

FIND OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING IN...

#District



Welcome Dr. Anne Mucci, Morris School District Superintendent of Schools

better economic and career opportunities. I always knew I wanted to be a teacher as many of my family members are educators, including both my sisters, several cousins, and aunts. My husband, Ronnie, and I have been married for 28 years and we have three children, Ronald, Joseph, and Michael.

- 1. You've done so much already to connect with members of our community on a personal level. Share some of your background with our readers.**
I am a first-generation American as my parents and two older sisters were born in Edinburgh, Scotland. My parents moved to America for
- 2. What are your core values as an educator?**
Education is a sacred trust. It is our responsibility to ensure that all students receive the most challenging curriculum, delivered by caring teachers in a supportive environment.
- 3. What drives you in making decisions for the District?**
What is best for all students drives every decision that we make. It's important in my role as superintendent to keep a global viewpoint, considering the overall student impact associated with any decision and determining the choice that will have the greatest positive outcome for our school community.
- 4. What is your vision for this District? Where would you like to see it go?**
We need to engage more students in taking Advanced Placement (AP) courses and exams and start students' exploration of college and career opportunities earlier in their academic careers. For example, increasing the academic rigor at Frelinghuysen Middle School (FMS) by providing more opportunities for enrichment.

Strong performance in AP courses and exams is a reliable indicator of collegiate and career success. Within the next three years, we should have more of our Morristown High School (MHS) students exceed college and career readiness expectations.

- 5. And what about the students who pursue trade school after MHS or prefer to go to straight into the world of work? How can we ensure their future educational and career success?**
Extending our partnerships with the Morris County School of Technology and County College of Morris is an area of focus. Leveraging these partnerships will ensure that our students who plan to move from high school directly into the workforce are skilled and well prepared for success.
- 6. How is MSD unique from other districts you've been a part of?**
The Morris School District is a place of action, where all stakeholders place students' needs first and always consider the greater good of the entire community. I continue to be impressed by the inclusive drive and dedication of our students and staff.
- 7. Anything else you'd like to share?**
I look forward to the start of the new school year and helping our community advance to reach its fullest potential.

The 2022-2023 school year was a landmark year as the Morris School District (MSD) welcomed the new superintendent, Dr. Anne Mucci, in January. The first woman in this position for the District, Dr. Mucci is a seasoned Morris County Superintendent with 13 years of experience in the role having previously served in Mountain Lakes and Long Hill School Districts. Recently, we caught up with Dr. Mucci to learn more about her and the vision she has for MSD.

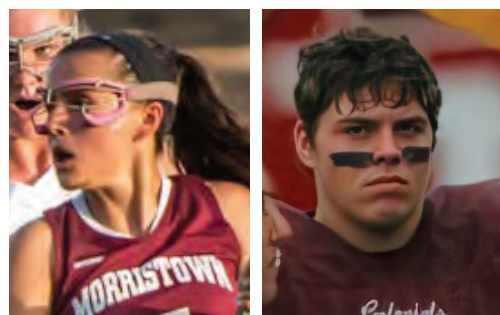
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MHS Students "Rise to Early" with Professional Composer

The Morristown High School (MHS) Wind Band Ensemble and Music Director, David Gallagher, had the unique opportunity to work with local composer, Peter Sciaino, to create an original musical piece through a year-long Composer-in-Residence program. Commissioned by the Morris Educational Foundation, this \$5,000 program was made possible thanks to the generosity of donor Kendra Williams, and shows what can be accomplished when inspirational teaching meets community support for the arts and students.

Mr. Sciaino attended multiple classes to discuss the process and help brainstorm ideas while exploring advanced techniques like orchestration, texture, arranging, and composing. After workshoping and performing drafts in class, Mr. Sciaino composed *Rise to Early* to match the talents, emotions, and stories of the ensemble. *Rise to Early* seemed fitting given MHS's location on Early Street and students rising early for school. Scan the QR code to view the premiere at the MHS Spring Concert.



Allie Ferrara

Casey Flynn

Alumni Spotlight: Allie Ferrara and Casey Flynn

The Morris School District attracts many alumni not only to call Morristown home again with their families, but to also pursue their careers. Morristown High School (MHS) alumni Allie Ferrara, Class of 2015, and Casey Flynn, Class of 2008, came back "home" to teach, coach, and carry on their family legacies as proud Colonials. We caught up with them to hear about some of their memories as student-athletes and what inspired them to return to MHS and the District.

Scan the QR code to read the full article at Morristown Colonial Nation.



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MSD Students Excel in Programs and Clubs

MHS MATH AND SCIENCE

The **MHS Math Department** inducted 19 new students into the Mu Alpha Theta National Honor Society. Four others received 2nd year honors and 23 seniors received Honor Cords. MHS placed 2nd in Morris County in the NJ Math League competition and finished 11th in the state. They placed 1st in the Gamma Section of the Association of Mathematics Teachers with over 1,250 participants.

MHS Girls in STEM Club hosted its 5th annual "Women in STEM Day" to coincide with national Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day. Frelinghuysen Middle School (FMS) students visited MHS to learn about potential STEM career paths and to speak with professional women in STEM. Sciences featured were water filtration, tower construction and suturing.



Girls Who Code held its first inclusive Women in STEM Day since 2018, where professional bilingual women from Johnson & Johnson and Atlantic Health Systems supported the girls in activities. Results from an exit survey validated their efforts. One attendee said, "I liked when we talked to professionals, it made me feel inspired about the future."

The **MHS Cybersecurity Team** earned the Cyber Opportunity School Gold Award for participating in CyberStart America. 108 students enrolled in the program led by Dr. Mariel Kolker. They began with no knowledge of cybersecurity to proficiency through gamified learning. MHS is inspiring the next generation of talent to equip the U.S. with cyber safety.

MHS HEALTH SCIENCE CLASSES AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS CLUB

Medical Terminology students were "neurosurgeons" attempting to remove a brain tumor from a gelatin mold after learning terms related to the nervous system. Students also tested simulated blood and urine to determine which patient had diabetes to reinforce medical terms.



Patient Care Communication created a social media campaign on sexual consent, which included developing focus group questions, leading focus groups and creating written and video content. Students created resumes and practiced job interviewing techniques and completed their year by creating a video tutorial on shared-decision making in healthcare.

Dynamics of Healthcare students donned Personal Protective Equipment, learned about infection control, advanced medical directives and ethics of healthcare. They debated if healthcare is a right or privilege, analyzed global healthcare systems and created – and financed – their own healthcare system.



The **Health Professions Club** practiced hands-only CPR, suturing and dissections of various organs. They created wounds to display various types of lacerations. Students also visited the Liberty Science Center where they spoke with doctors, observed surgical instruments and watched a live kidney transplant in "Live From Surgery."

