

FIND OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING IN...

#District



STEM Programs Continue to Inspire

On April 19 the MHS Girls in STEM Club welcomed sixty-five 8th grade girls from Frelinghuysen Middle School and Morris Plains Borough School to MHS and shared with them the excitement of all things science, technology, engineering, and math – Morristown High School style: dynamic, engaging, and exciting.

Members of the Club designed the event to combat the persistent stereotypes that lead girls to believe they are not suited for STEM careers. Throughout the day high school students encouraged their younger counterparts to “Work Hard, Dream Big” while working alongside them in a series of STEM-related activities and competitions. Included among those were balloon races – complete with cheering sections – to demonstrate Newton’s third law of motion. Female STEM professionals from Johnson & Johnson, Morristown Medical Center, Moretrench, and other leading corporations shared their experiences and wisdom with visiting students and discussed the burgeoning opportunities for women in STEM fields. [more on page 6>](#)



Eric LeGrand Makes Students Believe

Former Rutgers University collegiate athlete and inspirational speaker Eric LeGrand brought his story *Believe #52* to Frelinghuysen Middle School students on January 31st. He will speak with Morristown High School in June.

LeGrand, a star Rutgers football player, suffered a severe injury during a tackle in 2010. This tackle left Eric paralyzed. Eric’s tale of determination and perseverance in the face of adversity brought FMS students to their feet with a rousing standing ovation. “Engaging students to be the best they can be in the face of adversity with courage and perseverance, along with educating the community about spinal cord injury and living with paralysis is a passion of mine,” said Eric LeGrand. “I believe that anything can be accomplished through hard work and determination.” [more on page 6>](#)



To the Cast & Crew of Anything Goes: Bravos All Around!

Try as he did, Old Man Winter was no match for the intrepid cast and crew of Morristown High School’s spring musical, *Anything Goes*. Late-winter storms obliterated the final 2-weeks of rehearsals and caused the cancellation of the show’s sensory-friendly performance, dress rehearsal, senior citizens performance, and originally-scheduled opening night. But when the curtain rose on the “new” opening night and the massive S.S. American ocean liner came into view, it was obvious the audience was about to embark on a journey of sheer delight and clear that a Super Bowl-worthy dream team had come together to make magic on the MHS stage.

The dream team’s set crew began its work in August, with revisions, drafting, and ordering ongoing through December. [more on page 6>](#)



Judy and Eliot Steinberg Scholarship Pledges \$1,000,000 for Students

What is the best gift you can give parents who believed in education and equal opportunity for all? For the three Steinberg brothers and their families, Robert (Morristown High School class of 1969), Julian (MHS class of 1973), and wife Kerry, and Andy (MHS class of 1975) and wife Sue, the answer is a free college education for deserving students.

The *Judy and Eliot Steinberg Scholarship*, established by the Steinberg family, pledges \$1 million to the Morris Educational Foundation to provide for the college education of 10 or more Morristown High School students so they can graduate with minimal or no debt. This scholarship honors the legacy of long-time Morris Township residents, community volunteers, and parents of Morristown High School alum, Judy and Eliot Steinberg. [more on page 6>](#)



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MHS and FMS Students Shine at 2018 Teen Arts Festival



"Fire Chief's Daughter" Digital Photo by Grace Prachtauser

The results of the 2018 Morris County Teen Arts Festival made it clear: the arts – and artists – are thriving at MHS and FMS.

Morristown High School took top honors at the highly-competitive arts festival, which drew 1,500 students from 16 schools throughout the county. Gold medals/Best in Show honors were awarded

to MHS seniors Grace Prachtauser (digital photograph) and Gabby Meerwarth (acrylic on canvas), and freshman Daniela Cappy (ceramic). Their work will be part of a year-long traveling exhibition of the best student artwork in NJ and on display at NJEA convention in November. Following graduation Grace will continue to develop her professional photography business; Gabby will attend Scripps College (CA) where she will major in Environmental Analysis and minor in painting.

FMS performing and visual artists captured 5 top-place honors at the 38th annual competition, including 1st Place Festival Performance honors for the Falcon Big Band in the Instrumental Group/All Group category. The Big Band and the FMS Jazz Ensemble were selected to perform at the State Teen Arts Festival on May 29. Visual artists Heidi Carranza, Ariel Papas, Jordan Robinson, and Madeline Weir took top honors in visual arts categories. Ariel's acrylic portrait in black and white earned Gold Medal/Best In Show honors and classmate Jordan Robinson's self-portrait captured 2nd place honors. FMS dancers earned Outstanding Debut Performance honors for dances "Freedom" and "Praying."

MHS Art & Literary Magazine Earns National Honors



Tricorn team members Rachel Prusso, Grace Prachtauser, Gabriella Dos Santos

Morristown High School's *The Tricorn: Art & Literary Magazine* has again received top honors from the National Council of Teachers of English. The 2017 Tricorn was among only 7 high school literary magazines in the state to receive this distinction. The full-color newsstand-worthy magazine, which highlights exceptional student work, is a year-long labor of love for its talented and dedicated student staff.

Melanin Minds Invites Community to Celebrate Diversity



On April 26 Morristown High School's Melanin Minds African-American Culture and Social Activism Club invited members of the Community to "Passport to Our World: A Multicultural Journey" to tour, taste, and learn about the cultures of the world right here at home – at MHS.

Members of the club transformed the cafeteria into a colorful and joyous dining and performance hall for a celebration of the diverse cultures that make the Morristown Community and the Morris School District such remarkably rich and vibrant places to live and learn. "It's one thing to talk about our diversity and another thing to appreciate it," said Melanin Minds president, Bella Simon. "The goal of 'Passport' was to encourage that appreciation through knowledge."

Formed just over a year ago, Melanin Minds seeks to stimulate dialogue and understanding of important social issues among and across all cultures and encourages students to use their voice to make positive changes within our schools and the greater community. In January the club hosted a school-wide Political Awareness Day during which students were encouraged to reach out to political leaders to

make their voices known, and in March club leaders addressed the 13,000- person crowd that gathered on the Green to address gun violence in America. Melanin Minds leadership has worked side-by-side with school leadership to establish the District's comprehensive Equity and Inclusion Plan. This plan is designed to ensure that all aspects of District operations – hiring, curriculum, programs, activities, and advanced courses– reflect and support equal access and opportunity for all members of the school community.

