

INTRODUCTION: Maureen Notaro

Thank you for coming to this exciting event. My name is Maureen Notaro, Principal of Jackson Primary and Jackson Primary Satellite at Robert Morris. I want to begin our celebration by thanking our Board of Education for supporting our early literacy programs. We will begin our ribbon cutting celebration with a brief history of Robert Morris, compliments of Ann Marie Starowitz, a former Robert Morris teacher. I would like to introduce Jessica Torrey, Assistant Principal of Jackson Primary and Jackson Primary Satellite.

HISTORY OF ROBERT MORRIS: Jessica Torrey

Here is a brief history of Robert Morris School.

In 1925 the Batavia Board of education was looking for a site for a new school on the west side of Batavia. The result, Robert Morris elementary schools in Batavia. The construction was a 12 room building that began in 1928.

Who is Robert Morris?

The building was named after Robert Morris who played an important role in the Revolutionary War and in the opening of Western New York to settlements.

Now I will turn it over to Maureen Nataro.

Maureen Notaro:

When we needed more space at Jackson Primary I suggested that we move our pre kindergarten classrooms over to Robert Morris. We had many conversations about who, what, why, when, and where over the months last spring and summer. This was a collaborative effort with one thing in common; we all shared the same vision of early literacy. We wanted to create a magical place where students felt happy and accepted. Where they would meet new friends and flourish to start off their first experience at school in Batavia.

Students who attend UPK get adjusted to what school will look like next year in Kindergarten. Exposure to school routines in preschool prepares them for the structure and the expectations of kindergarten. Research tells us that experiences in the early years are the foundation of long term growth of a child. Preschool is much more about developing social-emotional skills than it is about developing academic skills.

These social-emotional skills include learning to share and take turns, showing empathy for classmates and self-regulating their own strong emotions. Without skills like these, children will have a hard time moving on to academic achievement in later years.

Preschool exposes children to many different types of play that they may not have access to at home. Our program is play-based and our wonderful talented teachers promote play throughout the day. Preschool encourages self confidence and gets students excited to learn. Most importantly, Preschool improves language and literacy skills.

We are very excited to reopen Jackson Primary Satellite at Robert Morris. We have experienced great success in combining our preschool with Universal Pre Kindergarten to provide a rich early literacy experience for our students of Batavia and surrounding areas. Finally, I would like to read to you a short poem by Elizabeth Lawrence that depicts the goal of our teachers, program and our “new” school.

There is a garden
in every
childhood, an
enchanted place
where colours are
brighter, the air
softer, and the
morning more
fragrant than ever
again.

- Elizabeth Lawrence

We will now cut the ribbon to officially reopen Jackson Primary Satellite at Robert Morris.

Thank You to our students, staff and board for attending this event!