

Morgan County Charter School System

Annual Report 2020





Dear Stakeholder,

It is with great pride that we take the opportunity to provide an annual snapshot of our school system. The MCCSS Annual Report provides information on our mission and history and summarizes our system's achievements in the past year. While achievements are included, other data points highlight the advancements of our school system. We value the opportunity to share the glows, grows, and areas for improvement. While we believe Morgan is an outstanding school system, we also recognize that there is always room for improvement. We can never allow ourselves to be satisfied with the status quo. This report provides highlights of the Morgan County School System for the 2020 calendar year, which saw an unprecedented interruption to our normal school operations.

This past November, our voters overwhelmingly voted to approve the continuation of a Educational Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (ESPLOST). We have been very grateful for the support of our taxpayers over the years, and we do not take that for granted. The current E-SPLOST was used to construct our new middle and high school, and the next will be primarily used to pay off the bond that made this incredible campus a reality.

A big shout out for our system is the continuance improvement in the graduation rate. The Class of 2020 produced our highest rate ever at 92%. The improvement in graduation rate is due to several initiatives including an increased focus on real-world learning opportunities, updated Response to Intervention processes and cooperation with Foothills Charter High School.

The Morgan County Charter School System appreciates our stakeholders. We want to provide you the most accurate information to help you advocate for our students, teachers, and staff. The intent of this publication is to equip our stakeholders with a snapshot of the most relevant and accurate facts of our school system. Our desire is for you to share and promote our school system as one of the best in the state.

Sincerely,

B. Virgil Cole, Jr., Superintendent
Morgan County Charter School System



Members of the Board of Education:

(Left to Right) Vice Chair Cheryl Bland, Joey Slaughter, Chairman Andrew Ainslie III, Forest Pagett, Brad Hawk

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Morgan County Schools: Who Are We?

3263

Total Students

4

Schools

38%

Eligible for free or
reduced lunch

12%

Receive Special Education
services.

2%

Have limited English
Proficiency

477

System Employees

7%

Gifted Served

Board of Education

Andrew Ainslie III, *Chair, District #4*

Cheryl Bland, *Vice Chair, District #1*

Forest Pagett, *District #5*

Brad Hawk, *District #3*

Joey Slaughter, *District #2*

Dr. Virgil Cole, *School Superintendent*



*The **mission** of the Morgan County Schools is to ensure that all students will be successful in their learning and personal development through a system characterized by extensive community and parental involvement, quality resources, and exemplary staff, a safe and caring environment and challenging, individualized instruction encompassing advanced technology.*

This mission has not changed since it was created as part of our first System Strategic Plan in 1993! The faculty, staff and students of the Morgan County Charter School System demonstrate their commitment to this mission on a daily basis.

Our Vision:

The Morgan County Charter School System will be an exemplary learning community whose graduates are prepared for college, career, and life.



Morgan County Teachers of the Year 2020



Bobbi Hart
Morgan County Primary

Alec Johnson
Morgan County High



Jodie McMichael
Morgan County Middle

Karen Spence
Morgan County Elementary



Morgan County is proud to recognize these teachers for their dedication to the craft of teaching. Nominated and voted on by their peers, these teachers are true examples of what it means to be an educator. Each has shown leadership, innovation, and creativity in finding ways to meet the needs of their students while challenging them to grow as Morgan County students.



Morgan County Schools— A Charter School System

Morgan County Schools operate under a signed Charter between the school system and the State Board of Education, which allows for flexibility to innovate programs in exchange for increased academic accountability. Charter systems are characterized by school-based leadership and decision-making recommendations through local School Governance Teams.

Charter School System

MCCSS has been a Charter School System since 2011, allowing innovations focused on improving student achievement.



Local School Governance Teams

LSGTs exist at every school and make recommendations regarding personnel allotments, budget, operations, system calendar, and other school functions.



System Governance Leadership Team

This team is comprised of the chairs of each School Governance Team and the System Executive Council. The team serves as an advisory body to the superintendent.

Accreditations

All schools are accredited with quality by the Georgia Accrediting Commission and AdvancED.



Working closely with the Superintendent and the Board of Education, The **Morgan County Foundation for Excellence** raises funds to implement programs of academic excellence in all our schools, benefiting all our students.



