



Please find below a summary of the past month's professional development, curriculum design, and personnel updates for each of the departments.

**CTE Department – Colleen Del Monaco, Director**

**Curriculum Updates –**

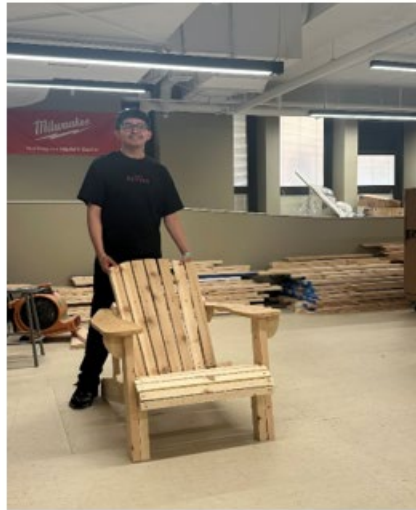
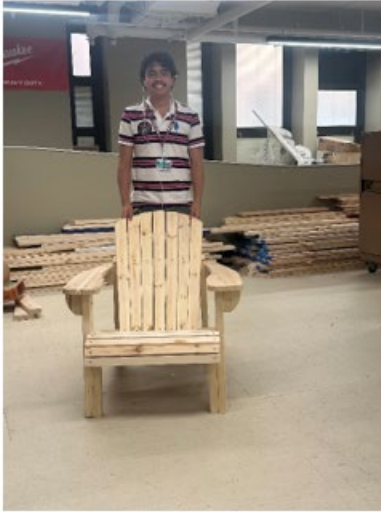
- ◆ 22 West Engineering Students in the Computer Integrated Manufacturing and Engineering Independent Study courses completed the Haas Basic Mill Operator Certificate; an entry level certification offered by Haas Automation that provides a foundation in CNC machine operation, safety and basic machining processes.
- ◆ West Engineering students took a field trip to NIU to observe seniors in Mechanical Engineering present their final projects; students got to see a former West alum present his Storm Chasing Truck
- ◆ East Construction Trades students completed their custom final projects (see photos below)
- ◆ East and West Mini Mustangs held their annual Preschool Graduation ceremonies; Early Childhood Education plans and implements the entire event from start to finish!

**Student and Staff Accolades –**

- ◆ Students from Engineering, Culinary Arts and Education Pathways were recognized at the May Board Meeting for all their success in their competition journeys this semester. Students from the Culinary Arts and Education Pathways will be attending National Conferences in Orlando, FL this upcoming summer.



◆ Construction & Trades Students:



**Career and Work Based Learning**  
**Professional Development:**

- **Teachers:**

*CTE teachers wrapped up PLT meetings for the year and completed the PLT feedback form.*

- **Staff:**

*CTE East Lead teacher & WBL Coordinator met bi-weekly.*

*East and West WBL Coordinators met bi-weekly.*

*E & W Coordinators & CTE Director met weekly.*

*East Coordinator attended PD on 5/29/25: Pathways to Prosperity Lever Deep Dive:  
Secondary-Postsecondary Integration*



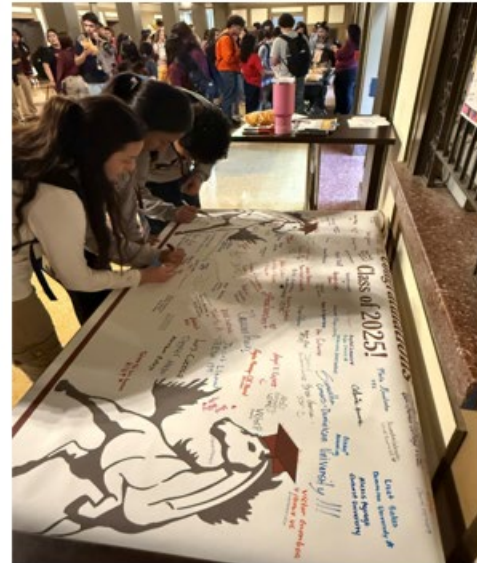
### **Programmatic Updates:**

-All 6 of our current Pharmacy Tech seniors in the dual enrollment program with Oakton College have completed their 250 clinical hours at local area Walgreens and 2 were offered positions at Walgreens.

The 2025-26 Pharmacy Tech Oakton cohort application process is underway and there are 7 students interested in total at East and West.

### **College & Career Center highlights:**

- May 1 Senior Commitment Day
  - o Senior celebrations took place during all supervision periods
  - o Group senior commitment photo during 7<sup>th</sup> period
- ISAC financial aid office hours
  - o ISAC representatives held office hours in the CC Center every Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday during all supervision periods through the last day for seniors (May 16)





**SPED Department – Carol Best, Executive Director**

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to the many staff members who played a vital role in supporting our students with disabilities as they participated in Senior Brunch, Prom, and Graduation. These events are meaningful milestones, and it was truly special to witness our students fully included in the celebrations, surrounded by peers and staff who care deeply about their success.

In addition to supporting these end-of-year activities, I want to recognize the extraordinary efforts of our Special Education team. Long before the celebrations began, they worked diligently to ensure that every graduating student with a disability had a thoughtful, individualized transition plan. Your commitment to aligning these plans with each student's unique strengths and goals, while also ensuring our families felt included, informed, and supported, did not go unnoticed.

The dedication of staff, students, and parents has made a lasting impact on our students—and it reflects the very best of who we are as a school community.

The following is a link to a memo that was shared with all SPED staff to close out the year and plans for the upcoming school year.