MHS MUSIC

The **MHS Choir** students showcased their talents in various concerts this year and a record-breaking number of students participated in the MHS musical, *Cinderella*. They also attended Broadway's *Wicked*. The Mixed Chorale and Concert Choir received excellent and superior ratings at The Festival Adjudication on May 12.

The **MHS Orchestra** presented three spectacular concerts this year. The Chamber Orchestra performed at school and community events including the National Honor Society Induction, the Morris County Courthouse, "Showtime at the Apollo," and for the Board of Education. Bass player, Phil Byrne, was selected as MPAC's Outstanding Orchestra Student of the Month.

The **MHS Band Program** hosted three evening concerts, and the Fall Pops Daytime Concert. The Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble participated in the State Concert Band Festival and earned a silver rating. Matthew Bozza won an Outstanding Soloist award. Henry Mruz earned spots in National Level Ensembles including the NAFME All Eastern Band, NAFME All National Concert Band, and Honor Band of America. The Jazz Band won 5th place at State Championships, and The Marching Band finished their season in 5th place at State Championships.

FMS MUSIC

The **FMS Music Program** enrolled 52% of the student body in instruction and prep for three concerts during the year. Highlights: the 8th-grade band received a superior rating at the Music in the Parks Festival; the Select Choir sang the national anthem at a Somerset Patriots game; the Select Choir, Jazz Ensemble, and Chamber Orchestra attended the Teen Arts Festival.



The following musicians were recognized for their individual achievements: NJSMA Elementary Honors Band 2023: B. Rachofsky, J. Susanto, Q. Pettit, S. Quad, J. Cumberbatch, N. Cole, T. Keller, T. Colligan, and E. McNamara. NJAJE Junior Region 1 Jazz Ensemble: J. Oakely. NJSMA Intermediate Region Band: N. Gustavsen, T. Milow, A. Rachofsky. Morris Area Honor Choir: J. Vuotta, T. Holloway. North Jersey Area Band: T. Gumpfer, E. Chan, A. Rachovsky, A. Chiqui, M. Maire, N. Gustavsen, T. Milow, E. Rockwood, X. Varisco, M. Kot, S. Nause, K. Trabachino and J. Skripak.



In March, community supporters filled the beautiful Mayo Performing Arts Center (MPAC) to enjoy Morristown ONSTAGE, the 16th annual talent show and premier fundraiser of the Morris Educational Foundation. The community staple featured 13 awe-inspiring performances spanning rock, jazz, theater, pop, soul, and more, all to benefit the Morris School District.

Winners were as follows: \$1,000 18 and Under Winner: MHS Spectrum Jazz Ensemble, \$1,000 19 and Over Winner: The Mountain Jam Band, \$500 Audience Choice Winner: MHS Spectrum Jazz Ensemble, \$250 Rossoff Rising Star: Sanjna Vel, New York Jets Take Flight Top Vocalists: Halle Just (18 and Under) and Gina Marie (19 and Over).

Many Morristown High School Broadcasting students also lent their talents to the production of this event. Plans are already underway for 2024! Mark your calendars to audition on Saturday, December 2nd at MHS and to attend the show on Thursday, February 29th, 2024 at MPAC. Scan the QR code to audition for free through November 2.



2023 Morristown ONSTAGE Sponsors

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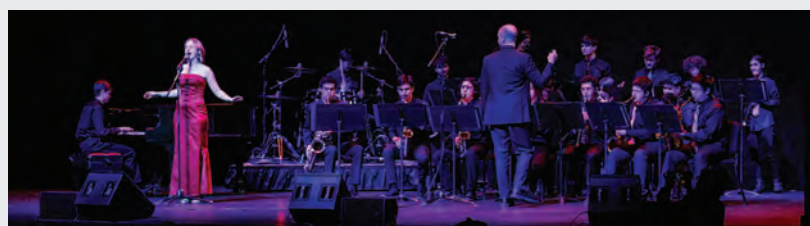
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Christine & Chris Volinsky
Kristopher Werber
Chrissie & Chris Wetherbee
Marcie & Glenn Yarnis

Benefactors
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PSEG
The Artist Baker
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Priscilla & Michael Elms
Kindred Hospital
Sook May Ong
Jessica Exley, Realtor
McAllister Family
Gloria & Kevin Long
Kim & John Pistner
Ann & Warren Rhines
Molly & Mike Servais
Stretch Lab



1st place winner in the 18 and under category and \$500 "Audience Choice" text-to-vote winner, Morristown High School Spectrum Jazz Ensemble performs *Feeling Good*.



Sanjna Vel, performs *New York State of Mind* to win the \$250 Rossoff Rising Star award.

2022-23 MEF GRANTS

\$199,450 in grants were approved during the 2022-2023 school year.

INITIATIVES FOR STUDENTS, TEACHERS, & SCHOOLS

Booth at Morristown Fall Festival on the Green – \$800: Participation in this annual community event to feature the Morris School District and its 50th anniversary and the Morris Educational Foundation and its 30th anniversary.

Chemistry Equipment – \$6,500: Support from Novartis (\$5,000) and ACS-Hach (\$1,500) for cutting-edge materials to enhance chemistry education at Morristown High School.

Community Garden – \$5,000: Installed at Normandy Park School in partnership with Grow It Green.

Cultural Arts Annual Funding – \$32,000 total: Each year the Morris Educational Foundation awards blanket grants to all ten Morris School District schools to support cultural arts programming.

Eighth Grade Trip – \$5,018: Full scholarships for 13 Frelinghuysen Middle School students with need to attend the two day trips (Fountain Spring Lake and New York City)

El Ricon del Alcalde (The Mayor's Corner) – \$8,451: Donations made in memory of Jay De Laney funded books in Spanish and English as well as bookcases to house them in the Morristown High School media center.

Flexible Furniture – \$30,000: Flexible furniture for Frelinghuysen Middle School classrooms in partnership with the Lauren and Emily Failla Foundation.

Graduation Ad – \$1,856: Celebrating the hard work and future endeavors of our high school graduates, a full-page Daily Record ad and print flyer was shared with the greater community.

Guidance Office Furniture – \$5,000: Furniture for the Frelinghuysen Middle School Guidance Office to create a stress-free environment for the students

Jump the Turnstile 2023 – \$3,900: ARTS By the People's Jump The Turnstile program featured three Intensive Creative Writing Workshops for the Morristown High School Creative Writing Classes.

Laminator Machines (2) – \$1,019: For use by all teachers at Morristown High School.

Math Supplies – \$200: Supplies to enrich math education at Morristown High School.

