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MORTON COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709 SERVING THE GROVELAND-MORTON AREA

Welcome back!

A Message from Morton
Superintendent, Dr. Jeffrey Hill

Hello Morton community. After an unprecedented and challenging spring semester, and after much research and deliberation, we have decided to reopen schools full-time with in-person instruction beginning on Aug. 11.

We take this pandemic and the health of our students and staff very seriously. We take equally to heart our responsibility to prepare our students for productive futures. As such, we have reached this conclusion following thorough due diligence, in consultation with other educators, public health officials, physicians and our own families.

Our theme for the 2020-21 school year is "Safe Classrooms, Successful Outcomes." We believe that we can deliver on both counts, while retaining the flexibility necessary to respond to changing circumstances.

All of our families will be receiving more detailed back-to-school information, but in short, we will be adhering to state requirements for face coverings and physical distancing, while taking common-sense precautions regarding the size of student and staff gatherings during the day. For athletics and other extracurricular activities, we will be relying on direction from the associations that govern them and public health officials.

Rest assured that we are doing our best

to protect your children and our staff in the most pro-learning environment that we can create. Please know that we have reached these decisions while monitoring public health data that show Tazewell County and Morton with lower rates of COVID-19 infection and positivity (<https://www.tazewellhealth.org/381/CORONAVIRUS-COVID-19>) than many surrounding communities, well below the norm in a state of Illinois that also compares favorably on a national basis.

Meanwhile, we are following guidance from medical experts, specifically from the American Association of Pediatrics, which has advised that children are best served by returning to school (<https://services.aap.org/en/news-room/news-releases/aap/2020/pediatricians-educators-and-superintendents-urge-a-safe-return-to-school-this-fall/>) in the fall.

Of course, many of you have questions. Here we address some of the most frequently asked. May the 2020-21 school year be a healthy one, full of learning for all.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jeffrey Hill, Ed.D.
Superintendent,
Morton School District 709

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What makes District 709 confident that reopening schools full time is the right course of action?

A: "AAP strongly advocates that all policy considerations for the coming school year should start with a goal of having students physically present in school." [American Academy of Pediatrics](#)
"In-person instruction is strongly encouraged in Phase 4" [ISBE/IDPH](#)

Q: Can families choose remote instruction instead of in-person instruction?

A: Families can request remote instruction if the family has a medically fragile member, if the student is ill (COVID or other) for more than three (3) days, or if there is a need to quarantine. Requests can be made using this [form](#).

Q: What accommodations will be made for families?

A: In-person instruction is the most effective form of instruction District 709 can provide. However, for families that want an alternative, the district will provide a remote learning option. Depending on the duration, the remote learning option may be a third-party software, with District 709 staff support.

Q: What will the daily schedule be for each grade level?

A: We will follow our normal, daily schedule.

Please see FAQ, Page 2

Mark your calendar:

**Thursday,
July 30**

7 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**Registration
Day for all
schools**

Look for more
information about
each school on the
pages inside!



Property exchange clears way for larger, safer Morton Jr. High

Morton School District 709 has completed a property swap with the Village of Morton that will allow for more parking, enhanced public safety and additional green space at Morton Junior High School. Morton school and village officials are calling it a big win-win for the community.

The Morton School Board already had approved Phases 1 and 2 of the \$7 million renovation and expansion of the junior high facility and surrounding property.

Phase 1 called for a new drop-off/pickup area, new office space with a more secure entryway, additional parking, new elevator and

additional classrooms. Phase 2 will include a gymnasium, storage and new locker rooms, along with expanded cafeteria space.

On July 6, the Morton Village Board approved an exchange of real estate that will take those improvements up a notch, with the School Board doing likewise on July 7.

The school district is trading 17 acres plus of unimproved farmland on Harding Road for village property on Second Avenue and East Harrison Street near the junior high. That property includes five homes that will be razed or moved to make way

for a desperately needed, 156-space parking lot, a three-lane drop-off and pickup zone, new sidewalks and curbs, and a large playground/green space area.

All of the involved parties had high praise for the multi-layered deal.

"This is a project that had about 100 moving parts. If any part failed, this entire project would have failed," said School Board President Shad Beaty, adding that this "highlights what can be done when governmental agencies work together for a common, mutual improvement in a community. This is exactly that."

This improvement could "be beneficial to our students for another 20 plus years," he said.

Compared to what school officials originally envisioned for the junior high, this agreement "put it over the moon," said Superintendent Jeff Hill, calling it "an amazing enhancement to the Morton Junior High School environment, to the neighborhood environment, and really something that will be long-lasting for the Morton community."

District 709 has budgeted an extra \$1 million for this latest development. Realistically, the project should be finished no later

than the end of the spring 2021 semester.

"This obviously is going to fix a lot of our traffic problems. It's going to fix our parking issue. That's probably the biggest complaint we get," said Junior High Principal Lee Hoffman, adding that the school will be able to host events it simply could not before. "We know there will be a few challenges through the fall, but we have a plan for that. We'll figure out a way to make sure our kids are safe through the construction, and we'll look forward to the spring when it's all getting completed."

Other facilities updates

Meanwhile, the junior high is not the only facility seeing significant investment.

Morton High School will be getting two STEM classrooms to better support science and math courses. In addition, the current weight/fitness room will be expanded to accommodate more up-to-date equipment for physical education classes and athletic teams.

Finally, every school in the district was part of a safety audit. The 15-year facilities plan will be modified to include recommendations from that audit.

FAQ

Continued from page 1

Q: Will all students and staff be wearing a mask or face-covering?

A: No. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recognizes that some individuals have a medical contraindication (requires a doctor's note) to the wearing of a mask. Additionally, outdoor activities where physical distancing is practiced, lunch/snack times, instruction/communication that requires facial visualization, and band have been identified as exceptions to the mask rule.

Q: Will students get breaks from wearing their mask?

A: Yes. The district is sensitive to the challenges that come with wearing a mask all day.

Q: What will the consequences be if a student refuses to wear a face covering?

A: Students who do not have a medical waiver to opt out or do not fall into one of the other identified exceptions will be disciplined according to the handbook, appropriate to their age/cognitive ability.

Q: Is there a particular type of face

covering that must be worn?

A: No. Students and staff may bring their own face coverings and are responsible for keeping them clean. Masks must cover both the nose and mouth. Masks will be provided to those who request them.

Q: Will students be social distancing on our buses?

A: No. Most of our bus routes contain too many students to ensure social distancing. We will be working with families to transport their children to and from school themselves, when possible. For those unable to provide transportation, we will work to keep our buses under the recommended capacity of 50, with physical distancing as feasible. Students will be required to wear face coverings. Buses will be sanitized after every run.

Q: Will students have their temperature taken prior to getting on a bus?

A: No. Although we will be taking the temperature of students at the beginning of the school day, we are relying on parents to ensure that their students are feeling well and fever-free prior to getting on the bus.

Q: Will students be able to maintain physical distance in every situation?

A: No. The World Health Organization

(WHO) recommends one meter, or about three feet, and the CDC recommends six feet of physical distancing to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Schools will take measures to maximize physical distancing throughout the day by switching from collaborative table seating to sitting in rows, for example, and by enforcing traffic patterns in hallways, among other measures.

Q: If a student or employee tests positive for COVID-19, do you close the entire school, shutter part of the school, or keep the school open?

A: If a student or employee tests positive for COVID-19, District 709 will seek guidance from medical professionals to determine the best course of action. In general, IDPH recommends quarantining only those individuals who have had close contact with the infected person, defined as a continuous 15 minutes within six feet.

Q: When students/staff are suspected of having COVID-19, will they be required to be tested before returning to school?

A: No. Students/staff that are suspected of having COVID-19, or have tested positive for COVID-19 can either return on a symptoms-based or test-based criteria. For symptom-based, students/staff must quarantine for

10 days past the symptom onset and must be fever free for at least 24 hours. For test-based, students/staff must be fever free, with respiratory improvement and two (2) negative tests at least 24 hours apart.

Q: Will there be changes in lunch menus or food preparation?

A: Yes. Lunches will be more individualized at the junior high and high school cafeterias, and open salad bars and other exposed food will be eliminated. Cafeterias may use disposable plates and dinnerware and utilize pre-packaged foods as much as possible.

Q: Will students eat in the lunchroom?

A: Yes. Areas where students will be eating will have no more than 50 students at a time with as much social distancing as possible. Tables will be disinfected between each lunch period.

Q: Will there be changes in the restrooms and locker rooms?

A: Yes and no. At the elementary school level, scheduled restroom breaks and taking turns will help ensure social distancing. Teachers will also ensure that hand sanitation takes place afterwards. However, junior high and high school restrooms will operate as normal with the students being responsible for distancing and handwashing.

