



MORTON

UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

May 14, 2021

Morton District 709 Weekly Update

COVID diagnoses and quarantines were up a notch but not enough to merit concern as we enter the final week of a remarkable and in many ways uplifting 2020-21 school year, capped this coming weekend by the commencement send-off of our resilient seniors to college and careers.

As of Friday, seven students had been confirmed with COVID-19, up from three on May 7, with 76 in quarantine compared to 46 last week. Zero staff members were positive, same as last week, with two in at-home isolation, down from six.



The real Clay, statue Clay, and MJHS superfan Bo Gill

With just four more student days left in the year, we will stay the course with our mask mandate inside our buildings, while loosening that restriction when outdoors and distanced. We have continued to follow Illinois State Board of Education guidance, are well aware of the changing view of the Centers for Disease Control on this subject, and look forward to a mask-free future, depending on circumstances.

Meanwhile, the Tazewell County Health Department is making the Pfizer vaccine available to those between ages 12 and 15 at its Pekin clinic, 1800 Broadway, on Mondays in May between 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Walk-ins are welcome.

Please see this week's chart – the last of the year – below.

Current Daily Statistics Are Not Cumulative

	5/10/21	5/11/21	5/12/21	5/13/21	5/14/21
Staff					
Covid-19 Positive	0	0	0	0	0
Quarantining	3	2	2	2	2
FT Remote Teaching	4	4	4	4	4
Students					
Covid-19 Positive Now					
Brown	0	0	0	0	0
Grundy	0	0	1	1	1
Jefferson	1	1	2	2	2
Lincoln	1	1	1	1	1
JH	1	1	1	0	0
HS	1	1	1	3	3
MA	0	0	0	0	0
Total	4	4	6	7	7
% Positive Now	0.141%	0.141%	0.211%	0.246%	0.246%
Quarantining Now					
Brown	1	1	1	1	1
Grundy	6	6	6	3	2
Jefferson	28	25	25	44	44
Lincoln	12	11	10	10	10
JH	3	3	8	0	0
HS	10	8	10	19	19
MA	5	5	5	0	0
Total	65	59	65	77	76
% Quarantined Now	2.285%	2.074%	2.285%	2.707%	2.671%
Remote Learning	147	147	147	147	147
Homeschool/Private	78	78	78	78	78

We hope that this is the last time we have to post this message, but 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.

If last week was Teacher Appreciation Week, we pay tribute to our District Office staff in this week's message, who along with our classroom instructors have seen



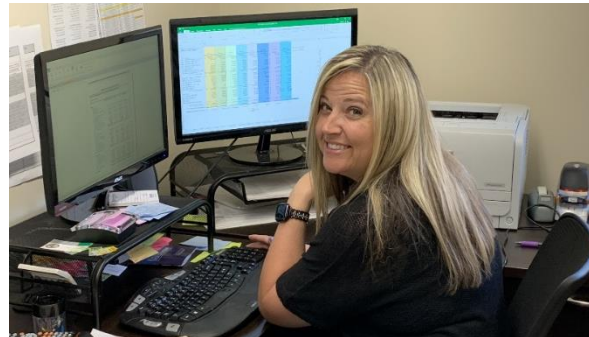
Carolu Kizer, District Office Receptionist

to it that we have enjoyed a successful year that all of us will long remember. Collectively, your efforts have set us apart from many other school districts in the state. Thank you.

Meanwhile, our high school graduation ceremony has been moved from Saturday to Sunday, May 16, at 1 p.m. at Carper Field, in order to catch a window of clear weather. Fingers crossed that the rain stays away for a couple of hours.

A reminder: The final day of school for students is this coming Thursday, May 20, and for teachers, Friday, May 21.

Friday marked our 173rd day of full-time, in-person instruction for the vast majority of our students. It seems like it has all passed in the blink of an eye.



Lisa Kowalski, Chief Financial Officer

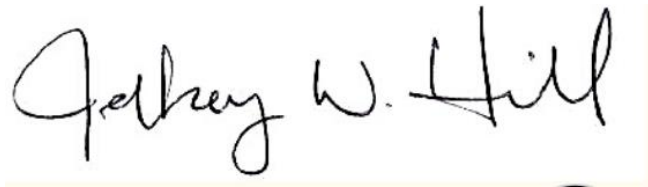
Our students rose to the challenge, as did our teachers, classroom support staff, administrators, custodians, cafeteria workers, secretaries, tech support, bus drivers, etc. It was a total team effort.



Brenda Heppard, HR Coordinator

Despite all the hurdles put before us, we have cleared them all, and we should take great pride in that.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature reads "Jeffrey W. Hill" in a cursive, flowing script. The signature is enclosed in a thin, light-colored rectangular border.

Jeffrey W. Hill, Ed.D

Superintendent

Morton Community Unit District 709