"Melanin Minds has provided an important lens through which we continue to examine issues of equity and inclusion throughout the District," said Superintendent Mackey Pendergrast. "We are proud to work together with these students to strengthen our schools and build a healthy community. I have enjoyed all of our discussions."

Morristown Onstage – And the Winners Are



(L-R) Rossoff Rising Star, June Soriano; 19 & Over, Liv Zito; 18 & Under, We Need Love with Ally Are; and Audience Choice, CJ Ryan.

The 11th Morristown ONSTAGE, the largest community fundraising event for the Morris Educational Foundation, was held at Mayo Performing Arts Center on February 28, 2018. The event raised more than \$143,000, a record amount. Emceed by Emmy-nominated Morris School District parent Tara Bernie, the unique showcase of amateur talent featured singing, dancing, instrumental talent, and even acrobatics. The 15 finalists competed to win one of four prizes. A panel of esteemed

judges included award-winning television and movie producer Eileen Bernstein; The Voice finalist singer-songwriter Brendan Fletcher; Tony nominated Broadway producer Bill Franzblau; and playwright/composer Ali Skylar. The panel chose age 19 & over and age 18 & under awards for \$1,000 each. The Audience Choice \$500 Award was voted on via audience text. And the \$250 Rossoff Rising Star Award was given to a contestant with a bright future. Congratulations to the winners shown above.

25th Anniversary Gratitude Grant for our Schools Announced

The Morris Educational Foundation has been a proud supporter of the Morris School District for twenty-five years. As part of the celebration and a way to say thank you to each of our ten excellent schools the 25th Anniversary Gratitude for our Schools Grant has been established.

With this grant, every school in the district has been awarded up to \$5,000 to fund an initiative, program, or project. The 25th Anniversary Gratitude for our Schools Grant is designed to enrich education and strengthen school communities. Each school will join together with their constituents to come up with a big idea for the 2018-19 school year. Stay tuned to learn more next year.

Morris Educational Foundation Named Number One in the Nation

The Morris Educational Foundation (MEF) is ranked first in the nation among same size education foundations in *Stepping Up: The Nation's Top K-12 Education Foundations 2017*, the only study and ranking of K-12 education foundations. The study was led by the Caruthers Institute.

The comprehensive study also ranked the MEF 36th overall out of the 191 K-12 education foundations in the study. The Caruthers Institute cited "per student

funds" as the key to the MEF's jump in the rankings. "This year's top 50 includes something new: a foundation from Division 4 (\$500,000 or less). Morris Educational Foundation (New Jersey) ranks 36th up from 51st last year. What Morris appears to lack in revenues, they make up for it in per-student funds. Some foundations raise large amounts of money but, when compared to the number of students in their districts, it becomes clear the impact on most students is minimal."

Patty Haralampoudis, Chair of the MEF shared, "We are thrilled to have received this recognition for the work we do in partnership with the Morris School District. We strive to impact the education of every student, every day, by making each investment meaningful and thoughtful. Our relationships within our community further impact our students, opening doors and partnerships. Community partnerships are the key to strong schools."

RECENT MEF GRANTS

CLASSROOM INITIATIVES

25th Anniversary Gratitude for Our Schools Grant Up to \$5,000 in funding for any initiative, program, or project at all ten schools in honor of the MEF's 25th Anniversary

Academic Support Centers: Provident Bank funded after-school tutoring for students with need in grades 3-5

Art Skeleton Replacement: To-scale skeleton to reference for drawing and sculpting in MHS art classes

Athletics Equipment: Enhanced equipment for the MHS basketball programs

Battle of the Books: FMS after-school reading comprehension competition designed to increase literacy

Believe #52: Speaking engagements with Eric LeGrand, former Rutgers football star who suffered a severe injury leaving him paralyzed, for students grade 6-12

Books for Kids Literacy Program: 5-week reading challenge with books as rewards for NP students

Chemistry Equipment: Cutting-edge materials enhance chemistry education at MHS

Counseling by the Book: Library of resources on relevant mental health topics for counselors in all of the K-5 schools

Cultural Arts Annual Funding: Each year the MEF awards blanket grants to all ten schools to support cultural arts programming

- **LLC** - Eyes of the Wild, Mad Scientist and Patty the Clown assemblies
- **AH** - Third grade readers-theater with MPAC
- **AV** - Joanna Pang Atkins dance residency for second graders
- **HC** - Story Pirates whole school assembly
- **NP** - Freespace dance residency for K/1 students
- **SX** - BJ Ward poetry residency for fifth grade and Readers Theater with MPAC for third grade
- **TJ** - BJ Ward poetry residency for fifth graders
- **WD** - Story Pirates whole school two-part writing workshops
- **FMS** - Orly Wahba's Kindness Boomerang Assembly
- **MHS** - Orly Wahba's Kindness Boomerang Assembly

Falcon Press Online Newspaper: Funding for an online platform moves the FMS newspaper to the digital world

FMS Model UN: Continuation of the extra-curricular activity for students to learn about diplomacy, international relations, and visit the United Nations

Girls in STEM Day: Full day student-led program introduces rising freshman girls to STEM-related programs and clubs at MHS

Eighth Grade Washington DC Trip: Full scholarships for five students with need

Makey Makey: Kits for all K-5 science classrooms allow students to transform everyday objects into electrical currents used for computer science and coding

New Jersey High School Film Festival: Registration fees for four teams to participate in a statewide competition

Noah Shooting System: Basketball shot measuring technology that provides instant feedback

OSMO: Digital program that allows students to interact with real-world objects like puzzles, letters, and numbers with iPads for all K-2 classrooms

Pixelot Camera: A multicamera system to film field at MHS thanks to NFL grant

Project Graduation: An in-kind donation supports the all-night party for graduated high school seniors

Read to Succeed: Scholastic Storia Middle School Edition promotes e-reading at all levels and genres in sixth grade language arts classrooms

Reading Readiness: Preschool Parent Shared Reading: Parent-child bilingual book club for LLC families now in its 5th year

