

Ross Local Schools

MORGAN ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER

September 2018

Our Mission:

Morgan Elementary School exists to help each unique child reach his or her full potential. We aim to equip all children to:

- Make responsible contributions within their communities, their country, and the global society
- Function productively in the world of technology and the world of work
- Lead richly literate lives
- Continue to grow in understanding and respect for themselves and others



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A message from our principal, Mr. Tom Perry:

The 2018-2019 school year is under way and the students and teachers are busily engaged in a variety of exciting and fun activities. Please make sure you read about all of the important events coming soon to Morgan Elementary.

We would like to welcome the following staff members to the Morgan Family:

- Mrs. Angie Meissner, Intervention and
- Mrs. Joan Clark, Speech and Language

As we continue to provide a safe and secure environment for the students at Morgan, the staff would like to remind you of a few procedures that will help ensure school safety and security:

All volunteers and visitors must enter the front doors of the Building except for the end of the day dismissal.

- No parking in circle drive during morning drop off. If you want to walk your child to the door, please park in the back parking lot.

- Student drop off is between 9:00 and 9:15 A.M. The doors will unlock at 9:00 and lock at 9:15. If you drop your child off close to 9:15, please make sure he/she is able to enter the doors. After 9:15 A.M., students must enter the front door of the building.

- When picking up your child after school, please send in a note. If you call after 3:00 PM we may not be able to notify your child to be picked up.

- Morning Preschool students will be picked up in the office at 11:35 AM. Morning Kindergarten students can be picked up in the office at 11:52 AM, as needed. PM Kindergarten students can be dropped off for class at 1:03 PM in front of the building to enter the doors by the gym with their class. Preschool students can be dropped off at 1:03 in back of the building at Door #12.

- No animals are permitted in the building without permission from the office.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please give me a call at 738-1986.

Important Dates: September

Sept. 3	No School - Labor Day
Sept. 6	PTO Meeting
Sept. 7	Ross High School Homecoming
Sept. 14	Progress Report # 1
Sept. 25	Bookmobile

Beginning of October

Oct. 5	PTO Fall Carnival @ Stricker's Grove
Oct. 9	School Pictures
Oct. 12	End of First Nine Weeks
Oct. 12	Fire Prevention Day

News from Preschool (Mrs. Byron and Ms. Theiler)

Welcome to Preschool! This month we will be talking about the beginning of the school year, All About Me, The five senses, and Fall including apples and pumpkins. Teachers are finishing up portfolio initial data collection including letter writing, mathematics, letter identification, and sounds. The students will be assessed using Early Learning Assessment throughout the month of September. Student's have done an awesome job learning the routine and rules of the class. Everyone has been working hard on making new friends and learning about each other. It's been a great start to school year. Thank you for your continued support in and out of the classroom.

News from Kindergarten (Mrs. Lomax, Mrs. Shoemaker)

The kindergarteners are off to a great start. Along with making new friends, the kindergarteners have been busy getting to know the rules and routines of the classroom. We are practicing writing our names correctly using first upper then lowercase letters. The children have fallen in love with "Pete the Cat", a collection of stories written by Kimberly & James Dean. We've worked hard on making shape books and learning to read color words and our September sight words. We're practicing saying "The Pledge of Allegiance" and learning our Phonic Dance song. We're looking forward to fall activities- pumpkins, fire prevention & more football!! GO RAMS

News from 1st Grade (Mrs. Bittner, Mrs. Hughett, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Martin)

First grade has been busy getting used to the all day experience with school. We are adjusting to being here and working hard. We have been reviewing rules and expectations in each classroom.

Reading: We are working on finding our just-right books in our classroom libraries. We have learned how to tell if a book is too hard, too easy, or just-right. We want our books to be just-right so we can practice the reading strategies we are learning. We have learned EAGLE EYE: the children look at the picture to gather details about the stories main idea, as well as what words could be written on the page. LIPS: we get our mouth ready for the first sound that we see in the word we don't know. We use that to help us determine what the word could be. We don't want to just guess any word. SKIP: we read the sentence and if we don't know the word, then we skip it and read the rest of the sentence and come back to that word to see what makes sense in that spot. We have to use all the strategies together.

Writing: We have been working on using our sounds to help us spell words. We are also trying to write a story across three pages. We are talking about adding details to our pictures and words. We are working on finger spaces, drawing with details, and making pictures and words match.

Social Studies: We are focusing on rules and getting to know each other in our classroom. We are learning how to get along and be the best worker we can be.

