



MORTON

UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

May 7, 2021

Morton District 709 Weekly Update

COVID diagnoses and quarantines have steadily declined over the last few weeks, which is great news and makes us ready and then some to move on from this topic.

As of Friday, just three students had been confirmed with COVID-19, down from 12 on April 30, with 46 in quarantine relative to 75 last week. Zero staff members were positive, same as last week, with six in at-home isolation against five the week before.



That said, now on to the good stuff.

We had a super successful **Senior Send-Off** at Morton High, and **graduation is scheduled for Saturday, May 15**. This has been a very resilient bunch, and they deserve an ovation.

Hundreds of parents and community members attended our **Arts in the Park** event this past week, and they were treated to some really wonderful performances by our students. Jefferson Elementary School hosted its **Bike and Walk to School Day**, following up on its Disability and Diversity Awareness Fair of



Arts in the Park

the week before, and it was heartwarming to watch the kids pedal their way into a state of joy, which showed on so many faces. Morton High's final livestream performance of "**Shrek, the Musical**" is tonight. Last-minute [tickets](#) are still available.



A larger-than-life-size statue of **Clay**, our beloved school district mascot, was unveiled at Morton Junior High School on Friday. It

was made possible by a very generous donation from Phil and Barb Kuhl, the family behind Kuhl Insurance here in Morton, and by local artist Connie Andrews. We have every confidence that it will become an iconic presence in the foyer outside MJHS's impressive new gymnasium.

Last week was **Teacher Appreciation Week**. This year of the pandemic should serve as a reminder that our vocal support of our valued staff members should not be relegated to just one week a year.

New School Board members Diane Krall and Jerry Rudd were seated last week, and reelected incumbents Tom Neeley and Bart Rinkenberger also took the oath of office. Jeff Schmidgall was elected board president, succeeding Shad Beaty. Tim Braker was chosen as vice president, and Mr. Rinkenberger as secretary. Leaving the board are Kevin Austin and David Cross, and we thank them for their service. We are lucky in Morton to have residents willing to step up into leadership and give of their time and talents.



Please see this week's chart below.

Current Daily Statistics Are Not Cumulative

5/3/21 5/4/21 5/5/21 5/6/21 5/7/21

Staff					
Covid-19 Positive	0	0	0	0	0
Quarantining	6	5	5	7	6
FT Remote Teaching	4	4	4	4	4

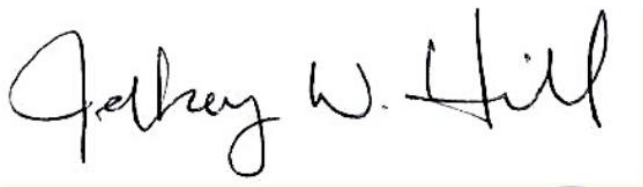
Students

Covid-19 Positive Now					
Brown	0	0	0	0	0
Grundy	0	0	0	0	0
Jefferson	2	1	1	0	0
Lincoln	0	0	0	0	0
JH	0	2	2	2	2
HS	5	4	3	3	1
MA	0	0	0	0	0
Total	7	7	6	5	3
% Positive Now	0.246%	0.246%	0.211%	0.176%	0.105%
Quarantining Now					
Brown	2	4	3	3	1
Grundy	2	5	4	4	4
Jefferson	0	2	0	0	3
Lincoln	2	4	4	6	8
JH	8	12	12	8	8
HS	39	23	23	21	17
MA	0	5	5	5	5
Total	53	55	51	47	46
% Quarantined Now	1.863%	1.933%	1.793%	1.652%	1.617%
Remote Learning	147	147	147	147	147
Homeschool/Private	78	78	78	78	78

Again, 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 168th day of full-time, in-person instruction for the vast majority of our students. The final day of school for students is Thursday, May 20, and for teachers Friday, May 21.

What a year it has been. Let's keep making good memories, everybody.
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 rectangular background.

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