Project Timelines

Lora Clark, Executive Director of Human Resources

- Attracting and Retaining the best educators
- Supporting our faculty, students and families

Communication to Foster Community and Partnerships

Strengthen and foster meaningful pathways within MSD and the greater community to create informed and intentional partnerships.



Strengthen District-Wide Communication and Family Access:

Develop a unified district communication plan and consistent communication systems across schools, including newsletters family communication platforms, translation supports, and accurate contact information in student information systems.

Expand Family Support, Resources, and Capacity:

Conduct an annual family needs assessment and expand resources through the Community School, District Family Liaison, technology courses, and the district community website.

Increase Family Participation in School and District Events:

Reduce barriers to participation by offering childcare, food, incentives, and concurrent parent workshops during student activities and family events.

Strengthen School-Community Partnerships

Increase the district's presence at community events and leverage partnerships to connect families with additional resources, services, and opportunities.

Learning Beyond the Classroom

To create a cohesive community that builds upon our combined strengths to offer more opportunities to learn within and beyond our curriculum resulting in more well-rounded experiences for students.



Artisan Academy: Launch and sustain the Morris School District Artisan Academy by implementing the inaugural program, establishing long-term funding, and expanding community partnerships.

Career Exploration: Expand PK-12 career exploration opportunities through internships, mentoring relationships, alumni engagement, dual enrollment exploration, and experiential learning. Introduction of SchoolLinks

Community Partnerships: Strengthen partnerships with community organizations, businesses, higher education institutions, libraries, and local agencies to expand learning opportunities.

Family & Community Engagement: Develop districtwide opportunities for family and community engagement through events that celebrate student learning while promoting volunteerism and service.



Academic Programming, Teaching, and Learning

Matthew Kriley, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Sophia Kenny, Director of Guidance, MHS

Academic Programming, Teaching & Learning

Foster academic excellence through inclusive and culturally responsive teaching practice ensuring that all students regardless of background or ability receive equitable access to a rigorous curriculum and diverse learning objectives that prepare them for success in a global society.



Increase access to and participation in AP courses at Morristown High School by removing barriers such as isolation and affordability, while providing consistent support to ensure success for all students.

AP BY THE NUMBERS 2023 - 2026

Participation Rate: Increased 15% to 96% participation

Number of Exams Taken: Increased from 783 to 1,124

Pass Rate: Increased 10%

Total AP Students: Increased from 384 students to 528

- Increase in senior student participation

ONGOING SUPPORTS FOR AP

Exam Cost: With the support of the Board of Education, all exam costs are covered by the Morris School District

Summer Program: AP Bootcamp - providing students with a glimpse of an AP course prior to the upcoming school year.

- Students identified based on course selection and AP Potential Tool

Before/After School Support (AP Collaboration Hub): MHS provide before and after school AP tutoring to interested students as well as Exam Review Sessions

Academic Programming, Teaching & Learning

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Action Items

Curriculum & Articulation: Strengthen instructional alignment through structured collaboration during key transition years (PK-K, 2-3, 5-6). PK-K Focus will be on social emotional alignments.

Core Academic Pacing: Develop district pacing guides to ensure consistency of curriculum implementation and equitable student experiences.

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- Rewritten and revised over 125 curriculum documents
 - Transitioned to a user friendly curriculum template
 - Implemented professional development opportunities for transitional grade-level teachers to observe and collaborate with colleagues, strengthening instructional alignment and supporting smoother transitions for students.
 - Ensure equitable access to new classroom materials, including CKLA, across all elementary schools and classrooms

Action Items

Measuring Student Learning: Establish a district continuum of understanding to strengthen alignment among assessments, standards, and grading. Evaluate and refine grading systems, linking report cards with LinkIt! data.

Performance Trend Analysis: Establish a district protocol for analyzing student data to identify priorities and guide systemic responses.

Collaborative Assessment: Implement shared assessment and scoring practices to improve grading consistency and calibration across schools.

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- Transitioned to **LinkIt! Data Management and Assessment** to centralize student performance data and assessment results in one platform
 - Comparative analysis of multiple data points across several school years to identify trends, monitor progress, and inform district priorities
 - Established a foundation for more consistent assessment and scoring practices across schools to support grading calibration and alignment

Academic Programming, Teaching & Learning

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Action Items

Instructional Technology Framework: Implement PK-12 guidance for intentional technology use (screen expectations in PK-2, balanced integration in 3-5, and ethical AI/career readiness in 6-12).

- Established developmental guidelines in the PreK-2 Intentional Integration & EdTech Playbook, designating PreK-2 as "AI Free" to prioritize hands-on play, foundational learning, active digital creation over passive consumption, and purposeful, brief screen interactions.
- Created the Grades 3-5 Intentional Integration & EdTech Playbook to manage the transition to 1:1 classroom Chromebook carts, emphasizing balanced, age-appropriate digital and offline learning, blended instruction (such as Station Rotation), and clear device routines.
- Formulated the district-wide Use of Artificial Intelligence Plan, establishing a clear progressive usage matrix across grade bands. Currently working on 6-8 and 9-12 Playbooks
- Incorporated the instructional technology vision and frameworks into the 2026-2031 District Technology Plan to ensure sustained alignment with broader strategic planning and career-readiness initiatives.

