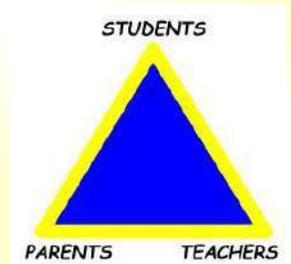


MORAN TRIAD

James H. Moran Middle School
141 Hope Hill Road
Wallingford, CT 06492

Phone: 203-741-2900 Office
203-741-2907 Guidance
Fax: 203-741-2939



First Trimester Newsletter August - November

A Note from our Principal Mr. Piacentini

Welcome to the newest version of James H. Moran, Sr. Middle School's Triad. Throughout my tenure here, we have experimented with many versions of this newsletter. All of which lead us back here to a traditional school newsletter. We really hope you enjoy this quick peek into life at Moran. As you will notice from the pictures and articles, there are plenty of fantastic things going on both inside and outside of our classrooms.

Our school year has gotten off to a terrific start. 6th grade students have done a great job transitioning to life at the middle school. 7th grade, which is traditionally a very difficult transition year at the middle school, has been very impressive in their involvement in school activities. As always, Moran's 8th graders always rise to the occasion and become such fantastic peer leaders. I cannot wait to see the growth in all of our students.

Lastly, I would like to encourage all parents/guardians to get involved at the middle school. Chaperone a field trip, volunteer to come in and assist a teacher, work with our PTO, attend PTAC/PTO meetings, enjoy our athletics, drama, music or any other after school activities, or just stop in to say hello to our office or support staff. You are always welcome at Moran Middle School. To keep up with all of the happenings at Moran, here are some additional resources; @JAPiacentini (Twitter Hashtag = #MoranMS), <http://jameshormanmiddleschool.edublogs.org/>, or visit the Moran website - <http://www.wallingford.k12.ct.us/our-schools/james-h-moran-middle-school>. Make it a great year!

Important Dates:

11/8/16 - Election Day- Closed

11/10/16 - Fall Conferences 5-8pm

11/11/16 - Veteran's Day -Closed

11/14/16 - Girls Basketball Tryouts

11/16/16 - Career Day 8-10:30 and
Fall Conferences 5-8pm

11/21/16 - Picture retake day

11/23-25 - Thanksgiving Break

A look at the Food Recovery Program and Food Share Table

Here at Moran we have introduced two new important programs. **Food Recovery** and our **Food Share Table**. They are both great opportunities for students to learn about and help prevent food waste. While this is not a new idea, it came about from a brainstorm session in our Capstone class from one of our own students, Nick Iannone. Here is a little about it from Nick....

"The **Food Recovery/Food Table** started out as a way to minimizing food waste in the cafeteria on items required by federal law that students must buy, like a fruit or vegetable. Students were taking these items and then throwing them out. This table allows students to place any unwanted, sealed items on the table for other students to take as they please. Any food that is not taken from the table at the end of the week is collected by Master's Mana."

Master's Mana is a Wallingford based organization whose goals include: reducing food insecurity, providing intervention, mental and health support services, and helping our local youth complete community service hours for scouts, school, etc.

A look at the table in our cafeteria.....



Ten Principles of Proficiency-Based Learning

Over the past decade, the movement to adopt proficiency-based approaches to teaching, learning, and graduating has gained momentum throughout the United States, as more educators, parents, business leaders, and elected officials recognize that high academic expectations and strong educational preparation are essential to success in today's world. Schools use proficiency-based learning to raise academic standards, ensure that more students meet those higher expectations, and graduate more students better prepared for adult life.