Setting Up Success in the Middle: Transition program for incoming sixth grade students who are partnered with eighth grade mentors

Sound Enhancement for the MHS Auditorium: Professional grade headsets to increase sound quality for audience members for all theatre productions

Timpani: Drum set used in FMS band and orchestra

Tutoring Initiative: FMS volunteer after-school tutoring program enriches math and language arts for students

Woodland School Sound System: Multi-purpose room upgrades to improve the overall experience at all Woodland events

COMMUNITY

Grow It Green: Materials for second-grade in-class and on-site instruction, funded for the fifth year

Neighborhood House: Get on Track with STEM expands the curriculum with various STEM related materials and professional development for staff

Parent Education Series: Speakers Orly Wahba from Life Vest Inside and Tricia Ross Anderson of Harvard University's Making Caring Common Project share expertise on kindness, character, and wellbeing

Raising Resilient Girls: Girls Leadership founder Simone Marean shares insight into raising girls in the current world

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Allison Schweikart Award: Media specialist Patricia Sutton will attend Judy Freeman's Winners! program

Making Caring Common Lunch & Learn Workshops: Trisha Ross Anderson discusses school climate, culture, values, issues, and goals with all Morris School District guidance counselors, social workers, and psychologists

Saul S. Swanger Fellowship: MHS teacher Cynthia Chiariello will receive advanced training in yoga and mindfulness to help reduce stress and create greater self-awareness for students.

Another Banner Year for FMS Academic Teams

Model UN - Frelinghuysen Middle School was represented with pride at the 5th Annual Model United Nations Conference at Drew University in February. Working in delegations representing a UN member state, 40 FMS students researched some of the most pressing issues of our time: nuclear proliferation, access to clean water, and girls' access to education. Their research was submitted to the Model UN in the form of draft resolutions and position papers. Five FMS delegations received "Best Position Paper" honors and 3 earned "Outstanding Delegation" honors.

TSA - FMS students continued their winning ways in the NJ Technology Student Association competition and again qualified for the national finals. Alexis Feeney, who was part of last year's winning Inventions and Innovations team, took top honors in this year's Flight competition. Repeat Tech Bowl Team winners Vaughn Hays and Brian LuValle were joined this year by Miland Bangalore to again claim the General Knowledge title, and Naomi Williams' powerful speech about Marie Curie earned 2nd Place in the Speech competition. The theme of that



FMS Model UN students at Drew University

competition, "A Celebration of Success" reflects the performance of all 2018 FMS academic teams.

Knowledge Bowl - Frelinghuysen Middle School's Varsity and JV teams took top honors in this year's Consortium of Middle Schools Knowledge Bowl competition, besting teams from Delbarton, Morristown Beard, Newark Academy, Summit, and Oratory Prep, among others.

MHS Science Teams are tops in Morris County



The MHS AP Environmental Science, AP Chemistry, and Chemistry I teams were **#1 in Morris County and among the top 10 in the state** in the 2018 NJ Science League Competition. The AP Environmental team was #6 in the state, outperforming Chatham (#29), West Morris Central (#19), and Mendham (#38). The MHS AP Chemistry team took 6th place state-wide honors, besting Summit (13) Chatham (#37), and Madison (#64). Likewise, the Chemistry I team, #10 in the state, topped #22 Chatham, #40 Madison, and #83 Mendham. MHS AP Biology and AP Physics C teams came in at #2 and #3, respectively, in the county.

Professional Grade Laser Engraver Generously Donated by Ann and Warren Rhines



Ann and Warren Rhines are presented with a custom engraved plaque for their generous donation of a laser engraver.

Ann Rhines, a retired Morris School District teacher and current member of the Board of Education and her husband, Warren, a retired engineer, are strong supporters of new educational opportunities for students. Touring the new STEM wing at Morristown High School and meeting with Technology Teacher, Jack Rizzo, the Rhines saw his enthusiasm for emerging technologies. That reminded Warren of the laser engravers he had read about and seen demonstrated at an education conference they had attended. Ann and Warren believe that creating things is a rewarding experience for all students. One thing led to another, and a new professional grade laser engraver joined the cache of equipment in Morristown High School's Fab Lab this fall thanks to a very generous \$30,000 donation from the Rhines.

"We always have wanted to do something special for students and teachers that would have impact inside and outside of the classroom," said Ann and Warren, long time Morristown residents and advocates of the Morris School District.

Brian S. Young, PreK-12 Supervisor of STEM in the Morris School District said, "STEM education in the Morris School District strives to bring 21st-century learning to all students in grades K-12. Gifts like the laser engraver from the Rhines provides in-depth learning experiences with technologies traditionally only available in post-high school settings. We are incredibly grateful for this gift and the Rhines' dedication to supporting world-class education for our students."

Rizzo, and fellow teacher, Lauren Shohen, who both teach CAD (Computer Aided Design) have been incorporating the laser engraver into classwork all year. In March, they were ready to share their students' work with Ann and Warren, as well as school administrators and Morris Educational Foundation (MEF) board members.

The MEF always looks to make connections with donors and educators who share similar passions. Please contact the MEF if you are interested in learning more.



A CAD student shows the Rhines how the new laser engraver technology works.

MUSIC HONORS



FMS Students selected for North Jersey Area Band
Front Row: Zach Diring, Jordan Dickman, Katelyn Morgan, Emese Daroczi, Miranda Kannisto
Back Row: Anthony Samms, Kyle Ora, Arthur Wawrzyniak, Gregg Marella, Heidy Carranza

FMS MUSIC

The FMS Band room is brimming with talented student-musicians and the awards they continue to accrue. The Falcon Big Band topped its April Jazz in the Middle "Best Improv Band" honors by earning 1st Place Festival Performance Honors at the 2018 Morris County Teen Arts Festival. The 65-member FMS Wind Symphony earned a silver rating at the Region 1 Concert Band Festival. Seventh-graders Charlotte Eriksen, Ben Sebiri, and Shaan Thakker were named to the Jr. Region Concert Band and classmate Anthony Samms was selected as the pianist for the grades 7-9 Jr. Region I Jazz Ensemble and named to Jr. Area Band on French Horn. Tapped for NJ Elementary Honor Bands are 6th graders Mia Bedoya, Jonathan Crysler, Arien Deepu, Zeepan Deepu, Joseph Di Eduardo, Zachary Fields, Mary Gillen, Olivia Gustavsen, and Salvatore Rosania. Selected for North Jersey Area Band were: Emese Daroczi, Miranda Kannisto, Katelyn Morgan (1st Chair), Heidy Carranza Alvarado, Zachary Diring, Jordan Dickman, Kyle Ora, Anthony Samms, Gregg Marella, and Arthur Wawrzyniak (1st Chair). FMS orchestra students Vivian Liu and Miland Banglore were tapped for the Jr. Region I Orchestra. Miland also was selected to perform with the All-State Intermediate Orchestra.