MEF Student Club Advisor – \$1,200: Support for a Morristown High School staff advisor to guide our student group as they fundraise and support high school students' initiatives.

Nonfiction for All – \$10,000: All Pre-K through 8 media centers received non-fiction books in partnership with the Morristown Festival of Books.

Outdoor Classroom Furniture – \$5,000: Picnic tables and long benches to create an outdoor learning space at Sussex Avenue School.

Project Graduation Support – \$250: Support for Morristown High School's All-Night Graduation Party fundraiser.

Reading Readiness: Preschooler-Parent Shared Reading – \$7,476: To establish reading routines for Spanish and English-speaking families, Morris School District preschoolers and their parents enjoyed an in-person monthly Bilingual Book Club.

Science Day for K-5 Schools – \$35,000: An interactive day of science that immerses all K-5 students in each of the seven elementary schools in STEM activities and unique hands-on learning opportunities.

Science Supplies – \$200: Supplies to enrich science education at Morristown High School.

Senior Signs for all Graduating 8th Graders and High School Seniors – \$5,000: To recognize our students' success, celebratory lawn signs for all graduates were provided.

Sensory Path – \$4,725: An ecolor+poster printer to print stickers and posters to create sensory paths throughout Normandy Park School to promote self-regulation of behavior.

Summer Plus (\$1,500 per student) and Summer Music (\$500 per student) Program Tuition – \$17,000: A partnership with the Presbyterian Church in Morristown provided scholarships for ten K-5 students with financial need to attend the Morris School District Community School's Summer Plus program and scholarships for four rising 4th -11th graders to attend the Morris School District Community School's Summer Music Academy.

Theatre Department – \$500: Support for the Morristown High School theatre program.

Thermocycler – \$2,955: The thermocycler will enrich the study of biotechnology at MHS in forensics classes, nanotechnology classes, first-year Biology classes, independent research classes, AP Biology classes, and introductory STEM classes.

Tutoring for Middle School – \$4,000: The Frelinghuysen Middle School after-school community volunteer tutoring program for math and language arts serves students who are at risk of falling behind.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Success in the Real World – \$4,900: Speaker Duncan Kirkwood shared his illuminating and honest presentation with students and parents.

5 Things Parents Should Know About Education Now: A Conversation with Myron Dueck About Student Learning, On-Going Assessment, Homework and Global Educational Trends – \$1,500: An evening conversation with parents about grading and assessment techniques to support student learning.

Holocaust Awareness at MSD

Fourth and fifth-graders at Normandy Park and Sussex Avenue elementary schools read *Number the Stars*, a Newbery Medal Award-winning historical fiction book by Lois Lowry, about a ten-year-old girl living in Copenhagen, Denmark during the Nazi invasion. To bring the story to life, NJ resident and child



Holocaust child survivor, Maud Dahme, presenting to Normandy Park 4th and 5th graders on her experiences and story.

Holocaust survivor, Maud Dahme, shared her experiences as a hidden child in the Netherlands with the students. She led an age-appropriate discussion, focusing on tolerance, education and her story. Maud is a passionate advocate of Holocaust education, has been featured in a PBS documentary and in the Holocaust Museum in Washington DC.

Disappointed by his peers' lack of knowledge of the Holocaust, MHS senior, Aron Goodman, created Tova Talk, a Holocaust education account on TikTok as part of his humanities project in the Life Design Lab program at MHS. The videos feature interviews with his grandmother, Tova Friedman, about her story as a child survivor of the Auschwitz death camp. The account has a half million followers, made national news after going viral and garnered him speaking engagements around the world.



Aron Goodman receiving the first-ever Outstanding Student Holocaust Education Award for creating and posting a documentary about his grandmother, Tova Friedman, an Auschwitz survivor, for a Life Design Lab Humanities project. (Courtesy of Taya Friedman)

Bringing Ideas to Reality with the Life Design Lab



Formerly known as The Humanities Academy, the Life Design Lab (LDL) at Morristown High School (MHS) provides students with the time and space to explore their interests, discover their passions

and purpose, and create viable solid pathways for their life to come. LDL provides students with a project-based learning model that integrates multiple skill sets and disciplines and also emphasizes mindfulness, metacognition, and executive functioning.

While students produce projects and products worthy of the world marketplace, the real emphasis is on the student and their learning. The projects are a vehicle for self-discovery, passion and purpose, emphasizing the process, which includes feedback and reflection.

Scan the QR code to learn more about the LDL program and students' work, including standouts Michaela Lattimore (MHS '23) and Max Bellamente (MHS '23).



Empowering Students Through Collaborative Self-Expression

Collaborating, thinking outside of the box and watching written words come to life were the name of the game at this year's Jump the Turnstile performance at Montclair State University. The program was a blend of creative writing, dance and choreography, as well as animation. This project was all made possible thanks to a \$3,900 grant from the Morris Educational Foundation.

One hundred twenty-five students from Jennifer Furphy's creative writing classes at Morristown High School (MHS) participated in a residency program with ARTS by the People. During two intensive creative writing workshops, Executive Director, Paul Rabinowitz, taught the students a new way of approaching their poetry and prose. They saw their words interpreted through dance, and also engaged in public speaking lessons to deliver powerful performances through spoken words.

At the end of the residency, the students submitted their work to a panel of judges and six poets had the chance to see their words become performances at Jump the Turnstile.

The program was an all-around hit. One of the participants called it "one of the most illuminating



Creative Writing students read their poems aloud in class as Paul Rabinowitz of ARTS by the People asks questions and provides feedback.

experiences" they've had, and that they walked away "bursting with creativity and inspiration." Another student admitted they were not sure if it was going to work at first, but that it "turned out awesome."

Scan the QR code to view the six MHS Jump the Turnstile performances that include *Celebration*, *False Alarm*, *Hellfire*, *Rain*, *Through My Window*, and *Waiting*.





IMAGINE *the possibilities*



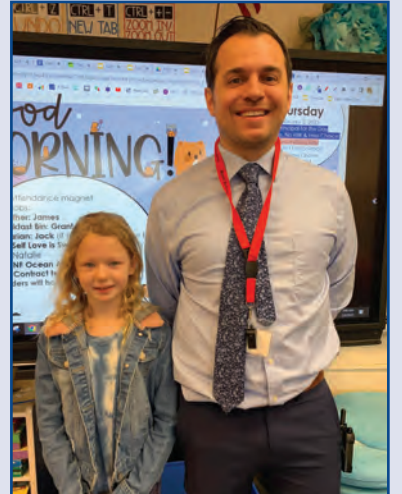
MSD Elementary Schools Exercise their Minds and Bodies!



