

Ross Local Schools

MORGAN ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER

September 2019

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



3427 Chapel Road Hamilton, OH 45013
Website → <http://morgan.rossrams.com/>

Phone: 513-738-1986 Fax: 513-738-0347
Find Morgan on Twitter → [@MorganRossRams](https://twitter.com/MorganRossRams)

A message from our principal, Mr. Tom Perry:

The 2019-2020 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. Ashley Day, Special Education Aide
- Mrs. Jodi Follick, Special Education Aide
- Mr. Don Tolley, School Security Officer
- Mrs. Michelle McKean, Preschool Instructional Aide
- Mrs. Alex VanNatta, 1st Grade Teacher
- Mrs. Jennifer Smith, Intervention Specialist
- Mrs. Stephany Harry, School Nurse
- Ms. Kelsey Listerman, School Psychologist
- Ms. Candice McClanahan, Preschool Intervention Specialist

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 vehicles in the front of the building in the morning between 8:30 - 9:15 AM or after 3:15 AM.
- 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 at the end of the day, **please send in a note**. Sometimes emergencies occur, if so please call before 3:00 PM, or we may not be able to notify your child in time 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 the 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. 2	No School - Labor Day
Sept. 5	PTO Meeting
Sept. 13	Bookmobile
Sept. 20	Progress Report #1

Beginning of October

Oct. 4	PTO Fall Carnival @ Stricker's Grove
Oct. 7	Bookmobile
Oct. 8	School Pictures
Oct. 10	PTO Meeting
Oct. 11	Homecoming

Students of the Week for September

Week of September 2: Devyn Alexander, Paisley Wanamaker, June Hess, Connor Vinson, Calab Cornelius, Lynleigh Reinhardt, Kameron Scheidt, Ella Lierer, Jacob Johnson, Mia VanWinkle, Abby Allgeier, Bailey Allen, Joelene Lewe, CJ Miller, Tanner Hays, Jude Follick, Olivia Best

Week of September 9: Raylan Schoenecker, Jase Broz, Emmitt Siekerman, Levi Hale, Brooklyn Bastin, Ava Bush, Kiersten Distler, Cooper Owens, David Sparks, Sam Foss, Noah Ante, Brady Quick, Eric Albrinck, Lily Kern, Landry Voegele, Lennox Brown, Lucy Day, Lynze Menkhaus, Emily Albrinck, Wynter Wagers

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

Preschool has had a wonderful start to the 2019-2020 school year! We are working hard on creating a classroom community where each student feels safe, and happy. We have been working on understanding classroom and playground expectations, this will continue to be a focus for the next few months as we get comfortable with the routine.

Preschool is doing a wonderful job getting to know our classmates and teachers, we are working on calling our teachers by their name "Ms. Mel, Ms. Katrina, Ms. Candice, Ms. Michelle" as well as using names of our friends during playtime.

The last few weeks have focused upon "All about me", we are using this time to discuss

the similarities and differences in our families. We have discussed our immediate family, extended family, pets and each students' preferences in their lives (favorite color, food, toys, etc.) Thank you for a wonderful start to the school year!

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 and 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. VanNatta)

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. We will be learning soon STRETCH, which is where we sound out the words to help us. We will be getting into our hunks and chunks which are sounds of letter combinations like ing , sh, th, and ch.

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. We are working on having a Growth mindset and never give up.

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.

First grade will not be participating in Bookmobile, so don't worry about them checking out books and bringing them back on these days.

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)

Welcome back! For the first few weeks of school, second grade has been focusing a lot of time on building community and instilling a growth mindset for our second graders. We have been reading a variety of books that focuses on quality character that includes having a positive outlook, positive goals, being kind to others, showing empathy for those around us and helping us show respect in many different ways. We also implemented our very first Project Based Learning (PBL) project which focused on the driving question: "How can we create the best school community that is kind, friendly and safe?" The kids were able to determine problems within the school and brainstorm solutions to those problems. The problems were determined based on particular settings around the school such as the lunchroom, restroom, hallway and recess. The kids were very creative in their solutions and it was a great way to help them have a voice in how we can solve problems around the school.

Reading: We began the year with a book called *The Invisible Boy* where we focused on making connections. Nobody ever seemed to notice Brian or think to include him in their group, game, or birthday party . . . until, that is, a new kid comes to class. When Justin, the new boy arrives, Brian is the first to make him feel welcome and when Brian and Justin team up to work on a class project together, Brian finds a way to shine. This book focused on how one act of kindness can make all the difference.

We also read the book Edward the Emu focusing on making predictions. Tired of his life as an emu, Edward decides to try being something else for a change. He tries swimming with the seals, he spends a day lounging with the lions, and even slithers with the snakes, but Edward soon discovers that being an emu may be the best thing after all. This book focuses on the importance of being yourself because there is only one YOU.

We will continue to month of September learning how to ask questions with Wemberly Worried by Kevin Henkes, the importance of setting in When I Was Young in the Mountains by Cynthia Rylant and problem and solution with Koala Lou by Mem Fox.

