

Welcome to Morse School

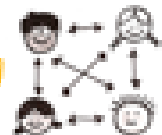
*Back to School Night
September 23, 2009*



Our Morse Code:

Values we live and learn by

Respect
Love of Learning
Empathy
Responsibility





Goals for tonight

- Welcome to a new year
- Give an overview of the school community & special programs
- Grant you maximum time to learn about your child's classroom and meet your child's teacher(s)
- Encourage you to reach out with questions or concerns



The Mission at Morse

- To help students develop into:
 - Curious, Critical Thinkers & Life Long Learners
 - Skilled Readers, Writers, Mathematicians & Scientists
 - Creative Artists & Musicians
 - Healthy, Active Young Men & Woman
 - Respectful, Responsible & Empathic Human Beings
 - Members who feel that they belong to our community and who can appreciate our diversity



School Values: "Morse Code"

Our Program is designed to:

- Send a common, focused message to students across their school experience
- Incorporate best practices for positive school climate & bullying prevention
- Align discipline with values, making learning from poor choices productive, positive & age appropriate
- Involve families in values development

School Values "Morse Code"

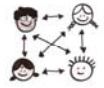
We identified 4 Core Values that we call our "Morse Code:"

- Respect (Respeto)
- Empathy (Empatía)
- Love of Learning (Amor de Aprendizaje)
- Responsibility (Responsabilidad)

Our MORSE CODE
We share these values in our Morse family.


RESPECT

- We strive to make good choices and do our best.
- We show that everyone is important by using positive words and actions.
- We celebrate the uniqueness of each member of our Morse family.




Love of LEARNING

- We believe that we all learn in different ways and every day, we continue to learn and grow.
- When we learn and work together as a team, we can achieve even greater goals.
- We take risks and learn from both our successes and mistakes.




EMPATHY

- We try to understand and think about each other's feelings.
- We value others, their ideas and their dreams.
- We care for each member of our Morse family and treat each other in a way we want to be treated.



RESPONSIBILITY

- We take responsibility for our own actions.
- We take care of the environment, the school and the things that we share.
- When we work together, we can make a real difference.





School Values: "Morse Code"

Monthly focus: one value at a time

- Whole school assemblies
- Classroom meeting lessons (45 min per week)
- School-wide rewards program to reinforce values-based behavior
- Home-school link with key language & calendar of things to do at home

Connecting K-5

We designed our program to fit with the other elementary schools

W.I. C.A.R.E.S.

JP's new "High Five" program

Second Step





Academic Growth

Grade 2 & 3 students:

- Become more independent
- Transition from *learning to read* to *reading to learn*
- Develop their own voice and explain their thinking in writing
- Build a sense of math strategies and start to make meaningful connections between major mathematical concepts
- Continue to build on Science & Social Studies

Grade 2 Classroom Teachers

- Classroom Teachers:
 - Anne Bakala
 - Christine Calvert
 - Tobi Fradkin
 - Xiomara Kluge (DL)
 - Michelle Marx
 - Kathy McDermott
 - Christina Miles
 - Tonya Richardson
 - Brenda Sutherland
 - Sandra Tavares (DL)

Grade 3 Classroom Teachers

- Classroom Teachers:
 - Cathleen Caroleo
 - Clare Carr
 - CarolAnn Cristella
 - Lorraine Garcia (DL)
 - Tatiana Godinho (Michelle DeVivo)
 - Marie Marte (DL)
 - Kim Moriarty
 - Ariadna Otero
 - Alice Sharkey
 - Joy Sherwood
 - Kaycee VonEssen



Specialist Teachers

- Buidling Substitute: **Christopher Garibaldi**
- Reading Specialists:
 - Jennifer DalCeredo (grade 2)
 - Pam Krafft-Weldon (grade 3)
- English as a Second Language:
 - Lourdes Cellante (grade 3)
 - Jessica Etman (grade 2)
 - Ana Ocasio-Rios (Newcomers grades 2&3)
- Speech & Language Specialist:
 - Kerrie Sansky

The Reading AIS Program

- Research-based programs to support students with:
 - Decoding (Breaking the “code” of the English language)
 - Fluency
 - Comprehension
 - Encoding (Specific writing)
- Eligibility:
 - Teacher recommendation
 - Observations, assessments & screenings
- Services provided:
 - Small group pull-out programs (“The Castle”)
 - In-class consultation and progress monitoring

The ESL Program

Program supports students with:

- Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing social and academic English
- Building on background knowledge
- Building and expanding vocabulary

Eligibility:

- Students who are new to the country or are still working to pass the NYSESLAT exam

Services provided:

- Small group pull-out programs (during Flex time)
- Regular in-class consultation and classroom co-teaching



Counseling & Support Services

Several wonderful support service staff work with students and families:

- Kathleen Carey, School Nurse
- Regla Cayon, Social Worker
- Yvonne Feliciano, Psychologist