To help schools establish a philosophical and pedagogical foundation for their work, the Great Schools Partnership created the following "Ten Principles of Proficiency-Based Learning," which describe the common features found in the most effective proficiency-based systems:

1. All learning expectations are clearly and consistently communicated to students and families, including longterm expectations (such as graduation requirements and graduation standards), short-term expectations (such as the specific learning objectives for a course or other learning experience), and general expectations (such as the performance levels used in the school's grading and reporting system).
2. Student achievement is evaluated against common learning standards and performance expectations that are consistently applied to all students regardless of whether they are enrolled in traditional courses or pursuing alternative learning pathways.
3. All forms of assessment are standards-based and criterion-referenced, and success is defined by the achievement of expected standards, not relative measures of performance or student-to-student comparisons.
4. Formative assessments measure learning progress during the instructional process, and formative-assessment results are used to inform instructional adjustments, teaching practices, and academic support.
5. Summative assessments evaluate learning achievement, and summative-assessment results record a student's level of proficiency at a specific point in time.
6. Academic progress and achievement are monitored and reported separately from work habits, character traits, and behaviors such as attendance and class participation, which are also monitored and reported.
7. Academic grades communicate learning progress and achievement to students and families, and grades are used to facilitate and improve the learning process.
8. Students are given multiple opportunities to improve their work when they fail to meet expected standards.
9. Students can demonstrate learning progress and achievement in multiple ways through differentiated assessments, personalized-learning options, or alternative learning pathways.
10. Students are given opportunities to make important decisions about their learning, which includes contributing to the design of learning experiences and learning pathways.



What's Happening in the Library

Welcome our New Library Media Specialist...

Mrs. Musket... you can follow her on twitter @Mrs_Musket

Like **WPS Libraries** on Facebook to find out what is happening in Wallingford Public Schools' library media centers.



Kids' Lit Quiz Competition:

Kids' Lit Quiz, also known as the "sport" of reading, is an international literacy competition. Moran Middle School's teams will be competing against other U.S. teams at Central Connecticut State University the last week of January. Moran's teams are reading every day and meeting weekly to train for the competition.

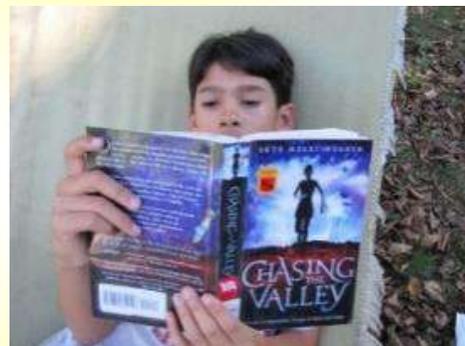
Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4
Brennan Lagasse Ryan Lagasse Aaron Kaiser Elias Rodriguez	Ryan Crilly Riley Kearns Julie Rochniak Ryan Villano	Elena Bielesz Heather Gaydownen Shannon McKenna Katie Webb	Caitlyn DeZerga Charlotte Francy Matthew Mowerson Kylie Sorvillo



Promote Reading Club

The Promote Reading Club meets after school on Tuesdays and works to promote reading in the Moran and Wallingford community. Club members are working on books of the day for MVP news, reading challenges and will be walking to Highland Elementary School in November to work with the kindergarten library media classes.

Our Book Selfie Winner
was.... Benjamin-Ian Smith



A Word about Capstone from Mrs. Pacelli-Kukta

CAPSTONE...WHAT IS IT?

In CAPSTONE, students are encouraged to think critically, solve challenging problems, and develop skills such as communication, research, media literacy, teamwork, planning, self-sufficiency, and goal setting. The motto of our program is to "BE THAT SOMEBODY". Often times, we can recognize that a problem exists and say..."someone should come up with a way to...." the purpose of our program is to not look to someone else to create the "fix" but to instill the skills students need to be the "fix". We want students to make "things" better by making better "things".

What is a CAPSTONE project?

A CAPSTONE project is a multifaceted assignment that serves as a culminating academic and intellectual experience for students. Such projects take a wide variety of forms, but most are long term investigative projects that culminate in a final product, presentation, or performance.