Partners in Education is a voluntary relationship between local businesses and community organizations who partner with the Morgan County Charter School System to prepare our students to pursue life in society, the world of work, and post-secondary education.



The Madison-Morgan County **Boys and Girls Club** has been a cornerstone of the community since opening its doors in 2008. It provides a safe structured and positive environment for young people after school, during holidays and summer vacation. The Club provides a safe place to learn and grow by establishing ongoing relationships with caring adult professionals while offering life-enhancing programs and character development experience, as well as hope and opportunity.



Mentoring One Morgan is a unified effort to utilize community resources to fulfill the needs of children across the spectrum of education: academics, character, and healthy lifestyles.



Morgan County Family Connection is a collaborative group working together to improve the results for youth and families in Morgan County.



Morgan County 4-H Clubs assist youth in acquiring knowledge, developing life skills, and forming attitudes that will enable them to become self-directing, productive and contributing members of society. This mission is accomplished, through "hands on" learning experiences, focused on agricultural and environmental issues, agriculture awareness, leadership, communication skills, foods and nutrition, health, energy conservation, and citizenship.





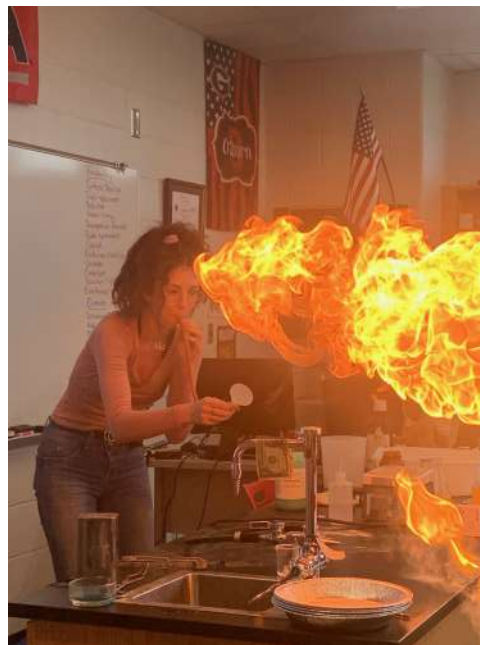
We are committed to serving our community's educational needs in person or remotely by developing positive relationships, providing engaging classrooms, and combining rigorous academic standards with 21st century skills so that students will be prepared for present and future opportunities.

- Susan Tolbert

Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning

Project Based Learning

Provides students with problem-solving and real world application of standards through instruction that includes inquiry learning, 21st Century skill development, career exposure, and community partnerships.



STEAM

Provides students with connections to community and careers, to experiences with engineering and technology, and to inquiry and cross-curricular learning.



GLLSI

Seven cohorts of District, School, and Teacher Leaders have attended training with the Georgia Leadership Institute for School Improvement.



Professional Learning

Provides teachers with opportunities to learn new ways to improve instruction and student learning.

278

Certificated Staff

81%

Percentage of Certified Staff with Advanced Degrees

71%

Percentage of Certified Staff with 11—21+ Years of Experience

The **Farm-to-School Program** is intended to permeate our schools, classrooms, and community to better serve our students by bolstering their exposure and understanding of food production, agriculture as an industry, local food sources, gardening, outdoor learning, environmental practices, and real-world application in careers. Goals of the program include providing students exposure to locally grown food items to boost food awareness and ensure that healthy food options are available in our schools, providing students experiences with locally grown food items, and providing K-12 curriculum learning experiences in these healthy and nutritional areas.



CrossRoads Alternative Education Program is a necessary and vital part of the school system. Four certified teachers work with middle and high school students who have been expelled from their home schools. Students are able to continue their educational program while at CrossRoads and their credits transfer when they return to their schools. Volunteers from the Steffen Thomas Museum have “adopted” this school and have exposed the students to many fascinating art projects designed to build self-confidence and service-learning skills. The system’s goal for



Instructional Technology is to increase student engagement through the use of relevant technology. For this reason, the focus has been on providing teachers with devices and mechanisms to increase student engagement, which has a strong correlation with increasing student achievement. One platform for achieving this goal is with the use of our *Google Expeditions Virtual Reality* kits, purchased through grants, which allows teachers to lead students through virtual field trips all over the world.