FROM THE OFFICE OF  
**Dr. Josh McMahon**  
Assistant Superintendent for Educational Programs





## **English Learners and Modern Languages- Melody Becker**

### **Curriculum Updates –**

#### **College**

- AP Spanish Language and Culture, AP Spanish Literature and Culture, and AP Chinese Language and Culture classes completed a final review and took their AP exams in mid-May.
- Spanish Language Arts IV students are working on a video project on the environment and working on differentiating homophones.
- Pre-AP ML classes: Students continued working on their earned honor's portfolio by adding different evidence and reflecting on their work. They also shared the cultural events that they participated in this year. As a department, we set the goal for 80% of the Pre-AP ML students to earn honors credit. This year 1220 students (79.2%) met the goal for second semester. Although we barely missed our goal, it was a remarkable increase from 2024 when 61% of our students met the goal.

#### **Career and Life**

- SLA V: Students finished the art unit by studying Picasso and created their own artwork based on him, connecting Picasso's artwork with the field trip they took last month.
- SLA IV: Students continued working with the environment unit. One class created Alebrijes with three different endangered animals giving them a name (mixture of the three endangered animals they chose) and drawing the habitat where they would live in. Another class created things with recycled material, and another class wrote letters to Larry Dominick to request different things in Cicero that would help the environment.
- French III students created graduation projects along with audio.
- Spanish III students completed resumes as a Writing CA for our Careers Unit.

### **Student and Staff Accolades –**



Our English Learners, Modern Languages and Biliteracy and Instructional Coaching teams met for one last time together this year to celebrate our success and share best wishes as we enter into the summer.





**Science Department— Eric Bjornstad, Director**

**Curriculum Updates –**

- 4 students from West campus passed the BACE Exam for industry certification on Tuesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>
- 6 students completed their clinical hours through the dual enrollment Pharmacy Technician Program at Oakton College.
- Food Chemistry curriculum team will be meeting on June 4/5/6 to create a course outline, identify skills, and create assessments for the new course to be offered 26-27.
- AP Chem and AP Bio teams met at the District office to work on alignment to skills. They represent the last section of science courses that will be working on alignment to skill-based grading and reporting.

**Professional Development –**

- Plans are being developed with ExploreLearning (Gizmos) staff to create and deliver Morton Specific PD. Planning is scheduled to take place on August 8<sup>th</sup>, and the October 1<sup>st</sup> half-day institute day will be when the sessions are delivered.

**Student and Staff Accolades –**

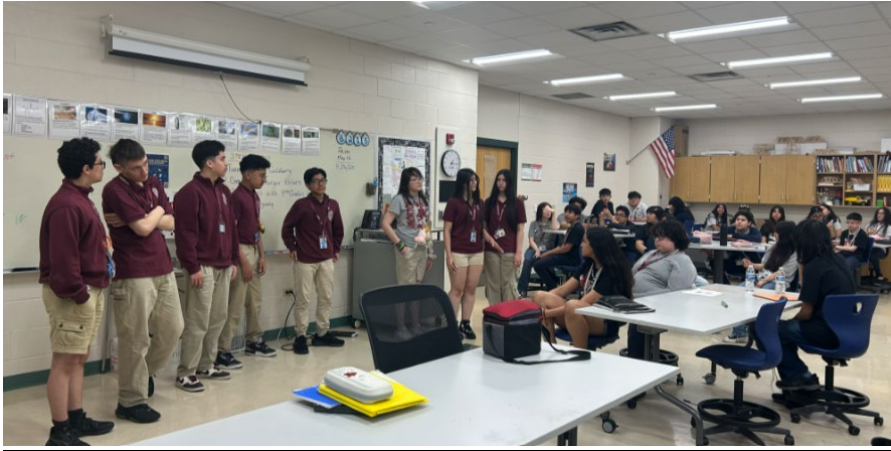
Medical Interventions Students in Mrs. Svoboda's class in their graduation lab coats



This year's current 9<sup>th</sup> grade STEM students and teachers come to talk to the 8<sup>th</sup> graders about the transition from Unity to the Freshman Center.



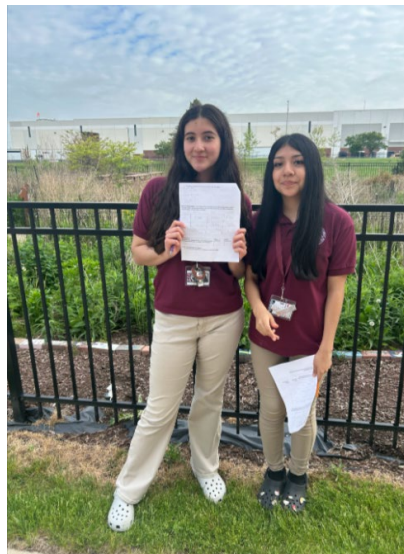
FROM THE OFFICE OF  
**Dr. Josh McMahon**  
Assistant Superintendent for Educational Programs



Last day as 8<sup>th</sup> graders at the FC, until next year!



Biology Student collect and analyze data for the Homeostasis Investigation.







FROM THE OFFICE OF  
**Dr. Josh McMahon**  
Assistant Superintendent for Educational Programs

The FC Science Department



Earth Science Students from East and West took a field trip to Augustana





## **English Department – Mark Sujak**

### **Curriculum Updates**

- AP Seminar students have submitted all their work to their Collegeboard portfolios as of April 30<sup>th</sup> and completed their end of the year exam! Teacher and students are excited for scores to be released in July!
- English II and AP Seminar teams are excited to begin the curriculum revision process in the 25-26 school year, following the lead of the English I team.