Math: We are working on our adding skills using different strategies. We have been using counters, drawing pictures, using number grids, and our fingers. We will continue to work on these skills as we move into subtraction.

We are excited for the year and can't wait to see how these kids grow and learn this year. We look forward to working with all of you to have a successful year!

News from 2nd Grade (Mrs. Broering, Ms. Dorsey, Mrs. Hindery, Mrs. Morehead)

Second Grade has focused a lot of time on growth mindset this year. We want each student to understand the difference between a fixed mindset and a growth mindset. We have been discussing several books that support a growth mindset to help us understand what our brain does when we learn something new and phrases we can use to maintain a positive outlook on learning.

Reading:

We have been working on building stamina in August and are working towards reading independence as we venture into reading groups in the month of September. In August, we

have focused on learning how to make connections with the heartfelt book *The Invisible Boy* as well as making predictions with *Edward the Emu*.

Here are the upcoming skills that will be targeted in September:

- Asking and Answering Questions (*Wemberly Worried*)
- Characters & Character Traits (*Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse*)
- Setting (*When I Was Young in the Mountains*)
- Problem/Solution (*Koala Lou*)

Math:

In math, we are working hard on learning mental math strategies for fact fluency. We learned about *Plus and Minus Ten*, *Partners of Ten*, and the *Doubles* facts. We will continue to learn more strategies to help build fluency in addition and subtraction such as *Doubles +1*, *Count Up +1,2,3*, *Count Back -1,2,3* and *See Nine Make Ten*.

We will also explore place value towards the end of the month. We will be learning about even and odd numbers, locating the ones and tens place and determining the difference between where the number sits and how much the number is worth.

News from 3rd Grade (Mrs. Dunn, Mrs. Lanham, Mrs. McEldowney, Mrs. Smith)

We hope that your child has experienced a strong start to the 2018-2019 school year. Third grade can be a substantial change for students. In class, students have been working on learning the routines and expectations for third grade. Teachers have modeled and guided students on how to make good independent reading book selections, as well as how to have success on Accelerated Reader tests.

Math classes are starting to get in a groove as we have learned to switch to different teachers. Students must rise to the occasion and show responsibility and integrity as they interact with different teachers and fellow students. We are working through addition and subtraction strategies to kick off the year. Please be sure to review the math homework with your child each night and check for completion and accuracy.

In social studies we have been exploring such topics as promoting the common good, rules and laws, as well as government structure. This aligns well with the beginning of the year as we establish classroom rules and choose Student Council representatives for our classes.

Students are working on personal narratives in writing. They are working on making a “movie in their mind” and clearly relaying it both verbally and in written form. Students oftentimes have a small moment to share but tend to leave out all of the juicy details, such as dialogue and sensory information. Writers are using writing checklists to guide as they write.

We are off to a good start and we would like to thank our third grade families for all they do at home to support our students. As always, feel free to contact us through Class Dojo, email, or phone if you have any questions.

News from 4th Grade (Mrs. Castle, Mrs. Elliott, Mrs. Miller, Ms. Williams)

The fourth graders are off to a great start!! They have adjusted really well to switching classes and are getting used to keeping their materials organized. We were pleased to see so many parents at Open House. Please keep the lines of communication open with the four of us. The more we work together, the better off the students will be. Please remind your favorite fourth grader to read the same book at home that they are reading at school, so they can work toward reaching their reading goals for the quarter. Parents have been invited to log onto Progressbook, so you can keep up with your child's progress in each of their classes as well as find nightly homework. There is also a copy of the reading log posted on Mrs. Miller's webpage in case your student accidentally leaves it at school. Please be sure to login to Progressbook weekly to review your student's grades.

The grading scale for 4th grade is:

90-100%	A
80-89.99%	B
70-79.99%	C
60-69.99%	D
0-59.99%	F

In Social Studies we have been getting to know our "HOME STATE" of Ohio a little bit better. We are exploring maps and globes as we travel through social studies. We are using tools to help us locate places, such as a map scale and compass rose. We are also learning about climate, landforms, vegetation, and population through our investigation of the regions found across the US.

Mathletes are on their way and have been doing a great job with the nightly homework. We have learned to read and write large numbers and how to compare and order them. We've rounded digits and lots more about place value! We will complete our first chapter in the coming week. Please remember students will have nightly math homework Monday-Thursday. It is essential to keep up with those assignments.