The visual and performing arts (*band, art, chorus and drama*) taught in our schools enjoy a lofty reputation throughout the state, as well as at home. Music, Drama, and Visual Arts students are regularly selected for the Georgia Governor's Honors Program, Regional and All State Ensembles, and Thespian Awards.

Band

The 6-12 Band curriculum is vertically aligned to promote retention, success, and progression for the 400+ students enrolled and is a standard of excellence model for the Georgia Music Educators Association.



Art

Visual Arts is offered to students kindergarten-high school with rigorous inquiry into art history, contemporary art making and cultural contexts.



Music

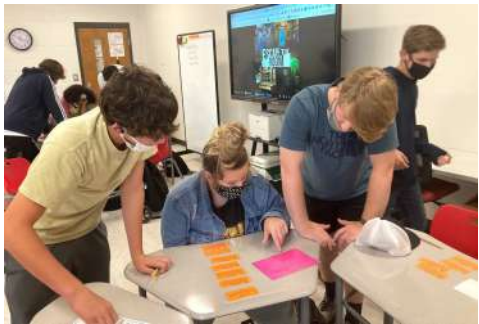
MCCSS students are engaged through exploration and exposure of the elements of music and chorus from kindergarten to high school.



Drama

Middle and high school Theater Arts students learn and perform for their schools and compete at regional, state, and national competitions.

MCHS offers **Advanced Placement** classes utilizing college-level curricula and examinations. Last year, MCHS produced 23 AP Scholars, 3 AP Scholars with Honor, and 4 AP Scholars with Distinction (based on AP examination test scores).



MCHS was recognized as an AP STEM and AP STEM Achievement school by the state based on the course offerings and the number of students successfully completing score requirements on the AP exams.



Approximately 13% of the MCHS student body are participating in **Dual Enrollment** classes this year. This program gives our students the opportunity to be enrolled in high school and at participating postsecondary institutions in Georgia while earning high school and college credit simultaneously.



224

AP Exams taken by
MCHS Students

54%

AP Exams at a score of
3 or higher

130

Number of students
participating in Dual
Enrollment



Through our rigorous classrooms, our career pathways, our innovative elective classes, and our first-rate extracurricular programs, the Morgan County Charter School System offers challenges and opportunities for every student. Support is also provided to every student through our counselors, behavior specialists, school nurses, response to intervention, individual education plans, psychological services, health plans, and student support teams. Our students receive and thrive on individual support every day!

-Jay W. Homan, Assistant Superintendent
Student Support and Community Relations

School Nutrition

MCCSS boasts a strong School Nutrition Program, winner of the 2019 Golden Radish Award for our farm to school accomplishments!



Special Education

The entire continuum of special education services and delivery models are offered. Over 80% of special education students are served in regular education 80% or more during the school day.



School Nurses

Each school has a Registered Nurse on location for the entire school day, every day.



School Counselors

There are 2 certified school counselors at every school, with one counselor devoted to student mental health at the primary and elementary schools.

388

Special Education students
Aged 3-21

44%

School Lunch
Participation Rate

114

Students (K—12) receiving
remediation services

Special Programs Support Every Student!

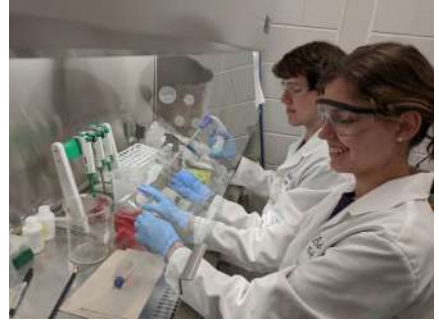
Attendance is a major focus in all schools and trends are tracked and shared weekly. The district has strong support from local government, who work with the schools to reinforce and encourage good attendance.

Early Learning is essential! There are four Pre-K classes housed at the primary school (maximum of 20 students in each class). Our early learning staff works to ensure that our youngest learners and their families receive access to the best developmentally appropriate instruction available through the Georgia Bright from the Start program.

