



MORTON

UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

Sept. 10, 2021

Morton District 709 Weekly Update

It was a good week in District 709 – it’s *always* a good week in Morton – as on the health and attendance front specifically, the number of COVID diagnoses were half the number of the week before.

Eleven students were out as of today with a positive COVID test, down from 22 the Friday before, for an overall infection rate of .35 percent in a student body of more than 3,000. Given the Delta variant trend line, we’re happy to see our kids swimming against that tide. Meanwhile, one staff member was absent with COVID, against three a week ago. Please see the chart below:

Covid Positive Now		9/7/21	9/8/21	9/9/21	9/10/21	%
	Staff	2	1	1	1	
Students	Brown	1	2	2	2	0.56%
	Grundy	2	2	2	2	0.52%
	Jefferson	0	0	0	0	0.00%
	Lincoln	1	2	2	2	0.39%
	JH	3	3	2	1	0.20%
	HS	4	4	3	4	0.37%
	MA	0	0	0	0	0.00%
	Total	11	13	11	11	0.35%

Again, we ask that families keep ill children, COVID or no COVID, at home. We recommend that parents review our [Back to School Plan](#) and our [Frequently](#)

[Asked Questions document.](#) Please consult our [COVID reporting form](#), as well. Our overriding goal for the 2021-22 school year is to keep healthy students in our classrooms, and we saw more of them this week than last. Let's keep up the excellent work.

Meanwhile, we're in constant touch with the Illinois State Board of Education



regarding guidance for mandated vaccinations and/or COVID testing for employees. More information to follow.

In other news, we're happy to report that enrollment looks to be up this school year. Our sixth day count shows a net gain of 80 students – to 3,227 total, with in-person enrollment of 3,179 – over this time a year ago. The biggest increase was registered at the high school, now at 1,090 students, up 73 from last year.

Going airborne at Lincoln Elementary

The Morton Connect Community app, available free of charge at your app store, is up and running with all manner of useful information regarding our schools and other goings-on in the Village. Thanks to the Morton Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development



Council for their work in making that happen.



It was National Read a Book Day this past week, and students all over our district had their noses buried in the finest literature. Reading is among the best habits we can cultivate in our children.

We are in the design stage of implementing improvements to our girls' softball diamond at Birchwood Park, one among many facility upgrades on which we hope to see movement in the coming year.

Finally, we in Morton schools continue to work closely with the statewide Make It Local Initiative in order to secure our rights to make decisions regarding Morton classrooms in Morton.

It has been a great start to another memorable school year, and we again thank our parents and families for their cooperation and support moving forward.



Principal Albers carries the torch for Lincoln

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey W. Hill". The signature is written in a cursive style and is placed on a light-colored rectangular background.

Jeffrey W. Hill, Ed.D

Superintendent

Morton Community Unit District 709