

FIND OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING IN...

#TheDistrict



NJ DOE Awards Morris School District Unprecedented \$2.9 Million Grant to Expand Preschool Education

The number of students receiving a free preschool education in the Morris School District will increase to 225 for academic year 2019-2020, thanks to a sizeable Preschool Education Expansion Aid grant from the State of NJ totalling \$2.9 million—the largest awarded in Morris County. Over the next several years, the grant is expected to allow as many as 500 children a year to attend preschool free of charge. Those seats will be filled by three- and four-year-olds at the Lafayette Learning Center (LLC) and its partner preschools in Morristown, which have developed a close collaboration. This working “consortium” of local preschools includes the Head Start Community Program of Morris County, with classrooms at their Morristown Center as well as at the District’s own Alfred Vail School; the Cornerstone: Neighborhood House; and several YMCA-affiliated programs like the Blake Center, Children on the Green, and the Children’s Corner. [more on page 2>](#)



MEF Named New Jersey’s Outstanding Large Education Foundation

On March 29, 2019, the Morris Education Foundation (MEF) was named New Jersey’s 2019 Outstanding Large Education Foundation by the New Jersey Education Foundation Partnership (NJEFP) at their annual awards luncheon. The MEF received the award due to its continued exceptional financial support for the Morris School District since it was founded in 1992. During that time, the MEF has given back \$3.5 million to the schools through grants that impact the diverse constituencies, district-wide initiatives, college scholarships and more.

This honor caps off a series of accolades for the foundation. In 2018, the MEF was named the #1 Education Foundation in the country in their category and 36th in the nation overall by the Caruthers Institute’s annual study of education foundations. [more on page 7>](#)



MHS Humanities and STEM Academy Students Hone Their Creative Problem-Solving at Princeton University

A few minutes shy of 1:30 PM on a Tuesday in April, students in Professor Steinhauer’s Creativity, Innovation, and Design class made their way through the labyrinthian hallways of Princeton’s School of Engineering and Applied Science. There they met a group of students from the Humanities and STEM Academies of Morristown High School as part of a series of collaborations between the two institutions. For the next three hours, the undergrads and the Academy students teamed up to address a real-world challenge: how can we manage attention in the face of competing obligations and constant distractions? Through exercises in ideation, such as brainstorming and brainwriting, the teams came up with bold, creative, and feasible solutions to the challenge that could later be prototyped. [more on page 3>](#)



MEF Awards 25th Anniversary Gratitude Grants to Each School

As a way to say thank you to our ten excellent schools, the MEF celebrated twenty-five years of serving the Morris School District with the 25th Anniversary Gratitude Grants for our Schools. The \$5,000 grants, given to each school, were used to fund an initiative, program, or project to enrich education and strengthen our school communities. Here are the projects selected by each school.

Alexander Hamilton - Entry Hallway Mural

This legacy project has transformed the entrance of Alexander Hamilton and will be enjoyed by the community for many years to come. All stakeholders in the school community—students, teachers, and families—worked together to design and paint the custom piece with the help of muralist and art educator Caren Frost Olmsted. [more on page 2>](#)



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Training “Instrument Ninjas” in MSD’s Elementary School Music Program



Orchestra students at Alexander Hamilton School.

Students at Alexander Hamilton have been practicing diligently to prepare for their black belt test. No, they aren’t studying martial arts; they are students in Jean Graziano’s instrumental music program at Alexander Hamilton School, and they are working their way through the District’s “Instrument Karate” assessment—learning new skills, becoming more adept at performance, and reaching key benchmarks in their development as musicians.

In the Morris School District, students may begin instrumental music (band or orchestra) in fourth grade. For the next two years, they take small group lessons, play together as a full band or orchestra, and are exposed to multiple performance contexts such as Winter and Spring Concerts, Solo Nights, and STEAM night. By the time they graduate high school, those who remain with the program will have received nine academic years of instruction. Many opt to enroll in the Summer Music Academy as well, which offers students a chance to continue toward mastery in a dynamic, focused summer program.

It is this full trajectory of music education—a “musical

journey” across a continuum of opportunities—that affords Morris School District students a particular advantage. Ariella Schwam, who teaches both instrumental and vocal music at Normandy Park School, maintains that “the Morris School District is a special place because it fosters the musical growth that allows students to take the foundation they get at the elementary level and run with it!” Indeed, when they reach Frelinghuysen Middle School, students are ready to participate in a wide range of musical forums: a regular schedule of classes and group lessons in addition to concerts, competitions, festivals, and honor bands. FMS offers Band and Orchestra as year-long electives, and students may also audition for the extracurricular Wind Symphony and Jazz Band.

As the training ground for students’ ongoing music education, the elementary programs focus on helping students develop a lifelong love of and appreciation for the craft. Deborah Carroll states that her primary goal as the orchestra teacher at Sussex Avenue, Normandy Park and Thomas Jefferson schools is “to teach and guide students towards becoming independent musicians that will always value music as an important part of their lives.” Ms. Carroll believes the MSD stands out in the area of music education because it “offers students a true musical community where they will learn, evolve, and have so much fun as they continue through the music program.”

One of the best parts of teaching beginning musicians, says Jean Graziano, Alexander Hamilton’s concert band and jazz band teacher, is witnessing the transformation students undergo over the course of their two-year elementary school experience. She and her colleagues enjoy following their students’ success once they move on to the middle and high school programs, and witnessing the impact of the foundation they have provided is an enduring source of pride: “[Students] may be working with another teacher when they make Area Band or Regional Orchestra, win best soloist at a competition, or are recognized for their outstanding musicianship. But, to me, they are always ‘my kids’ because I knew them when they made that first squeak!”

