



MORTON

UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

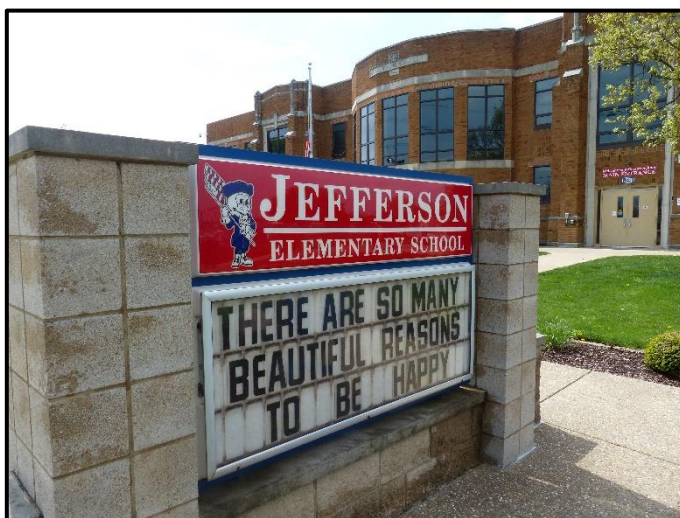
April 30, 2021

Morton District 709 Weekly Update

We moved the ball forward again this week, with COVID diagnoses and quarantines the same or down and our school year heading into the home stretch in positive fashion.

As of Friday, 12 students had been confirmed with COVID-19, unchanged from April 23, with 75 in quarantine relative to 102 last week. Zero staff members were positive, same as last week, with five in at-home isolation against three the week before.

Again, vaccinations are available to students 16 and older through the Tazewell County Health Department, between its drive-through operation off Route 9 in Tremont and its Broadway Road clinic in Pekin.



This sign says it all at Jefferson Elementary

We ask that our families 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 163rd day of full-time, in-person instruction for the vast majority of our students, and it seems like we're hitting our stride. Please see this week's chart below.

Current Daily Statistics Are Not Cumulative

		4/26/21	4/27/21	4/28/21	4/29/21	4/30/21
Staff						
Covid-19 Positive		0	0	0	0	0
Quarantining		3	4	4	6	5
FT Remote Teaching		4	4	4	4	4
Students						
Covid-19 Positive Now						
Brown		0	0	0	0	0
Grundy		0	0	0	0	0
Jefferson		0	0	1	1	2
Lincoln		0	0	0	0	0
JH		1	2	2	2	2
HS		10	10	10	8	8
MA		0	0	0	0	0
Total		11	12	13	11	12
% Positive Now		0.387%	0.422%	0.457%	0.387%	0.422%
Quarantining Now						
Brown		4	4	4	6	4
Grundy		8	7	6	4	4
Jefferson		6	3	2	2	1
Lincoln		2	2	4	2	1
JH		8	8	9	7	9
HS		66	70	66	61	56
MA		0	0	0	0	0
Total		94	94	91	82	75
% Quarantined Now		3.304%	3.304%	3.199%	2.882%	2.636%
Remote Learning		147	147	147	147	147
Homeschool/Private		78	78	78	78	78

In fact, we are coming off an activity- and fun-filled week in Morton School District 709.

Our soon-to-be graduates concluded a successful Senior Send-Off Friday. We will be sorry to see them go, they were asked to rise to the challenge like few classes before them, but in many ways we – and they – are the stronger for it.



Thumbs up to diversity awareness at Jefferson!

They will always be welcomed back.

Jefferson Elementary hosted its first Disability and Diversity Awareness Fair this past week. Students in kindergarten through sixth grade there learned a lot about respecting our differences.

According to our exceedingly informal straw poll, India was their favorite foreign country, Mexican their favorite ethnic food.

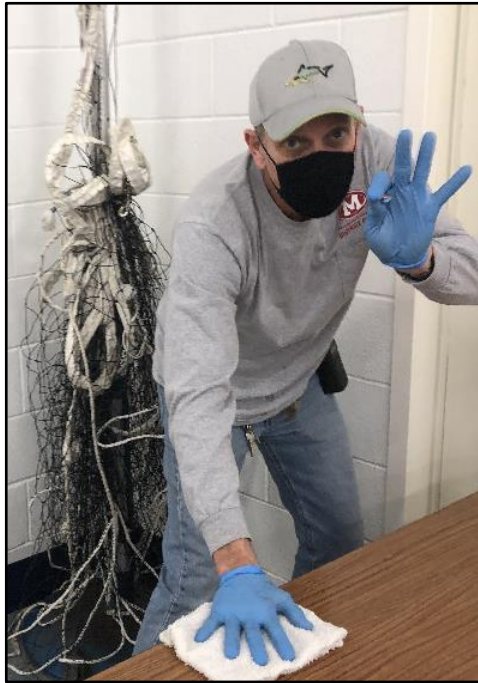
We could not be prouder of our Morton High School welding team, which placed fifth overall in Mid-Illini Conference competition, exceeding expectations, as they had been seeded eighth. Our own Thomas Stanton and Garrett Wood both took away third place medals. Their adviser, Mr. McFarland, did a great job, in the classroom, as always, and with his team. The future is bright for our MHS Spark Monkeys!



Our overachieving Morton High Spark Monkeys

Meanwhile, you can still get your [tickets](#) to Morton High's livestream performance of "Shrek, the Musical" at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, May 7-8.

Our free meal program extends through the summer, continuing our partnership with the U.S Department of Agriculture in a program that began in the spring of 2020 as the pandemic shifted into full gear. Those interested can learn more [here](#).



Mr. Fort gets the job done at Brown

We observe National Teacher Appreciation Week this coming Monday through Friday, and arguably that has never meant more than it does this year. Our teachers stepped up across the board, and we believe that will reverberate in the most positive of ways for decades to come. Let me be the first to say, “Thank you!”

Finally, just a reminder that we celebrate our high school graduation on May 15. The final day of school for students is Thursday, May 20, and for teachers Friday, May 21.

This has been a fantastic year. We have surmounted our challenges. We have earned this summer break, and we intend to come back in August 2021 healthier, happier and stronger than ever. But we have three more weeks to go and we’re going to make the best of them. Let’s complete the race.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey W. Hill". The signature is written in a cursive style and is set against a light yellow background.

Jeffrey W. Hill, Ed.D
Superintendent
Morton Community Unit District 709