Outstanding educators honored with top awards

Every year, Morton Community Unit School District 709 honors teachers and support staff with three awards: The Potter's Hand (support staff), The Dana Ashby Memorial Service Award (outstanding special educator), and The Master Potter (outstanding teacher). These are the highest awards District 709 rewards those staff members who go above and beyond their job expectations.

The Potter's Hand Award is bestowed upon the top support staff employee in the Morton School District. "The nominee must display a dedication to the positive impact of student well-being by going above and beyond the call of duty," said Morton Schools Assistant Superintendent Craig Smock.



RACHEL HERRMANN

Rachel Herrmann, an early childhood aide at Ward Grundy Elementary School, was awarded the Potter's Hand Award for the 2019-2020 school year.

Co-workers described Rachel as "dedicated, amazing work ethic, above and beyond, professional, thoughtful, collaborative, calm, positive attitude, proactive, firm, role model, and loving." "Mrs. Herrmann exemplifies professionalism, love of children, and a growth mindset," it was stated in one nomination letter. "As we navigated remote learning this year, she continued to be dedicated to the students and their success, keeping contact with each student, keeping them engaged in activities, and keeping a positive attitude throughout the process. She exhibits all of the best traits that a school would hope for in a support staff employee including promptness, patience, dedication and an amazing work ethic. In the Early Childhood classroom, she believes

in each and every one of her students and always has their best interest at heart. Rachel puts the 'pro' in paraprofessional, for sure."

The Dana Ashby Memorial Service Award recognizes the outstanding



KRIS STIEGLITZ

service of any employee who works with students with special needs. "This award, given in the honor of the late Dana Ashby, represents the hard work, the care, compassion and diligence of individuals who give of themselves in service to students with special needs," said Director of Student Support Services Carlie Owens.

Kris Stieglitz, a special education instructional aide at Lincoln Elementary School, was named the recipient of the Dana Ashby Memorial Service Award.

Several nomination letters painted a picture of Mrs. Stieglitz's exemplary character and the level of dedication she brings to her work. "Mrs. Stieglitz will often start her day before most folks have their first cup of coffee by researching ways to support student learning," said one. "She knows the distinction amongst a job, a performance, a duty, and service, and she comes every day to serve."

During a time of remote learning, a colleague wrote, "If it wasn't clear before, her value to our sixth-grade team became undeniably evident during the COVID-19 shutdown. It became obvious that we had some students who desperately needed a guiding hand. Pairing her with those students became the best decision our team made during remote learning. She responded to a new challenge by learning new technology, going above and beyond, and doing daily check-ins with students and families. Basically, she came alongside struggling

students, parents and teachers with the calm, confident composure with which she tackles life. It feels impossible to adequately thank her for the much-needed comfort and stability she provided."

The Master Potter Excellence in Education Award is given annually and is the highest honor the district may bestow on an educator and recognizes a lifetime of accomplishment. "This award is a tribute to an outstanding educator who exemplifies the quality of high standards, professionalism, and dedication to students," said MCUSD 709 Superintendent Jeff Hill.

The Master Potter Award was presented to Therese Scifres, a sixth-grade teacher at Jefferson Elementary School.



THERESE SCIFRES

A colleague wrote, "Mrs. Scifres sets high expectations and holds each of her students to very high standards both academically and morally. She shows commitment to understanding each child as a whole and works with them so they are ready for Morton Junior High School. She maintains a high degree of professionalism while speaking honestly and openly to students, parents and colleagues."

Jefferson Elementary School Principal Kate Wyman wrote in her nomination letter, "When I think about someone who loves Jefferson School and loves our Patriots, I think of Therese. Her love for her students is evident when she supports them well beyond their time in her classroom. She offers the best hugs. Her colleagues know her to be kind, generous and encouraging. She is the epitome of 'Once a Patriot, always a Patriot.'"

The award recipients were honored during a virtual ceremony on May 21.

Thank you, retirees!

Morton School District 709 honored 6 retirees this past spring. "I want to thank our retirees for their combined 168 years of service," said Superintendent Jeff Hill. "Thank you for your dedication and the contributions you have made over the years to make our district one of excellence."

Those calling it a career include:

- Barb Blanco - Developmental math teacher, librarian and fifth grade teacher at Brown and Lincoln schools, 26 years

► Therese Scifres - Kindergarten, third, fourth, fifth and sixth grade teacher at Brown and Jefferson schools, 30 years

► Nadine Worstell - Resource teacher, Jefferson School, 28 years

► Jill Parod - Attendance/Athletic/Records secretary, Morton Junior High School, 26 years

► Terry Schuck - Clerical aide and school secretary at Morton Junior High and Morton High School, 28 years

► Carol Williams - Clerical aide, Special Education Office, 30 years

Meet our new teachers

The following people will join the District 709 teaching staff this year.

Lettie Brown

Tabytha Buskirk - Special Education Resource
Alexia Ginzal - Sixth Grade

Grundy

Tammy Block - Special Education Resource, Grades 2-4
Sarah Williams - Special Education Resource, Grades 5-6

Jefferson

Faith Kruzick - Sixth Grade Math/Science
Bridget Quinn - K-2 Special Education Resource

Lincoln

Meghan Dalberg - Fifth Grade ELA
Danielle Estes - Sixth Grade
Abigail Hibbert - Second Grade

Morton Junior High

Katie Burkman - Seventh Grade Math

Mindy Hartzler - Foreign Language
Greg McAndrew - Instructional Special Education
Kathryn Vollhaber - Project Lead the Way

Morton High School

Ashley Beyer - Social Studies
Jodi Gordon - English
Travis Grant - Guidance Counselor
Craig Hatter - Assistant Band Director
Dakota Neisen - Business
Cody Pullium - Special Education

District 709

Alyson Baker - School Psychologist
Lindsay Franklin - Director of Student Support Services, Special Education
Amanda Rickenberg - Assistant Director of Student Support Services, Special Education



LETTIE BROWN ELEMENTARY

2550 N. Morton Ave. | Phone: 266-5309

School day

Grades K-6

8:10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Policies

Absence reporting:

284-1000. The absence line is open 24 hours a day. Please call prior to 9 a.m. on the day of the absence.

Parking/drop-off and pickup:

In the morning, parents should drop off students in the north parking lot, entering by the pool. There is a drop-off area near the building. After school, parents are asked to park in the north parking lot and come to the front doors to meet their children at 2:30 p.m. Please do

not park in front of the school on North Morton Avenue. It blocks the view of cars that are exiting the parking lot. This is a Village of Morton "no parking" area during the school day. If your child will be riding the bus home with another student or walking home with another student, the school must have a note from both families.

Supply lists: Lists are available at local retailers and on the district website, www.morton709.org. Click on the Lettie Brown icon for information about supply lists and other information about the school.



PTO:

The Lettie Brown PTO provided The Earth Dome assembly for students to learn more about geography and earth science.

Traditions:

Prior to starting the school day, Lettie Brown students and staff have announcements in the multipurpose room at 8:05 a.m. Lettie Brown has a student council for fourth, fifth, and sixth grades. We enjoy participating in the One District One Book program, in which all the elementary students and their families read a book at the same time! On Fridays, students and staff show their school spirit by wearing Lettie Brown blue and orange spirit wear.

Community Service:

Lettie Brown staff and students participate in community service projects throughout the year. Some of our service projects last year included singing carols at Apostolic Christian Restmor (student council), hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive, collecting toys for Toys for Tots, and raising funds for Children's Hospital of Illinois.

Mark your calendar

July 30 – Registration, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Aug. 6 – Class lists available after 4 p.m.

Aug. 11 – First day for students, 8:10-11:45 a.m.

Aug. 25 – Meet the Teacher, 6-7:30 p.m.

Aug. 31 – PTO meeting, 7 p.m.

Meet the 2020-2021 staff

Principal – Faith Waterfield

Secretary – Abbey Carpenter

Kindergarten – Kelley Bradford, Jenny Bushman

First – Brenna Stork, TBD

Second – Kristy Boecker, Erin Kellerstrass

Third – Kim Knox, Kelsey Osing

Fourth – Stephanie Bishop, Laura Zehr

Fifth – Katy Gingerich, Michael Finck

Sixth – Lexy Ginzel, Shane Wey-



FAITH WATERFIELD

– Sondra Dole

Library Aide – Teri Detloff

Rtl Aides – Heidi Robbins, Teri Pheasant, Anna Johnson

Instructional Aides – Tracey Vickerman, Brandi Edwards, Julie Schmidgall, Lisa Tillison, Judy Taylor, Valerie Mellen, Tammy

land

Literacy Coach –

Casie McDowell

P.E. – Julie Cassidy, Clint Baldwin

Music – Melissa Risner

Technology Aide

LaMirand, Jenny Johnson, Amanda Luttrell

Speech – Karli Beaty

CMA – Monica Pitzer

OTA – Keri Gillette

Interpreter – Sabrina Vior

Challenge teachers – Shane Weyland, Laura Zehr

Resource – Ashley King, Edie Russell, Tabytha Buskirk

Social Work – Laura Steiner

Psychologist – Alyson Baker

Clerical Aides – Brenda Grimm, Carol Main, Liz Cigelnik

Custodians – Tim Epkins, Dominique Mackey

WARD GRUNDY ELEMENTARY

1100 S. Fourth Ave. | Phone: 263-1421



School day

ECE

A.M. 8:20 to 10:55 a.m.