Gratitude Grants cont’d

Alfred Vail - Shades of Learning

Alfred Vail School has an outdoor learning environment used for class lessons, guided reading groups, strategy lessons, small group gatherings for intervention, friendship groups, speech lessons or OT sessions. A new ten-foot gazebo with benches to enhance the outdoor learning space will add more seating and shade.

Frelinghuysen Middle School - Musical Instrument Upgrades

Frelinghuysen Middle School’s growing band and orchestra programs repaired and replaced musical instruments. More FMS students now have access to working instruments without the cost of renting. New instruments include a double bass, euphonium, two trombones, and many stringed instrument bows.

Hillcrest - The HILL (Hillcrest’s Innovation Learning Lab)

The HILL is a classroom transformed into a collaborative, creative space for all Hillcrest students to learn and discover. Teachers use the lab for lessons, enrichment activities, and projects. The room includes flexible furniture, makerspace activities, and project-based learning activities.

Lafayette Learning Center - Rock Wall

A preschool rock climbing wall featuring a variety of large, child-friendly shapes including grab-bar style handholds and ledge-style footholds make the introduction to climbing easy and fun for Lafayette Learning Center students. It enables students to develop upper body strength, core, balance, hand grips (essential for handwriting) and motor planning skills.

Morristown High School - Monitor for Atrium

Morristown High School’s new large flat-screened television monitor in the main atrium is used to announce school events and activities, share videos, and communicate with the school community throughout the day. Future plans include simulcasting events and programs taking place elsewhere in the building.

Normandy Park - It’s Cool to be Kind

It’s Cool to be Kind, Normandy Park’s school-wide theme, helped students recognize that they can make a difference with service projects at every grade level. The K/1 unit paired with Project Kindness, the 2/3 unit worked with The Terrapin Nesting Project,

where a “whole child” approach involves holistic attention to language and literacy as well as to social-emotional learning and physical development. All teachers are fully certified, having been through rigorous training in early childhood education; most are dual certified in both general and special education.

Through its established partnerships, the Morris School District will coordinate and oversee the preschool expansion, ensuring that each program in the consortium delivers an “extremely high quality, standards-based preschool education that leverages shared resources in professional development, intervention, and community/family involvement,” explained Dr. Andre. All partner preschools will follow the same curriculum and receive the same curriculum training, and master teacher coaches will support preschool faculty in curriculum implementation and classroom management. A new counseling position created through the grant, the Community and Parent Involvement Specialist, will work closely with

MHS Theatre Awards Nominations:



Congratulations to the Morristown High School Theatre Department for a phenomenal 2018-19 season! Their productions of Prancer and The Addams Family earned Foxy and Rising Star nominations in the following categories:

Foxy Nominations For Prancer: (Montclair State University)

- Outstanding Achievement in Stage Crew
- Excellence on Educational Impact & Community Outreach
- Best Supporting Actress: **Brenna Thornton**
- Excellence in Dramaturgy

Rising Star Nominations for The Addams Family: (Paper Mill Playhouse)

- Outstanding Overall Production of a Musical
- Honorable Mention: Outstanding Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role: **Brenna Thornton**
- Honorable Mention: Outstanding Performance by an Actress in a Featured Role: **Julia Bozza**
- Outstanding Performance by a Chorus
- Outstanding Performance by an Orchestra
- Outstanding Achievement by a Teacher or Outside Director: **Ms. Katie Adams**
- Outstanding Achievement in Music Direction: **Mr. David Gallagher**
- Outstanding Achievement in Choreography and Staging: **Ms. Chelsea Gower**
- Outstanding Scenic Achievement: **Mr. Michael Hession**
- Outstanding Lighting Achievement: **Mr. Michael Hession**
- Outstanding Costuming Achievement: **Ms. Katie Adams, Ms. Mollie Lyn Berman**
- Outstanding Hair and Make-up Achievement: **Olivia Bilbault, Arianna D’Andrea**
- Rising Star “Theatre for Everyone” Inclusion and Access Award
- Student Achievement Awards:
 - **Deanna Swanson**, Graphic Designer
 - **Ashe Gobin**, Production Stage Manager
 - **Marissa Aloia**, Student Director

and the 4/5’s teamed up with the Interfaith Food Pantry.

Thomas Jefferson - Outdoor Enhancements

Thomas Jefferson students will have an enhanced outdoor learning space with the addition of new tables and sun protection. This will allow students to take their learning beyond the classroom walls and will also provide opportunities for students to enjoy lunch outdoors.

Woodland School - Outdoor Classroom

Woodland School now has an outdoor chalkboard and new seating. This space will be used to inspire student stories and poems in Language Arts, real-life experiences for Science, ideas for Art and Music, and inquiry-based learning for the grade-level enrichment clusters.

Sussex Avenue - Star Space Mindful Learning Center

Star Space is coming to Sussex Avenue and will be used for author visits, mindfulness and meditation, yoga, indoor recess, and class lessons. All students and teachers will be able to take advantage of Star Space.

families to foster strong home and school relationships, offer parenting strategies and workshops to support student learning and well-being, and provide comprehensive outreach services.

Superintendent Mackey Pendergrast expressed his gratitude and praise for the concerted effort of LLC and MSD administrators and the partner site directors who were responsible for procuring the state grant. Said Mr. Pendergrast, “The significance of exceptional learning experiences at the earliest ages is unquestionable, and we see clear evidence of ongoing student success for those children who continue in our district. To be able to provide this kind of opportunity for so many more children is a tremendous accomplishment, and it would not have been possible without the dedication, commitment, and collaboration of Karen Andre, our community preschool partners and our central office team. The expansion of preschool education will have a far-reaching impact on the lives of district families and on our community as a whole.”