Alexander Hamilton school mascot, Hooty, poses with students Blanca, Paul, and Victoria as the top three readers in the school's 4-week March Madness Reading Challenge.



Alexander Hamilton and Hillcrest families participate in their HSA Family International Night.



Normandy Park student, Ivy, stands with Principal Chris Miller as she takes on her role as Principal for the Day, which included a face-to-face meeting with Superintendent Dr. Anne Mucci.



Normandy Park students participate in Dance Through the Decades Residency to learn about different dances from the 1920s to today, including dance history, dance styles, and choreography.



Alfred Vail students experiment with colors and shapes with the Light Table in the school's Zen Den.



Woodland first-grade students participate in cup stacking during collaborative centers.



Woodland second-grade students hold a poetry cafe.



Alfred Vail students participate in a dance residency.



Sussex fifth-grade students host a Cardboard Arcade and lead third and fourth-graders to play games they created.



Hillcrest students participate in their Vocabulary Parade.



Thomas Jefferson students and staff participate in their Fall Color Run.

50 Years of the Morris School District Legacy

The 2022-2023 school year began with a celebration of the Morris School District's (MSD) 50-year history as the only school district in New Jersey created by a court order, mandating the merging of Morristown and Morris Township schools to promote racial integration. Afterwards, MSD was referred to as "The Lighthouse" to be a beacon for other communities.

The Morris Educational Foundation was subsequently founded in 1992 by Stephen B. Wiley, lead counsel in the MSD merger, to protect this legacy and to be a model of social and educational leadership in New Jersey and the country. Since then, the District embarked on a historic journey to unite our communities and impact our students for generations to come.

To honor this unique distinction and the District's commitment to maintaining and supporting diversity, equity, and inclusion in our schools, a three-day weekend celebration occurred with numerous events including a panel discussion, MHS student-led tours at homecoming and a booth at Morristown Festival on the Green. It was commemorated with a proclamation from the Morristown Mayor, Timothy Dougherty, by establishing September 30th as Morris School District Day.

The highlight of the celebration was *The Lighthouse* exhibit hosted at the Morristown and Morris Township Library, which explored the MSD merger, how the District implemented changes, and its impact on students, residents and the community. It was created by Candace Kelley, 1988 MHS alumna and daughter

of George Kelley, President of the Morris County Urban League at the time of the merger who was then elected to the newly formed Morris School District Board of Education.

To learn more about the merger and its impact, read on at <https://www.morrismerger.com>.

"Our schools teach the ABC's with distinction, but young people in Morristown High and the grade schools also learn the D's, E's and F's. By association and experience, they learn about Democracy and Diversity, about Equal Opportunity and Ethnic Strengths, about Freedom and Fraternity, about the whole alphabet of America."

~ Stephen B. Wiley



Community members attend *The Lighthouse* exhibit at the Morristown and Morris Township Library.



MHS Heritage Club students lead tours of the school with highlights reflecting the merger.



Panelists discuss the historic MSD merger at MHS led by Candace Kelley, MHS '88 and *The Lighthouse* exhibit creator. (From L to R): I. Bookhart, MHS '23, President, Melanin Minds; A. Osorio Euceda, MHS '23, Co-President, Equity & Inclusion; Dr. T. Ficarra, District Interim Superintendent; C. Martin, Former Combined MSD BOE President; D. Gottsleben, MHS '72 and Current MHS Media Specialist; W. Kersey, MHS '05, Current FMS Assistant Principal and Local Historian; and R. Kauffman, Former School Board Member, Former Morristown Council Member.

An Unrestricted Gift Tied to Friendship and Volunteerism

The Morris Educational Foundation (MEF) is grateful to Caren and David Olander for their recent \$50,000 gift to the organization, the largest unrestricted gift made by an individual donor in the MEF's 30-year history. The Olanders are long-time residents of Morristown and Morris Township. Their two daughters attended the Morris School District schools and Caren volunteered in the schools. At the June MEF board meeting, Caren and David Olander recognized close friend and long-time Morris Educational Foundation Board Trustee, Jody Marcus, for her community volunteerism and made the gift in her honor.

"Dave and I are thrilled to make this gift in honor of our dear friend, Jody," said Caren Olander. "We are inspired by her continuous, quiet work and leadership with the non-profits in our community over the past thirty years, and we are also big fans of the Morris School District. To honor our incredible friend with a gift to MEF brings it all together for us."

The Olander donation is especially noteworthy because it is designated for general operating support, a vitally important designation, and one that is often overlooked. Supporting operations for a non-profit is crucial for its sustainability and success ensuring the viability and longevity of the organization and its infrastructure.

Jody Marcus shared, "I was invited to join the MEF after the Community Children's Museum in Dover closed because my clear passion for the betterment of all the children in our community aligned with the MEF's mission as well. The Olanders



Caren and David Olander (Right) pose with close friend and Board Trustee of the Morris Educational Foundation, Jody Marcus. The Olanders donated the largest unrestricted gift made by an individual donor in the MEF's 30-year history in honor of Jody Marcus.

have been true and supportive friends to me and have the same passion for our community, which is certainly evident in their generosity. We both support the MEF because the organization offers opportunities for learning, growth, and unity that would otherwise not be available to our families, children, teachers and parents."

District Theatre Produces Lasting Memories and Relationships

With a no-cut cast policy, the **FMS Spring Musical** traveled to Neverland with its unforgettable production of *Peter Pan!* Led by Morristown High School Language Arts Teacher and FMS Theatre Director, Tara Montague, 100 enthusiastic students brought this cherished story to life with classic performances including "I Won't Grow Up" and "I Gotta Crow." An amazing adventure was had by all, and both the students and staff look forward to their next theatre journey.



The cast of the FMS spring production of Peter Pan.

MHS Theatre deserve kudos for their award-winning productions of *Something Rotten!*, *She Kills Monsters* and *Cinderella*. All won multiple categories in the Roxy Awards for outstanding play production and the bergenPAC High School Musical Awards. In addition to individual and group achievements, Morristown High School Special Education Teacher and MHS Theatre Director, Ms. Stephanie Rubin, took home the highly coveted Jo Anne Fox Award for Newcomer Director.



MHS Theatre at the bergenPAC awards.