P.M. 12:05 to 2:40 p.m.

Grades K-6

8:20 a.m. to 2:40 p.m.

Policies

Absence reporting: 284-2000

The absence line is open 24 hours a day. Please call prior to 9 a.m. on the day of the absence.

Morning drop-off: Please use the driveway on the west side of the building. Students must exit from the passenger side of their vehicle. Please remain in your vehicle to keep the line moving. If you need to walk your child inside, please park in the District Office parking lot.

Afternoon pickup: Please park in the right lane of the driveway on the west side of the building or in the District Office parking lot. If you park in the driveway, please remain in your vehicle to keep the line moving.

Supply lists: Parents received a supply list at the end of the school year. Lists are also available on the Grundy website <http://grundy.morton709.org/home> and at local retailers.



Principal Saunders and students pose for a picture with food items donated during Grundy School's annual Thanksgiving Food Drive.

Mark your calendar

July 30 – Registration, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Aug. 6 – Class lists posted after 4 p.m.

Aug. 10 – Unpack Your Backpack (K and 1st), 6 p.m.

Aug. 11 – First day of school, 8:20 a.m. to 11:55 a.m.

Aug. 17 – Meet the Teacher, 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Aug. 24 – PTO meeting, 6:30 p.m., Grundy Library

Traditions:

► **Educational Excellence:** Grundy is ranked among the top 10% of all schools in the state of Illinois. Grundy has earned the Academic Excellence Award from the ISBE and the School Search Bright A+ Award. Grundy also is among the few public elementary schools in Illinois to have received a distinguished GreatSchools.org rating of 10 out of 10. In 2020, 17% of our sixth-graders earned the President's Award for Educational Excellence and 49% of our third- through sixth-graders earned the Principal's Honor Roll Award.

► **Community Service:** Grundy staff members and students participate in several community service projects including a Thanksgiving Food Drive, a Christmas Clothing Drive, the Gameball Run, and various other fundraisers for charitable organizations throughout the year.

► **Patriotism:** We teach students to understand the importance of patriotism through the study of American history including important people, places, events, holidays, documents, music and literature. We hold a Patriot Day Ceremony and a Veterans Day Ceremony to honor those who have served our country.

Meet the 2020-2021 staff:

Principal – Michael Saunders
Secretary – Kathy Shaw
Clerical Aides

– Jennifer Sadler, Marjorie Henderson, Leslie Householter

Kindergarten – Jeanette Grant, Janine Weyland

First – Emily Anderson, Baylie Craig

Second – Lora Kober, Ashlie Reinert

Third – Jessica Gunn, Jami Kaisershot

Fourth – Jacob Stone, Jon Wheat



MICHAEL SAUNDERS

Fifth – Julie Matlock, Jill Veskauf

Sixth – Becky Bazzetta, Holly Manthey

Building Technologist – Beth Shook

Challenge Teachers – Jacob Stone, Mindy Wendling

Crossing Guard – Jamie Stratton

Custodians – Pam Addams, Dwight Schuck

ECE Teachers – Ryan Gillhouse, Bridget Joos

ECE Aides – Tracy Fick, Heidi Hartter, Rachel Herrmann

Food Service – Theresa Hermacinski, Jan Huetter, Jennifer Landrith,

Grade Level Aides – Leslie Householter, Leanne Sommer, Danielle Tolly, TBD

Librarian – Angel Fisher

Music Teacher – Tim Beutel

Nurse – TBD

Occupational Therapy Assistant – Molly Sullentrop

P.E. Teachers – Clint Baldwin, Jayne Eisenmann

Resource Teachers – Tammy Block, Holly Toraason, Sarah Williams

Resource Aides – Olgajean Atteberry, Esther Hofstetter, Jessica Moeller, Michelle Paulson, Pam Riddle, Jen Wilson

RTI Aides – Amanda Derrick, Anita Stidman

Social Worker – Elizabeth Antonacci

Speech and Language Pathologists – Brooke Behm, Kelly Webb

PTO Officers

Grundy PTO officers for the 2020-21 school year:

President – Anna Bennett

Vice President – TBD

Co-Treasurers – Julie LeMasters, TBD

Secretary – Dan Beckler

JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY

220 E. Jefferson St. | Phone: 263-2650

School day

8:20 a.m. to 2:40 p.m.

Policies

Absence reporting: 284-3025.

The absence line is open 24 hours a day. Please call prior to 8:30 a.m. on the day of the absence.

Parking/drop-off and pickup:

Jefferson School is located in downtown Morton. Parents are asked to adhere to the following guidelines when dropping off and picking up students at school. Morning drop-off is behind the school on Adams, past the sign. Students should exit onto the sidewalk from the vehicle's passenger side. It is recommended that parents come down Clifton and turn left onto Adams. Please do not let students out of the car in the bus lane. Students should enter through the cafeteria door. Dismissal pickup is on the front side of Jefferson or on Third. K-1 students dismiss out of the doors on Third Street. Grades 2-6 dismiss out of the front of the building.

Parents may park across Jefferson Street in the parking lot and wait for their students. Students should cross Jefferson Street with the crossing guard.

Supply lists: Lists are available at local retailers and on the district website, www.morton709.org. Click on Schools: Jefferson: Virtual Backpack for information about supply lists.

PTO Officers



Jefferson School PTO officers 2020-2021: Top row (left to right): Sarah Fore, vice president; Lauren Johnson, secretary. Bottom row (left to right): Jennifer Donovan, president; Ashly Stephens, co-treasurer; Lisa Sanders, co-treasurer.

Mark your calendar

July 30 – Registration – 7 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Aug. 6 - Class lists available at 4 p.m.

Aug. 11 – First day of school, 8:20-11:55 a.m.

Aug. 18 – Meet the Teacher Night, 6-7:30 p.m.

Traditions

Jefferson School, established in 1928, is home of the Patriots. Jefferson encourages students to excel in their academics while being respectful, responsible and ready citizens. We sponsor many after-school clubs and activities for students. Jefferson holds family nights throughout the year at no cost to families. The PTO organizes and hosts the annual Carnival, Laugh Olympics and Read-a-thon. Read-a-thon has become a Jefferson tradition and serves as the main fundraiser for the school. Jefferson also supports The Children's Hospital Of Illinois and St. Jude. Jefferson is proud to be the home of the annual Morton Pumpkin Festival.



Meet the 2020-2021 staff



KATE WYMAN

Principal – Kate Wyman

Secretary – Grace Nessler

Kindergarten – Allison Bohnhoff, Emily Ropp

First – Ashley Parker, Melissa Ralston

Second – Heather

Hochstettler, Teresa Oaks

Third – Ashley Sarver, Margaret Shafer

Fourth – Steve Brenkman, Lindsey Pierz

Fifth – Emily Cline, Kristy Kieser

Sixth – Summer Geist, Faith Kruzick

P.E. – Dan Gashaw, Justin Tilford

Music – Heather Berger

Rtl Aides – Susan Irwin, Kelsey Phillis, Christy Powers

Rtl Coordinator – Kristen D'Alfonso

Literacy Coach – Randi Deverman

ELL Coordinator – Dayrim Sheehan

Challenge Teachers – Ashley Sarver, Sara Dirks

Title 1 Math – Sara Dirks

Rtl K-2 Math Aide – Elaine Campbell

Rtl 3-6 Math Aide – Julia Hischke

Resource – Kristin Muzzarelli (5-6), Christine Seneca (4-5), Bridget Quinn (K-3)

Speech – Chelsie Chaney

Technologist – LaVette Brown

Library – Amy Jones

Clerical Aides – Tammy Presley, Sarah Fore

Custodians – Dave Keen, Doug Hutchison

Psychologist – Alyson Baker

Social Worker – Kelly Hobson

Crossing Guard – Stacy Krantz

Resource Aides – Brittini Austin, Amy Glass, Nan Reynolds, Jeany Righi, Sarah Webb, TBD

Classroom Support Aides – Mandy Collins, Lindsey O'Donnell, Monica Taylor, Zoé Troxell, Keshia Wenninger

ELL Aide – Robin Sizemore, Allison Nix

** Personnel subject to change.



LINCOLN ELEMENTARY

100 S. Nebraska Ave. | Phone: 266-6989 | Fax: 284-4015

School day

8:20 a.m. to 2:40 p.m.

