



MORTON

UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

Nov. 19, 2021

Morton District 709 Weekly Update

COVID diagnoses bumped up slightly this week, mirroring what's happening in the community outside our doors, but again the numbers are a small fraction of our overall student population.

As of Friday, 10 students had tested positive for COVID, up from eight the week before, for an overall infection rate of .31 percent in a student body of more than 3,200. Again, no staff members were out due to the virus. Please see the chart below:

Covid Positive Now		11/15/21	11/16/21	11/17/21	11/18/21	11/19/21	%
Staff		1	1	1	1	0	
Students	Brown	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
	Grundy	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
	Jefferson	3	2	1	1	0	0.00%
	Lincoln	5	7	7	7	6	1.17%
	JH	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
	HS	1	2	3	3	4	0.37%
	MA	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Total		9	11	11	11	10	0.31%

We continue to ask that our 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. As we enter the winter season and the holidays have us gathering with

our extended families and friends, we should continue to do our common-sense best to protect ourselves and others.

In other news, the achievements and accolades keep coming for many of our school programs.

Our Morton High School band, under the direction of Tim Gray, was recognized at this past week's School Board meeting for yet another stellar season that saw our talented musicians and other performers winning their 16th consecutive Class 2A state title, a third place across all classes in Illinois, and a 30th place showing at the Grand National Championship. The recent investments our district has made in this defining program, in both new instruments and uniforms, have been very much worth it.

Our football team continues its remarkable season, the best in school history, with a Class 5A semifinal game on Saturday at Kankakee High School. Running



back Seth Glatz leads not just the state but the nation in rushing yardage, with no small help from the “Hogs” – offensive linemen Ian Mutchler, Brayden McMillen, Andrew Hummel, Broc Schmidt and

James Sauder, along with tight end Jack Stump -- who punch the holes that he runs through. Glatz and defensive back/wide receiver Mac Anderson recently received first team all-state honors.



Seth Glatz goes for a 65-yard TD against Mahomet

Please help us line the route between Morton High School and Interstate 74 as we give our gridiron heroes a raucous send-off at 11 a.m. Saturday. A victory sends us to the Class 5A championship game. What a wild and fun ride this has been!



Cheering on the home team

Meanwhile, we are very proud of senior Katie Krupa, who signed a letter of intent this past week to attend and play basketball at prestigious Harvard University.



Katie Krupa goes Ivy League, commits to Harvard

Katie intends to major in neuroscience, with plans to own a medical practice someday. Athlete and scholar ... now there's a combination worth aspiring to.

We can now add boys' and girls' lacrosse to our sports lineup, as our School Board has approved a co-op program with Washington Community High School, similar to the arrangement we have with swimming. Get out the sticks, as we start this coming spring.

Our performers take to another stage at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Dec. 3-4, with the **"2021 Madrigal Experience"** at Bertha Frank. Get your tickets for the in-person show [here](#).

We'd also remind district residents that free developmental screening is available for children ages birth through 5 on Dec. 15. Make an appointment by calling 309-263-0522.

In other developments, the School Board adopted a nearly \$32.8 million tax levy on Tuesday. District 709 soon will be applying for a state grant that, if successful, would provide some property tax relief by increasing general state aid, to the benefit of local taxpayers.

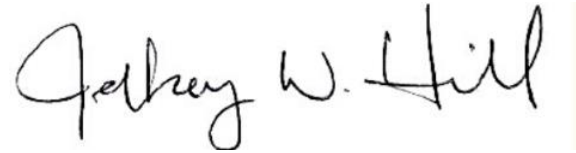
Finally, the board has selected Joseph Sander as the district's new assistant superintendent. He will take the position being vacated by Dr. Craig Smock when the latter becomes District 709 superintendent next school year. Currently an assistant superintendent at Washington Community High School, Dr. Sander is a longtime Morton resident and former assistant principal at Morton High. He starts July 1, 2022.



Dr. Joe Sander

We are nearing the end of the first semester and the pace of this school year has never let up. We get a little breather this coming week with Thanksgiving. Have a relaxing and enjoyable holiday, everybody.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey W. Hill". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'J' and a distinct 'H'.

Jeffrey W. Hill, Ed.D

Superintendent

Morton Community Unit District 709