Math: We have been focusing on fact fluency this quarter. We have been learning mental math strategies where we can solve math equations in our mind. So far we have learned and practiced +/- 10 ($3+10=13/14-10=4$), Tens Partners ($7+3=10/10-3=7$) and Doubles ($4+4=8/8-4=4$). By the end of the month we will have learned and practiced the following strategies: "Count Up +1,2,3," "Doubles +1," "See Nine, Make Ten," and "Break Apart." Second graders will take their first math test in the next two weeks. Continue to practice addition and subtraction facts for 8 minutes to grow in automaticity.

Thank you for all your support and we look forward to having the BEST year with your kiddos! We have so many exciting things planned for this year! :) Happy fall, y'all!

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

Third grade has spent a great deal of time building community within the classroom and school. We have created class expectations, learned how to have a Morgan Mindset, and formed relationships with new friends.

This school year brings about higher responsibility and expectations for third graders. They have learned to respectfully switch math classes, as well as maintain organization of their belongings as they do so. They have also jumped in and learned how to choose just-right books in our classroom libraries. Students are all beginning to work diligently on their September AR goal, which is to earn three great test scores as well as maintain their reading logs.

We are still working on introducing new routines and material, so please encourage your child to hang in there...they are all doing a wonderful job so far!

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. 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

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 STEAM our engineers are working on building a class government. We are learning all about our rights, responsibilities as a member of a community. We are also learning to think and ask questions like a scientist. Students will be developing a class constitution that will be in place for the entire school year. Students will begin their second STEAM/PBL project which will focus on creating a school-wide recycling program.

Give your students 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! We are off to a great start this year CREATING Sculptures! Please mark your calendar for March 20, 2020 for the annual Art Show!

MUSIC: It's a great day in the music room!

Upcoming concerts:

Third Grade Concert: Nov. 7th 7:00 RHS

Fourth Grade Concert: Dec. 10th RHS

PHYSICAL EDUCATION: We have established some routines in the gym and played some low organizational games like Battleship, Capture the Flag, Pizza Tag, Zombie Tag, and Pirates of the Caribbean. We reviewed playground procedures and introduced a couple tagging games to 1st grade. We will have a visit from Miami University Hockey Program on September 6th for all students in K-4. Fitness Testing will begin along with more vocabulary! As always, please make sure your child wears gym shoes on PE days!

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

September Newsletter

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):

Please remember to go into your Final Forms and enter all information if you are new, update any changes you have, and/or "sign" it for this school year. If you need an instruction sheet to get you started, please call the office at 738-1986 Option 2. Thank You!

Student Council News:

Congratulations on our newest Members of Morgan Student Council.

Student Council has some exciting events planned for this school year. We will continue to collect pop can tabs in the spring but we ask that you do not send those in until January. Be looking for information coming home about Spirit Week which will be the week of October 7-11.

Counselor News:

Kalli Sawyers & Aubre Cole

Kalli.Sawyers@rossrams.com

Aubre.Cole@rossrams.com

Hello and welcome to the 2019-2020 school year! It is wonderful to be back at school! This month, we are teaching our kids the school rules: **be respectful, be responsible, be a problem-solver. Talk with your children about what these mean and how they can follow these!**

We are continually building up our positive school environment! Terrific Thursday's started already with our RAM cards, the students are very excited about this. This is a way for students to get recognized for positive behavior. We are so proud of your kids and all of the hard work they do! Check out our Morgan Twitter page for pictures of the weekly winners!

We have also started using our *Second Step* program again. The *Second Step* program is a universal, classroom-based curriculum designed to increase students' school success, decrease problem behaviors, and promote social-emotional competence and self-regulation. These skills are super important in school and in life.

We will continue learning and growing. Thanks for sharing your wonderful kids with us at Morgan! We are off to a fantastic start!

Morgan PTO Newsletter

2019-2020 PTO Officers

PRESIDENT	VICE PRESIDENT	TREASURER	SECRETARY
Danielle Ruskaup Sara Schoenecker	Randi Hale Melissa Mason	Kelly Berry	Kaitlin Fliehman

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Oct. 4 PTO Fall Carnival @ Stricker's Grove

Oct. 10 PTO Meeting
Oct. 21-25 Book Fair
Oct. 25 Box Top Clippings DUE
Oct. 31 Halloween Parties

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 Julie Rumpke 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 Julie at:
morganeleptoroommom@gmail.com

BOOK FAIR

Be on the lookout for Volunteer opportunities to help the students shop during the Book Fair. If you can sign-up to help during your child's class or longer we would greatly appreciate it!

BOX TOPS

We will still be collecting clipped Box Tops as long as the program has that option, Fall deadline is October 25th for submission. Box Tops are moving into the technology era, with the introduction of the Box Tops App. This app is to be downloaded directly to your phone, and you scan your receipt to to 2 weeks past the date of the shopping experience. Questions on how to use the app - email:
morganpto1@gmail.com

News from the Lunchroom:

National School Lunch week is the week of October 14-18. Planning on fun give aways and theme days.

Please keep Practicing with your First Graders and their student pin numbers. This is important in getting them through the line in a timely manner.