Policies

Absence Reporting:

284-4000. The absence line is open 24 hours a day. Please call prior to 9 a.m. on the day of the absence.

Parking/Drop-off and Pickup:

Please help follow these guidelines in the morning and after school to ensure the safety of all children.

► Students who arrive at school by car should be dropped off in the circle drive on the west side of the school. Please do not drop off your child on Nebraska Avenue, as Nebraska is very busy and it is not safe for students to cross traffic on Nebraska or in the circle drive.

► The north parking lot is for bus drop-off and pickup; please do not drop off or pick up children in this parking lot.

► Cars should pull up in the drive as far as possible to allow for multiple cars to drop off their children. After your child exits the passenger side, proceed out the drive to allow for more cars to pull through. It is important for children to exit the vehicle on the passenger side so they do not cross in front of other vehicles. Please help keep the traffic flow moving smoothly by having your child ready to exit the car once

it is stopped.

► Walkers and bicycle riders should walk on the sidewalk that goes up to the building. Do not cross the driveway to park a bicycle or to walk to the building.

Proof of Residency:

Families enrolling in the district for the first time (including all kindergarten students) need to provide proof of residency. In addition, families who may have moved during the previous school year or during the summer need to provide proof of residency for their new address. Proof of residency includes a copy of one document from the following group: property tax bill, mortgage paperwork, rental agreement and previous month's payment, or letter from landlord in lieu of lease. In addition, copies of two documents must be provided from this group: driver's license, voter registration card, public aid card, homeowner/renter insurance policy, gas/electric/water bill, library card, cable bill.

Supply Lists: School supply lists will be distributed at registration. The lists also are available at local retailers and can be found on the district website, www.morton709.org. Click on the Lincoln icon for information.



Each year, the Lincoln Elementary PTO coordinates fundraising activities for teachers and students, including the Lincoln Lions Walk-a-Thon for the past 10 years.

Meet the 2020-2021 staff:

Principal – Julie Albers

Assistant Principal – Michelle Peterson

Secretaries – Jen Bakirdan, Sueann Spinder

Clerical Aide-TBD

Nurse – Annette Kelso

Kindergarten – Jodi Hoelscher, Haley Veldhuizen, Jody Vernon

First – Kara Brooks, Madison Kumpf, Wendy Vastine

Second – Erika Bastian, Abbey Hibbeert, Abby Schwarting,

Third – Kelley Friedrich, Janelle Guetschow, Kayla Knoblauch

Fourth – Kaiti Brown, El Higus, Emily Turner

Fifth – Meghan Dalberg, Samantha McKee, Stuart Smith



JULIE ALBERS

Mark your calendar

(Dates and times are tentative and subject to change)

July 30 – 2020-2021 School Year Registration in Gym Vestibule, 7 a.m.-5 p.m.

Aug. 3 – PTO meeting, 7 p.m. in Gym Vestibule

Aug. 6 – Class lists are announced

Aug. 10 – “Unpack Your Backpack” for all K-6 students; 4-5 p.m.

Aug. 11 – First Day of School; 11:55 a.m. dismissal

Aug. 20 – School Picture Day

Aug. 24 – Meet the Teacher Night, 6-7:30 p.m.

Sixth – Jennifer Auxier, Jaime Farrell, Andrea Knepp, Danielle Estes

P.E. – Bob Becker, Clint Baldwin, Claire Schmitt

Music – Shane Rocke

Special Education – Erin Chan, Joy Gronewold, Megan Levitt, Diane Puetz, Sara Sheldon, Molly Stephens

Literacy Coach – Olivia Gabbert

Speech – Karli Beaty, Rachel Meier, Sherry Robinson

Social Worker – Molly Winkler

Psychologist – Melissa Kerber-Long

District Technologists – Keri Dodson, Diana Schauer, Rhonda Stalter

Building Technology Aide – Jennifer Wright

Library Aide – Denise Poshard

Custodians – Dwight Hamilton, Bob Harkless, Dante Williams

Crossing Guards – Rhonda Konieczny, Heidi Tovey

Food Service Staff – Lisa Horn, Ronae Fender, Mary Dralle

Traditions:

► On Fridays, students and staff are encouraged show their school spirit by wearing Lincoln Lions (green and white) or Morton (cherry and gray/red and white) colors. Families will have an opportunity during the school year to purchase Lincoln spirit wear.

► At the end of the year, one 6th-grade girl and one 6th-grade boy are recognized with the Ruth Myers Citizenship Award. This award has been given annually to outstanding students at Lincoln School since 1989. The names of the winners from 1989 until present are located on a plaque inside the front door of Lincoln School.

► Lincoln has a strong tradition of a supportive and active Parent Teacher Organization and families who are regularly involved in our school activities. Our PTO provides a tremendous amount of financial support for both teachers and student programs, and our classrooms benefit from the many volunteers who play a variety of roles at Lincoln. We encourage all parents and guardians to become involved with our PTO and to be active in our classrooms and school activities.

PTO Officers



The 2020-21 Lincoln Elementary PTO officers (left to right): Tammy Anderson, vice president; Rebecca Schelkopf, president; Maggie Klokenga, treasurer; Christy Getz, secretary.

MORTON JUNIOR HIGH

225 E. Jackson St. | Phone: 266-6522

School day

8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Policies

Absence reporting: Call 284-5000 and use the automated system. Absences can be reported 24 hours a day.

Morning arrival: Students who ride the bus to school will arrive between 7:15 a.m. and 7:50 a.m. All students are to enter the gym and find a seat in the bleachers until 7:50 a.m.

Orientation: Orientation for new students and incoming seventh-grade students will be from 2 to 3:30 p.m., Aug. 4-5. Green Team students will come on Aug. 4. White Team students will have orientation on Aug. 5.

Website: Parents and students can find a lot of information on the MJHS website, www.morton709.org. Click on the MJHS icon for detailed information and the daily announcements that students hear at school.

Cell phones: The MJHS cell phone policy states that students are allowed to bring cell phones to school. However, students must leave phones turned off and in their locker during the school day.

Identification: MJHS students are issued ID cards. IDs are needed during the day in the Library and

Media Center (LMC) to check out books and use the computer. IDs are also needed at lunch. ID pictures can be taken during registration, orientation, and during the first week of school.

Team concept: MJHS has a team teaching concept. Seventh-grade students are divided into two teams – Green and White. Eighth-grade students are divided into two teams – Red and Gray. Each team has a group of teachers, and the curriculum for each team is the same. The team teachers meet to plan and discuss upcoming tests, interdisciplinary units, and the progress of all students.

Lunch: Students at MJHS can purchase a lunch for \$2.80 a day, or they can buy a la carte items. Money can be added to your child's lunch account through e-Funds. Your child's charging habits can be tracked on My Lunch Account. Both of these websites can be accessed under the Parent tab on our school's website (www.morton709.org).

Dress code: MJHS does have a dress code and it can be found in the student handbook. Parents and students should become familiar with the dress code. In short, students are to be covered from shoulder to mid-thigh.



MJHS Daily Schedule

1st Period: 8-8:49 a.m.

2nd Period: 8:53-9:37 a.m.

3rd Period: 9:41-10:25 a.m.

4th Period: 10:29-11:13 a.m.

5th Period: 11:17 a.m.-12:01 p.m.

6th Period: 12:05-1:23 p.m.

7th Period: 1:27-2:11 p.m.

8th Period: 2:15-3 p.m.

Lunches will last 30 minutes during 5th, 6th and 7th periods.

LEFT: Clay, the Potter Guy proudly poses for a picture in front of the new MJHS entrance sign.

