



MORTON

UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

April 9, 2021

Morton District 709 Weekly Update

There was a small bump in COVID diagnoses as we came out of spring break, though in the overall scheme of things, it was another healthy week.

As of Friday, 11 students had been diagnosed with COVID-19, up from four on March 26, with 50 in quarantine relative to 61 two weeks ago. Three staff members were positive, same as before the holiday, with six in at-home isolation, also unmoved from last month.

Perhaps that was to be expected, given the recent warm weather, holiday get-togethers and vacations. All in all, however, we can't complain, as we remain near school-year lows where COVID is concerned. Still, we're now in the final stretch of this 2020-21 school year and we want to see it all the way through the finish line as successfully as we've run the race, to date.



Freeing the caterpillars-turned-butterflies at MHS

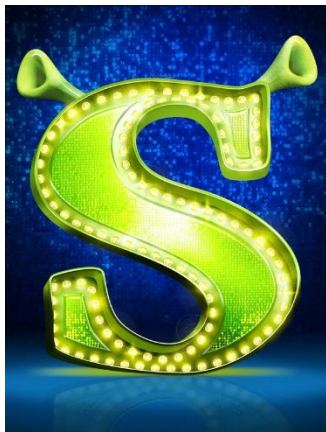
Please see this week's chart below.

Current Daily Statistics Are Not Cumulative

	4/5/21	4/6/21	4/7/21	4/8/21	4/9/21
Staff	No School				
Covid-19 Positive		4	3	3	3
Quarantining		4	3	3	6
FT Remote Teaching		4	4	4	4
Students					
Covid-19 Positive Now					
Brown		0	0	0	0
Grundy		0	0	0	0
Jefferson		2	2	2	3
Lincoln		0	0	0	0
JH		4	5	5	5
HS		0	1	2	2
MA		0	0	0	1
Total		6	8	9	11
% Positive Now	0.000%	0.211%	0.281%	0.316%	0.387%
Quarantining Now					
Brown		5	5	7	8
Grundy		1	4	4	4
Jefferson		8	8	8	6
Lincoln		5	4	5	5
JH		4	16	17	16
HS		7	6	7	6
MA		0	6	6	5
Total		30	49	54	50
% Quarantined Now	0.000%	1.054%	1.722%	1.898%	1.757%
Remote Learning		146	146	146	146
Homeschool/Private		77	77	77	77

We ask that our families continue to monitor symptoms at home. Please continue to utilize our [COVID form](#). Our [Healthy Quarantining Guide](#) and our [Return to School Plan](#) should remain go-to resources, as well. The mask mandate continues.

Friday marked our 148th day of full-time, in-person instruction for the vast majority of our students in Morton District 709. With each passing week, we march on with our traditional activities, albeit with a twist sometimes, and get that much closer to what we think of as normal.



For example, we're moving forward with our spring theater performance at Morton High. "Shrek the Musical," under the direction of our own Heather Berger, will be livestreamed at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, April 23-24. Get your tickets [here](#).

Meanwhile, we received some nice [media attention](#) this past week regarding the renovation/addition of three new STEM labs at Morton High, among other coming building improvements.

"In a modern science classroom, you are going to see the integration of not just science. You are going to be applying technology, you are going to be performing some engineering and you have to apply mathematics in a science classroom, so it is nice to have space where you can work on that experimentation," MHS science teacher Mary Holmgren told WMBD-TV.

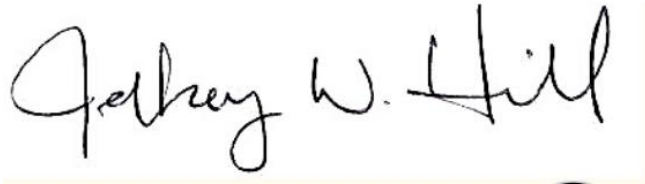
As always, the learning and the growth continue, pandemic or no pandemic, which is why we're all here.



Principal Albers reads Dr. Seuss at Lincoln

Again, all of that has been made possible by the commitment and cooperation of our staff, our students and this community. Let's keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light yellow background. The signature reads "Jeffrey W. Hill" in a cursive, flowing script. The first name "Jeffrey" is written with a large, prominent "J" and a long, sweeping underline that extends under the "W" and "Hill". The "W" is written with a distinct, angular shape, and "Hill" is written in a standard cursive style.

Jeffrey W. Hill, Ed.D

Superintendent

Morton Community Unit District 709