The Right Equation for Success: Morristown High School Math Team Earns Top Spots in State Math Competitions



Morristown High School’s math superstars placed first in Morris County in the NJ Mathematics League’s annual state competition.

At the conclusion of the six contests that comprise the NJ Mathematics League’s annual state competition, Morristown High School emerged as the top-scoring school in Morris County, placing 10th overall in the State. Students from public and private schools across NJ were administered a series of thirty-minute exams covering a range of topics. Several MHS students earned a perfect score on the individual tests.

The MHS Math Team is an extracurricular club open to all students who enjoy mathematics and want to challenge their logical thinking and reasoning skills through advanced topics. The team meets weekly with club advisors Marina Bragina and Christiana Kemp, math teachers at the high school, to solve difficult math problems together and to share and develop new strategies. Students participate in state and national competitions throughout the year.

Mrs. Bragina commended the exceptional work ethic and dedication of the members of the Math Team. “With each step we take, we grow stronger, more skilled, more self-confident and more successful,” she said.

In December, Morristown High placed second among high schools in its size category (greater than 1250 students) at the 42nd Annual Association of Mathematics Teachers of New Jersey (AMTNJ) High School Mathematics Contest. Only Millburn High School scored higher in this division. Ingrid

Suazo and Duncan Wild, both seniors at MHS, received the top scores among individual students in NJ; Ingrid won second place and Duncan won third place.

The Morris School District situates mathematics within its comprehensive integrated PK-12 STEM curriculum. Students in the District study math as well as its sister STEM disciplines—science, technology, and engineering—from the earliest grades onward. The curriculum is complemented by a wide array of co- and extracurricular opportunities in STEM, particularly at the middle and high school levels.

The District also boasts a STEM Academy at Morristown High School. This highly selective program offers a unique interdisciplinary experience for students in grades 9-12 who wish to pursue a rigorous sequence of STEM courses, as well as professional partnerships, field experiences, mentorships, capstone projects, community service, and other STEM enrichment activities.

District Math Supervisor David Thompson noted the recent growth in student achievement in math. Says Thompson, “We’ve seen an increase in the number of Morristown High students opting for the most advanced math courses such as AP Calculus, AP Statistics, and Linear Algebra.” Thompson added, “Certainly, the accomplishments of the MHS Math Team this year testify to the strength of the District’s math sequence—as well as to the hard work and passion of our math superstars.”

Problem-Solving at Princeton University cont’d



The framework for Prof. Steinhauer’s course, and the foundational theory underlying Morristown High School’s two Academies, is based on *design thinking*, a methodology employed by a range of academic disciplines and industries to guide problem-solving in a way that is purposefully human-centered. John Madden and Matt Daly, teachers in the MHS Humanities Academy, describe design thinking as “an iterative, action-based process that requires empathy, mindfulness, and honest assessments of ability and work ethic.” Because the process is generalizable across different contexts, design thinking “is ideally suited for almost every student, and every situation they may find themselves in”—whether that be writing a short story, developing an entrepreneurial venture, finding ways to mitigate teenage stress, or building sustainable infrastructure for a city. It is equally apposite, therefore, to humanities and to STEM fields of study and, in fact, encourages a skillset that draws from both.

The principles of design thinking square perfectly with the MSD’s enduring aspiration to prepare students for life in an era of significant change. Because it affords practitioners a common language that transcends traditional academic boundaries, design thinking can facilitate students’

development of skills such as collaboration and teamwork, communication and flexibility, creativity and innovation—all of which are essential for twenty-first century scholarship and professions. Brian Young, District Supervisor of PreK-12 STEM, calls the integration of design thinking within MHS “ground-breaking.” Stated Mr. Young, “It is one of the chief distinguishing features of the STEM Academy that makes the program so forward-thinking. We are truly preparing our students to be future-ready and equipped for college, career, and citizenship within a global landscape.”

Through the lens of design thinking, the Humanities and STEM Academies at Morristown High have discovered a welcome synergy, with new ways to share ideas, resources, and opportunities for their students. During the current academic year, the two programs arranged for students to attend four sessions of 200- and 300-level courses taught through Princeton’s prestigious Keller Center for Innovation in Engineering Education. In addition to the session on attention management that took place in April, topics included informational design in quantum computing and relationship-building across political difference.

Working side by side with Princeton undergrads provides Academy students a special co-curricular opportunity for enrichment that complements their studies at the high school and expands their understanding of how design thinking can be utilized to tackle real-world challenges that directly impact the lives of human beings.

Recently, Mr. Madden and Mr. Daly were awarded a competitive fellowship to participate in a professional development workshop for educators in design thinking this coming June at Stanford University. What they bring back to the Morris School District will no doubt contribute to new pathways for students in both the humanities and in STEM.

RECENT MEF GRANTS

GRATITUDE GRANTS

\$5,000 for each Morris School District school given in honor of the MEF’s 25th Anniversary. See cover article for detailed descriptions of each school’s grant.

CLASSROOM INITIATIVES

ALL IN Teammakers Workshop: Leadership skill workshops at FMS and MHS.

Art Department Supplies at MHS: Funding for the materials in the art department.

Battle of the Books: FMS after-school reading competition.

Bouncy Bands for Freshman Physics: Bands for desks to reduce stress and anxiety.

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

Costume and Sets: Materials to revamp the costumes and sets of the FMS musical.

Cultural Arts Annual Funding: Blanket grants to all ten schools to support cultural arts programming.