MHS MUSIC

For the 3rd year in a row, the MHS Wind Ensemble earned a Gold Rating at the Region 1 Concert Band Festival and captured a special award for "Best Percussion Section." The ensemble also was selected as one of only 6 high school wind ensembles in the state chosen to perform at the elite region-wide 2018 Rutgers University Mid-Atlantic Wind Band Festival.

Junior Claire Oplinger was awarded the Hanover Wind Symphony Summer Scholarship and will attend the Boston Symphony Orchestra's Tanglewood Summer Music Center. Claire also was selected to perform with 3 honor NJ Honor ensembles, including the All-State Symphonic Band. Classmate Dylan Quattro, Sheetal Banglaore, Conor Lenhahn, Kevin Mueller, Andrew Rosenkilde, Jessica Vogel, Domenic Manobianca, Ethan Huang, and brothers Colin and Alex Yip also were selected to numerous honor bands and orchestras. Freshman Danielle Becht was selected to perform with the Morris Area High School Honor Choir. Tubist David Stein is among 106 student musicians from across the country chosen to perform with the National Youth Orchestra of the United States of America at Carnegie Hall on July 19. The orchestra will then travel to Asia to perform in concert in China, South Korea, and Taiwan.



FMS Falcon Big Band after winning 1st Place Honors at Teen Arts Festival.

SPORTS WRAP UP

MHS WINTER HIGHLIGHTS

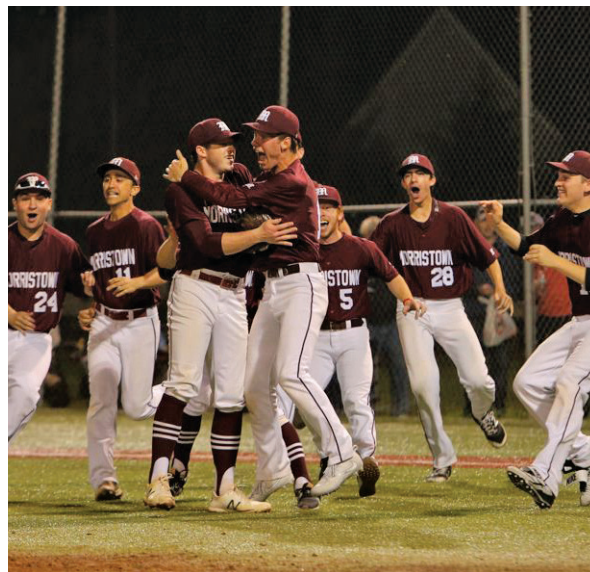
Girls Basketball: The Girls Basketball Team claimed United Conference title for the 4th year in a row. Elizabeth Strambi notched 1,333 points during her storied MHS career and was honored by the NJSIAA National Girls and Women in Sports Day. Strambi and teammate Tara O'Neill earned 1st Team All-Conference honors.

Girls Swimming: The MHS Girls Swim Team claimed the Sectional Championship for the 3rd time in 4 years, defeating powerhouse Chatham to claim the NJACC Conference title. Individual records were set by Nicole Barkemeyer and Grace Miller. Barkemeyer and/or Miller joined forces with teammates Meghan Crowley, Alanna Lenihan, Emily Skilton, Annalise Webber, and Sophie Thompson to set records in the 200 Medley, 200 Freestyle, and the 400 Freestyle Relays. All 7 girls earned 1st Team NJAC Conference honors. Miller also was honored with the NJACC Sportsmanship Award.

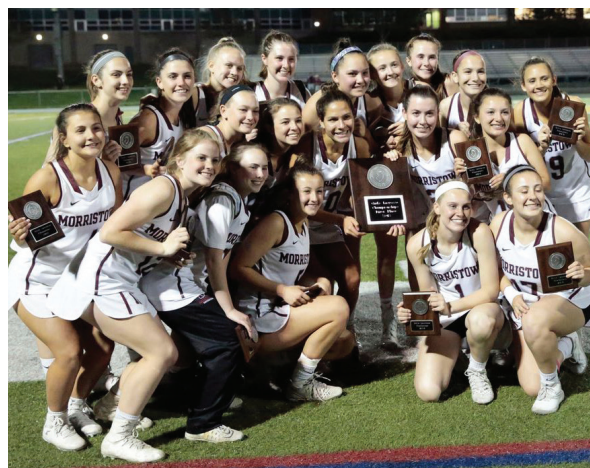
Boys Swimming: The Boys Swim Team had a strong 11-3 season, taking 2nd place in Conference and County championship meets. Thomas Cromie, Dennis DeLargy, Justin Viotto, Patric Hyland, and Zac Crowe qualified for the Meet of Champions, where they combined for 4 top-10 finishes. Viotto set a record in the 400 Meter Freestyle at the County Championship a school record in the 200 Meter Freestyle. Viotto, DeLargy, Cromie, and Hyland all were tapped as 1st Team NJAC selections.

Fencing: Abigail Gringeri capped a spectacular 43-2 season with County and State Sectional Epee Championships. Abigail joined teammates Julia Landi and Sydney Mihalik to claim the State Sectional Epee squad title for the Colonials.

MHS SPRING HIGHLIGHTS



Baseball: On May 13 MHS Baseball Team defeated Delbarton 2-0 to claim its 15th Morris County Baseball Championship. Tournament MVP Brennan O'Neill's brilliant shut-out performance on the mound was backed by solid field play and 2 solo homers by Univ. of Virginia-bound Tate Ballesteros. The team headed to state playoffs ranked among the top 20 in the state.