### **Professional Development -**

- Department members are working on developing their own presentations based on successes they have had this year to present to the rest of the staff during Festival Ignite at the start of the 25-26 school year!

### **Student and Staff Accolades –**

Senior electives students interviewed 2-4 EL2 students as practice for their CA interviews with teachers and administrators.



Ms. Lloyd's students sharing important objects and symbols from *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.

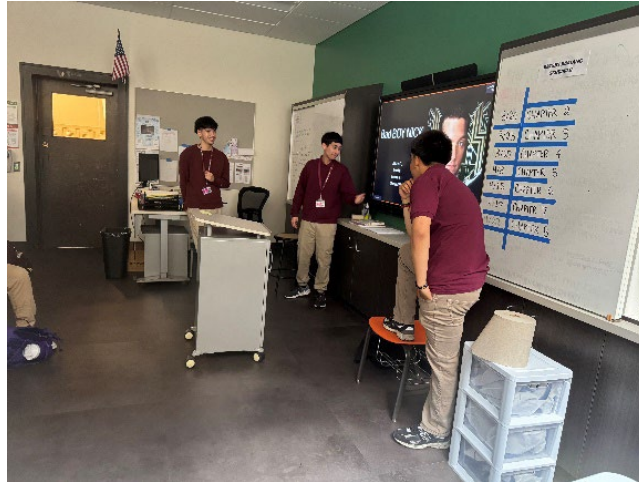






FROM THE OFFICE OF  
**Dr. Josh McMahon**  
Assistant Superintendent for Educational Programs

Mr. Camacho's English III students presenting their *Gatsby* trials.







## **Math Department - Megan Holub, Director**

### **Curriculum Updates**

The Math Department has continued curriculum development during the school day, prioritizing courses currently in the Planning Phase of the Curriculum WAVE. On March 11, we dedicated a full day to refining the Integrated Math I Core and Honors curriculum. Teachers concentrated on updating rubrics, refining proficiency scales, and making minor adjustments to assessments. Many team members are actively involved in writing and refining curriculum for these courses. Integrated Math I Core and Honors

- Integrated Math II Core and Honors
  - Summer Honors Bridge
  - MTSS Labs
  - We have several teams working over the summer on curriculum including:
    - MTSS Mustang Support
    - Integrated Math II Core/Honors
    - Integrated Math III Core/Honors
    - AP Precalculus
- 
- The AP Statistics PLT has begun moving their course to Skills-Based.

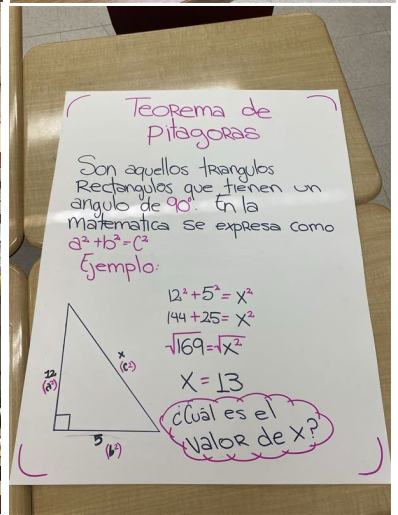
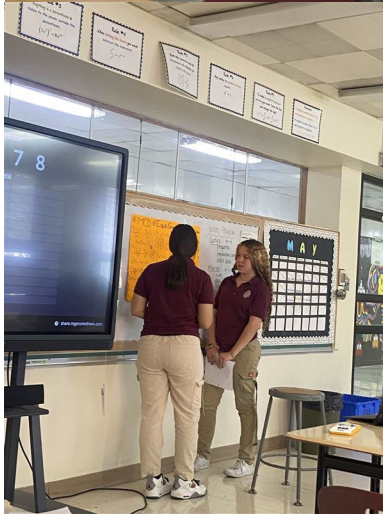
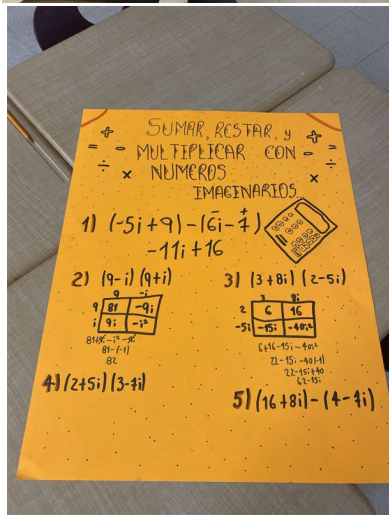
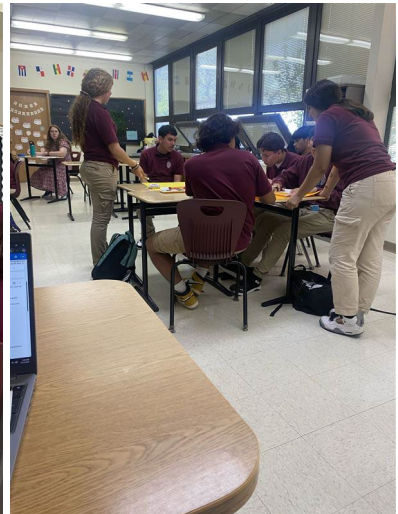
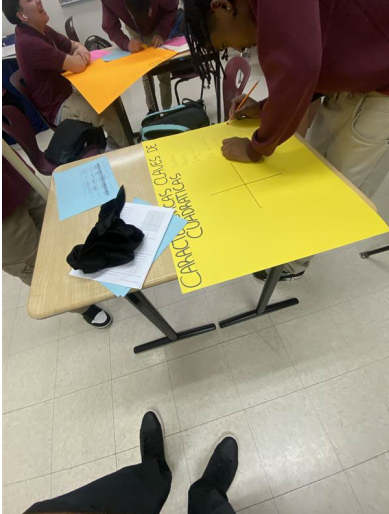
### **Great things we've done:**

**Algebra 3:** students spent time presenting the solutions to solving equations





**Bilingual Integrated Math II:** students created math posters to review for the final exam. Students presented a mini lesson to the class!