Roxy Awards:

Something Rotten! (Spring 2022)

- Outstanding Achievement by an Actor in a Period Musical: Johnny Mustion
- Outstanding Achievement by an Actress in a Period Musical: Julia Cama
- Outstanding Production of a Period Musical
- Outstanding Achievement in Direction of a Musical

She Kills Monsters (Fall 2023)

- Outstanding Achievement by a Student Costume Technician: Natalie Rosenthal
- Outstanding Achievement in Stage Combat: Mr. George LaVigne
- Outstanding Achievement by an Actress in a Sci-Fi Play: Shannon Burns
- Outstanding Achievement by an Acting Ensemble in a Sci-Fi Play
- Outstanding Production of a Sci-Fi Play: Mr. George LaVigne

bergenPAC High School Musical Awards:

Cinderella (Spring 2023)

- Best Ensemble
- Outstanding Scenic Design
- Outstanding Orchestral Performance



Morristown High School All-Class Theatre Reunion Attendees at Revolution Gastropub.

In March, the MHS Theatre Department held its first **MHS All-Class Theatre Reunion**. Despite the rain, 60 MHS Theatre alumni reconnected at the 2023 production of this year's spring musical, *Cinderella* followed by a gathering at Revolution Gastropub.

Colonial Nation is THE place for support and promotion of upcoming MHS reunions. Planning a reunion? Email morristowncolonialnation@morriseducationalfoundation.org with "Reunion Support" in the subject line to get started.

Join the MEF!



The Morris Educational Foundation (MEF) is a community of volunteers who enhance the academic pursuits of all students in all 10 schools of the Morris School District. By working closely with the District, local municipalities, teachers, parents and community groups, the MEF inspires and funds opportunities for innovation, learning, growth and belonging. You too can impact our 5,700 students by donating your time, talents or treasure! Email info@morriseducationalfoundation.org to see how you can get involved.

Inspiring Curiosity with Elementary Science Days



To encourage students to get excited and involved with STEM at a young age, the MEF funded this spring's Elementary Science Days throughout the District by providing a \$35,000 grant.

Science teachers worked diligently with providers and MHS STEM students to provide amazing Science Days at all seven of the District's elementary schools. Exciting programming included *Dinosaurs Rock!*, *Mad Science*, *Oceans Alive*, *Traveling Spark Lab*, *StarLab Planetarium*, reptile and animal encounters, and additional activities throughout the day. K-5 students were immersed in activities and presentations to reinforce the curriculum, find real-life connections between science and our community, and to strengthen the growth mindset.

The MEF was able to fund this engaging day of learning in partnership with local corporate sponsors Lanca Sales, Longo Electrical-Mechanical Inc., Arxada, WSP, and OLI Systems. Thanks once again to our corporate sponsors for helping to make these important days possible!

First Annual Motown Trivia Night



In April, over 150 proud alumni, Morris School District supporters and community members attended Morristown Colonial Nation's first annual Motown-themed trivia night! Twenty-five teams gathered at Glenbrook Brewery with MHS graduates spanning 56 class years from '65 up to '21 to prove who knew Motown best. The event was also filled with Motown goodies thanks to sponsor Just Jersey and support from enthusiastic businesses. To view the full recap, visit the News tab on the Colonial Nation website at Morristowncolonial.nationbuilder.com.

MEF and MSD Family Author Experience Bridges Literacy and Engineering



Who is Rube Goldberg and why did he want to know how holes are put into doughnuts? District second-graders learned the answer to this question in October during the second installment of the MEF and MSD Family Author Experience. This unique opportunity brought second graders and their families together to meet and engage with children's book author, Sarah Aronson, who shared her book *Just Like Rube Goldberg* at the Morris Museum. Students also explored the museum's SPARK!LAB and tapped into their natural creativity to tackle engineering and design challenges in the lab's projects stations.

Thanks to generous donors Jim and Meg Wiviott, the MEF was able to provide this experience in support of family literacy. The underlying goal of this fun and entertaining evening was to create stronger relationships between home and school for student success in reading. Each family received a signed copy of *Just Like Rube Goldberg* and each second-grade teacher received a copy for their classroom library.



New District Assistant Superintendent: Marcos Vargas

The District is pleased to welcome the new Assistant Superintendent Marcos Vargas. With 24 years of experience as an educator and administrator in the Montclair, Irvington, Dumont and Newark public school districts, Marcos brings a wealth of knowledge to the District.

Marcos Vargas began his career in education with Newark Public Schools in 1999, teaching high school English. One of his biggest accomplishments was to institute a sustainable AP English program at Barringer High School. Marcos took his passion for English to the Dumont Public Schools where he instituted an AP English Literature and Composition course that, within three years, became one of the more sought-after classes by students.

From there, Marcos transitioned to Irvington Public Schools as District Supervisor of English Language Arts (ELA), 6-12. His goal to make high-quality education accessible for all students was manifested through leading various initiatives aimed at student achievement.

In 2016, Marcos joined Montclair Public Schools as the Director of Secondary Education overseeing curriculum and instruction in secondary ELA and

social studies, in K-12 World Language and English as a Second Language. Later, he was appointed Director of Humanities K-12 where he worked to promote equity and excellence in student achievement, childhood literacy, and the arts.



Later, Marcos served as an adjunct professor of English at Essex County College from 2010 through 2021. He has championed poetry since his college days when he helped found a bilingual literary magazine for Latino students at Rutgers University–New Brunswick.

Marcos enjoys the great outdoors as well as keeping mentally and physically fit through sports, libraries, and the arts. His family proudly immigrated to the United States from Cuba, and he and his wife currently reside in Bergen County with their Siberian Husky.

"I am eager to join the Morris School District and be a part of its continual growth. As our students grow, we grow! This is a wonderful community, and I am excited to be a part of it."

Falcon Athletics Soar in 2022-23

The interscholastic sports program at FMS continues to be a source of connection, personal growth and discovery, wellness, and pride for our community. 657 students participated in the 13 sports teams at FMS – over 60 percent of the student body! FMS is so proud it is able to provide its Falcons with the opportunity to be part of such a positive and inclusive experience during their middle school years. These are some highlights from this year's seasons.



FMS Girls Soccer claim the Greater Morris County Junior Schools Conference Championship.

Led by Head Coach, Jake Cahill and Assistant Coach, Nathalia Bueno, **FMS Girls Soccer** claimed the Greater Morris County Junior Schools Conference Championship in November. The team was seeded 2nd in the county for group 4 and defeated number 4 seed, West Essex by a score of 7-0. This

championship comes off of the heels of the team's last championship prior to remote learning in 2019.

Under the coaching duo of Kristen Trezza and Hannah Siebenberg, **FMS Softball** became the first in FMS history to win the title of County Champions with a 2-0 win over Mt. Olive Middle School. Erin Murphy pitched the full 7 innings with 6 strikeouts, including the game-ending strikeout with bases loaded in the 7th inning. The team made incredible plays and prevented Mount Olive from scoring. Keira Scepanksi and Lena Flynn both hit a double, and Kate Armenti hit a pivotal home run. Congratulations on a great history-making season!