Girls Lacrosse: MHS Girls Lacrosse Team defeated Mt. Lakes to claim its first-ever Morris County Girls Lacrosse Championship and entered the playoff season ranked #5 in the state. Vanderbilt-bound midfielder Callie Sundin set the all-time MHS points record -362- on May 12. "Callie is a great person and great team leader," said Coach Evan Mager. "She is sure to succeed at whatever she is doing."

COLLEGE CORNER



Once again, the college acceptance season was a robust one at MHS. College shirts were the fashion statement of the day on Decision Day, May 1 as seniors shared their "final answer" with fellow students. Colleges and universities to which members of the MHS class of 2018 were admitted include: Stanford, Boston College, Vanderbilt, Cornell University, Univ. of Virginia, Lehigh, Univ. of Pennsylvania, Georgetown, Villanova, Univ. of Miami, TCNJ, Auburn, Wake Forest, Syracuse, Washington Univ. (St. Louis), Fordham, Westminster Univ. (London), Rutgers, The College of Charleston, Univ. of Maryland, Clemson, Lafayette, Univ. of Michigan, Providence, Univ. of Southern California, New York University, Univ. of Richmond, and UNC (Chapel Hill), among others.

MSD Named to AP Honor Roll; 10 MHS Students Honored as National AP Scholars

For the second time in 4 years the Morris School District has been honored by the College Board for increasing access to Advanced Placement courses while simultaneously increasing the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher (on a scale of 5) on AP exams. The MSD is among only 447 district in the US and Canada and 38 in New Jersey to earn a spot on the College Board's Annual AP District Honor Roll for Significant Gains in Advanced Placement Access and Student Performance.

"Morristown High School is one of only a small number of schools nationwide that achieved this distinction twice in the last 4 years," said Superintendent Mackey Pendergrast. "We are especially proud to see substantive growth in participation and achievement across many different subgroups."

In addition to the overall increase to access and in achievement, the number of students honored for exceptional AP performance also continues to increase. Last year, 98 students were included in the AP Scholar Honors Roster; this year 126 students were so honored. Included among these are 10 National AP Scholars, 44 AP Scholars with Distinction, 22 AP Scholars with Honor, and 50 AP Scholars.

National AP Scholar Honors are awarded to students who receive an average score of at least 4 on all AP exams taken and scores of 4 or higher on 8 or more exams; the average score for Morristown High School's National AP Scholars was 4.77. Scholars with Distinction must earn an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken and scores of 3 or higher on 5 or more of these exams; MHS Scholars with Distinction earned an average score of 4.33. AP Scholars with Honor must earn average score of at least 3.25 on all exams taken and a score of 3 or higher on 4 or more of these exams; MHS Scholars with Honor earned an average score of 3.96. AP Scholars must earn an average score of 3 or higher on 3 or more AP exams; MHS AP Scholars earned an average score of 3.32.

Morristown High School's National AP Scholars are: Isabelle Augensen, Kaitlyn Chiu, Derek He, Eric Ma, Kathleen Merritt, Karandep Randhawa, Alyssa Richtarek, Benjamin Schwartz, Max Sporer, and Carolyn Wong.

Alumni Spotlight: Jami Wintz McKeon, MHS '74

Chair of Morgan Lewis



Jami Wintz McKeon in High School (left) and today (right)

Morristown High School Alum Jami Wintz McKeon, Class of 1974, is the Chair of the largest law firm in the world run by a woman. We were able to catch up with Jami to learn more about her fabulous career and memories of Morristown High.

For Jami's full biography, visit morrisedfoundation.org

MEF: Tell us a little bit about your journey since high school?

JWM: I graduated from Morristown High School in 1974 and the rest is fairly linear. I went to the Pennsylvania State University, studying political science and then graduated from Villanova University School of Law in 1981. I went right on to Morgan Lewis after that. So I basically have had two jobs in my life - a lifeguard for Morris County and an attorney for Morgan Lewis. At the firm, I began as an associate, then became a partner, then the Chair of the Litigation Practice Group, which is the firm's largest group, and I was elected Chair of the Firm in 2014. Along the way I have had four children, who range in age from 17-34, and I now have two grandchildren and a husband who also has a busy career. I am also very active in community activities, serving on the boards of several nonprofits and on the Advisory Board of the Harvard Law School Center on the Legal Profession.

MEF: What are you up to today?

JWM: This is my fourth year as Chair of Morgan Lewis. We are one of the 5 largest law firms in the United States and one of the largest 25 law firms in the world - and we are the world's largest firm run by a woman. We have approximately 2000 lawyers and about 4000 total personnel.

Our law firm is often described as a full service, relationship firm. We represent clients across a wide array of their complex global corporate needs, crossing over many industries, geographies and disciplines. Our firm serves those clients through deep relationships with them, and the way in which we provide those services and the fully integrated approach we take is our brand. We have invested a lot of time and resources to develop an exceptional client service program, training every one of our employees in the philosophy of delivering the best service to our clients and bringing forth principles of creativity, innovation, consistency and empathy. People tend to describe lawyers as negative, stuck in the mud or mired in the past, but the reality is that our clients come to us for creative and innovative ways to deal with complex problems. At Morgan Lewis, we put a lot of emphasis on that creative mindset.

MEF: What inspired you to become an attorney?

JWM: There is a strong correlation between people who are actors and people who are trial attorneys, and that held true in my case. I always participated in theater, always enjoyed the art of debate, and always loved engaging in group problem-solving with smart and creative people. I am the eldest of four children and I'm told that it is not unusual for first-borns to be protective advocates for others and try to fix their problems. I think all of those things combined to lead me to be interested in law. When I went to law school, I did not know what to expect, but I discovered that I really loved studying law. When I tried it, it fit me perfectly. As a lawyer, you really do get to help people for a living. While people think that the skill sets for doctors and lawyers are different, their motivation is often the same in my experience - using knowledge and education

to help other people achieve their goals and objectives.

MEF: Tell us about what it is like to run such a prestigious law firm.