For the middle school student, CAPSTONE will be a 3-year process:

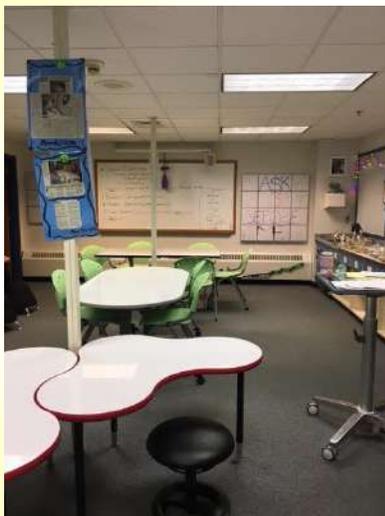
- YEAR 1 (6th grade) - focus on self-interests and skill building
- YEAR 2 (7th grade) - focus on choosing topic and developing proposal
- YEAR 3 (8th grade) - Create product and present

CORE COMPONENTS: (projects need to be school/community based)

- Students strengthen their ethical understanding and awareness for others
- Students engage in a school community building project individually or in small groups
- All students have at least one adult to facilitate and support them through the project

In our inaugural trimester, students have redesigned the middle school cafeteria, designed and constructed straw rockets for distance and/or accuracy, designed and built a catapult, created a marble run to meet specific criteria, and recreated the enthusiasm of the kindergarten classroom in the middle school. All of these activities require students to identify a problem, ideate, iterate, share, and reflect.

More updates coming soon.....



Team 6-1 Huskies!

Team 6-1 Huskies enjoyed a beautiful day at Camp Sloper on Friday, October 21st. The rain held off and the students were involved in many team building activities with the energetic, fun camp counselors.



Math Class Pictures - Multiplying Decimal

HUSKIES STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



October

World Language: Dyllan Bryans (Team Eagles)

The beginning of sixth grade French was not easy for Dyllan Bryans (Team Eagles). He failed his first quiz. But Dyllan did not give up. He came for extra help and he re-took the first quiz. He continued to study and give his best effort in class. Soon his efforts paid off - by the third quiz Dyllan scored 100%, only one of three students from both sixth grade French classes to earn this grade. Dyllan is proof that if you believe in yourself and put in the effort, you can succeed!

Science: Savanna Bauman

Savanna has arrived at Moran ready to impress. She has an "A+" in Science, is an active participant during class discussions, and stands out as a leader when working in small groups for experiments. She arrives each day with a smile on her face and is consistently kind and respectful to her teachers and peers. Savanna is always willing to lend a helping hand to someone in need and tries to bring out the positive in any situation. Savanna is a wonderful asset to our Husky Team.

Math: Alondra Lopez

Alondra is a talented Math student, who puts in the extra effort to continually develop her math skills. Alondra is an enthusiastic student in class, goes out of her way, on a daily basis, to help classmates around her improve. She started off the year in a spectacular fashion, and has consistently presented superior work. Alondra has been a role model for outstanding character and academics for Team Huskies. (She also a talented singer!)

Social Studies: Chelsea Fitzgerald

Chelsea has started off the year in a very impressive manner. She shows up to school on a daily basis ready to learn and engage in classroom discussions and activities. She has shown herself to be responsible, cooperative, empathetic, and enthusiastic both in and outside the classroom. She has started off the year meeting with academic success, and has shown herself to be an asset to her classes and the team.

English/Language Arts: Gabriella Gawlak

Gabby is a mature, caring, and conscientious student. Gabby always comes to class prepared and ready to learn. Gabby often emerges as a leader in group discussions, and she approaches everything she does with good humor and a smile on her face. In addition, Gabby cares about her peers and is always willing to help others. Her work has also been used as a model for her fellow students. Gabby is a pleasure to have in class and valuable member of Team Huskies.

Team 6-2 Eagles Battle for the Cup!!!!

Team Eagles' students are in a fierce but friendly battle! Students have been divided into five teams and are competing against each other in various categories. Students are awarded points or lose points depending on their efforts; similar to how points are awarded in the *Harry Potter* book series. The categories are created to help students become better students and overall better people. Good luck to all competitors!!



Update from Team Eagles

Students on Team Eagles have been very busy. First, to enjoy some holiday spirit, the team decorated their hallway in award winning Halloween style. Next, recently all Moran students were encouraged to wear orange on one day to show their support to stop bullying. Homeroom 120 won first place out of the entire school by wearing the most orange colored clothing and really showed their school spirit. Six Eagle students were also recently recognized for their dedication to their studies, their peers and for in general making Moran a better place. These honored students were Hailey Culver, Chase St. Amant, Jacob Santacruz, Kyle Stolting, Hitika Patel and Vinnie Carbone. Finally, the results of the first Eagle's Cup are in and the winning homeroom was The **Superschweigs** of Room 120. Congratulations to these students and to all Eagle students who showed their positive attitude and efforts in the Eagle Cup competition. The next round of the competition starts soon so be on the lookout for the next winner in about six weeks.