- **AV** - Character Rocks assembly and Joanna Pang Atkins residency
- **AH** - BMX Bike and Number Drummer assemblies
- **HC** - Reader’s Theater
- **LLC** - Eyes of the Wild, Mad Scientist, and Musical IQ assemblies
- **FMS** - Student assemblies
- **MHS** - Diversity Org assembly
- **NP** - Spirit Tree residency
- **SX** - BJ Ward residency
- **TJ** - BJ Ward residency
- **WD** - Writers Theatre of New Jersey residency

Darkroom Enlargers and Pinhole Cameras: Photography equipment for the MHS lab.

Eighth Grade Washington, DC Trip: Full tuition for ten students to attend annual trip to Washington, DC.

Falcon Press Online Newspaper: Funding for an online platform for FMS newspaper.

Flexible Seating for Frelinghuysen: Seating for all 6th grade language arts classrooms.

Girls in STEM Day: Fifty FMS 8th grade girls explored STEM through hands-on activities at MHS.

Honoring Community Partnerships and Building New Opportunities for the Colonial L.I.F.E. Program: Celebration held for community partners.

Knowledge is our Super Power: Normandy Park’s theme for the 2019-20 school year.

Light Up Learning: Light tables and translucent manipulatives for the H.I.L.L. at Hillcrest.

Makey Makey K-5 STEM Coding Kits: Electrical circuit coding kits for all K-5 schools.

Melanin Minds Washington, DC Smithsonian Trip: Partial tuition to explore African American culture and history.

Mindful Meditation: Daily meditation sessions for students and teachers.

New Jersey High School Film Challenge: Entry fee paid for New Jersey High School Film Challenge.

NPS Books 4 Kids Literacy Program-Winter Reading Challenge: Reading challenge with book rewards.

Physics Investigation of Light and Information Transfer: NextGen science labs.

Preschool Outdoor Bike Pathway: Contiguous outdoor bike path around the LLC playground.

Reading Readiness: Preschooler-Parent Shared Reading: Parent-child bilingual book club.

Researching and Decorating Ceiling Tiles: Sussex 5th graders’ art project.

Restorative Practices: Training for MHS teachers on strategies to engage in productive dialogue.

Revitalize the FMS Garden: Redesign of the garden.

Social and Emotional Learning Books: All schools received books in partnership with the Morristown Festival of Books.

Sound Design, Engineering Training for the MHS Theater Program Sound Crew: Training with a professional sound engineer.

Standing Desks at FMS: Thirty standing desks for sixth-grade classrooms.

Tutoring for Middle School: FMS after-school volunteer tutoring program in math and language arts.

Yoga and Mindfulness in the Classroom: Yoga 4 Classrooms IMPLEMENT Leader Training Course for Sussex and AH.

COMMUNITY

Like: A Documentary about the Impact of Social Media on Our Lives: Community-wide film screening and panel discussion on the topic of technology.

Raising Resilient Children and Teens: Dr. Robert Brooks, PhD, leading parenting expert and author on resilience, self-esteem, motivation and family relationships spoke with the community.

Teen Pride: Summer counseling sessions for at-risk students.

FRELINGHUYSEN MIDDLE SCHOOL: TRANSFORMATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES 6-8

INVESTING IN STUDENT PARTICIPATION



Nearly 100 students performed in the spring musical *Annie*. The FMS theatre program follows a "no-cut" policy so that all interested students can share the magic of the stage.

HELPING STUDENTS FIND THEIR PLACE TO BELONG



Close to 700 students are enrolled in band, orchestra, or chorus. This thriving music program offers valuable performance experience in multiple contexts. In April, the Falcon Big Band earned several awards at the NJAJE Middle School Jazz Festival.

FOSTERING SUCCESS THROUGH COLLABORATION AND CONNECTIONS



FMS won the General Knowledge Bowl at Newark Academy again this year. Our teams stood firm against area public and private schools as they worked together to answer questions about art, geography, literature, math, history, and other disciplines.

SUPPORTING STUDENTS IN THE PURSUIT OF THEIR PASSIONS



Two students qualified for the state You Be the Chemist Challenge, part of a program that celebrates and encourages interest in STEM. Gavin Varneckas placed first in all of NJ and will head to the national competition in D.C.

OUR VALUES

RESPECT

Treat everyone, regardless of level or circumstance, with dignity.

KINDNESS

Improve your life and the lives of others through care and good deeds.

INTEGRITY

Demonstrate the highest standards of personal and professional character in everything you do.

RELATIONSHIPS

Work daily to build meaningful, mutually gratifying connections between us all: students, teachers, administrators, parents, and community leaders.

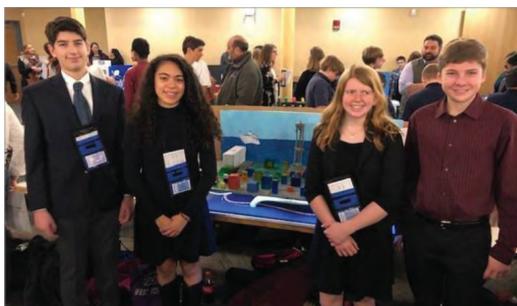
EQUITY & ACCESS

Provide every student with what they need to be successful.

SAFETY

Ensure the physical, social, and emotional wellness of every student.

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR INNOVATIVE PROBLEM-SOLVING



Quest students conceptualized, researched, and designed sustainable model cities for the American Society of Civil Engineers' Future City competition. One FMS team earned the award for "Most Resilient City."

EXPANDING STUDENTS' HORIZONS THROUGH UNRIVALED CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAMMING



Our academic programs are complemented by an array of integrated experiences that transcend the classroom, giving students the advantage of a comprehensive learning environment. Fifty FMS students attended Girls in STEM Day at Morristown High.