JWM: Honestly, it is great. I am very lucky and blessed with the fact that I've been at Morgan Lewis for a long time. I have stayed because of the culture of the firm - it is a collaborative environment with very smart people who genuinely like each other. I am surrounded by people who have tremendous good will and believe in giving back and using our education and resources to do something good in the world. It is truly a privilege to lead that kind of group. It has been a great opportunity for me to work with people all around the world, as we have offices in the United States, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East. We have fantastic clients, and I am proud that we are able to provide outstanding representation for them and also make life good for our employees and their families. It is challenging work but it is creative and interesting. In addition, I get to spend a lot of time with other leaders of law firms around the world, and I learn a lot from them. I feel fortunate to have the job I have.

MEF: What are you most proud of?

JWM: I am most proud of the culture of our firm. We have topflight lawyers in elite practices helping clients with incredibly complex problems all around the world. Add to that the diversity of our work, giving back through pro bono services, and our commitment to doing good things in society. This culture allows us to be a top-performing law firm, a great place to work, and a supportive member of our communities.

MEF: What was your favorite memory of Morristown High School?

JWM: What I loved the most about Morristown High School was the diversity of activities available. There was a wide range of classes for every academic level, and something for every interest. I loved the musicals and theater program. I loved being a cheerleader and watching all the sports. (My nephew plays for MHS Baseball now and I love watching his games.) The diversity of people and opportunity that exists at MHS is huge and both of those were really significant for me. If you are surrounded by people who come from different backgrounds and interests, you get more of a view of how the world looks and thinks. This has never been more important than at this particular point in time. What you really need to be successful is to be with and learn from people who have different perspectives from your own.

MEF: What of your success would you attribute to your experiences at the high school?

JWM: I absolutely would attribute much of my success to Morristown High School for many reasons. First, growing up and being surrounded by others whose experiences were not the same as my own was an advantage. Being in that environment helped me to have a broader view and to be more empathetic, more aware, and a better leader.

Second, being part of a large high school did a lot for me. It drove me to want a large university that gave me experiences and opportunities that made me a stronger contributor once I got into the workforce. I give a lot of credit to MHS - those years were very formative for me and had a big impact on how my life unfolded.

MEF: What advice would you give a MHS student?

JWM: Take advantage of every opportunity that you can learn something from. Appreciate the diversity of your classmates and actively seek out people who aren't just like you, don't want to study same thing, or are from a different neighborhood - it will make you a better adult. There are great choices in the world - don't be intimidated by them, but rather be open to them. Don't limit yourself based on the path you are on today - no decision is immutable. You can change your mind. You can change your course of study or your career, take a gap year, follow a passion. The world is wide and so be open to it. High school is a small microcosm of the real world. Your successes and failures in high school will help you with the rest of your life, but don't be defined by either. So much in life is unwritten, so be sure to have a growth mindset, learn from everything, experiment, try things, and discover a path that works for you. That's all part of the journey.

MEF: What is your favorite memory from the high school?

JWM: The shows were great. I loved every one of them. Those experiences were amazing; there were so many different people that worked together to make theater happen. We also had terrific sports teams and I was a sports fanatic. I enjoyed all of the extracurricular activities with the teams. When I look back at high school, the best thing is that the pictures in my mind rarely involve the same people. I was lucky to have so many groups of friends and colleagues and they often didn't overlap. That is the wallpaper of my high school experience and I hold that close to me. I can think back fondly on so many people and experiences, and I am glad I had such a diversity of interests and friends. I truly associate my high school experience with a full community.

MEF: If you had known then what you know now, would you have done anything differently in high school? If so, what?

JWM: Yes; I would have paid more attention in my classes! I treated most things really as an assignment and something to be dispatched in the least possible time. I did not spend as much time thinking or enjoying the academics for the sake of the academics. In high school you have that chance every day and I think unfortunately, the social nature of high school is such that people are intimidated from speaking up and it is not as welcoming an environment as it could be. The luxury of sitting in the room with 18 other people and talking about a book, a chemical formula, a concept, or a point in history is lost on most of us when we are young, and I wish I had taken better advantage of that opportunity!

MEF: Anything else to add?

JWM: I want to give a shout out to the dozens of teachers and parents who really invest in kids, and encourage those still in high school both to appreciate and lean on them when they need to. When I was a sophomore in high school, we had a musical that was student-led. I got my mom to come in as a choreographer and from then on (and for years and years after) she directed the musical. She had such great impact on so many young people. I met someone in San Francisco 30 years later who grew up in Parsippany and knew of my mom for her work on the show. When we celebrated my mom's 70th birthday, more than a hundred kids and their families came back to toast and thank her for their dedication to them and for the difference she made. This is such a powerful opportunity - parents and adults in the community can really impact the culture of the school and be incredible role models, surrogate parents, or advocates for a child. I hope people will take the opportunity to lend their talents and skills to public education - there are many students and not enough bodies in large public high schools. Community members can do something very meaningful and rewarding and make a difference in the lives of students, and this is an important thing in life to be doing. I will always be grateful to all the people who took an interest in and encouraged me - even if I didn't recognize it until many years later!

Eric LeGrand Makes Students Believe *Cont'd*

Eric has appeared on the cover of Sports Illustrated with "The Best Moment of 2011" and received the Jimmy V Award for Perseverance at the ESPY Awards in 2012. He was then signed on by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in 2012 as an undrafted free agent and inducted into the WWE Hall of Fame in 2017 and received the Warrior Award. Eric graduated from Rutgers University in May 2014. Today, Eric is an author, sports analyst, motivational speaker, and a voice for the paralysis community.

The Morris Educational Foundation funded LeGrand's appearances through a grant to the ALL IN program in partnership with the McGuinn Family Foundation, Morristown/Morris Township Joint

Municipal Alliance, Morris Plains Municipal Alliance, and MEF Student.

ALL IN, an initiative led by Dr. Jessica Neu, Director of Pupil Services in the Morris School District, strives to bring diversity awareness and understanding to students. "We believe that all diversity should be celebrated and leveraged to enhance our school community. We are immensely proud to be able to offer our students at both FMS and MHS with an opportunity to hear Eric speak about his experiences, how he can inspire and help others through his relentless bravery, resiliency, and determination. These are qualities that we try to instill in all of our students."