7th Grade Team 7-1 Rising Stars

Welcome Newsletter: <https://www.smore.com/zxnr0>

Anne Varrone-Lederle
Team Leader
Spanish

Michelle Wolfrum
Language Arts

Sharon Dooley
Science

Corri Izzo
Math

Donna Constanzo
Math (permanent substitute)

Lauren Hebert
Social Studies

Kristen Rosenberry
Special Education

Christine Bee
Team Paraeducator



Student Recognition

October 2016

Ryen Wolcheski has started the 7th grade on a high note. She comes to school every day with a smile on her face and is willing and excited to learn. She is prepared for her classes and is kind and helpful to her peers and teachers. She also independently self-advocates in her classes when she doesn't understand something, which is an impressive skill for a first trimester 7th grader to have! Way to go, Ryen!!

Anthony Galicia has been rocking 7th grade so far. He is a responsible student that is prepared for every class. Anthony's focuses on positively participating by asking proactive questions and sharing his ideas while staying on task. He is eager to learn and do his best. He stays positive throughout the challenges of transitioning to 7th grade, and he makes it look easy! Keep it up, Anthony!!

7th Grade Team 7-2 Super Novas



Team 7-2 had an amazing time at the Bronx Zoo. They saw exotic animals from many regions of the world. Got to know their classmates and teachers better, and enjoyed a glorious fall day in New York!



Recently, we held our premiere Cabaret Cafe of the year, where students were entertained by a magic show, and two singing performances. We are looking forward to showcasing our many talented students.

In **Social Studies**, students are engaged in a research project on Canadian provinces and territories. Students in Science just finished up learning about the Earth's surface and are now delving into the exciting world of cells. In **Language Arts**, students are wrapping up the Science-Fiction unit with a Narrative Writing short story and are looking forward to starting our next unit: *Courage in Life and Literature*. Our anchor text for this unit will be *The Diary of Anne Frank* screenplay by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett. In **World Language**, students have just completed their review projects. We will be finishing up our review of material learned last year and will be moving on to new and exciting things very soon! In **Math**, we continue to develop our Growth Mindsets while working with positive and negative numbers. We'll be moving on to expressions and equations in two weeks



WELCOME

TO TEAM 8-1 AT MORAN MIDDLE SCHOOL!

Welcome to 8th grade and team 8-1! We are excited that we will have the opportunity to work with you this year! The 2016-2017 school year has a landscape of opportunities in and out of the classroom. We wanted to take a moment to introduce ourselves and to give you general information regarding contact information and other items that may be important for us to take note of as we begin our journey into this school year together.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

Aug	8/30 First Day of School
September/October	9/5 Labor Day (no school) 9/10 Open House 9/21 Early Release for Students 10/10 Columbus Day (no school) 10/19 Early Release for Students

Team Site:
<https://sites.google.com/a/wallingfordschools.org/moran-team-8-1/>

Daily Homework Site:
<http://goo.gl/y41UPY> This is for you and your child. Please note that this does not take the place of students needing to be responsible and independent when it comes to the recording (or taking pictures of homework boards) and completion of homework.

Team Goal
To have the curriculum challenge you; our insight inspire you; our team environment encourage you; and our daily lessons deliver the motivation you need to be your best.

FAST FACTS:
 Moran Middle School
 141 Hope Hill Road
 #203-741-2900
 Grade 8 Guidance Counselor
 Mrs. Kerri Funaro



MEET THE TEAM



SCIENCE

MRS. MORENO
 "You are going to love science with a vengeance after this year!!"

Contact Information
 Phone: 203-741-2900
 Email: lmoreno@wallingfordschools.org



MATHEMATICS

MRS. CLANCY
 "Any fears you have in math will fly away!"

Contact Information
 Phone: 203-741-2900
 Email: tclancy@Wallingfordschools.org



ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

MRS. DELEON
 "You will see how super reading can be!"