SUSTAINING ONE OF THE LARGEST MIDDLE SCHOOL SPORTS PROGRAMS IN MORRIS COUNTY



Girls basketball won the Morris County Championship for the second year in a row! FMS Athletics provides a solid training ground for Morristown High School, where students will find an exceptional climate of true sportsmanship at all levels.

ENGAGING STUDENTS' INTELLECTUAL CURIOSITY AND CREATIVE EXPRESSION



Students are encouraged to traverse new pathways through exposure to a range of electives, such as computer science, engineering design, and art. Several middle schoolers received awards at the 2019 Morris County Teen Arts Festival.

Alumni Spotlight: Alums Joe Goryeb '75, Rick Goryeb '78 and Lynne Goryeb Porfido '84

Morristown High School Alums Joe Goryeb '75, Rick Goryeb '78 and Lynne Goryeb Porfido '84 built a successful family business, Champion Mortgage, with their parents, Joe and Marguerite. They have continued to "champion" family, children, and community for decades. We were able to catch up recently with the three siblings and hear about some of their memories of Morristown High School.



Joe Goryeb



Lynne Goryeb



Rick Goryeb



Joe Goryeb, Lynne Goryeb Porfido & Rick Goryeb

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

JG: I attended Muhlenberg College for two years and then Rutgers University for two years. During that time I worked at Beneficial Finance. They were headquartered in Morristown, and my dad worked there. I learned the business from the bottom up. After Beneficial, I joined ADP where I learned an unbelievable amount in five years and was promoted to National Account Sales. After ADP, I joined our family business, Champion Mortgage, where I spent the majority of my career. Over the years, I was responsible for overseeing Sales, Marketing and Loan Operations and as Co-President/COO, I was involved in setting the strategic direction of the company.

RG: I only went to a few semesters at County College of Morris after graduating Morristown High. I worked as a part-time finance company collector as a teen, and after I graduated high school, I worked full-time as an associate in various finance company offices. At age 20, I was hired as a sales rep for Minolta Corp in Mahwah, NJ, where I gained professional sales training and experience.

I also opened my own business, a picture frame molding wholesaler. During the same time period, I helped my dad with his new mortgage brokerage company, Champion Mortgage. I ultimately joined him in 1982 at age 22. Champion Mortgage was an amazing 20-year journey of entrepreneurship, while being part of a very special and successful family business.

LGP: After high school, I took a few courses at County College of Morris and then decided to go right to work. I worked in retail as a manager for a short period of time and then made my way over to Champion Mortgage. I worked as an underwriter there, but my interest was still in retail. I opened a clothing boutique, which I enjoyed for a few years. And then I decided to close the doors and go back to work at Champion Mortgage as an underwriter for 10 years.

Then in 1997, I stopped working after getting married to my husband, Jim Porfido. In 2001, I had my son Cole and was a stay at home mom while pursuing my hobby as an equestrian. I started riding horses in 1994 and came to love the Arabian breed. My son started riding at a young age. He is 17 now and is still competing. It is so nice to share that passion with him. I also have a passion for working out. I've been doing yoga for the past 20 years and recently have acquired my 200-hour yoga teacher certification. I also have started a small business of flipping houses. We are just finishing up our first project, which is very exciting.

MEF: Your family moved to Morristown from Long Island in the early 1970s. Tell us about that transition:

JG: We were living in Long Island. I was 16, Rick was 13, and Lynne was six when my parents sprung on us we were moving to Morristown. I was a sophomore in high school and quarterback of my high school football team and didn't want to leave. It turns out it was the best move that could have ever happened. Morristown was completely different. The diversity of town was very new for me and Morristown had a much bigger high school. However, because of football, I immediately made friends. I was very welcomed and accepted. The team was very successful and it was a special time as we were undefeated and were state champions both my junior and senior year. The diversity of Morristown High School as compared to where I was coming from was quite a learning experience for me. I learned so much more about life in those years, both in and out of the classroom.

RG: Coming to Morristown from Long Island was a very good time for me. I was in 7th grade and went to Frelinghuysen Middle School. Sports were really big for me and I got to know a lot of older kids from my brother, Joe. Joe and I had a lot in common and this gave me an "in" and a head start. It was very exciting to be part of the football program that year as the varsity team won the State Championship. Our freshman team was very successful as well, going undefeated, emulating the varsity team.

LGP: I was in first grade and I went to Sussex Avenue School. That's all I remember about the transition as I was so young. I do remember when I was eight years old I became the mascot for the high school football team. This is my greatest memory of my school-age years. I got to be with the high school team and the cheerleaders. They would come to the house and cheer me the cheers. I made a lot of friends when I got to the middle school. I was a cheerleader. However, when I got to the high school I became intimidated, and it was a little tough for me. However, I did meet so many people from all different walks

of life and I believe this helped me become a well-rounded person.

ALL: We remember that time as a very special time for our family. Joe and Rick were playing football, Lynne was cheering and mom and dad were in the stands rooting us all on. Our main family activities revolved around football, as this was a big football time for the Morristown community.

MEF: Tell us about Champion Mortgage.

Author's note: The Goryeb family grew Champion Mortgage into one of the largest retail mortgage lenders in the country. Champion was named by INC. Magazine as "One of the 500 Fastest Growing Privately Held Companies" in the United States for three consecutive years. It was also named as one of the "10 Best Companies to Work For" by The Business Journal of New Jersey.