Action Items

Professional Collaboration: Expand educator collaboration through peer observations, instructional rounds, and collaborative planning.

Teacher Capacity & Coaching: Strengthen capacity through mentoring and job-embedded learning, prioritizing literacy and math.

- Fostered structured opportunities for teachers to observe colleagues, learning directly from one another's classroom practices, instructional strategies, and teaching methodologies.
- Created dedicated, extended grade-level meeting times to enhance collaborative planning and team alignment.
- Built collaborative partnerships with neighboring school districts implementing shared educational programs to exchange best practices and insights.
- Established dedicated ELA, Math, and Bilingual Coach positions at the elementary level to provide targeted, job-embedded support for educators.
- Provided coaching-driven guidance to help teachers navigate curriculum programming, adopt new instructional initiatives, and effectively differentiate learning.

Career Readiness

Explore career pathways through self discovery and real life experiences so all students are prepared for their transition from high school.



Career Readiness Framework: Develop a comprehensive PK-12 career readiness framework.

- New platform released 26-27 SY: Schoolinks

Emerging Technology & STEM: Expand learning opportunities to prepare students with the knowledge and skills needed for future careers.

- Career Fair (April)
- Presentations

Durable Workplace Skills: Introduce developmentally appropriate instruction in communication, collaboration, professionalism, and other durable workplace skills that prepare students for success in college, careers, and civic life.

- Classroom lessons

Experiential Learning: Expand community-based instruction, career exploration, and experiential learning opportunities.

Credentials & Simulations: Increase access to industry-recognized credentials, Advanced Placement coursework, career simulations, and workforce readiness experiences.

- AIMTec (Partnership with CCM's Advanced Manufacturing Department)

Project-Based Learning: Expand project-based learning and service-learning opportunities.



Building Optimal Environments for Student Learning

Anthony Lo Franco, Business Administrator

Building Optimal Environments for Learning

Make facility investments that improve our academic return on investment.



Referendum Projects: Continue implementation of the district referendum projects while maintaining transparent communication with the Board of Education and community regarding project timelines, progress, and anticipated impacts.

Capital Improvements: Complete priority capital improvement projects funded through the 2026-2027 operating budget to address aging infrastructure, enhance instructional spaces, and improve the overall learning environment.

Facility Improvements: Prioritize facility improvements that enhance safety, security, accessibility, and student learning by modernizing classrooms and instructional spaces while addressing critical building needs.

Long-Range Planning: Strengthen long-range facilities planning by identifying and evaluating additional capital improvement needs that extend beyond the current referendum and annual operating budget.

Learning Environments: Maintain safe, efficient, and well-maintained learning environments through preventative maintenance, targeted renovations, and strategic investments that maximize the lifespan of district facilities.

Building Optimal Environments for Learning

Make facility investments that improve our academic return on investment.



Visit the
[Morris Future Website](#) to learn
more.

Click on the image to open the interactive graphic.

Building Optimal Environments for Learning

Make facility investments that improve our academic return on investment.



2026-2027 Improvements

Morristown High School

- Auditorium stage lighting
- Roof restoration over aux. gym
- Hallway refresh

Frelinghuysen Middle School

- 3 Art room renovations
- Paving
- Turf Field
- Painting
- Basketball backstops (old gym)

Alexander Hamilton

- Security Vestibule
- Stair Treads

Alfred Vail

- Cafeteria Wall and Windows
- Painting
- HC
- Electrical Panel Replacement
- LLC
- 3 classroom floor replacement
- New sinks

Sussex Avenue

- New Main Floor
- New Student Desks

Thomas Jefferson

- Drainage repairs

Woodland

- 1 classroom floor replacement
- Landscaping



Personnel

Lora Clark, Executive Director of Human Resources



Attract and Retain the Best

- College and University Career Fairs
- MSD Career Fair
- Interview Committees
- Campus Tours

New Teacher Academy

- Mentor Program
- Monthly New Teacher Sessions

ScIP - School Improvement Panel

- Building Principal Mentorship
- Classroom Visits
- Professional Development Opportunities



Mental Health

Lora Clark, Executive Director of Human Resources



Atlantic Health Partnership - Employee Resources

- Concern Counseling
- Concern Coaching
- Concern Behavioral Management

Up to four (4) free counseling sessions for self or a family member.

Wellness Wednesdays - Pause, Reflect, Recharge

- Move
- Breathe
- Hydrate
- Connect
- Recharge

Healthier, Happier, Stronger MSD

Family Wellness Page on the Website

- Reference Guide for Student Family Support
- [Wellness Survey](#)

Atlantic Health Partnership

- Parent Sessions will be developed based on information received from the Wellness Survey.
- Monthly sessions will be available from January 2027 - April 2027



Questions?

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