Contact Information
 Phone: 203-741-2900
 Email: rdeleon@Wallingfordschools.org



SOCIAL STUDIES

MR. CASELLA
 "Looking into the past will unlock the present!"

Contact Information
 Phone: 203-741-2900
 Email: Scasella@Wallingfordschools.org



WORLD LANGUAGE

MISS SONSTROM
 "We will fight through the difficulties of learning a 2nd language together!"

Contact Information
 Phone: 203-741-2900



SPECIAL EDUCATION

MRS. MAILHOT
 "You will see how helpful my powers are!"

Contact Information
 Phone: 203-741-2900
 Email: tmailhot@Wallingfordschools.org



COURAGE, KINDNESS & YOUR BEST, the ONLY options!

Team 8-2 Welcome!

<https://sites.google.com/a/wallingfordschools.org/mrs-carbone-website/>

YEARBOOK NEWS



Over 50 students applied for a chance to be part of the yearbook staff and seventeen awesome students were selected. Congratulations to the following students.

Grade 6

Caitlin Buckley, Vinnie Carbone, Isabelle Gravell, Jenna Kent, Hitika Patel

Grade 7

Janani Balaji, Jessica Hench, Mckenzie Marshall, Victoria Stickler

Grade 8

Beth Arnold, Frankie Carbone, Valerie Connolly, Mia Ferry, Meghan Speeg, Ali Villano, Elizabeth Cook, Katia Vanterpool

Overall, it looks to be a great staff and exciting new adventure for all.

There's nothing else like getting your copy of the official yearbook. It's the limited edition collection of our school's stories for this year. Don't miss out on sharing and reliving the big events that will make this year special.

BUY YOURS BEFORE DECEMBER 28th AND SAVE \$5.00!

jostensyearbooks.com | 1-877-767-5217

KINDNESS COUNTS!! DR. G'S STELLAR STUDENTS

This is a new club at Moran this year. We are focused on making Moran a more welcoming place for students and staff alike. So far this year we have met four times and brainstormed countless ways to help students feel connected. From posting positive notes on the lockers of sixth grade students to let them know what a great job they are doing and how glad we all are that they are here, to acting as ambassadors during Open House, we are focused on spreading kindness. Recently we helped Moran celebrate **Unity Day** on October 25 by sponsoring a contest. The homeroom at each grade level, with the most students dressed up in orange for Unity Day, won a prize. We also had a field trip to Southington High School on Monday, October 3rd to meet Lindsay Vonn who spoke about her new book, *Strong is the new beautiful*. Miss Vonn's focus was on believing in yourself and working hard to be the best version of yourself possible. A big thank you to Mr. Piacentini for sponsoring this trip! This is a great group of students who are dedicated to making Moran a warm, welcoming, and kind place for all. New members are always welcome. See Mrs. Giangrave to join this new club.

Moran Sports

A look at some of the Sports for this Trimester!

Cross-Country

The Girl's Cross-Country team's record is 5-4 with the State Championship left in the season. Top runners this year so far are...Elizabeth Brown who is in a good position to possibly finish 1ST in the state!! She finished 8th last season and is running much better this year. Also running well are Arianna Amodio and Avery Winters.

James H. Moran Cross-Country

Season Schedule 2016

Day	Date	Opponent	Site	Time
Mon	Sept 26th	Kennedy MS (Southington)	Kennedy MS	3:45pm
Tues	Oct 4th	Dodd MS (Cheshire)	Moran MS	3:45pm
Thurs	Oct 13th	DePaolo MS (Southington)	Moran MS	3:45pm
Sat	Oct 15th	**McGee Invitational** <i>(course walks start @ 8:00am)</i>	Sage Park <i>(Berlin)</i>	TBA
Tues	Oct 18th	Lincoln MS/Washington MS (Meriden)	Moran MS	3:45pm
Fri	Oct 21st	Ghost Run	Moran MS	7:00pm
Mon	Oct 24th	**Dodd Invitational** <i>(course walks start @ 3:00pm)</i>	Cheshire Park	4:00pm
Fri	Oct 28th	Dag Hammarskjold MS	Dag MS	3:45pm
Sat	Nov 5th	**State Championships** <i>(course walks start @ 9:00am)</i>	Wickham Park <i>(Manchester)</i>	TBA

Revised: Sept. 7, 2016

The Boy's Cross-Country team's record is 4-5 with State Championship left. Their top runners of the season are Eamon Burke, Evan Caines and Zachary Kremzar.