JG: My parents decided to start the Champion business in 1981. I clearly remember sitting down at the kitchen table in Morristown and discussing starting Champion Mortgage. Our parents told us that this was an opportunity to come together as a family and try to grow the business. They wanted all of us to be part of the decision as to whether to go forward or not. My mom always said that family is the most important thing and if the business gets in the way of that, there will be no more business. We were assigned an area of the business according to our expertise. I was 28, Rick was 25 and Lynne was a teenager when the business started. Dad would listen to all of us and our ideas, which he certainly didn't have to do, as he could have made all the decisions himself. Mom was there as well, helping us every step of the way. It truly was a family affair and was really pretty special for a number of years. By the time we sold the company 16 years later we had over 750 employees and were one of the largest home equity lenders in the country.

RG: I remember the day we hit a million dollars in sales. All of our employees rallied around us and we saw how we were really making a difference. Ultimately, my role was Co-President along with my brother Joe. We split responsibilities within the organization in order to have our own personal growth and control, but constantly coordinated together and with our father on the overall company direction, strategies and growth. We worked as a team and communicated closely and directly with all management and employees. We were very hands-on. It really was an amazing journey from the beginning for me as the third employee of the company, partnering with my father and then with my brother and family. I went from being a young kid selling loans to ultimately an executive and entrepreneur of this dynamic and growing company. It was an amazing experience. Ultimately we sold the company in 1997. The five of us felt like we were giving up our extended family. It was a very emotional decision. We continued to run the business for three additional years.

LGP: Champion Mortgage was a great place to work. People still talk about it to this day. It was a great environment. We worked really well together as a family. All five of us were in there together and we like to feel we treated everyone like an extended family. It was a very special culture we were able to create there ... largely due to mom and dad. As a matter of fact, there is still an active Facebook page today. "When Your Bank Says No, Champion Says Yes," with people commenting.

ALL: We still keep close as a family, all of us. We just returned from a stay at a Dude Ranch in Wyoming with all of us and our families. We are carrying on the tradition our parents set, of being a close-knit family. Family first.

MEF: You have been involved in many local initiatives and causes. What inspires you philanthropically?

ALL: The idea for Goryeb Children's Hospital came from our mom and dad. Before that gift, our parents showed us the importance of giving back and thinking philanthropically. At Champion, we had a partnership with the American Cancer Society (ACS) where we contributed \$10 for every "closed loan". We ended up giving millions of dollars to them in the names of our customers. Our dad fought cancer for 25 years and had been closely involved with Morristown Medical Center, so when we sold the business we approached them about doing something special to give back. The hospital talked to us about their dream of building a children's hospital. We live in this community, all have children, and we have our employees who are in this community and all have children. We gave the seed money to start the hospital. We had just sold Champion Mortgage and wanted to do something for the community. The timing was right for this special opportunity. Twenty years later, we could not be

happier with what the hospital has done. It has helped bring world class care to the area. Rick is on the board there and of course having our name associated with this fine institution, we are very concerned that the hospital be the best it can be.

JG: After selling Champion, I was asked to be on the Board of Trustees of the Mayo Performing Arts Center for the past 17 years, serving as Chairman for the last 8 of those years. It has been a joy to see the growth of the theatre contribute in a small way towards the growth of Morristown. Philanthropy and its impact came from our mom and dad. They always taught us about the importance of giving back and thinking philanthropically. We are very proud of coming together as we have, as a philanthropic family in the town where we grew up.

RG: We all continue to stress the importance of philanthropy to our children. The hospital forwards letters from patients at Goryeb Children's Hospital every quarter and we read these to our kids and stress the importance of giving. Being a father of four sons, I've always felt drawn toward children's causes. In addition to my involvement with Goryeb Children's Hospital, I was a trustee for the Somerset Hills Learning Institute for Autism for five years. I also currently provide sports car rides/experiences to children and teens fighting cancer. It's very rewarding for me and provides a few hours of distraction for them.

MEF: What are your favorite memories of Morristown High School?

LGP: It was great going to high school in Morristown. At the time it was an open campus and we could walk to town for breakfast or lunch. My favorite spot was Frank's Deli for breakfast and Suvio's for lunch! I made many friends from all walks of life, that was the best part about going to school where there was such diversity.

JG & RG: We also loved the open campus concept. We could leave the high school if we had an open period. This gave us a sense of responsibility that we thought was great.

MEF: Which of your successes would you attribute to your experiences at the high school?

JG: For me, it was the foundation of what we learned at Morristown High School, especially getting along with different types of people from such a young age. At Champion Mortgage, we had to work with people in difficult situations and it was critical that we understood how to get along and how to communicate. This really helped set us up for success in business. A big shout-out to Steve Wiley for his vision in keeping this community and school diverse and building this foundation. Also to John Chironna (English teacher, head coach of football) who was an absolute mentor for me. Next to my dad, he had the most influence on helping to shape me as a person. He constantly pushed me to achieve excellence.

LG: I would say the same thing. Meeting so many different types of people and learning how to navigate that was the best lesson. I made a lot of friends and built many connections in high school.

RG: Coming from a homogenous community in Long Island to Morristown was great. We met so many people of different backgrounds. It was a great experience to have so many friends (sports helped). It prepared us well as we grew our company. Also, I want to credit the wonderful influences of good teachers and coaches. Participating in sports really helped build my confidence to push myself harder when the moments matter.

MEF: What advice would you give an MHS student?

ALL: Get involved in extracurricular anything. Participate in clubs, sports, hobbies, part-time work or charity so that your education doesn't stop in the classroom. Being involved in other things is critical and helps you develop experience in teamwork, responsibility and success beyond the classroom. Part of that is also getting to know the adults who head up these groups, as having these relationships will help you later in life. Whatever you do, do it with passion.

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

LG: I would have paid attention more.

JG and RG: {Laughter} Agree.