Gifted students are served through a variety of delivery models at each school. Eligibility is based on mental ability and achievement scores or on the multiple-criteria model adding creativity and motivation.

Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) is a proactive approach to establishing the behavioral supports and school culture needed for students to achieve social, emotional, and academic success. Each school is intentional about promoting positive behavior and provides age-appropriate incentives for students and staff.

Eligible **English Language Learners** receive state-funded services in grades K-12, with a standards-based curriculum emphasizing academic and social language development.



224

Students (K-12) eligible to receive services from the Program for the Gifted

80

Students enrolled in Pre-K Program at MCPS

62

English Language Learners



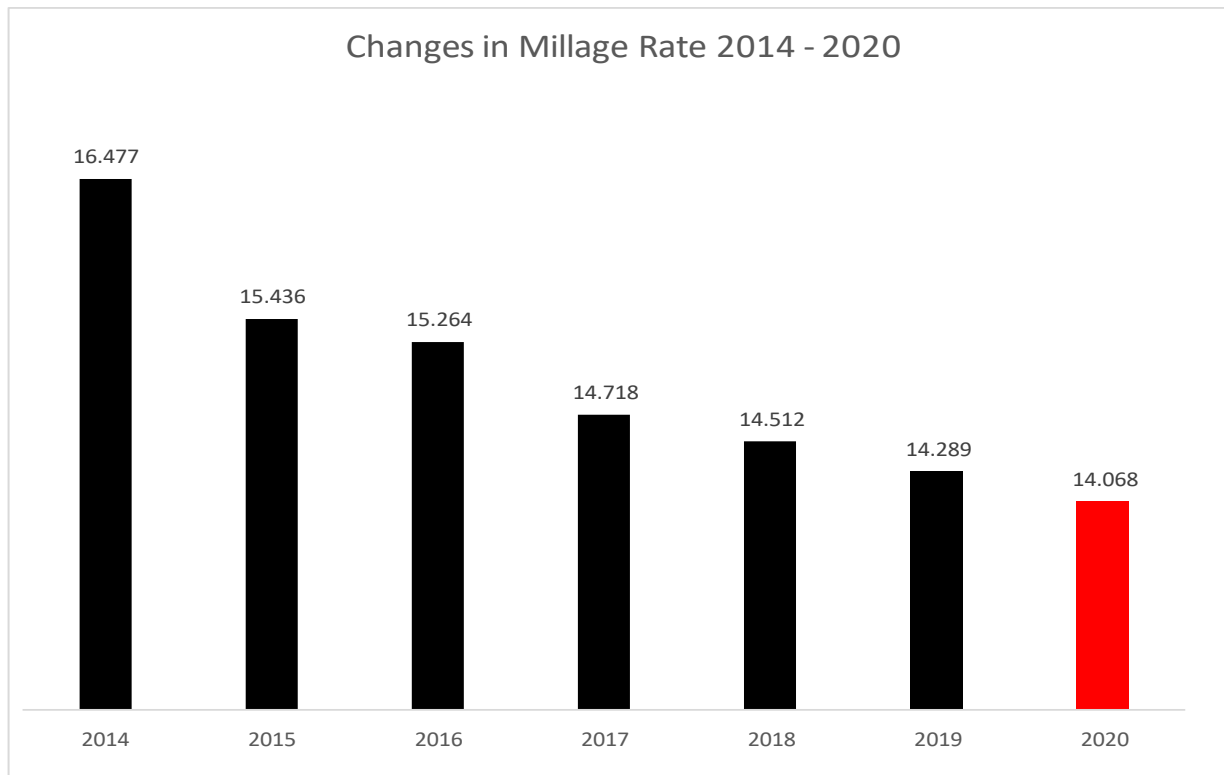
Morgan County Charter School System is committed to ensuring strong leadership at all levels of our organization. We have implemented an Aspiring Leader Academy with the purpose of providing an opportunity for active, potential or teacher leaders to develop knowledge for future leadership roles. Selected candidates participate in professional learning through the Northeast Georgia RESA Leadership Academy where they receive professional learning in several curriculum strands such as Instructional Leadership, Planning and Assessment, Instructional Feedback and Coaching, School Climate and Human Resources, Communication Organizational Management, Professionalism and Interviewing.