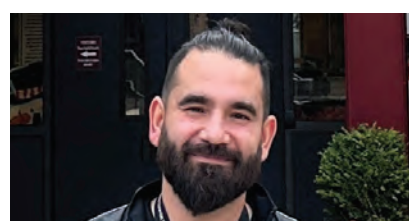
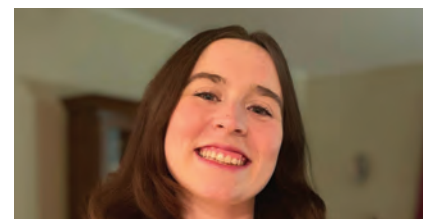
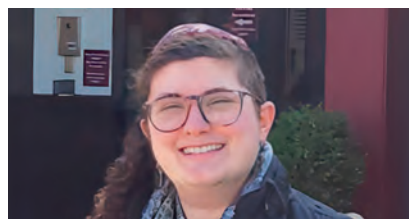
FMS Girls Softball make school history to win its first County Champion Championship.

2022-23 Myles Smiled on You Award Winners



With many graduates concerned about repaying student loans, the Morris Educational Foundation (MEF) selected 10 exceptional Morristown High School (MHS) alumni as the recipients of the 2022 Myles Smiled on You Award for secondary education loan reduction. The award was created in memory of 2013 MHS graduate, Myles Mislavsky, and is funded by those who knew and loved Myles, his family, friends and the Golden Bagel Runners.

Since its inaugural year in 2019, the MEF has presented 23 alumni with the Myles Smiled on You Award. Thanks to the Mislavsky/Martinez family, nine new deserving MHS alumni received the award in the amount of \$5,000 each this year.



The selected recipients who exemplify Myles' many positive characteristics include (From L to R, Top to Bottom): Eden Anolick – '13, Michael Crowley – '14, Carleigh Kenny – '18, Clare Mueller – '16, Eleni Pappas – '14, Darren Prado – '13, A'Nasia Rudolph – '16, Diego Salas – '02, Meghan Siverson – '15.

MHS Varsity Accolades

Boys Cross Country: 0-6; J. Gardberg: NJAC Honorable Mention, Qualifier NJSIAA Group 4 Championships; D. Chowdhury: NJAC Honorable Mention

Girls Cross Country: 3-2; G. Delgiorno: NJAC 1st team, 5th place @ NJSIAA Group 4 Championships, MOC Qualifier-23rd overall; N. Slaughter: NJAC Honorable Mention; J. Jabbour: NJAC 2nd Team; E. Kirk: NJAC 2nd Team; J. Cain: NJAC 2nd Team

Football: 3-7; J. Brown: First Team All SFC - Liberty White (Offense); T. Buchner: First Team All SFC - Liberty White (Defense), MCFCA Pete Piccirillo Defensive Player of the Year; F. Rodgers: First Team All SFC - Liberty White (Defense); O. Acuna-Casey: First Team All SFC - Liberty White (Kicking); G. Hills: Second Team All SFC - Liberty White (Offense); C. Richardson: Second Team All SFC - Liberty White (Defense); L. Leyton: Second Team All SFC - Liberty White (Defense); W. Galligan: Honorable Mention Team All SFC - Liberty White, SFC Steve D. Gregorio Man of the Year, New York Giants "Heart of a Giant" Nominee

Field Hockey: 6-10; A. Nerz: Second Team All-Conference - Defense, Second Team All-Conference Academic; A. Sacus: Second Team All-Conference - Defense, Second Team All-Conference Academic; A. Ramirez: Second Team All-Conference - Offense, Second Team All-Conference Academic; J. Cain: Second Team All-Conference - Offense, Second Team All-Conference Academic

Girls Volleyball: 13-8; G. Atkins: NJAC First Team; S. Bogert: NJAC First Team, NJAC Academic All-Conference Team; B. Atkins: NJAC Second Team, NJAC Academic All-Conference Team; M. Summerville: NJAC Honorable Mention

Boys Soccer: 3-14-2; D. Alexander: NJAC 2nd Team, NJAC All-Academic Team, All County 3rd Team; R. Eapen: NJAC First Team, NJAC All-Academic Team, All County 1st Team; O. McDowell: NJAC 2nd Team, NJAC All-Academic Team, All County 3rd Team; J. Raiz: NJAC Honorable Mention; R. Berman: All County Honorable Mention; D. Bedoya: All County Honorable Mention

Girls Soccer: 10-5; J. Rosenfeld: 1st Team All-Conference, 1st Team All-County, Academic All-Conference; K. Pohan: 1st Team All-Conference, 2nd Team All-County, Academic All-Conference; E. Armenti: 1st Team All-Conference, Honorable Mention All-County, Academic All-Conference; K. Clark: 1st Team All-Conference, Academic All-Conference; M. Fisher: 2nd Team All-Conference, Academic All-Conference; A. Szporn: 2nd Team All-Conference, Academic All-Conference; A. Galea: 2nd Team All-Conference, Academic All-Conference; G. West: Honorable Mention All-Conference

Girls Tennis: 3-14 and NJAC Team Sportsmanship award; V. Cardenas: NJAC 2nd Team; A. Studer: NJAC Honorable Mention; S. Vasudevan: NJAC Honorable Mention

Bowling: 7-11; J. Nolan, III: NJAC Honorable Mention; A. Jain: NJAC Honorable Mention; A. Andrinopoulos: Third Team All-Morris County Boys

Boys Basketball: 12-14 and Walkill Valley Holiday Tournament Champions; Z. Baitey: Second Team All-County, First Team All-NJAC, Academic All-Conference; F. Rodgers: Second Team ALL-NJAC, Academic All-Conference; C. Galligan: Honorable Mention All-NJAC

Girls Basketball: 16-10; M. Summerville: First Team All-County, First Team All-Conference; C. McGinley: Second Team All-County, Second Team All-Conference; A. Rivetti: Honorable Mention All-County, Honorable Mention All-Conference

Boys Ice Hockey: 5-15-1; J. Byrne: 2nd Team Mennen Division; B. Toye: 2nd Team Mennen Division; L. Wilson: Honorable Mention Mennen Division; C. Kay: Otto Haas Sportsmanship Award - Mennen Division

Boys Swimming: 4-8 and Second Place in U&ME Invitational; B Goroway: NJAC - Honorable Mention / MOC 200 Freestyle Relay 13th Place in State; L. Stuek: NJAC - Honorable Mention / MOC 200 Freestyle Relay 13th Place in State; O. Barone: MOC 200 Freestyle Relay 13th Place in State; J. MacMillan: MOC 200 Freestyle Relay 13th Place in State; J. Cotnoir: MOC 200 Freestyle Relay 13th Place in State (alternate)