MEF: So what about Morristown?

ALL: The vibrancy of the town today is incredible and attracts a lot of people. We all have seen the town go through tremendous change. The fact that it is diverse is so interesting and there is always something going on. It is nice to see the school and town continuing to thrive after all of these years.

Profiles in Excellence: Leonard Posey, Board Member and Community Advocate



BOE member Leonard Posey with Representative Mikie Sherrill.

After 18 cumulative years as a member of the Morris School District Board of Education, and nearly 26 years as a Morristown and Township resident, Leonard Posey is getting ready to say goodbye to the school system and community he has championed. As Mr. Posey prepares to retire from a long and successful career in corporate human resource management, the Morris School District thanks him wholeheartedly for his dedication to our schools and wishes him and his family much happiness in their new location.

Mr. Posey's devoted service to and lasting imprint on the Board of Education has helped shape its highly effective, collaborative, and ethical governance of the District. Lisa Pollak, President of the Board, said: "Leonard Posey has been a leader on our BOE for many, many years, and his exceptional talent at building relationships with colleagues, staff, community members, and, above all, District administration, has helped us maintain a stable, productive operation that can focus singularly on student achievement, rather than get bogged down in the problems that plague other districts."

A native and longtime resident of Michigan, Mr. Posey was the first African American to be elected to the Wayne-Westland Community School District Board of Education. He moved to Morristown in

1993 and became active in the community and in his children's schools. Three years later, he was appointed to the Board of Education and served for ten years before moving to Morris Township. After a five-year hiatus, now with a grandchild in the District, Mr. Posey was called upon once again to run for the Board, this time as a Township representative.

Throughout his tenure on the Board, Mr. Posey served as president multiple times, working in close partnership with three superintendents and facilitating important connections between district leadership and the African American community of greater Morristown. He was president when the Board of Education hired current superintendent Mackey Pendergrast, whom Posey described as a "nationally recognized, forward-thinking administrator" who has "mastered being a leader of a district with such wide socioeconomic poles." Mr. Posey praised the superintendent's commitment to elevating the great work of his predecessors and to finding a range of ways to reach into the diverse community. "Mackey has taken communication with district stakeholders to a new level, enhancing the brand of the Morris School District and positioning the district for ongoing success."

Looking back on his experience as a board member, Mr. Posey considers it "an enjoyable ride." He is especially proud of the way the community has embraced the Morris School District in partnership, and he attributes that in large part to the Board's unusual ability to respect its own sphere of influence. "Historically, our board members have really embraced the responsibilities of this position and have been smart enough to support the recommendations of our administration, the educational experts. Fully understanding the separation of Board responsibilities and administrators' responsibilities is something all communities must deal with. It can be difficult to navigate, but it is absolutely essential to the health of a school district. And it's what makes this community a quality community."

Lessons in Leadership at Normandy Park



Students created a calendar and raised funds to donate to terrapin conservation.

Students at Normandy Park School received an important lesson this year in leading change through compassion, thanks to the innovative ideas of second and third grade teacher Karen Reuther and her colleagues. Along with her clear passion for teaching, Ms. Reuther has developed a passion for turtles—specifically, the diamondback terrapins of High Bar Harbor (on LBI), whose difficult journey from nesting sites to safe waters is threatened regularly by overdevelopment, cars, and other human-imposed dangers.

After learning about the local conservation work of Kathy Lacey, founder of the Terrapin Nesting Project, Ms. Reuther introduced her colleagues at NPS to the cause, and they enthusiastically took it on. Students were thrilled to see a mother terrapin and several hatchlings up close when Miss Lacey visited their classrooms in January. For the next six weeks, they discovered more about terrapins and their plight through a variety of projects and activities

Outstanding Large Education Foundation cont'd

2018 also marked the MEF's twenty-fifth anniversary, and the foundation raised close to half a million dollars and awarded a record fifteen scholarships. The MEF currently has close to \$3 million in scholarship assets.

Superintendent Mackey Pendergrast stated "I consider the wide range of opportunities enabled by MEF support to be indispensable to our district's aim of offering all our students access to meaningful, inclusive experiences within and outside the classroom."

connected to lessons in literacy, math, art, and bilingual studies, among others.

According to Ms. Reuther, the students urge everyone to "take better care of terrapins. They want everyone to know that even if you don't live on LBI, you can still help by making sure others know about these special creatures and how to save them." Some students drew pictures of terrapins that were made into a calendar to raise money and awareness about the species. Others felt inspired to write poems:

- T Terrapins are endangered
- U Unbearable to watch more terrapins disappear
- R Restore the terrapins in LBI
- T Territory is being destroyed
- L Live on the eastern coast
- E Eggs are laid in the same location year after year

Ms. Reuther, who has taught in the Morris School District for over 20 years, says it was "heartwarming" to see the students so captured by the terrapins' story and so ready to find ways to help: "Probably the best lesson that students have shared with me is their understanding that one individual can make a difference and inspire others ... The Terrapin Nesting Project is growing the population of terrapins and inspiring compassionate young leaders too!"

Normandy Park students have fully internalized the school's year-long theme, "It's Cool to be Kind," which was sponsored by an MEF Gratitude Grant. Says Ms. Reuther, this school-wide emphasis on kindness "inspired us all to put ourselves in another's 'shell' and to do something even from 100 miles away from LBI."

During the award presentation, Randy Davis, NJEPP chair, noted the impact the MEF has on Morris School District students. "Creating Foundations for American Schools says if you can raise \$20 per student you will have a significant impact on young people. If you can raise an additional \$20 per student for innovative programs, you can literally change education in your schools. The MEF raises nearly \$100 per student. They have had great success in enhancing their students' educational experience in the Morris School District."