Congrats to all that participated on this 2016/17 team!!

Below please see the results of the State Championship.

Elisabeth Brown Wins the Girls' Individual Middle School Cross-Country State Championship Title

On Saturday, the 24th CT Middle School State Championships were held at Wickham Park in Manchester. Nearly 2900 runners and 110 middles school were represented. The Girls Championship Race measures 2.3 miles in length.

Elisabeth Brown of James H. Moran Middle School from Wallingford took first place overall out of nearly 400 runners in the Girls Championship Race. Elisabeth was trailing Peyton Bornstein (Tolland MS) with just 300 meters left in the race. Elisabeth overtakes Peyton with 250 meters to go and never looks back. Elisabeth crosses the finish line with a time of 14 minutes and 23 seconds beating the next runner by 5 seconds. Elisabeth Brown is Connecticut's 2016 Girls Individual Middle School Cross-Country State Champion! Her coach Steven Scurssso said, "I am so proud of her! She worked so hard for the last three years to get to this point. She deserved every bit of it. What an awesome ending to three great years coaching her!

Other girls that represented Moran in the Championship Race were Arianna Amodio in 81st, Amelia Mansfield 161st, Karly Martino 221st, Kaitlyn Morrill 243rd, Emma Reilly 259th, and Gretchen Seibt 278th. The Moran Girls' Cross-Country Team finished 23rd out of 110 schools that entered the meet.

Photos of Elisabeth Brown in the State Championship Race are attached.

Eamon Burke comes in 23rd for Boys' Cross-Country

The Boys' State Championship race measures 2.3 miles. Eamon Burke (7th grade) of the Moran Boys' Cross-Country Team finished 23rd overall out about 450 runners in the Boys' XC State Championship Race. Other boys representing Moran in the Championship Race were Evan Caines 101st, Ben Gyulay 312th, John Milewski 319th, Michael Womelsdorf 342th, Aaron Mansfield 384th, and John Smith 401st.

Both teams had a great season. If you know or see any of these athletes, please be sure to congratulate them on their accomplishments.





Moran Girls Basketball Tryouts will be held on November 14, 2016!

Monday, November 14th - Any 6th, 7th, & 8th-grade girl that were not members of the girls' basketball team last year

Tuesday, November 15th - Any 6th, 7th, & 8th-grade girl that were not members of the girls' basketball team last year

- First cuts will be made on this day. Any girl making the cut will advance to Friday, November 18th.

Friday, November 18th - Girls that were members of girls' basketball team last year, and
- Girls that made the first cuts from November 15th

Monday, November 21st - Girls Basketball Tryouts (if needed)

Tuesday, November 22nd - Girls Basketball Tryouts (if needed)

*****ALL TRYOUTS WILL BE RIGHT AFTER SCHOOL UNTIL 4:30PM*****

These dates and times are subject to change depending on the number of girls that sign up to try out.

Moran Boys Basketball has a new coach!!

Let us all give a big Mustangs welcome to.....

Mr. Rachid Sofiane and wish him well in his first year as the boys coach.

*****Tryouts for the Boys team will begin on.....**

Wednesday, November 9th – 7th and 8th grade boys

Thursday, November 10th – 7th and 8th grade boys

Wednesday, November 16th – 6th grade boys

Thursday, November 17th – 6th grade boys

*****First cuts will be posted on 11/18/16*****

Monday, November 21st – Tryouts for all 6th, 7th and 8th grade boys and **Final cuts that day!!!**

Good luck to all!



HALLOWEEN AT MORAN!!

Team 8-1 Rocking Out!!



OFFICE M&M'S



Snow White and her Team 7-1 Dwarfs!!



7-2 Pot of Gold



The Devil down In the library



Our Super Heroes!!