The Morse Office Staff

Office & Support Staff

- Kathy Fischer, Secretary to the Principal
- Ysmelda Rondon, Bilingual Secretary
- Jose Quijada, Head Custodian



The Challenge Program

- Elisabeth Hickey, *Gifted & Talented Teacher*
- Literacy-based, grade 3-5 programs:
 - 2 courses:
 - Social Studies & Research
 - Writing in a Variety of Genres
 - Entrance into literacy-based programs:
 - Process begins Spring, grade 2
 - Determined by teacher recommendation and screening tests

The Challenge Program

- Math enrichment
 - Offered Grades 2 & 3
 - Pull out program
 - Entrance determined by teacher recommendation and screening tests
- Enrichment Projects for all
 - Interdisciplinary mini-units formed around student interests (e.g. Bridge Building)
 - Math challenges are offered to all interested students. Students can work at their own speed, and check in with Ms. Hickey for guidance and direction.

Specials Classes

○ Physical Education (PE)

- Deborah Brennen & Ray Farrell, instructors
- Grades 2 & 3: 45 minutes, 3 times/week
- Focus: **wellness**, activity, basic skills & confidence



○ Art

- Susan Barrett, instructor
- Grades 2 & 3: 45 minutes, 1 time per week
- Focus: the craft and inspiration of various cultures & great artists



Specials Classes (cont.)

- **Spanish as a Foreign Language**
 - Jennifer Klausner, instructor
 - Grade 2: 45 minutes, 1 time per week
 - Grade 3: 45 minutes, 2 times per week
- **Music**
 - Joy Giuseffi, instructor
 - Grades 2 & 3: 45 minutes, 1 time per week
 - Grade 2: Big Spring concert along with smaller, in-school performances
 - Grade 3: Big Winter concert along with smaller, in-school performances

Specials Classes (cont.)

- **NEW** Library/Technology Basics class in grade 2 (*Grade 3 imbedded*)
 - 45 minutes, 1 time per week
 - Incorporates technology & media literacy in addition to traditional library sciences. Prepares kids for grades 2+
 - Students learn library basics, basic research and search skills, keyboarding and more.



Lunch & Recess



Period	<i>Start</i>	<i>Finish</i>	Monday
MM	8:30	8:45	Morning Meeting
1	8:45	9:30	Flex
2	9:30	10:15	Reader's W
3	10:15	11:00	Writer's W
4	11:00	11:45	Lunch
5	11:50	1:00	Math
6	1:00	1:20	Extra Math
7	1:20	2:05	Science/SS
8	2:05	2:50	PE

Lunch and Recess!

All 2nd graders have lunch/recess at 11:00am.

All 3rd graders have lunch/recess at 11:50am.

Groups of 4 or 5 classes eat together for 22 minutes and play for 22 minutes.

Recess at Morse

- Supervision
 - Lunch Aides & Teaching Assistants
 - Training
- Options for students
 - Peaceful Playground Activities (PE)
 - Play Structure
 - Optional activities (ideas welcome!)
- Winter FLIP Program
 - FLOP options new this year
- Parent-Led Alternatives
 - Literature Circles





Traditions & Events

- Each month we have 1-2 major events
- Special Traditions & Events:
 - Halloween Parade
 - Literature Day & Celebrations
 - Heritage Week/Ishanghi Dancers
 - Field Day in June
 - Family Book Fair

Homework in grades 2&3

- NPSTA guidelines of 10 minutes per grade to reinforce concepts & skills
 - 2nd grade=20 minutes of homework {2x10=20 minutes}, 3rd grade=30 minutes
- Reading every night - 20-30 additional minutes
 - Reading Log
 - Reader's Response

Communication

- Monthly School Newsletter
 - Programs
 - Academics
 - Upcoming Events/Involvement
- Email flyers & Paper flyers
 - All office communication is posted on web site (Morse page)
- Email & Phone
- Principal Chats



Parent Involvement

- Support & encourage your children.
- Show them that you value their learning.
- Let them be independent and let us know when they struggle at home.
- Ensure that your child gets:
 - Good sleep
 - Breakfast (at home or school)
 - **Healthy snacks**
- Bundle them up as best you can, especially when it's cold (We will give the option to go outside as much as possible!)



Parent Involvement

- Come be a part of school:
 - Join us for events
 - Be part of your child's classroom
 - Volunteer
 - Lunch time literature circles
 - Mural project
- Look out for the Parent Involvement section of the monthly newsletter for upcoming opportunities!



Learn More

- Enjoy your time in the classroom!
- Please know that I welcome feedback and questions anytime
 - Email me at mfitzgerald@tufsd.org
 - Call Morse School 914-631-4144



Important Guest Speakers

- Rachelle Gebler, EPTA
- Judith Kass, Foundation of the Public Schools of the Tarrytowns