



MORTON

UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

Dec. 3, 2021

Morton District 709 Weekly Update

COVID diagnoses jumped this past week. Our experience of the last couple of years tells us that a post-holiday bump is not uncommon, given all of the social occasions the holidays typically entail.

As of Friday, 23 students had tested positive for COVID, up from 10 just before the Thanksgiving break, for an overall infection rate of .72 percent in a student body of more than 3,200. No one likes to see the numbers increase, but again, in the overall scheme of things, they are not cause for alarm. We do not see cases concentrated in any one building. Three staff members were out due to the virus, compared to zero two weeks ago. Please see the chart below:

Covid Positive Now		11/29/21	11/30/21	12/1/21	12/2/21	12/3/21	%
Staff		0	0	0	1	3	
Students	Brown	2	2	3	5	5	1.39%
	Grundy	2	2	3	2	1	0.26%
	Jefferson	0	1	1	1	1	0.30%
	Lincoln	1	1	1	4	4	0.78%
	JH	2	2	2	4	4	0.80%
	HS	0	4	4	8	8	0.74%
	MA	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
	Total	7	12	14	24	23	0.72%

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, we are entering the winter sports season following a simply fantastic, unprecedented fall for our athletes almost across the board.

Sadly, our Morton High football squad fell to Kankakee in a Class 5A semifinal game, but what a season it was! Our footballers had never reached a Final 4 before. We are exceedingly proud of our coaches, players and fans, who represented the red and gray of Morton so very, very well.



MHS football fans give team an enthusiastic sendoff

Our MHS girls' basketball program is picking up right where they left off,



undefeated and state-ranked at number 2 in Class 3A and coming off a championship in our annual Thanksgiving tourney. The future for the program looks mighty bright, as well, with our seventh-grade girls at Morton Junior High winning their sectional and moving on to the state basketball finals.

Meanwhile, our Morton High Yearbook team has won a national honor – the Gallery of Excellence Award – from Kansas-based publisher Walsworth Yearbooks for being “one of the shining stars of scholastic journalism.” Job well done.



It's the Christmas season, so expect a full array of upcoming holiday-themed entertainment events. The District 709 fifth through 12th grade Chorus performs at Grace Church in Morton on Monday, Dec. 6. The MJHS/MHS Orchestra has its concert on Thursday, Dec. 9.



The Grinch visits Lincoln Elementary School

It's also the giving season, with many of our schools participating in charitable activities, from collecting food baskets for the needy to taking part in the Marine Corps' Toys for Tots program. We are fully behind our students and their families in giving back to the community in this way.

Finally, this has been a truly memorable year thus far. Let us keep up the pace through the holidays and beyond.

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