### Mathletes:

Morton East held a Mathlete Banquet on May 6<sup>th</sup>. The night was a nice night with families, teachers, students and a potluck dinner. Students received many awards throughout the evening.

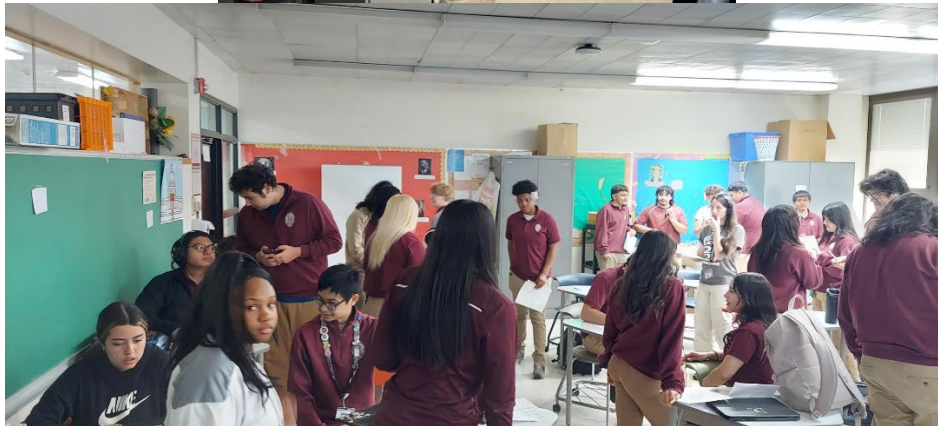






FROM THE OFFICE OF  
**Dr. Josh McMahon**  
Assistant Superintendent for Educational Programs

**Integrated Math 2 Honors and Math 3:** students collected data and performed a statistical analysis on a question of their choosing.







### **The Morton Roadmap:**

One conclusion from roadmap data and AP data is that the West AP Precalculus labs were successful. We noticed the ABC rate was always above 70% all year. The final S2 data showed that 81% of students earned an A,B, OR C.

<b>AP PRECALCULUS</b>	38	49	53	31	2	173
---------------------------	----	----	----	----	---	-----

### **Professional Development:**

Several members of the Math Department spent 2 full days learning about and beginning the curriculum writing phase of the new MTSS Mustang Support classes. Our department is proud to have the following teachers participate on this day:

Heidi Keske

Jessica Gonzalez

Crystal Fronimos

Ellen Casey

Leticia Corral

Rachel Hosek

The Math Department is also thankful for the leadership of Gloria Ramirez-Solis who has guided our district in rolling out these new supports for our students.



### **Co-teaching:**

The Math Department is very excited have the approval of co-teaching in the Math Department for next school year. Right now we have 3 returning teachers who will be part of this new program: Zach Kieffer, Jacob Paterkiewicz and Katie Morris. All 3 will be working with new hires that were approved last month.

Megan Holub will be planning professional development for these teachers at the end of the summer and early next school year.



## **Innovation and Accountability- Samantha Skubal, Director**

### **Professional Development**

#### **Biliteracy and Instructional Coaches**

- Literacy PD
  - The coaches have continued to plan for the continuation of our Literacy PD. Throughout the summer, they have been and will be developing professional development for the staff, including the possible work with an outside consultant.
  - In order to provide this service to our school, the coaches worked hard to earn our school a grant that is to be used for literacy purposes!
- 24-25 Professional Development
  - This year, the coaching teams across the district continued to be the number one provider for professional development.
    - East: 181/276 Staff Members or 66% of East staff members worked with a coach last year
    - West: 202/276 or 73% of West staff members worked with a coach last year
    - FC/MAS: 64% of FC/Alt staff members worked with a coach last year
  - [Click here](#) to view all of the amazing events and PD that our coaches hosted during the 24-25 school year!

### **Student and Staff Accolades**

#### **Biliteracy and Instructional Coaches**

- As mentioned above, the District Coaching Team has worked hard this year to continue to provide relevant, job-embedded professional development to several different stakeholder groups in our district. The coaches bring bright and engaging experiences to our students and staff in a way that is second to none. They also serve as an incredible resource to the administrative staff, as they have become an advisory team to help us keep ourselves on track with the needs of those who are on the ground, doing the work. Thank you to each one of them who have given their all to uplift, refine, and cheerlead for all of us, me included.