This leadership initiative supports the MCCSS vision of employing an exemplary staff. Our goal is to cultivate talent and place the right people in the right roles so they may excel in leadership. The investment we are making is building a pipeline of leaders to serve Morgan County well now and in the future.

Morgan County Charter School System's faculty and staff are dedicated to being good stewards of our taxpayer dollars by aligning our actions and resources to provide our students with the best possible educational experience.

-Nancy Willis, Director of Finance



The **budget process** involves input from each School Governance Team, administrators, and school system employees. The Board of Education and superintendent set the vision and use input from these groups to set priorities for the system's educational program. Funds are allocated based on federal, state, and local mandates, the state salary schedule, and the system's strategic plan. The local property tax millage rate is established to generate revenue to fund what the state funds do not provide. The Board of Education must operate under a balanced budget. The system has been very successful in grant opportunities to supplement allocations, as well.

\$4,330,153

FY20 ESPLOST V Revenues

\$10,632,348

General Fund Balance at end of FY20

14.068

2020 Millage Rate



Schools should be a safe place for children to learn, therefore continuous effort towards safety is a must.

-Dusty Hawkins, System Safety Director

PBIS

All MCCSS schools are PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) schools.



Crisis — Go

Alerts are provided by an App-based system to alert faculty of on campus emergencies.

Crisis Intervention

All schools have access to an intensive Crisis Intervention Plan developed by our counselors which is activated when needed.



Safety Committee

Our schools and members of the community are represented on the Safety Committee that meets regularly to discuss and solve current safety issues.

Morgan County's Average Star Rating by school –2019



The State of Georgia assigns a Star Rating to each school based on Attendance, Discipline, and Stakeholder feedback data.

*The Morgan County Charter School System provides opportunities for students in grades 6-12 to participate and compete in a variety of sports programs. The system's **athletic program** seeks to use athletics as a means to extend the student's educational experiences beyond the classroom; create a comprehensive approach that streamlines sport programs from grade 6 through grade 12; impact student athletes in a positive manner; and build and maintain sport programs that routinely compete at championship levels.*

-Doug Connelly, Athletic Director



Boy's Sports

Football
Cross Country
Swimming*
Wrestling***

Basketball
Soccer
Track and Field
Baseball**
Golf
Tennis
Bass Fishing***

Girl's Sports

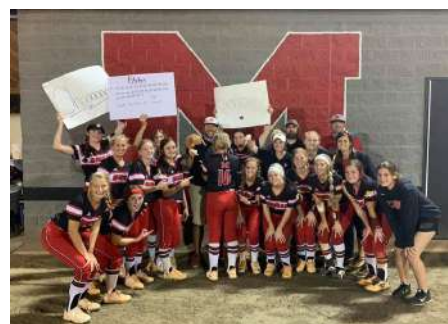
Fastpitch Softball
Cross Country
Swimming*
Competition/Spirit Cheerleading

Basketball
Soccer
Track and Field
Volleyball
Golf
Tennis
Flag Football*
Slowpitch Softball*

*Offered at MCHS Only

** Offered to students in Grades 8 –12

*** Offered as a coed sport



Recent Athletic Accomplishments of Note

MCHS Boys Basketball—2019 GHSA AAA State Champions

MCHS Spirit Cheerleading—2019, 2020, 2021 GHSA Gameday Cheerleading State Champions

MCHS volleyball—2020 GHSA AAA State Runners-up

MCMS Girls Soccer—2019 Piedmont Athletic Conference Champions

31 Members of the MCHS Classes of 2019 and 2020 received opportunities to continue their athletic careers at the post-secondary level



Beginning in 2012, the State of Georgia began issuing **College and Career Readiness Indicator (CCRPI)** scores for Districts and Schools around the state. Over the years, the scoring system has evolved from a system heavily weighted towards test scores to one more balanced with measures of success beyond the K-12 experience. It is difficult to compare one year's scores to the next as changes to the indicators and weights of indicators are constantly influx. However, Morgan County continues to be a leader of similar sized systems throughout the state.