Winter 2019 Sports Round-Up

Following is an abridged version of our winter season results—too many individual and team accolades to enumerate in full! Congratulations to all of our Colonial and Falcon athletes, who take sportsmanship and teamwork to new heights.

Boys Basketball: Advanced to County Quarter-Finals for the 7th consecutive season, a school record. Ray Mundrick: 1st Team NJAC, 3rd Team All County; Steve Bergeman: 2nd Team NJAC, Morris County Senior All Star Game; Tim Ganning, Honorable Mention.

Girls Basketball: Strong season finish led to Morris County Tournament Semi-Final and NJ North Jersey Group 4 State Final. Tara O'Neill: NJAC All Conference, 1st Team; Nicole Ferrara NJAC All Conference, 2nd Team; Elizabeth Monge, NJAC All Conference Honorable Mention.

Bowling: Great first year with tremendous growth for both varsity and JV squads! Luke Chilson: NJAC Honorable Mention All Conference.

Boys Fencing: 8-1 season in NJAC (2nd Place); State Squad Championships 5th in the state (Chase Emmer went undefeated with a 19-0 record). Daniel Noltemy: 3rd Team All-State, 1st Team NJAC, 8th in State Individual Championship (sabre); Euwen Brennan, 2nd Team NJAC, 17th in State Individual Championship (foil); Conor Lenahan, Honorable Mention NJAC, 17th in State Individual Championship (epee).

Girls Fencing: State Squad Championships 7th in the state (epee team); Nida Sinha: Honorable Mention NJAC; Abigail Gringeri, 2nd Team NJAC; Sydney Mihalik, 2nd Team NJAC; Julia Landi, 2nd Team NJAC; Nina Ferrante: 16th in State Individual Championship.

Boys Swimming: NJAC Sportsmanship Award; Dennis Delargy: 1st Team NJAC 100 Freestyle, Meet of Champions Qualifier 50 Freestyle, Medley Relay, 200 Free Relay, 3rd place Morris County Championships 50 Freestyle; Zachary Crowe: NJAC Honorable Mention, MOC Qualifier 200 IM, 100 Butterfly, Medley Relay, 200 Free Relay.

Girls Swimming: Legendary season that made MHS history! Finished 12-2 and broke 10 out of 11 school records. NJAC Southern II Division champions, Morris County co-champions, North 1 Sectional champions. Incredible relay and individual achievements! Highlights from the Meet of Champions: Grace Miller: 1st Place 500 Freestyle; Nicole Barkemeyer, Grace Miller, Emily Skilton, Annelise Webber: 1st Place 200 and 400 Freestyle relays.



Champions indeed! Outstanding results for the Girls Swim Team at the 2019 Meet of Champions.

Wrestling: 1st Place Irvington Blue Knight Team Tournament; 2nd Place New Providence Pioneer Classic Tournament; qualified for State Sectional Team Tournament; 5th Place District XI Individual State Tournament; 5 qualifiers for Region 3 Individual State Tournament; Giovanni Rivera, Aidan Watson, Eric Jackson, Marc Dilluvio, and Ryan Jackson; Luke Tappen: Outstanding Wrestler Irvington Tournament, 2nd Place Pioneer Classic Tournament.

FMS HIGHLIGHTS

Girls Basketball: Morris County Championship winners for the second year in a row!
Wrestling: 12-0 season! County Championship 3rd Place, Oliver Aung, Freddie Saxon; 4th Place; Jason Meza; 3rd Place; Jack Myers; 2nd Place; Art Ritter, James Grizzetti, Connor Watson, Rob Murphy: 1st Place County Champions.

"We are thrilled to have received this recognition as Outstanding Large Education Foundation," said Patty Haralampoudis, Chair of the Morris Educational Foundation. "The work we do in partnership with the Morris School District is only possible because of the dedication of our schools, our volunteers and our strong community."



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WHAT'S HAPPENING IN... #TheDistrict SPRING 2019

A joint publication from The Morris School District
and The Morris Educational Foundation

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IN THE DISTRICT



MEF scholarship winners and their families joined together with scholarship donors to celebrate. This year the MEF awarded \$154,000 in scholarships to twelve Morristown High School students.

Pinned by [Morris Educational Foundation](#)



Morristown High School's 2019 production of *The Addams Family*, directed by Katie Adams with musical direction by David Gallagher, was an artistic tour de force.

Pinned by [Morris School District](#)



MEF Trustee Ann Rhines accepted the Outstanding Volunteer award at the New Jersey Education Foundation Partnership (NJEFP) annual luncheon.

Pinned by [Morris Educational Foundation](#)



3-for-3! Anna Rivetti, Braeden Siverson and Rachel Van Sciver have accomplished an FMS first: each won a county championship (soccer, basketball, lacrosse) in all 3 seasons.

Pinned by [Morris School District](#)



Archaeopteryx, by MHS senior Megan Sodano, won the Morris County Teen Arts Festival Gold Award and will be entered in the State competition. Another of Megan's paintings was featured in the Morris Museum's Fresh Perspectives Exhibition this spring.

Pinned by [Morris School District](#)



Tom Haynes of the First Energy Foundation visited Hillcrest School to present a check to students, Morris School District staff and the MEF for STEM initiatives.

Pinned by [Morris Educational Foundation](#)



The FMS Select Choir took first place at the 2019 Morris County Teen Arts Festival and earned the first choice recommendation for the State Teen Arts Festival.

Pinned by [Morris School District](#)



Morristown Onstage's 12th annual show earned a record \$175,000 for Morris School District schools.

Pinned by [Morris Educational Foundation](#)