#### **Final Board Report and Love Letter to the District from the Office of Innovation**

- Thanks to everyone who has been a part of my foundation as an educator, administrator, and a part of this amazing community. I am so excited to start my new role at West, but with that comes not being able to work as closely with all the amazing educators and students East, the FC, and MAS. So to all of you, you helped me grow, gave me the courage and space to do my thing, and believed in me every step of the way. I am grateful to have been able to witness your brilliance firsthand and can't wait to see what continues! We really made innovation a thing here at Morton – and I couldn't have done anything without your support, guidance, and willingness to put in the work. I feel good knowing that as I step onto my new path, you will continue to move forward and keep making learning accessible, engaging, and inclusive for our students. Forever thankful 😊



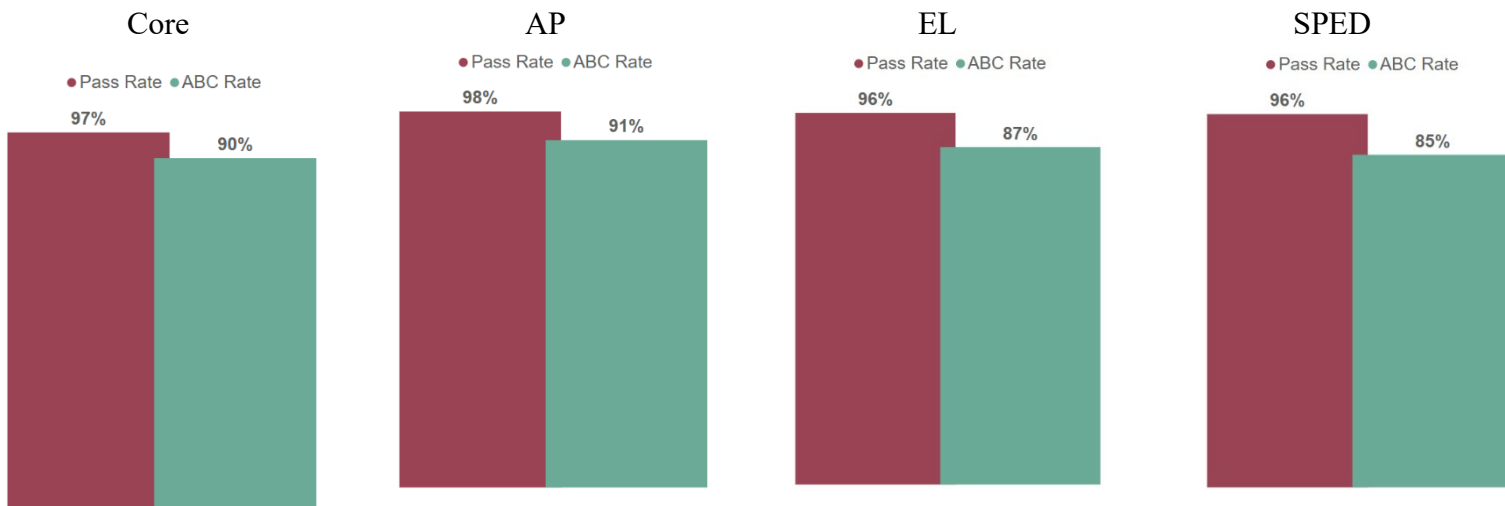
## Social Science and Fine Arts- Kevin Vesper, Director

### **2024-2025 SY Grade Report**

The Social Science and Fine Arts Departments had an outstanding school year, demonstrating strong performance across the board. Both departments achieved high ABC rates among all student demographics. Below are a few key highlights that showcase our success:

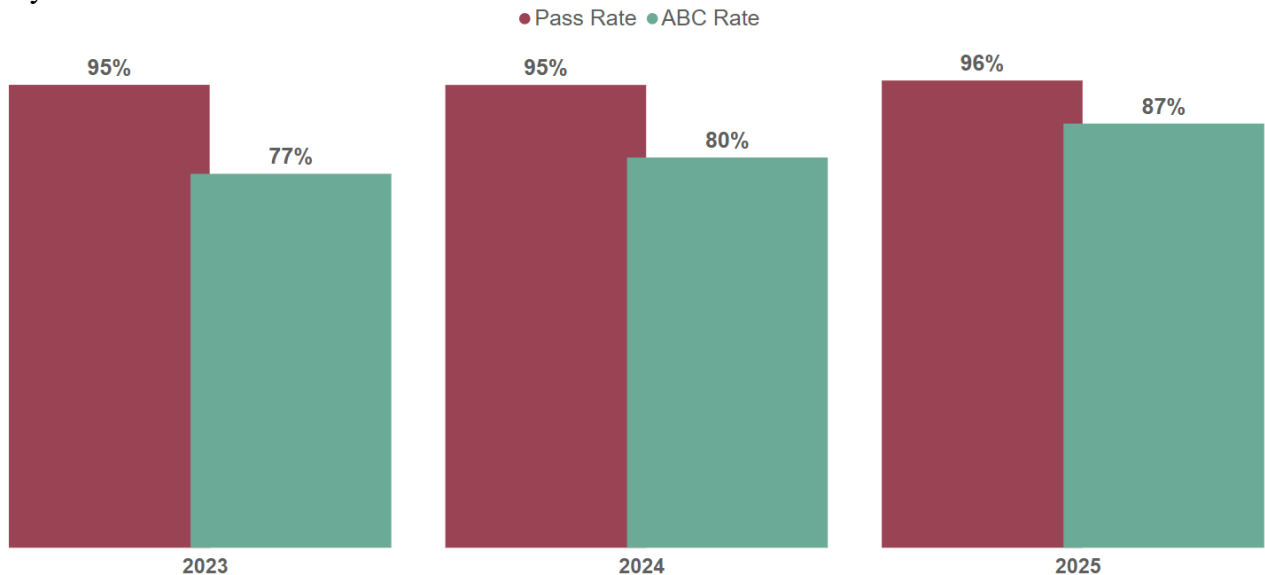
#### Social Science: Pass Rate & ABC Rate

These graphs highlight both the pass rates and ABC rates across our key student demographic groups.