**Morgan County
Elementary School**

72.5

**Morgan County
Middle School**

83.6

District Overall Score

77.7

**Morgan County
High School**

80.2

**MCMS was recognized
as a Beat the Odds
School in 2019**

3 of 8

Rank of District Overall
score among surrounding
districts

100%

The percentage of possible
Closing Gaps category
points earned by MCHS

4 of 25

Rank of MCMS in terms of
total CCRPI score among RESA
middle schools

One element that is in the forefront for businesses looking to relocate is the availability of a skilled or trainable workforce. With the Morgan County High School, a College and Career Academy's new facility, that pipeline for a skilled workforce will be in place. We are pleased that our education system has taken the right steps to meet the needs of our business community as we continue to recruit and develop advanced manufacturing and other businesses that rely on STEAM trained employees.

-Bob Hughes

**President and Economic Development Director
Madison Morgan Chamber of**



The impact our College and Career Academy will have on our school system will be seen across all grade levels K-12 and beyond. Students will be given more options to earn post-secondary credit and industry certifications during high school; while identifying and understanding how academics are integrated and applied in the work force. We will have employability skills embedded across the curriculum, as well as access to state of the art labs. With these components working in unison, students will be better equipped for a successful future.



Current CTAE Programs

Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources

Ag Mechanics, Horticulture, Agribusiness/Animal Science

Hospitality and Tourism

Culinary, Sports and Entertainment Marketing

Information Technology

Computer Science (including AP classes)

Health Sciences

Therapeutic Services/Emergency Medical Responder

Biotechnology

ROTC

AFJROTC

Manufacturing/Engineering

Mechatronics/Engineering

Education and Training

Teaching as a Profession

Human Services

Cosmetology

Arts, A/V, and Film

Audio and Video Technology and Film, Animation and

Digital Media

Dual Enrollment Courses (Athens Tech)

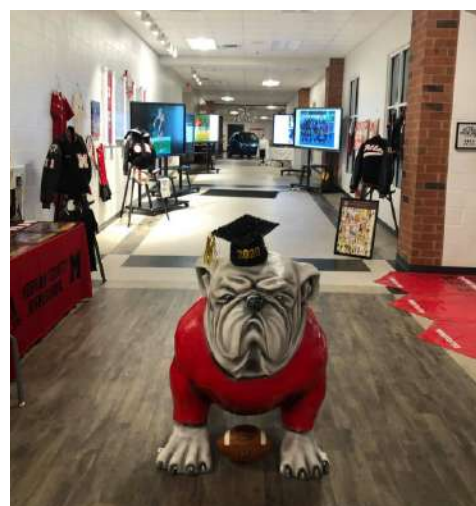
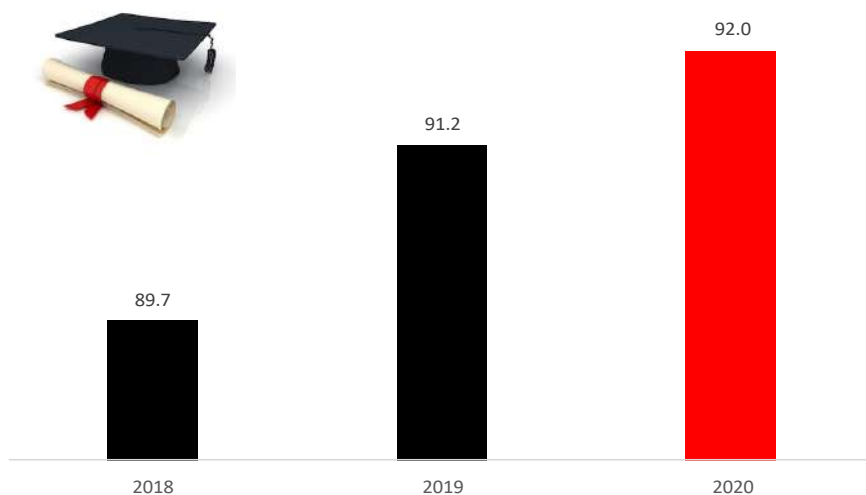
Welding

Early Childhood Education





Graduation Cohort 2018 - 2020



4th

Rank of Graduate Cohort
Rate among surrounding
school districts

21

Average ACT score for the
Class of 2020

1023

Average SAT score for the
Class of 2020

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