Meet the MJHS 2020-21 Staff:

Principal – Lee Hoffman

Assistant Principal – Chris Carter

Counselors – Beth Spaniol, Danielle VanMeenen

Secretaries – Holli Pfeifer, Valerie Smith, Erika Happach

English Language Arts – Rachel Shore, Cady Nosbisch, Megan Hasler, Jeanenne Plevka, Sarah Gorshe, Moriah Millburg

Math – Tom Hermann, Kirk Schick, Ashley Geil, Katie Burkman

P.E. – Caryn Goss, Dan Gashaw, Jesse Crawford



LEE HOFFMAN

Science – Brandon Parrott, Jordan Williams, Melissa Tortorella, Kelsey Ewing

Social Studies – Don Swearingen, Adam

Sheley, Alex Bishop, Jennifer Rabe

Project Lead the Way – Kathryn Vollhaber

CareerMaker – Josh Ames

Foreign language – Mindy Hartzler

Music – Tim Beutel, Pete Martin, Katrina Fitzpatrick

Art – Brittany DuPont

Resource/Collaboration – Gena

Jones, Leslie Gray, Greg McAndrew, Jaclyn Herr, Dylan Stork

Speech Therapist – Rachel Meier

Health – Toni Trilikis

Library – Jacqueline Akers

Social Work – Paul Thompson

Psychologist – Amanda May

Interventionist – Katie Miller

Study Hall – Clara Jo Odgen, Mark Moore, Andy Zuck

Custodians – Steve Culbertson, Elliot Spinder, TBD

Crossing Guard – Michael Rusch

Aides – Diane Conklin, Kim Serrurier, Ashley Turner, Wendy Wright, Daniel Williams, Jeff Arbisi, Tami Schaff, Kari Dyche

Stay Connected to MJHS

- ▶ **Mid-Term Reports** – Mailed home to students receiving grades of “F” at the mid-term.
- ▶ **Parent/Teacher Conferences** – Thursday (8 a.m.-7 p.m.) and Friday (8 a.m. - noon) Oct. 15 and 16 are the two days set aside as conference days. Parents have the opportunity to meet with teachers individually to discuss their child’s progress. To sign up, simply call the office beginning in September.
- ▶ **PowerSchool** – Parents can access their child’s grades, attendance and the school’s daily announcements. Parents also can sign up to receive email updates of grades, attendance and/or announcements (<https://powerschool.morton709.org/public>).
- ▶ **Report Cards** – Report cards will be emailed to parents.
- ▶ **Team Meetings** – If parents would like to meet with the teachers, they are welcome to attend a team meeting. To set an appointment, contact the team leader. Meeting times: Green 10:30-11:10 a.m.; White 8-8:40 a.m.; Gray 9:45-10:25 a.m.; Red 8:55-9:35 a.m.
- ▶ **Facebook and Twitter**– Follow what is going on at MJHS (www.twitter.com/MJHSJrPtrs and www.facebook.com/MortonJuniorHighSchool).
- ▶ **Sports Notification** – By signing up and providing an email and/or phone number, parents receive email notification when an event is canceled or changed (il.8to18.com/mortonjhs/).
- ▶ **Help-a-thon** – MJHS will conduct a Help-a-thon fundraiser again this year. Students will seek donations to sponsor their involvement in community service projects. The proceeds will benefit MJHS and selected charities.

Red and White PTO

The MJHS Red and White PTO does many things for the students and staff. Some of the activities Red and White coordinate or assist with are:

Help-a-thon fundraiser – The main fundraiser at MJHS. Students complete a service project in the community.

Teacher Appreciation – Provide food for staff on the first Monday of the month.

Potter Pride Night and Spaghetti

Supper – This event is during basketball season and is a fun event for students, staff, and families. All music groups perform as well as all four basketball teams, and the spirit squad (cheer and dance).

If you are interested in either chairing an activity or simply helping out, please sign up at registration or contact the office. All parents are encouraged to consider an opportunity to get involved with MJHS. Monthly meetings are typically held on the third Thursday evening of the month. The new calendar will be available at registration.

MJHS Red & White PTO Board 2020-2021:

Beth Shook - President
Angel Fisher - Vice President
Amy Robinson - Treasurer
Tracy Heer - Secretary
Kristie Boeker - Activities Chair

Traditions

MJHS has a tradition of hosting Grandparents’ Day each spring. The Red and White Club hosts the event with assistance from the Student Council. Grandparents attend two class periods and have lunch or breakfast with their grandchildren. More than 350 grandparents attended the event last year.

Mark your calendar

July 24 – MJHS office opens

July 30 – Registration, 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Aug. 4-5 – 7th-Grade and New Student Step Up Days (orientation), 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Aug. 5-6 – 7th-Grade and New Student Parent Orientation, 6 to 7 p.m.

Aug. 11 – First day of school, 8 to 11 a.m.

Aug. 13 – Meet the Teacher Night, 6 to 8 p.m.

Junior High Supply List

Pens (blue/black and red)
 Pencils and pouch
 Colored pencils
 Highlighters
 Loose leaf paper
 Protractor
 Box of tissues

5 pocket folders
 3 spiral notebooks
 Index cards (3x5)
 3-ring zippered binder
 Earbuds for iPad
 TI-NSpire CX II graphing calculator for 8th grade students
 Morton Public Library Card (not

required but available at no cost to all Morton students)
Teachers may have additional supply expectations depending on the Team.
Physical Education uniform: Shirt (\$10), shorts (\$12) (available on registration day or during class from PE teacher), and athletic shoes

Athletic Information:

When students enter Morton Junior High School, they have the opportunity to try out for athletic teams. They also can show their support for MJHS by joining the Red Storm Club. Students can pay a fee to join Red Storm, and in return they receive a t-shirt and a free bag of popcorn at all home events.

Athletic passes: MJHS offers athletic

passes for students and for families. These passes are valid for all home indoor events. These events include boys and girls basketball, volleyball and wrestling. Passes are available at registration and at the MJHS office. Passes are \$8 for students, \$10 for adults and \$30 for a family. Passes are valid for regular season events only. Regional and sectional events hosted at MJHS are required to charge an admission fee. Admission fees

to regular season MJHS athletic events are \$1 for students and \$2 for adults. Seniors 60 and older are admitted for free.

Sports participation: Athletes must be registered online. Visit Morton Junior High’s athletic website, il.8to18.com/mortonjhs, to complete the online registration process. The only document students need to turn into the office is the sports physical. Athletes will not be allowed to try out, practice or participate

without registering and turning in their physical.

Website: The athletic website is especially helpful with MJHS sporting events because last-minute changes can be posted immediately. Practice schedules, game schedules, and other information can be found at <http://il.8to18.com/mortonjhs/>. For questions regarding athletics at MJHS, contact Mr. Carter at 284-5060, or chris.carter@mcusd709.org.

"The Class of 2020 will truly go down in the history books! Best wishes in your future endeavors and keep in touch!" — Morton High School Principal **Deidre Ripka**

Honoring Morton High School Class of 2020

"We are extraordinarily proud of these young men and women, who have faced some mighty unique challenges over the course of their high school careers. Of course, life is full of challenges, and as such we have every confidence that this generation of Morton's best and brightest will continue to make us proud as they rise to them." — Morton Superintendent **Dr. Jeffrey Hill**



ALYSSA
LAKTASSAMUEL
LANGETORI
LARRABEEDYLAN
LASOTALILY
LAUGHLINBRAEDON
LAWRENCESHELBY
LEEAMANDA
LICHTENSTEINMARK
LINDNERLEXI
LOUDERMILKMICHAEL
LOWRANCEANDREW
LYNCHJAEDYN
LYONSELLY
MAGNUSONMADISON
MAKUTAJASON
MARTINDAVID
MARTINEZBRADY
MARVINKIRUNA
MATTSONKALLIE
MCMILLANHANNAH
MEEKSMICHAEL
MENNENGACAMRON
MERITTSTEVEN
MICHELZACHARY
MIHELICJOSHUA
MILBYLAUREN
MILLERCHLOE
MISHLER-TRERICEDAVID
MONTERROSOJACKSON
NEELEYANTHONY
NEWTONMICHAEL
NEWTONPHOEBE
OLDENGRACE
OSBORNEANDREW
OSINGTRISTAN
PARKERCHLOE
PATTERSONJESSICA
PATTERSONOLIVIA
PATTONEMILY
PETERSJACQUELINE
PFEIFERANDREW
PHILLIPSRAEVYN
PHILLIPSCONNOR
POLKADAM
POLLARDMACY
POSTLEWAITJESSICA
PRAYSAGE
RAEUBERMAKAYLA
RANKINSNICHOLAS
REESERKATE
REETERAUSTIN
REEVESCLAYTON
REITZOLIVIA
REMMERTRILEY
RICHARDSKAYCI
RIDDLEALLISON
RIMMEYKELSEY
ROBERTSONCOLLIN
ROCHEALEXANDER
ROCHFORD



TAYLOR ROGERS



PAIGE RUGAARD



CATHERINE SADLER



JAVIER SALAZAR



ASHLEY SAUDER



TORI SAUDER



RACHEL SAUNDERS



JAKE SCARFE



KELLY SCHAFFNIT



ANDREW SCHAUB



EVAN SCHICK



SARA SCHMIDGALL



BENAIHA SCHOENBEIN



KAYLIE SCHROCK



NICHOLAS SCIME



CLAIRE SELVEY



ELLIANA SHORT



ELLIE SINCLAIR



HANNAH SMITH



GABRIEL SOZA



JOSHUA STARK



OLIVER STEFFEN



ABIGAIL STEIDER



COLE STEVENS



HALEY STRATTON



ALEX TANNER



ELAINA TEATER



MICHAEL THORSON



AARON TRESEKNITTER



ZOE TROXELL



GREGORY TULEY



DREW TUTOR



LUKE URBAN



CONNOR VICARY



ISAAC VIRGIL



EMMA WALLAR



CAMERON WALLER



JARED WALTERS



MIRIAM WALTERS



KEVIN WANG



CLARA WATTS



ALEXANDER WEBER



KEATON WEBER



MARLAINA WEEKS



HUNTER WEER



EVAN WILLIAMS



BENJAMIN WINKLER



LAUREN WONG



ALEXIS WOODS



MAGGIE WUTHRICH



JOSEPH YODER



AUSTIN ZIMMERMAN-BROWN

MHS Highest Honors:

These students received the Highest Honor Student distinction for the Morton High School Class of 2020.