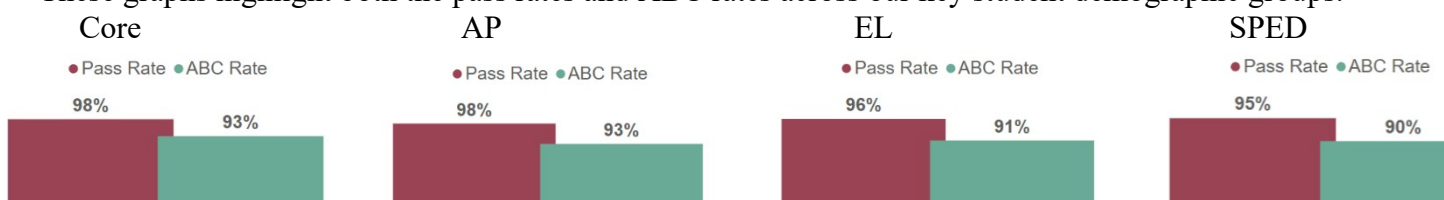
#### Social Science: 3 Year EL Growth Highlight

These graphs illustrate the growth in ABC rates among our English Learner student population over the past three years.



#### Fine Arts: Pass Rate & ABC Rate

These graphs highlight both the pass rates and ABC rates across our key student demographic groups.

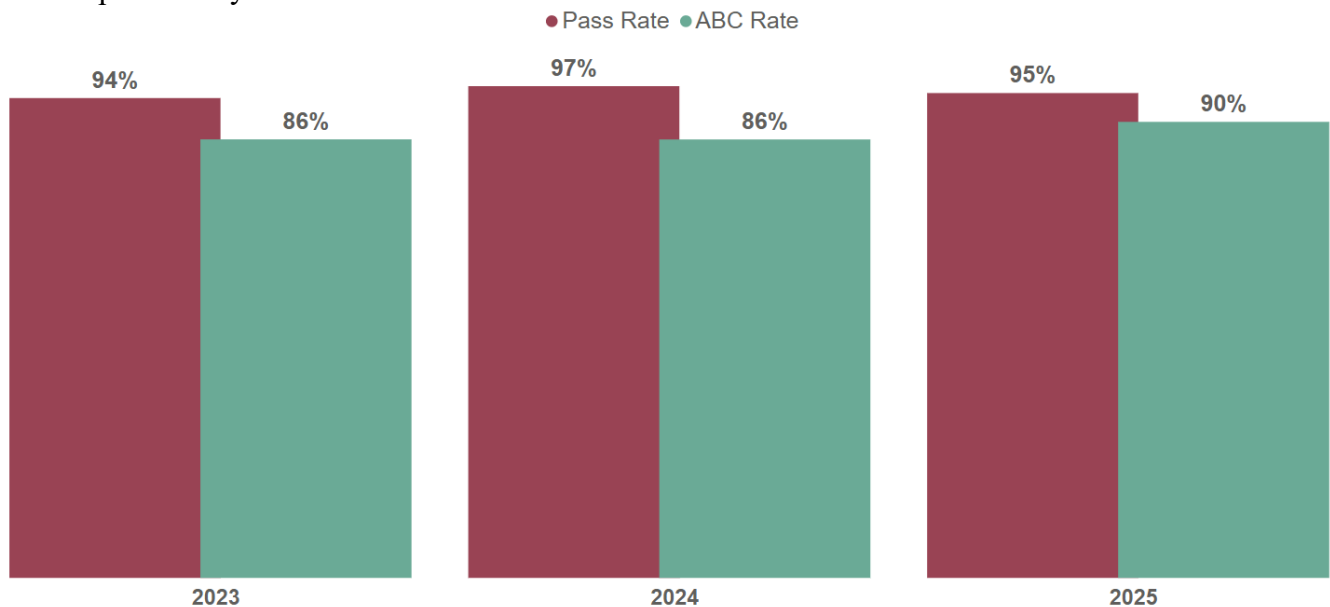






### Fine Arts: 3 Year SPED Growth Highlight

These graphs illustrate the growth in ABC rates among our Special Education (SPED) student population over the past three years.



Next year, our department will focus on strengthening Tier 1 instructional strategies during professional development. By refining our core teaching practices, we aim to build on the positive academic trends we've seen across all student demographics and ensure continued growth for every learner.

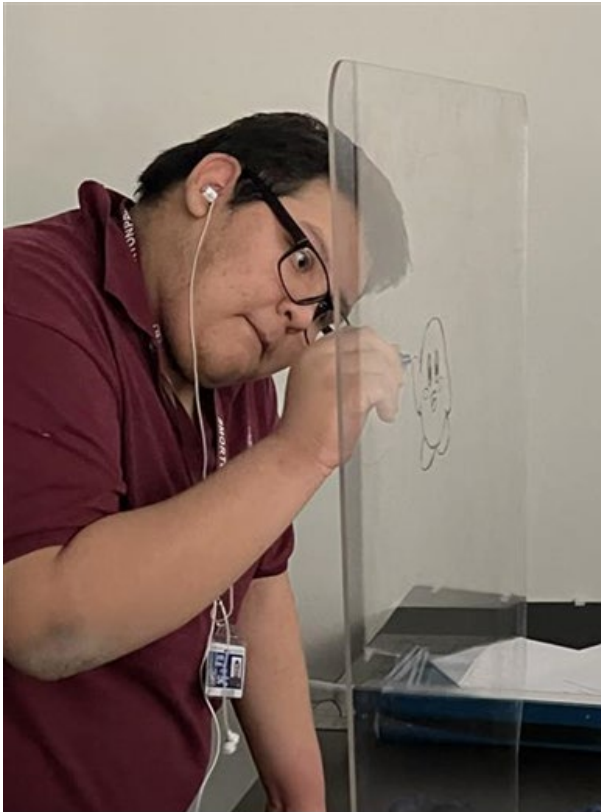
### **Curriculum & PLT Updates:**

- On May 8th, AP teachers from three different disciplines collaborated to align their courses with our school's skills-based vision. This cross-curricular effort ensures a more cohesive learning experience while maintain the College Board expectations. Here are a few key highlights of what was accomplished:
  - Created new rubrics that both align with course skills and College Board standards.
  - Created common case studies that focus on course skills.
  - Expanded source options for analysis and argumentation questions.
- All PLTs have finalized their assessment structures in preparation for implementing the 90/10 grading model next year, ensuring consistency and alignment with our department wide expectations.



