



MORTON

UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

Oct. 22, 2021

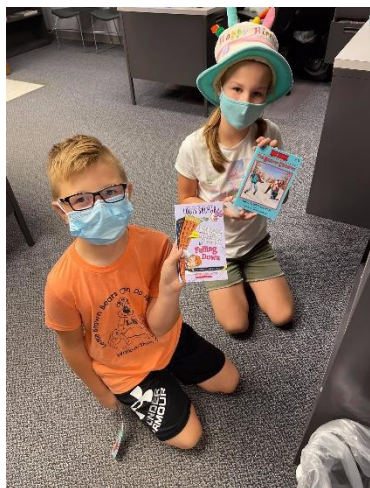
Morton District 709 Weekly Update

Our good run continued this past week, with COVID cases falling and actually flirting with zero. No news on the pandemic front, of course, would be the best news of all, and fingers crossed, we may yet get there this school year.

As of Wednesday, our last day of school this week due to parent-teacher conferences, just two students had been diagnosed with COVID, down from five a week ago, for an overall infection rate of .06 percent in a student body of more than 3,200. Meanwhile, one staff member was out with COVID, same as last week. Please see the chart below:

Covid Positive Now		10/18/21	10/19/21	10/20/21	%
Staff		2	2	1	
Students	Brown	0	0	0	0.00%
	Grundy	0	1	1	0.26%
	Jefferson	0	0	0	0.00%
	Lincoln	0	0	0	0.00%
	JH	0	0	0	0.00%
	HS	1	1	1	0.09%
	MA	0	0	0	0.00%
	Total	1	2	2	0.06%

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.



Birthday books at Lettie Brown

We don't want the pandemic to define another school year, of course, which is why we're happy to talk about all the other great things happening on our campuses.

In fact, it is a very busy time of year in Morton District 709, with our schools showcasing the enormous talent walking their hallways through their fall concerts and plays. Lincoln Elementary's performance of "Almost Wonderful Wizard of Oz" is but one recent example.

Our boys' soccer team won a regional title Friday, our football team capped a fantastic year – with more to come – as Mid-Illini Conference co-champs, and our number-one-ranked boys' cross-country team begins its march on Saturday to the state finals at Peoria's Detweiller Park.



The cast of 'Oz' performs at Lincoln Elementary



Meanwhile, we're always looking to provide new opportunities to our students. One such is the invitation to sixth graders to participate in Morton Junior High's wrestling program, which we hope to grow.

Next week is Red Ribbon Week, with our schools hosting various programs touting the virtue of making good choices, starting with steering clear of dangerous drugs.

In the district leadership arena, Tim Braker is our new School Board president, and David Cross has been elected its vice president. We'll soon welcome a new School Board member in Amanda Leman, who will fill the vacancy precipitated by the departure of Jeff Schmidgall. She is a 1999 graduate of Morton High School and the mother of three current District 709 students, two at the high school and one at Lettie Brown, as well as being a local real estate agent and very active volunteer in our schools and community. The board expects to make its choice official at its Nov. 2 meeting.



Fall concert plays to a near-full house at Morton Junior High School

There is always room for improvement, of course, but in so many ways, we couldn't be happier with our progress and our relative return to a normal flow this school year. Let's keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey W. Hill". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name and title.

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