



MORTON

UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

Sept. 24, 2021

Morton District 709 Weekly Update

As we head into Homecoming week, we seem to be hitting on all cylinders with another excellent health and attendance report.

COVID diagnoses were down to a school year low of two students districtwide, compared to four a week ago, for an overall infection rate of .06 percent in a student body of more than 3,200. Meanwhile, two staff members were at home with COVID, same as last week. Please see the chart below:

Covid Positive Now		9/20/21	9/21/21	9/22/21	9/23/21	9/24/21	%
	Staff	3	3	2	2	2	
Students	Brown	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
	Grundy	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
	Jefferson	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
	Lincoln	1	2	1	1	1	0.20%
	JH	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
	HS	1	1	1	1	1	0.09%
	MA	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
	Total	2	3	2	2	2	0.06%

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're happy to report that's happening.



Volleyball practice at MJHS

Despite all the noise that sometimes surrounds us regarding the ever-changing rules out of state government and the constant adjustments we are being required to make, we are attending to the district's business.

With a COVID vaccination rate of 77 percent among our approximately 650 employees and others who work inside our buildings, we are moving forward on regular testing for the remaining staff. We will start with the nasal test until the SHIELD saliva test out of the University of Illinois is available and ready to go.

As previously stated, Homecoming is next week with a full array of activities for our students and families to enjoy. Float building and judging will be Sunday afternoon. Monday is dress-in-your-favorite-decade day, and Tuesday brings college/Greek letter T-shirts. Don't miss Wear Pink Wednesday. Thursday is favorite team jersey day, with parade and pep rally to follow at 5:45 p.m. and 7 p.m., respectively. On Friday, pull all of your cherry and gray out of the closet, and wear it to our football game against Metamora. Our Homecoming Dance will be on Saturday, of course, at Carper Field, unless inclement weather moves us to the East Gym. Masks are mandatory at all indoor events.



The MHS Class of 1971 celebrates reunion #50

On the sports front, rival Washington High was on tap for an away football game Friday night, with our gridiron Potters enjoying a superb season.

In cross country, our Morton boys are ranked second in Class 2A statewide, and our Morton girls came in at 19th in the latest poll with some major meets on the immediate horizon, including the Peoria High Invitational at Detweiller Park – site



Morton High School Lady Potters golf

of the state meet – on Homecoming weekend, Oct. 2. We'll be on the sidelines rooting for all of our teams.

Finally, celebrated author and chronicler of Generation Z, Andrew McPeak out of Atlanta, Ga., was at Morton Junior High School this past week, and he made some points worth pondering for those of us in the business of teaching and raising today's "screenagers."

In our fast-paced world of amazing technology and instant gratification, "some of the most important things in life are slow," said Mr. McPeak. An education is but one example. Meanwhile, let's not underestimate the value of free time and even boredom, he said, as extensive research has shown that they help cultivate creativity and empathy, which are critical to lifelong success. In short, these "opportunities" should not be denied to our children. Some things really are worth waiting for.



Gen Z scholar Andrew McPeak

In that spirit, let us all bask in this wonderful weather, and enjoy these special moments.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey W. Hill, Ed.D

Superintendent

Morton Community Unit District 709