- Over 1,300 Social Science AP students across all three high schools successfully completed their AP exams this spring. Results will be released in July. Congratulations to our dedicated teachers for their hard work in preparing students for this important milestone.
- The Morton East and West music departments proudly hosted their end-of-year concerts, showcasing the talent and dedication of our student musicians. These performances were a celebration of a successful year of growth, collaboration, and artistic achievement.
- The Morton East and West theater departments each hosted their own Theater Revues, highlighting student creativity, performance skills, and a year of hard work. These events celebrated the vibrant theater communities at both campuses.

### Department Highlights:



An East student working on a concept in his visual arts class.



Emiliano Rodriguez was chosen for an award in photography for the attached image he created, titled, "RAGE".

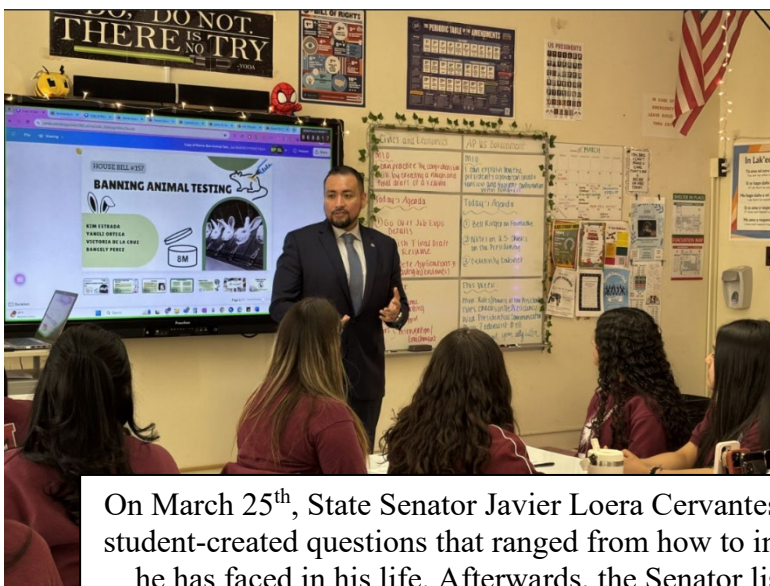


FROM THE OFFICE OF  
**Dr. Josh McMahon**  
 Assistant Superintendent for Educational Programs

## Department Highlights:



Drawing students visited Cutters Studio in Chicago for an inside look at the animation industry, discovering firsthand how the skills they're developing in class can directly translate into their future careers.



On March 25<sup>th</sup>, State Senator Javier Loera Cervantes visited Ms. Brenda Lopez's class. The Senator answered student-created questions that ranged from how to involve more community members in politics to challenges he has faced in his life. Afterwards, the Senator listened to shortened versions of the students' Legislative Simulation projects they worked on in class that addressed local and state issues, including animal testing, flood prevention, mental health, and funding for public schools. Senator Cervantes frequently remarked that he would personally advocate for many of these issues in the upcoming legislative session. What a great experience for our students!





FROM THE OFFICE OF  
**Dr. Josh McMahon**  
Assistant Superintendent for Educational Programs



One of Ms. Winkelmann's students helps decorate the halls.



Civics students preparing for their upcoming committee hearings.







FROM THE OFFICE OF  
**Dr. Josh McMahon**  
 Assistant Superintendent for Educational Programs



Students in Chicago History learned about the different parades throughout the city and the cultures they celebrate. To practice their analysis skill, they created a float or piece of art that could represent the parade of their choice.



Congratulations to Ms. Crownson, Ms. Avila, Mr. Acevedo, and their two outstanding students for advancing to the National History Fair in Washington, D.C.! Their exceptional projects have earned them the honor of representing Morton East on a national stage. Well done!



## **Multi-Tiered System of Supports Department – Gloria Ramirez-Solis, Director**

### **Curriculum Updates –**

This spring, MTSS student support staff delivered a range of targeted academic, social emotional, and transitional supports aligned to Tier 1 and Tier 2 interventions:

- Parent Engagement: Counselors hosted presentations for families to strengthen school-home partnerships.
- Post-Secondary Planning: Juniors received guidance on preparing for senior year and were successfully onboarded to SchoolLinks, our new college and career readiness platform.
- Spring Fling Event: Student services staff coordinated a successful Spring Fling to promote school engagement, with support from social workers, psychologists, Tapestry, and maintenance.



Counselors and Social Workers working the tents at the FC Spring Fling.

- Transition Support: A 4-day visit for Unity's incoming 9th graders included tours, peer panels, and summer/sports info. Special sessions supported EL Newcomers and students entering ASI/FSI programs.
- Social skills activities: Students participated in mindful coloring, glitter jars, rock painting, and creative art projects like *"Removing the Mask"* to promote emotional regulation and self-expression.



