



# MORTON

Jeffrey W. Hill, Ed. D.  
Superintendent

## Community Unit School District 709

1050 South Fourth Ave · Suite 200 · Morton, Illinois 61550-2596 · Phone (309) 263-2581

March 17, 2020

District 709 Parents and Guardians,

I know you and your students are anticipating the new and exciting challenges of distance learning! As such, I wanted to convey the details of the distance learning plan and expectations for teachers and students for the new learning environment.

### **Wednesday, March 18th**

While the vast majority of students have been contacted, starting this evening or tomorrow we are asking teachers to make contact and establish lines of communication, ensuring that all students are connected. Teachers will also provide some type of learning activity or assignment.

### **Thursday, March 19th - Monday, March 30th**

Starting Thursday, teachers should begin distance learning activities according to the [Distance Learning Logistics](#) and [Work Expectations](#). Students will be receiving assignments that reinforce previous learning as well as introduce new topics and information.

Although teachers will be providing feedback to students, the Illinois State Board of Education has indicated that a student's grade can not be negatively affected during this period.

### **March 31st and Beyond**

While we have not received official word, we expect the school closure to continue well past March 30th. I anticipate during this time there will be some changes to the evaluation of students that will be more consistent with our current practice.

### **What can parents and guardians do to help?**

- Ensure that your student has a quality educational environment in the home and a set time and place for learning that is free from distractions.
- Verify that educational activities are being received, and encourage participation and completion of work.
- Ensure that your student is understanding the expectations of the educational activities.
- Communicate with the teacher about your student's progress and participation in educational activities.
- Give the teachers and principal feedback about the effectiveness of distance learning in general.

I appreciate your efforts as we team up to make this experience as beneficial and productive as possible for our students.

I hope that you and your family stay safe and healthy as we continue this learning journey together.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeffrey W. Hill".

Jeffrey W. Hill, Superintendent