Morgan Behnke
Kristen Canopy
Alexandra Cigelnik
Adam Darlington
Kyle Davis
Kyra Killion
Sara Lagacy
Samuel Lange
Chloe Mishler-Terice
Tristan Parker
Kayci Riddle
Kelly Schaffnit
Evan Schick
Keaton Weber

MHS Class of 2020 students serving in the Armed Forces

Elodie Baumgartner (Air National Guard)
Noah Degreef (Coast Guard)
Trent Degreef (Coast Guard)
Austin Getz (Army)
Connor Klopfenstein (Navy-Special Warfare)
Braedon Lawrence (Navy)
Malachi MacLean (Army)
Ashla McCammon (Air Force)
Andrew Schaub (Air National Guard)
Isaac Virgil (Air Force)
Alexander Weber (Air Force ROTC at Purdue University)
Joseph Yoder (Army ROTC at Western Illinois University)



MORTON HIGH SCHOOL

350 N. Illinois Ave. | Phone: 266-7182

Facebook: Morton High School:
@MortonHighSchoolPotters

Facebook: Morton Athletics:
@PotterPride

Twitter: Morton Athletics:
@Potter_Pride709

Facebook: Morton School Counseling Office:
@MortonHighSchoolCounseling

Twitter: Morton High School Counseling/Student
Services: @MHSStudentServe

Our Vision

Morton High School students are independent citizens and critical thinkers of strong character who are prepared to succeed in society through rigorous curriculum and extra-curricular opportunities.

Our Mission

The Mission of Morton High School is to prepare all students for life as productive citizens. This necessitates the MHS Community to be dedicated to maintaining high standards, offering relevant courses, providing a rigorous and responsive curriculum, being technologically progressive, providing opportunities for extracurricular activities, and meeting the needs of students.

School day

8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Daily schedule

1st hour - 8-8:46 a.m.
2nd hour - 8:51-9:37 a.m.
3rd hour - 9:42-10:28 a.m.
4th hour - 10:33-11:19 a.m.
5th hour*- 11:24 a.m.-12:45 p.m.
6th hour - 12:50-1:36 p.m.
7th hour - 1:41-2:27 p.m.
Potter Hour - 2:32-3 p.m.
Teacher Assistance - 3-3:40 p.m.
**Potter Hour is a time for students and teachers to connect, build trust and rapport, create community within our school, provide academic and social/emotional interventions, and improve culture. Freshmen through juniors will be assigned a Potter Hour and will stay with that group for their entire high school career. Seniors will have an early dismissal.*

**Juniors and seniors have open campus for lunch.*

Counseling office: 263-8585. Counselors will be in the office starting July 27. Office hours are 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. through

Mark your calendar

July 30 - Registration 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Aug. 6 - Freshmen/New student orientation

Aug. 7 - iPad distribution for sophomores through seniors, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Aug. 11 - First day of school, 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Aug. 20 - Meet the Teacher Night, 6:30 p.m., virtual event

Aug. 20 - Potter Post-Secondary Planning Sessions, 8:15-9 p.m., virtual event

• Opportunity for 10th through 12th

Aug. 7. Beginning Aug. 10, the counselors will be available from 7:50 a.m. to 3:40 p.m. daily. Appointments should be scheduled in advance.

Textbooks: Textbooks will be distributed during the first week of school. Teachers will make arrangements during each class. Textbooks will NOT be distributed to individual students before Aug. 11.

iPad Checkout: Information will be emailed by late July.

Policies

Handbook: Parents and students can view the student handbook online at www.morton709.org. Click on the MHS icon on the top right. The handbook is under the "About" tab. The policies listed below are an overview and more detailed information is listed in the handbook.

Absence: 263-0611. All absences, including appointments, should be called into the attendance secretary, Courtney Hess. Notes from parents will not be accepted. Parents can leave messages for Mrs. Hess 24 hours a day. Attendance is taken at MHS each class period during the day. If students are

grade families to learn more about post-secondary options and planning toward admissions to these institutions.

• Session topics include Financial Aid FAFSA filing, 2-year college pathway, 4-year college pathway, military planning, and trade school preparation.

• Registration to attend and select a session will begin Aug. 1 via email. Contact Counseling with questions.

Sep. 25 - Homecoming Game vs. Washington

Sep. 26 - Homecoming Dance, 7:30-10:30 p.m., East Gym

leaving MHS during the school day for any reason, they must sign out in Student Services. They also need to go to Student Services to sign in when arriving any time after 8:05 a.m.

Parking, drop-off, and pickup: Students that do not drive can be dropped off at the canopy doors off Jackson Street in the student parking lot or the Main Office doors on Illinois Avenue. School buses also use the canopy entrance.

Parking passes: Parking spaces at MHS are assigned and the passes are available at registration or will be mailed to your home before school starts. Students apply and pay for a parking spot in the spring. Information about the application and fee will be announced at school and will also be on the MHS website in the spring. New students may apply for a parking pass at registration or through the Student Services office starting July 27.

Lunch: There are three lunch periods at MHS that take place during fifth hour. Some courtyard seating is available for students so they can eat outside during warmer

Meet the 2020-2021 Staff

Principal - Deidre Ripka

Principal's Secretary - Lisa Schafer

Athletic Director - Scott Jones

Athletic Secretary - Samantha Frey

Assistant Principals - Jamie Adolphson and Matt Oyer

Attendance Secretary - Courtney Hess

Student Services Secretary - Nicole Friend

Receptionist - Maranda Joos
Counseling - Chase Bushman, Travis Grant, Christina Kienitz, Taylor King, Holly Riggins

Counseling Secretary/Registrar - Sara Hornsby

Social Worker - Peter Klinkner
Speech Therapist - Rachel Meier

Psychologist - Katharine Zwolinski

Resource Officer - Mark Ehlke
Instructional Coach - Courtney Eddleman

Language Arts - Carol Bally,



DEIDRE RIPKA

ics - Tim Bradford, Kelsey Clarkson, Rose Durand, Sarah Knapp, Kristin Lucas, Joi Monferdini, Josh Smith, Joel Zehr, Joe Zeller
Science - Kate Fritts, Ben Ginzel, Mary Holmgren, Clark Ingwersen, Shannon McClure, Jacob Tierney, Emily Wegner, Nathan Young

Social Studies - Ashley Beyer, Tory Delong, Brian Deters, Matt Franks, Robert Hornsby, Jaclyn Smith

Modern Language - Kim Johnson, Mackenzie Love, Jay Mahannah, Rafael Rodriguez, Vonda Zehr, Ben Zoss

Business - Erin Kemp, Eric Myers, Dakota Neisen

Library Media Specialist - Stacy Osborne

Technology Education and

Tony Felecia, Jodi Gordon, Sarah Isacksen, Krista Kolls, Ryan Lindley, Lauralee Moss, Helen Plevka

Mathemat-

Engineering - Tiffany Beard, Christopher Garner, Chad McFarland

Family and Consumer Science - Karen Gardner, Amy Kelly, Kait Lienhop

Art - Amy Woods

Band - Tim Gray, Craig Hatter

Orchestra - Dave Getz, Pete Martin

Vocal Music - Heather Berger

Physical Education/Health - Tim Briller, Justin Dehm, Darren Hurst, Jessica Kerby, Josh Prichard

Driver's Education - Edward Henderson, Marshall Tucker

Special Education - Dawn Block, Denise Fountain, Jamie King, Alison Eckart, Kara Powers, Cody Pullium, Christopher Roberts, Michelle Towner, Lisa Schock, Jennifer Wheat

MPTV - Brooke Janes

Technology Specialist - Becky Christianson

Custodians - Bobby Barker, Mary Blair, Rodney Duneheew, Daniel Epkins, Allen Fort, Brandon Jacob, Deb Lane, Millicent Sanders

weather. Additional seating is available in the Bertha Frank lobby. Juniors and seniors may leave campus for lunch but must scan their student ID at the canopy doors as they leave and when they return.