Angela Rose led an interactive mental health and art activity, where students created glitter jars





### **Professional Development –**

- College & Career Readiness: Counselors led professional learning sessions for juniors focused on senior-year planning and successfully introduced them to the SchoolLinks platform to support post-secondary readiness.
- Mental Health Collaboration: A student support team member attended the 9th School-Based Mental Health Roundtable at Unity Junior High to collaborate with regional professionals on strategies to strengthen mental health supports in high school settings.

### **Student and Staff Accolades –**

- Senior Decision Day: Students celebrated their post-secondary plans on May 1st with a high-energy event recognizing college, career, and military pathways.
- Family Engagement: Over 60 families attended *Coffee with the Principal*, hosted by the freshman PLT to welcome incoming students and strengthen family-school connections.
- Mental Health Awareness Month: Staff led a variety of wellness activities including mindful coloring, glitter jars, creative art (*Removing the Mask*), and parent presentations focused on mental health and stress relief.
- Group Counseling & Supports:
  - Newcomer and Young Men's Support Groups were completed, led by school support staff.
  - End-of-group celebrations included a pizza party for groups focused on Newcomers, Anger Management, Stress Management, and a Spanish-speaking girls group.
  - *Donut Stress About It*, a group for AP test preparation, helped students manage anxiety ahead of their first AP exams.
- College & Career Exposure:
  - The final Morton College visit of the year included a special session on how IEPs are supported in college.
  - 86% of 9th graders (798 students) participated in college field trips this year.
- Incoming Student Orientation:
  - The Student Support Team welcomed the future Class of 2029 for campus tours, helping them get familiar with the building and build excitement for the upcoming year.

Morton Freshman Students sitting in a Question – Answer panel for the incoming 8th graders



**Physical Education / Health / Driver Education – Clay Reagan, Director**  
**Curriculum Updates –**

One of your goals for this year was to implement heart rate monitors into our curriculum in a variety of classes. Below is an example of the reports that can be produced for the class as a whole and for individual students. Each family can access the information by signing into Polar with an account number specific to their student.

The Course evaluation is a daily grade based on their heart rate data collected from one period. The average is then calculated into a grade for the day. (using a 5.0 scale)

G. Thill  
Morton West High School



S2-THILL-P1  
Course duration

01.06.2025 - 06.01.2025

**Course evaluation**

Date Range      Finished      01.06.2025 - 06.01.2025

Students	Average%	Evaluation	Average% (capped values)	Evaluation
JILIANA AGUILAR	93.56	5	83.58	4
ALYSSA ALMANZA	75.87	3.5	61.36	2.0
GIANNI ALVAREZ	100.54	5	91.98	5
ALAN ARANDA	95.88	5	79.27	3.5
ANABELLE BAHAMUNDI	57.36	1.5	54.92	1.5
SOPHIA BARAJAS	0.00	0	0.00	0
ALEXANDER BARRIOS PEREZ	112.89	5	90.55	5
LEILA BELTRAN	94.87	5	87.57	4.5
JASMINE CASTRO	122.83	5	92.97	5
ADRIAN DEL REAL	99.14	5	85.21	4.5
JULIANA DIAZ	0.00	0	0.00	0
CIARAH ELLIS	122.80	5	95.08	5
NICHOLAS GALVEZ	104.87	5	82.21	4
GIOVANNY GAMEZ MALDONADO	113.57	5	97.20	5
LUCAS GARCIA-HERRADA	111.58	5	100.00	5
NICHOLAS GONZALEZ	0.00	0	0.00	0

The student details provides students with a report for each time that they used the heart rate monitor through the course. It provides them with information about time spent in each of the target heart rate zones, as well as a grade for their performance.



S2-THILL-P1

Course duration

01.06.2025 - 06.01.2025

### Student details

Date Range

Finished

01.06.2025 - 06.01.2025

JILIANA AGUILAR							S2-THILL-P1		
HR measurement period: 01.06.2025 - 06.01.2025									
	Target	50-60%	60-70%	70-80%	80-90%	90-100%	Calories	Evaluation	Saved data
03.07.2025	23 / 20 min	00:02:28	00:12:35	00:08:49	00:01:42	00:00:00	184	5	100%
03.10.2025	8 / 20 min	00:15:12	00:08:24	00:00:02	00:00:00	00:00:00	891	0	16%
03.11.2025	14 / 20 min	00:15:52	00:10:45	00:02:33	00:00:38	00:00:00	190	3.0	96%
03.13.2025	29 / 20 min	00:00:18	00:22:37	00:04:11	00:01:52	00:00:00	194	5	100%
03.14.2025	21 / 20 min	00:08:40	00:11:22	00:09:06	00:00:10	00:00:00	198	5	100%
03.26.2025	15 / 20 min	00:00:00	00:03:31	00:08:28	00:03:10	00:00:00	124	3.5	92%
04.07.2025	24 / 20 min	00:00:15	00:12:28	00:10:57	00:00:09	00:00:00	172	5	97%
04.08.2025	16 / 20 min	00:08:15	00:15:55	00:00:18	00:00:00	00:00:00	245	4	63%
ALYSSA ALMANZA							S2-THILL-P1		
HR measurement period: 01.06.2025 - 06.01.2025									

### Student and Staff Accolades –

Congratulations to Michelle Mia Carbajal for being named the Morton East PE Student of the Year.

Congratulations to Annabelle Quiroz and Brandon Warren for being named the Morton West PE Students of the Year.

I would like to thank Jim Bageanis, Jeff Van Ewyk, and Conrad Smith for their years of service to Morton. We wish them the best in retirement.