Girls Swimming: 9-4 and U&ME Invitational Swim Champions; M. Gillen: NJAC-2nd Team Medley Relay, 2nd Team 100 Butterfly / MOC 100 Butterfly (18th) in the state; J. Rosenfeld: NJAC-2nd Team Medley Relay, Honorable Mention; I. Tapkas: NJAC-2nd Team Medley Relay; L. Ushiki: NJAC-2nd Team Medley Relay

Fencing: J. Gringeri: 1st Team NJAC; J. DeVries: 1st Team NJAC; A. Ezell: Honorable Mention NJAC; J. Marella: Honorable Mention NJAC

Girls Winter Track: Morris County Champions, 4x4 County Champs, Distance Medley School Record; G. DelGiorno: Morris County Champion 3200, State Sectional Runner Up 1600 & 3200, MOC Qualifier in the 1600, Ran the 2nd fastest 1600 in school history with 5:06.98; N. Freeman: Morris County Relay 4x4 Champ, State Group Qualifier 400, 4x4; C. Annuik: Morris County Relay 4x4 Champ, State Group Qualifier, 800, 4x4; C. Collins: Morris County Relay 4x4 Champ, State Group Qualifier 4x4; E. Kirk: Morris County Relay 4x4 Champ, State Group Qualifier, 1600, 800, 4x4;

Boys Winter Track: J. Meza: Morris County Champion 300 m, State Sectional Champion 400 m, 800m, State Group IV Champion 400 meters. Set New School Record in 300, 400, Qualified for the MOC and placed 7th in New Jersey; R. Morgan: State Group Qualifier Shot Put; C. Richardson: State Group Qualifier Shot Put; D. Chowdhury: State Group Qualifier 1600

Wrestling: 12-13, Irvington Team Tournament - 3rd Place, Morris County Team Tournament - 9th Place; J. Myers: NJAC - 1st Team, Morris County Tournament - 2nd, District 11 - 1st, Region 3 - 2nd, NJ State Tournament - 3rd; J. Argueta: NJAC - 1st Team, Morris County Tournament - 5th, District 11 - 3rd, Region 3 - 4th; F. Saxon: NJAC - 2nd Team, Morris County Tournament - 4th, District 11 - 3rd; H. Saxon: NJAC - 2nd Team; R. Murphy: NJAC - Honorable Mention, Morris County Tournament - 5th, District 11 - 3rd; J. Castro: District 11 - 2nd

Softball: 14-11; K. Volinsky: 2023 Morris County All Coaches' Team; K. Riley: 2023 Morris County All Coaches' Team; C. Volker: NJAC First Team - National Division; E. Rolph: NJAC First Team - National Division; E. Watson: NJAC Second Team - National Division; M. Langsdorf: NJAC Second Team - National Division; J. Ford: NJAC Honorable Mention - National Division

Baseball: 10-14; O. Acuna-Casey: First Team NJAC National; C. Kay: First Team NJAC National; S. Newman: Second Team NJAC National; T. Davis: Second Team NJAC National

Girls Lacrosse: 18-3; Morris County Champions; B. Siverson: Academic All-League, First Team All Morris County, First Team All-League, USA Lacrosse Academic All American, USA Lacrosse All American, First Team All-State; O. Licardi: Academic All-League, Second Team All Morris County, Second Team All-League, Second Team All-State; K. Clark: Second Team All Morris County, First Team All-League, Academic All-League, USA Lacrosse Academic All American, Third Team All-State; A. Rivetti: Academic All-League, First Team All Morris County, First Team All-League, USA Lacrosse Academic All American; A. Szporn: Academic All-League, Second Team All Morris County, Second Team All-League; M. O'Brien: Academic All-League, First Team All Morris County, First Team All-League, USA Lacrosse All American, First Team All-State; C. Moran: Academic All-League, Third Team All Morris County, Second Team All-League; C. Collins: Honorable Mention All Morris County, Honorable Mention All-League; C. Condon: Academic All-League, Second Team All Morris County, Second Team All-League



Boys Lacrosse: 4-12; C. Ross: 1st Team NJAC United, 2nd Team NJILL Rizk; A. Davis: 2nd Team NJAC United; B. Toye: Honorable Mention NJILL Rizk; T. Gleichmann: Honorable Mention NJAC United

Girls Track: 4-0; C. Annuik: First Team NJAC, Morris County 1st team 4x400; Gr 4 N1 - 800 -1st / 4x400 -1st; A. Murphy: First Team NJAC, Morris County 1st team 400IH/ 4x400, Gr 4 N1 - 400IH-1st/ 100HH-2nd/ 200m-2nd/ 4x400-1st, Gr Champ- 400IH -1st / 100HH-4th, All State 1st 400 IH- MOC 1st place 400IH; T. Campbell: First Team NJAC; E. Kirk: First Team NJAC, Morris County 1st team 4x400, Gr 4 N1 - 800 -2nd / 1600- 2nd/ 4x400 -1st; N. Freeman: Morris County 1st team 4x400; Gr 4 N1 -400- 5th / 800-6th/ 4x400-1st; Group Championships Qualified 400 - MOC; J. Estiverne: First Team NJAC, Triple Jump-2nd/Long Jump-4th; E. Sweeney: First Team NJAC, Triple Jump-4th; A. Gutierrez: First Team NJAC; L. Lovelsmith: First Team NJAC; J. Lyle: Second Team NJAC; O. Brown: Second Team NJAC; J. Suttle: Second Team NJAC; M. Summerville: Second Team NJAC; J. Blair: Second Team NJAC; E. Klein: NJAC Honorable Mention

Boys Track: 3-1; J. Meza: All NJAC 1st Team, All County 1st, School Record 400IH, County Champ 400IH, MOC Qualifier; R. Morgan: All NJAC 1st Team; E. Stallone: All NJAC 1st Team; Z. Baitey: All NJAC 1st Team, All County 1st, MOC Qualifier; A. Oridge-Evans: All NJAC 2nd Team; J. Donegan: All NJAC 2nd Team; G. Hills: All NJAC 2nd Team; C. Richardson: Honorable Mention NJAC

Golf: 7-10; C. Meldrum: First Team All-Conference, 2nd Place Group 4 Sectional; L. Pasternak: Second Team All-Conference, 3rd Place Group 4 Sectional; C. Fixter: Honorable Mention All-Conference, 2nd Place MCT