In Science, our budding scientists have begun to learn what it means to be a scientist and some tools that they use and ones that we will use throughout the year. We then jumped into learning about water on earth and boy is there a lot of it. In fact, the Earth is about 70% water, but only a small percentage of that is usable freshwater. Ask your favorite 4th grader if they know how much is usable freshwater!

Give your student a big hug for all the hard work they have given to get our year started off so smoothly. We are so proud of them and are excited about what the year has in store for us academically!

News from Art (Mrs. Beyersdoerfer) Music (Mr. Thatcher) P.E. (Mrs. Steigerwald)

ART: Hello from the Art Room! Our Morgan Artists are off to a great start. We have been creating Dots for the wall outside the Art Room inspired from Peter Reynold's book *The Dot*. *The Dot* is the story of a caring teacher who dares a doubting student to trust in her own abilities by being brave enough to "make her mark". What begins with a small dot on a piece of paper becomes a breakthrough in confidence and courage, igniting a journey of self-discovery and sharing, which has gone on to inspire countless children and adults around the globe. International Dot Day is celebrated around the world on September 15th. Please mark THE ART SHOW on your calendar for March 15th, 2019!

MUSIC: Upcoming Concerts: November 8th third grade concert, December 5th fourth grade concert. All concerts are held at RHS.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION: We are off to a great start! Learning our rules, basic game boundaries, moving in personal and general space safely! We are working hard to respect each other during activities, and learn new vocabulary like offense, defense, flexibility, aerobic activity, muscular strength and endurance. Students will have a visit on October 5th from Miami University's Goggin Ice Arena's staff. They will be sharing different ice activities and sports with students in grades 1-4. We are excited about the new school year!

News from Title I (Mrs. Roberson, Mrs. Shumate, Mrs. Volker)

In Title 1, we have been working on group formation based on each student's data and needs. Information about the program will be sent home if your child qualifies for Title 1 services. Please read with your child each night! It only takes a few minutes each night, but this short amount of time invested is crucial in order for your child to become an awesome reader! We notice, and appreciate, the time parents spend reading with their child. We look forward to building partnerships with our families to help our students become successful, life-long readers and learners!

News from the Office (Mrs. Kohlman, Mrs. Gentry):

Welcome back!

Morgan has a new phone system! Please listen to your options carefully. You can reach Gwen Kohlman, Secretary directly at Ext. 4152 or Holly Gentry, Paraprofessional at Ext. 4145 both in the office. Teachers' extensions will ring directly to their voicemail. Please leave your name, student name, and return phone number on your message.

Also, please remember to go into Final Forms to sign them for this year if you haven't already done so.

Student Council News:

Congratulations to all the new members of Student Council. Student Council will be having a lot of fun activities for all students throughout the school year. We will also be participating in Pennies for Patients again this year. We are collecting pop can tabs for Ronald McDonald House, but please do not send in any tabs until after Christmas Break.

Morgan PTO Newsletter

2018-2019 PTO Officers

PRESIDENT

Michelle McKean

VICE PRESIDENT

Mindy Kelley

TREASURER

Michele Beckman

SECRETARY

Chrissy O'Connor

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sept. 3 → No School

Sept. 6 → PTO Meeting (PTO meetings are held in the Media Center at 6:30 pm. All parents are welcome to attend. The main focus of this month's meeting will be the fall carnival and planning out the new school year.

MORGAN FALL CARNIVAL

October 5th, Friday

STRICKER'S GROVE

5:00 - 9:30 PM

Parent volunteers help make this event a success! Please consider giving a small amount of your time to help at one of several booths that we have open during the carnival. This year's carnival booths will include: Basket & Grand Raffle ~ Spirit wear ~ Grill ~ Admissions

If you are interested in helping in any one of these areas, or can volunteer your time to set-up or

tear-down, please contact a PTO officer or email us at morganpto1@gmail.com.

Carnival packets will be sent home the week of September 10th

**Important Carnival “End” Date:
October 1st**

- ✓ All pre-admission ticket orders are due
- ✓ Grand raffle tickets and money turned in

Thank You Room Parents!!!

We greatly appreciate those of you who signed up to be room parents in your child’s classroom. It’s a fun way to volunteer, and without your help holiday parties and other extra activities would not be possible. A special “thank you” also goes out to Sara Schoenecker who has stepped into the Room Parent Coordinator role and responsibilities for this school year.

If you have any questions about room parent responsibilities, please contact Sara Schoenecker at: SLSchoenecker@gmail.com

BOOK FAIR

Morgan’s 1st book fair of the year will be held the week of October 22 – 26th.

BOX TOPS

The first box top collection will be on October 22nd