To the Cast & Crew of *Anything Goes*: *Cont'd*

The 20-student build crew began what would become a marathon 10-week, 2,900-student hours construction project in early January, using almost as much wood as Noah used for his boat.

The costume team researched 1920s fashions for weeks before choosing wardrobes and accessories for the 30-member cast. Almost every costume was altered in some form and 20 were made from scratch. Making certain that every one of 250+ items of clothing was at hand precisely when needed allowed the team to complete head-to-toe costume changes in under a minute.

While cast members memorized lines and cues and choreography and the orchestra rehearsed the score, lighting, hair & makeup, sound, film, ticket sales, and Showgram crews also were hard at work. "Until early February our behind-the-scenes crews worked 3 days a week after school and for just 8 to 10 hours on Saturdays," explained Stage Manager

Claire Fennelly. "But for the last few weeks, it was 'all hands on deck' almost every day after school and for 12 to 14 hours on Saturdays."

Four-year theatre stars Victoria Fanning, Anna Skilton, Kate Croonquist, Nile Birch, and Hugh Grennan proved they were more than capable of portraying the larger-than-life lead characters in Cole Porter's classic comedy. In spite of dozens of days-worth of cancelled rehearsal time, they and the brilliant supporting cast never missed a beat, step, or line.

When the standing ovations finally subsided on that delayed opening night no one in the audience had any clue they had just seen the first full run-through of what proved to be a Broadway-caliber performance. Perhaps it was the dream team's 6,200 hours of "preseason" work that brought the magic to the MHS stage.

Scholarship Pledges \$1,000,000 *Cont'd*

"Our parents were always active in the community. Our mother, Judy, was an educator and founder of the Shalom Club, which serves as a social organization for the elderly. Our father, Eliot, was a 7-year member of the Morris Township Board of Education and served as Vice President and President in the 1960s. He was also a Trustee and President of the Educational Assistance Fund of Morris County in the 1970s. They paid for our college educations and were fantastic role models," said Julian Steinberg. "We are proud to carry on their tradition and help ten or more worthy high school students attend college without incurring significant debt," he added.

This new scholarship was awarded for the first time on April 17, 2018, to two deserving Morristown High School seniors, Karla Escobar and Angelina Bennett, for up to \$25,000 annually for four years of college. It will be awarded annually to 1 - 3 Morristown High School seniors with financial need, scholastic achievement, and a willingness to help others in the community who intend to continue their education at a New Jersey public college.

"We are thrilled to be the recipient of this amazing gift," said Debbie Sontupe, Executive Director of the Morris Educational Foundation. "Philanthropic giving plays a critical role in advancing the work that we do here at the Morris Educational Foundation," Sontupe said. "The generosity of loyal alumni like the

Steinbergs is humbling."

Mark Manning, Principal of Morristown High School, said "I can tell you first hand the impact of this generosity on the lives of deserving Morristown High School students. To think that the Steinberg children walked the halls of our high school nearly fifty years ago and are now paying it forward to benefit others is tremendous and something to truly celebrate."



Inaugural Judy and Eliot Steinberg Scholarship winners Karla Escobar and Angelina Bennett celebrate.

MHS STEM *Cont'd*

Sponsored by a generous grant from the MEF, Girls in STEM Day concluded with a tour of the STEM labs and fabrication rooms and a showcase of STEM electives and clubs. Visiting students were amazed to learn they can study marine biology, neuroscience, aerospace engineering, and nanoscale science & engineering while in high school. Clubs on hand included Technology Student Association; Girls Who Code; Health Professions Club; and the Colonial Rocketry Club, which was ranked among the top ten rocketry clubs in the nation in 2017. These are among several "outside

the classroom" groups that provide the chance for students to participate in fun STEM-related activities and competitions.

The Girls in STEM Club surveyed the 8th-graders response to the day's program in order to measure its effectiveness (of course they did!). The data showed that 93% were more excited about STEM than they had been before the program. All that is needed to turn that excitement into passion are engaging opportunities and mentors to guide and support them. Both are available in abundance at MHS.

Sussex Avenue School Awarded National Title I Honors



The Morris School District's grade 3-5 Sussex Avenue school was selected as one of only 2 schools in the state to be honored as a 2018 National Title I Distinguished School. This national recognition honors schools whose population includes students who are academically disadvantaged (migrant, English language learners, etc.) and which exhibit exceptionally high levels of student achievement. "We are extremely proud of this national distinction," said Superintendent Mackey Pendergrast. "It is a tribute to the hard work and dedication of the Sussex staff and reflects the District's commitment to ensure that each student will consistently ascend through our schools."

After-School Academic Support Centers Help Students Soar



Students are hard at-work during an academic after-school session.

Last spring, the Morris School District received a generous major grant from the Provident Bank Foundation through the Morris Educational Foundation for the creation of new Academic Support Centers for K-5 students. This spring, students enrolled in the Academic After-School programs show increases in classroom and benchmark performance.

The new centers, developed and supervised by Kelly Harte, Morris School District Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, offer support for students through after-school lessons, parent programs, and teacher engagement. Nearly 150 students in seven schools attended the programs that ran for fourteen weeks from October 2017 through February 2018.

Early intervention in student performance gaps significantly impacts future learning. High school students working alongside teachers and our schools in collaboration with parents and community leaders created a supplemental learning environment for all students served. As a result of this program, students have gained confidence in their abilities and have increased academic performance on standardized testing and classroom achievement.

MEF Offers Twelve Scholarships for MHS Students in 2018

The Morris Educational Foundation (MEF) will award twelve scholarships, including five new scholarships established this year, at the Senior Awards ceremony. The MEF is proud to be a lead provider of scholarships for deserving Morristown High School students with the most substantial award

of scholarship dollars to the class. We work in collaboration with many local organizations and individuals, and we thank our scholarship providers for thinking of us as good stewards of your investment.

Veteran MSD Bus Driver Set to Retire



Family, Friends, and current & former students gather to celebrate and thank Margo Irving (2nd row, 3rd from left).

Margo Irving has covered more than 670,000 miles and safely transported tens of thousands of students during her 32 years of service to families in the District. During that time she has come to know and be known by almost everyone in our community. "Margo doesn't even need a last name," said supervisor of transportation Debbie Smith. "Just say 'Margo' and people nod and smile."