Athletic passes

MHS offers athletic passes that are available for purchase with Ms. Frey in the Athletic Office or at the Fall/Winter Cherry & Gray nights. Admission prices are as follows: adults \$4; students \$2; senior citizens free. Season tickets are \$30 per adult and \$15 per student in grades K-12. For more information about

passes, please contact Ms. Frey at MHS, 266-7182.

Registration info

Registration information including a fee statement was emailed to MHS families in early July. If you have questions, please feel free to call the MHS office at 266-7182. Fee waiver/free and reduced lunch applications are available upon request from the main office.

Parent Organization

Information regarding PTO can be found on the District 709 website and will be available at registration. PTO sponsors Teacher Appreciation Week,

provides breakfast to students taking college and career testing, and provides funds to teachers for additional classroom items. These are just a few of the ways PTO supports education at MHS. PTO has one fundraiser, Potter Card sales. Morton Potter Cards offer discounts at local merchants and are sold for \$10 each. Potter Cards are always available at the MHS office. PTO usually meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 1 p.m. at the high school. Check the District 709 website for specific meeting times and dates.



MORTON ACADEMY

260 E. Queenwood St. | Phone: 284-8033

The mission of Morton Academy is to provide an authentic and varied school curriculum intentionally designed to meet the social, emotional and academic needs of students from diverse backgrounds. Morton Academy serves the majority of students who reside at Guardian Angel Home, an all-male residential facility operated by the Center for Youth and Family Solutions, through a contract with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. Guardian Angel Home currently serves boys ages 6-16 and can serve young men up to the age of 18.

Morton Academy has two classrooms, as well as a flexible learning space within the gymnasium. There are three certified special education teachers and two instructional aides. A structured schedule allows the students to switch teachers for different subject areas, providing them with an opportunity to work with more than one teacher and allowing students to experience different routines/expectations along with transitioning from one room to another. Students stay with their same-age peers for the entire school day.

The success of the programming at Morton Academy can be attributed to the dedication of the teaching staff, related service staff and support staff in Morton 709, as well as the collaborative and supportive partnership with Guardian Angel Home. This unique opportunity for two organizations to work closely together is a testament to the power of collaboration and positive school outcomes for children.

Staff at Morton Academy approach teaching and learning through a trauma-informed lens and recognize the power of positive relationships in supporting students in the school environment. Our school climate is sensitive to the diverse needs and backgrounds of students and places value in the great abilities of children while supporting them to gain skills in areas of need as well.

At Morton Academy, we strive to provide our students with the same opportunities as all students in the Morton School District. Support from district administration, our Board of Education, community

Meet the 2020-21 staff

Principal - Amanda Rickenberg

Teachers - Rhonda Howard, Debrah Moore, Shay Nelson

P.E. - Bob Becker

Music - Melissa Risner

Social Worker - Paul Thompson

School Psychologist - Katie Zwolinski

Speech/Language Pathologist - Sherry Robinson

Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant - Amanda Bunting

Instructional Aides - Josh Maher, Krista Naab



AMANDA
RICKENBERG

businesses, and organizations have been very instrumental in achieving this goal.

Thank you for your partnership!

In the 2019-2020 school year, Morton Academy was able to grow our ongoing community partnerships from four to seven organizations/businesses in our community, including:

1. Apostolic Christian Restmor Nursing Home: We were grateful to partner with Restmor for the first time this year, allowing Ms. Moore to take a small group of our older students to Restmor one time per month to engage in service learning. Students were able to assist with calling BINGO as well as to assist residents playing. This was an incredible opportunity for intergenerational learning.

2. Art with Ericka Ziegenbein: Former owner of Soulshine Studio in Pekin, Ms. Ericka provides weekly art lessons to our students. She utilizes many different art styles to present engaging lessons for our students. Students have used models of old-time print stamping with instruction about the use and origins of printmaking, the creation of individualized African masks and the history behind the purpose and use of masks, cartooning, string art, clay and other models of art instruction.

3. The Cookery: Chef Amanda Pyle from The Cookery in Morton has been a loyal partner with Morton Academy. With

dedication, patience and passion, she teaches practical skills that students can put to work within their residence during their kitchen rotation and throughout life. Students were able to create delicious recipes through her guidance. And the best part, they got to eat what they made! This partnership will be starting its fourth year. The opportunities she provides our students are invaluable.

4. Midwest Food Bank: Midwest Food Bank is always open to having Morton Academy students volunteer their time and assist with packing boxes and any other tasks the food bank needs from them. This teaches students the importance of being involved in their community and giving back in meaningful ways.

5. Morton Community Foundation: MCF was gracious in extending an invitation to our students to be able to access the Morton Pumpkin Festival on Special Kids Day. Additionally, MCF provided grant funding for a new swing set for Guardian Angel Home in 2019. Our students benefit from the swing daily. They did not have one prior to MCF providing this grant.

6. Morton Public Library: Morton Academy travels weekly to the Morton Public Library to access a wide variety of materials for leisure reading. We have many avid readers who look forward to our trip to the library to check out a variety of books and Play-a-ways.

7. Potter Alley: Prior to the closure of schools in the spring, Morton Academy had started attending weekly PE at Potter Alley for Friday bowling. In addition to a six-week PE unit, Potter Alley has also hosted behavior incentive trips for students demonstrating exemplary behavior.

These partnerships allowed students at Morton Academy an opportunity to be part of our community organizations and businesses, build relationships, and work collaboratively with each other. We could not thank our partners enough for the time and energy they have given to our program at Morton Academy.

If you have interest in becoming a Community Partner, please reach out to Principal Amanda Rickenberg at amanda.rickenberg@mcusd709.org.

Morton Potter Television – MPTV

MPTV provides programs that highlight Morton School District meetings, musical and award programs, athletic contests, graduation and more. The MPTV crew is comprised of school district employees and community volunteers. Programs are available on local cable stations, Comcast Channel 20 and i3 Broadband Channel 21. Programs are also available live and on demand through our online streaming NFHS site at <http://www.nfhsnetwork.com/schools/morton-high-school-morton-morton-il>



MPTV Staff:

MPTV Coordinator – Brooke Janes

Videographer and Program Scheduler – Becky Christianson

Videographers – Robyn Batsell, Philip Belcke, Rachel Henderson, Dawn Rademaker, Kobe Tomblin

Get Connected:

- Follow us on Twitter: @MortonPotterTV
- Visit us at www.morton709.org/mptv for the broadcasting schedule and more.

MPTV Needs Volunteers

MPTV is always looking for volunteers. No experience is necessary. This is an excellent opportunity for high school and college students to build their resumes and gain experience behind the camera. MPTV also welcomes parents, grandparents and others. If interested, please email us at MPTV@mcusd709.org.

NFHS Subscription

A subscription must be purchased to watch live sporting events. Events such as school board meetings and music programs are available to stream without a subscription.

An annual pass is \$69.99. A one-month subscription is \$10.99.

District 709 Policies

Morton District 709 has established School Board policies and administrative procedures that keep the District in compliance with federal and state laws. You can access all school district policies from our website — www.morton709.org — by clicking on the Board of Education tab.



Visit www.morton709.org
for more information.

Health and Medical Information

Information about dental and eye exams, physicals and immunizations is available at each building. Morton School District 709 also has a policy regarding administering medication during school hours and school-related activities. This policy can be found on the district website — www.morton709.org — by selecting Policies under the Board of Education tab. Morton District 709 also employs medical office personnel at all schools. They are responsible for student medical records and for the care of students with both minor and severe health concerns.

EYE AND DENTAL

Students entering kindergarten must have proof of an eye exam. Students entering kindergarten, second and sixth grades must have proof of a dental exam.

IMMUNIZATIONS

These are the immunization requirements for the 2020-21 school year:

Preschool: physical exam, 3 polio vaccines, 3 Hepatitis B vaccines, TB screening, lead screening, 4 DTaP vaccines, 1 HIB vaccine (minimum), 1 MMR vaccine, 1 chicken pox vaccine or proof of the disease.

Kindergarten: physical exam, eye exam, dental exam, 4 or more polio vaccines, 4 or more DTaP vaccines, 2 MMR vaccines, 2 chicken pox vaccines or proof of the disease, lead screening.

Second and Sixth Grades: vaccines listed above and dental exam.

Sixth and 10th Grade: vaccines listed above and 1 meningococcal vaccine on or after 11th birthday.