Boys Tennis: 2023 Morris Invitational Tournament Team Champions, NJAC American Division Team Sportsmanship Award; J. Lim: NJAC Conference, American Division 2023 Honorable Mention; S. Vasudevan: NJAC Conference, American Division 2023 Honorable Mention, 2023 Morris Invitational 2nd Doubles Champions; E. Rencarge: 2023 Morris Invitational 1st Doubles Champions; J. Sommer: 2023 Morris Invitational 1st Doubles Champions; A. Kumlu: 2023 Morris Invitational 2nd Doubles Champions

Flag Football: 1-6-1; J. Jabbour: SFC All-Division 1st Team Offense (WR); All-North NJ 2nd Team; North-South All-Star game participant; I. Bergeron: SFC All-Division 2nd Team Offense - WR; A. Studer: SFC All-Division Honorable Mention Offense; A. Petrucci: SFC All-Division Honorable Mention Offense; O. Voltaggio: SFC All-Division 2nd Team Defense - DL; C. Galbraith: SFC All-Division 2nd Team Defense - LB; G. Neely: SFC All-Division 2nd Team Defense - DB; J. Carrington: SFC All-Division Honorable Mention Defense; N. Molina: SFC All-Division Honorable Mention Defense

Boys Volleyball: 10-11; E. Taneli: NJAC All-Conference-Second Team; R. McDowell: NJAC All-Conference Honorable Mention

2022-23 MEF Scholarship Recipients

The Judy and Eliot Steinberg Scholarship
Quinsha St. Agathe, The College of New Jersey

Katherine Chiqui Zumba,
The College of New Jersey

Clifford Starrett Scholarship
Julia Rahmeier, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Wong Family Scholarship
Jordan Dickman, University of Pennsylvania

George and Michele Becker Scholarship
Phillip Byrne, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

Stephen B. Wiley Scholarship
Valencia Julien, Temple University

Captain Brian J. McNally, USMC Scholarship
Abigail Studer, Bloomsburg University

Dorothy F. Johnson Scholarship
Shiven Joshi, Rutgers University

Spring Brook Foundation Scholarship
Hannah Riano, Rutgers University

Javier Avelar Scholarship
Nayeli Perez, Syracuse University

Class of '79 Morris 8 Scholarship
Aidan Hyer, Boston University

James B Galbraith, Jr. Scholarship
Abigail Studer, Bloomsburg University

Ricardo Nulman, Duke University

Morristown High School Class of 2020 Resilience Scholarship
Emma Fairbourne, Washington State University

Morristown Distinguished Wrestler Scholarship
Robert Murphy, University of North Carolina Wilmington

John T. Cunningham Scholarship
Matthew McDonald, University of Notre Dame

Mary Bentzlin Scholarship
Allison Forsell, Lafayette College

Bruce Chamberlain Scholarship
Ashley Gregor, Georgetown University

Douenias Family Scholarship for Scholar Athletes
Catherine Gaynor, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Ferrara-Myers Grandparents Scholarship
Alexia Kallis, University of Vermont

Hess-Mulcahy Scholarship
Fabio Campos, Carnegie Mellon University

William Darell Johnson "Let's Get It Going!" Memorial Scholarship
Christian Clark-Stokes, Pennsylvania State University

Ruth Marantz Cohen French Award
Nerlande Solage, Rutgers University

Morristown Animal Hospital Scholarship
Micaela Cassidy, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Coach Gil Shaffer Scholarship
Mateo Baracaldo, Florida State University

Shirley Shalit Scholarship
Michael Joseph King, Seton Hall University

The Morris Educational Foundation (MEF) is proud to have awarded over \$359,000 in scholarships to 26 deserving Morristown High School graduating seniors. Thanks to local organizations, alumni and individuals, the MEF provides support to ease the financial burden of these students as they achieve their dreams in college and beyond. If you are interested in supporting or creating a scholarship, please contact Caroline Godfrey at caroline@morrisedfoundation.org.



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WHAT'S HAPPENING IN... #TheDistrict 2022-2023

A joint publication from The Morris School District, The Morris Educational Foundation and Morristown Colonial Nation

- [MorrisSchoolDistrictMorristownNJ](#) [MSDK12](#)
- [MorrisEducationalFoundation](#) [MorrisedFound](#)
- [MorristownColonialNation](#) [MorristownColonialNation](#)



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IN THE DISTRICT



Through a \$12,000 grant from the MEF, the MSD Transportation Department purchased Buster the Bus, an interactive robot used to teach bus safety to Pre-K and elementary school students. Designed to look like a miniature MSD school bus, presenters used a voice modifier to talk and answer questions as Buster, and deliver a fun and exciting program using this tool that moves, flashes bus lights and smiles. Buster will continue to visit PreK-2nd and 3rd-5th grade students in the coming years with differentiated assemblies to make their school bus experience the best it can be.

Pinned by [Morris Educational Foundation](#)



MHS students proudly participated in Poetry Out Loud, a national arts education program that encourages the study of great poetry. Under the instruction of MHS Language Arts teacher, Jen Furphey, and the English Department, five students won the MHS competition, and Averie Sigle (far right) represented the school in the regional recitation competition in February at the Mayo Performing Arts Center for a chance to advance to the state finals.

Pinned by [Morris School District](#)



To enrich the study of biotechnology at MHS, a thermocycler machine was purchased through a \$2,900 grant for Forensics, Nanotechnology, first-year Biology, independent research, AP Biology, and introductory STEM classes. A staple in research, diagnostic, and forensic laboratories around the world, this technology gives students a better understanding of DNA and RNA for an advantage in college, graduate school, and the STEM workplace.

Pinned by [Morris Educational Foundation](#)



On Saturday, April 29, nine District students participated in the Region 1 Elementary Honors Orchestra Festival at Clifton High School. After being selected, the students prepared the music the month prior, followed by a day-long group rehearsal and performance with students from schools across Bergen, Hudson, Essex, Morris, Passaic, Sussex, and Warren counties. These dedicated students from their respective schools include: Susana Arias (SX), Reagan Doyle (AH), Elsie Gonzalez (SX), Lillian Lee (TJ), Lizzy Miralda (NP), Samuel Montes (SX), Santi Rosales (AH), Victoria Toro (SX) and Liyana White (NP).

Pinned by [Morris School District](#)



To provide extra academic support, community volunteers tutored FMS students in math and language arts through a \$4,000 grant. Chick-fil-A rewarded students who had excellent program attendance with a gift card.

Pinned by [Morris Educational Foundation](#)



To establish family reading routines for Spanish and English-speaking parents and their children, over 50 District preschoolers and their parents enjoyed monthly Bilingual Book Club at three different locations through a \$7,400 grant. After reading and discussing the book, families completed a craft, which allows children to spend quality time with their families in an educational setting that promotes reading, storytelling, and working with their hands.

Pinned by [Morris Educational Foundation](#)