Margo considers as her own each of the thousands of children who have boarded her bus and they – and their parents – regard her with equal affection. "Every time Miss Margo opened the door to her bus she opened her heart just as wide," said Betsy Sundin, the official mother of two of "Margo's kids."

Margo will turn in her keys for the last time on July 1 to travel new roads with her husband, children, and grandchildren. When she does, she will take with her the admiration and gratitude of thousands of District families who consider her one of their own.

Thank you and Happy Trails, Margo!

Third C.A.M.P. Night a Success For Students and Alumni



C.A.M.P. Night speakers were proud to share career insights with current Morristown High School students.

The third Colonials Alumni Mentoring Program (C.A.M.P.) Night, held on Tuesday, November 28, 2017, filled the hallways of Morristown High School with 250 students and parents to meet with fourteen esteemed alumni working as doctors, lawyers, engineers, business people, music and media professionals, a state trooper and even an anti-terrorism counter-intelligence specialist.

Brett Yormark, class of '84, CEO of Brooklyn Sports &

Entertainment began the evening with a keynote discussion moderated by Emmy-Nominated television producer and Morristown Onstage host Tara Bernie. Audience members learned about Mr. Yormark's journey from the halls of MHS to the NJ Nets ticket office and ultimately the CEO position at Brooklyn Sports & Entertainment.

Students then moved into small group forums to discuss careers with thirteen other successful alumni



Emmy-nominated Tara Bernie led Brooklyn Sports and Entertainment CEO Brett Yormark, '84 in an opening keynote discussion.

working in seven different fields. "As a student, it was great to see how MHS has shaped every one of our CAMP Night mentors. Meeting them made me less worried about the rest of my career at MHS, along with stressful thoughts on college," said Nick Steele.

The evening concluded with a dessert reception and the Morris Educational Foundation C.A.M.P. Night College and Career Readiness Award. The \$1,000 award is for college and career endeavors.

FMS Students Told to Follow Their Passion



What does the Executive Director of Corporate Responsibility for Merck have in common with a Drew University chemistry professor, an independent health coach, and the Senior Director of Social Impact at Oracle? All followed their passion to rich and rewarding careers and all were part of Meet the Experts Day, a full-day workshop learning experience for 6th grade FMS Quest students at held at Morristown High School.

Presenters shared information about their careers and explained why they are passionate about what they do. A major goal of the event was to give students the opportunity to hear from professionals about their journeys from middle school students to successful professionals working in a career they love. "I wanted students to think not only about career paths they may not have been exposed to, but also to learn about different people's journeys and how they eventually found their way to a rewarding, satisfying career," said Quest teacher Mara Herling.

Panel members included parents, colleagues, and other members of the community in a variety of fields with a passionate love for their work the common thread. Students prepared for their meeting with visiting professionals by learning about self-discovery and exploring lessons on Road Trip Nation, a documentary website that helps students connect their interests to careers. Additionally,

students participated in a 7-week Master Class on Public Speaking during which they became strong, effective, and confident public speakers.

After presenting an overview of their journey from middle school student to successful professional, presenters met in small groups with students to answer questions and encourage students to find and follow their passion. "I learned that it doesn't make much sense to climb a ladder unless you're pretty sure that when you get to the top you'll find what makes you happy," said one insightful student.

The Meet the Experts panel presentation led to an in-depth, multi-week exploration of students' own interests and aspirations. Students will incorporate their enhanced public speaking skills, the wisdom of the experts, and what they have learned in a TEDx-style capstone presentation in June.

MHS Film Students Are Again #1 In State



The MHS Filmmaking team of Grace Keane, Grace Prachthauser, Nya Federoff, Jessica Vogel, and Greg Mehlin beat out teams from 144 other schools across the state to take home "The Oscar" for Best Overall Film at the 2018 NJ State High School Film Challenge. Their film, *Broken*, also was named Best Comedy. This is the second consecutive "Best Overall Film" win for MHS film students. Taking top honors for Sound Design was the MHS team of Haley MacMillan, Owen Sindorf, Kylee Strasser, Kevin Crawford and Mat Mruz.

The MHS Broadcasting Department has also received high praise from Tom Ross, Superintendent of Morristown National Historical Park, for the work of juniors Kylee Strasser and Katie Rosa, who produced a video showcasing the park's Revolutionary War history. That video is now part of the Jockey Hollow Visitor Center and Museum. Perhaps Kylee and Katie will help to bring "Oscar" #3 to MHS next year.



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WHAT'S HAPPENING IN... #TheDistrict SPRING 2018

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IN THE DISTRICT



The New Jersey Education Foundation Partnership (NJEFP) awarded the Morris Educational Foundation (MEF) Outstanding Achievement in Fundraising for Morristown ONSTAGE at an awards luncheon on April 20, 2018. Education foundations from throughout the state of New Jersey attended.

Pinned by [Morris Educational Foundation](#)



MSD guidance counselors, social workers and school psychologists met with Harvard University's Trisha Ross Anderson, Ed.M., for a lunch and learn as part of the MEF's Parent Education Program Raising Kids With Character in Today's Competitive Culture held in May.

Pinned by [Morris Educational Foundation](#)



Students get hands on with learning thanks to Osmo kits granted to each second grade classroom in the district.

Pinned by [Morris Educational Foundation](#)



Firstenergy's Rob Walton presents a check for STEM education to the Girls in STEM club at Morristown High School.

Pinned by [Morris Educational Foundation](#)



FMS Girls captured the Morris County Middle School Basketball Championship and the Boys Soccer team brought home its own County Championship title trophy!

Pinned by [Morris School District](#)



Normandy Park celebrates literacy success with the Olympic Reading Challenge program funded by an MEF grant.

Pinned by [Morris Educational Foundation](#)



17 more MHS Global Navigators will travel the world this summer to participate in cultural exchange programs focused on service and leadership, language immersion, or global discovery. Since 2015 nearly 100 MHS students have been able to broaden their horizons thanks to generous scholarships from Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE). Above, several 2018 Global Navigators display the flags of the countries they will visit.

Pinned by [Morris School District](#)