Sixth through 12th Grades: vaccines listed above, 3 hepatitis B vaccines (if not already received), and 1 Tdap vaccine.

Sixth and Ninth Grade: vaccines listed above, physical exam and dental exam.

12th Grade: vaccines listed above

and meningococcal vaccine on or after 16th birthday.

All requirements: To view a complete list of immunization requirements for all grade levels, go to www.morton709.org and select Medical Information under the Parent Tab.

Clinics: Tazewell County Health Department hosts immunization clinics. Go to www.tazewellhealth.org to view the schedule.

SCHOOL PHYSICALS

School physicals are required for students entering the early childhood program, kindergarten, sixth and ninth grades. The school physical form for ninth-grade students also qualifies as the athletic physical if that student is participating in an extracurricular activity at MHS. Local physicians have school physical forms and they are available at the schools.

MORTON JUNIOR HIGH

Students that plan to participate in extracurricular activities need to register online by visiting the MJHS website, select the Activities and Athletic Homepage under the Athletics tab, and follow the registration tab to begin the process. Students must have an athletic physical before they will be allowed to participate. It is important to get an athletic physical during the summer if your child plans to participate in a fall sport. The sports

physical form can be found on the athletic homepage and during the registration process.

MORTON HIGH SCHOOL

Students participating in athletics

— These students need to register online by visiting the MHS website, select the Activities and Athletic Homepage under the Athletics tab, and follow the registration tab to begin the process. Students interested in participating in an athletic program must have an athletic physical before they will be allowed to try out or participate in athletics at MHS. Parents are encouraged to schedule these physical exams during the summer. The following forms also will need to be completed and filed at MHS — athletic physical, concussion information, insurance waiver, drug/alcohol testing and consent to treat. These forms are available during the online registration as mentioned above and on the MHS website under the Athletics tab. Athletic Registration will be available July 1, 2020.

***Note: By law, students who are not in compliance with physical and immunization requirements by Oct. 15 must be excluded from school until the school has evidence that both requirements are completed and the student is in compliance.

Morton District 709 Staff

District Office – 263-2581

Administration

Superintendent – Jeffrey Hill, Ed.D.

Assistant Superintendent – Craig Smock, Ed.D.

Director of Curriculum and Technology – Troy Teater, Ed.D.

Office Staff

District Office Secretary – Carolu Kizer

Secretary to the Superintendent – Emily Stubbs

Accountant – Adam Jacob

Accounts Payable Clerk – Amy Zimmerman

Business/Human Resources Specialist – Clay Payne

Chief Financial Officer – Lisa Kowalski

District Data Aide – Molly Smith

District Technologists – Anthony Crum, Keri Dodson, Patty Munson, Diana Schauer

Human Resources Coordinator – Brenda Heppard

MPTV Coordinator – Brooke Janes

Technology Integration Specialists – Lauri VanDerVoorn, Don Sturm

Technology Manager – Rhonda Statler

Videographers (MPTV) – Becky Christianson, Dawn Rademaker

Transportation – 284-5091

Director of Transportation – Julie Tharp

Office Bus Drivers – William Akers II, Jeri Baldovin, Steven Castleman, Nancy Domnick, Raymond Finck, Christina Garcia, Pamela Glascock, Eric Glaser, Theresa Goodspeed, Joe Grant, Kandis Grant, Linda Kerby, Chad McFarland, John Pfeifer, Edmund Railey, Christine Rankin, Karen Remmert, Ruth Smith, Michelle Spicer, Nancy Stephens, Tom Tucker, Donette Waller, Nancy Weigle, Danny Wolf.

Bus Aides – Amanda Bray, Heather Brooks, Stacy Grawe, Elizabeth Miltenberger, Sara Savicz, Kathie Schoon, Dan Sutter, Deb Warner, Julie Zoss

Special Education

Director of Student Support Services – Lindsay Franklin

Special Education Coordinator – Amanda Rickenberg

Secretary – Marcia Wallace

Clerical Aides – Dawn Cole

Social Workers – Elizabeth Antonacci, Kelly Hobson, Peter Klinkner, Laura Steiner, Paul Thompson, Molly Winkler
School Psychologists – Dr. Dan Ebbert, Melissa Kerber-Long, Amanda May, Katharine Zwolinski

Districtwide Staff

ELL Coordinator – Dayrim Sheehan

Rtl Coordinator (K-6) – Kristen D'Alfonso

Custodial/Maintenance

Director of Operations – Rodney Schuck

District Office Custodian – Sandra Bowen

District Custodial Supervisor – Leonard Shumaker

K-8 Grounds – Jason Winkel and Allen Fort

K-8 Maintenance Supervisor – Scott Schoon

K-8 Maintenance – Ryan Widby

Asbestos Management Plan

District 709 has submitted its management plan, prepared pursuant to the requirements of the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act for school buildings. Copies of the management plan are available at the District 709 administrative office and at each school. These plans are available for inspection by appointment during normal business hours: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. To make arrangements, please contact Superintendent Dr. Jeffrey Hill at 263-2581.

District 709 Board of Education

President: Dr. Shad Beaty

First Elected: 2015; Term Expires: 2023
shad.beaty@mcusd709.org

Vice President: Jeff Schmidgall

First Elected: 2015; Term Expires: 2023
jeffrey.schmidgall@mcusd709.org

Secretary: Kevin Austin

First Elected: 2017; Term Expires: 2021
kevin.austin@mcusd709.org

Tim Braker

First Elected: 2019; Term Expires: 2023
tim.braker@mcusd709.org

Dr. David Cross

First Elected: 2017; Term Expires: 2021
david.cross@mcusd709.org

Tom Neeley

First Elected: 1989; Term Expires: 2021
thomas.neeley@mcusd709.org

Bart Rinkenberger

First Elected: 2017; Term Expires: 2021
bart.rinkenberger@mcusd709.org

Contacting the board

Stakeholders in District 709 are encouraged to contact school board members at any time with questions, comments and concerns. Board members can be contacted by email through their individual email addresses listed above or as a group at **board@mcusd709.org**.

More information

More information about the Board of Education is available on our website at **www.morton709.org**. Board meetings are streamed live on the Internet and posted on Comcast Channel 20 and iTV3 Channel 21. Click on the MPTV logo on our website for a broadcast schedule and go to the online streaming feature.



Photo Credit: Jacque Austin

District 709 Board of Education: Front row, left to right; Jeff Schmidgall, Dr. David Cross, Tom Neeley. Back row, left to right; Bart Rinkenberger, Tim Braker, Dr. Shad Beaty, and Kevin Austin.

Mission

The mission of the Morton District 709 Board of Education is to be a provider of and an advocate for the education of all children.

Goals

Achievement: In order to ensure all students have opportunities to achieve their potential, our academic programs will maintain the highest standards and expectations for learning.

Communication: We provide open and meaningful two-way communication with all members of our community.

Climate: We maintain a cohesive organizational system that facilitates and fosters a productive and trusting climate with a highly qualified staff.

Facilities: We provide facilities conducive to student learning and growth, based on evolving needs, with the support of the community.

Finance: We support student learning — which includes achievement, climate, facilities and communication — in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

Upcoming meetings

The Board of Education meetings are at the District Office, 1050 S. Fourth Ave. The school board is scheduled to meet on the following dates:

2020

Aug. 4 – 7:30 p.m.
Aug. 18 – 6:30 p.m.
Sep. 1 – 6:30 p.m.
Sep. 22 – 7:15 p.m.
Oct. 6 – 6:30 p.m.
Oct. 20 – 7:15 p.m.
Nov. 3 – 6:30 p.m.
Nov. 17 – 7:15 p.m.
Dec. 8 – 6:30 p.m.

2021

Jan. 12 – 6:30 p.m.

Jan. 19 – 7:15 p.m.
Feb. 2 – 6:30 p.m.
Feb. 16 – 7:15 p.m.
Mar. 2 – 6:30 p.m.
Mar. 16 – 7:15 p.m.
Apr. 13 – 6:30 p.m.
Apr. 20 – 7:15 p.m.
May 4 – 6:30 p.m.
May 18 – 6:30 p.m.
Jun. 1 – 6:30 p.m.
Jul. 6 – 6:30 p.m.

INFORMATION CENTER

District calendar

August 10 No school: Teacher Institute Day 11 First day of attendance for students, half day a.m.	school 15 No school: P/T Conferences 16 No school: P/T Conferences	no school p.m. 21-31 Christmas Vacation, no school	school	31 Memorial Day, no school
September 7 Labor Day, no school 18 Early dismissal day	November 3 Election Day, no school 11 Veterans Day, no school 25-27 Thanksgiving Vacation, no school	January 2021 1-3 Christmas Vacation continues 4 School resumes, early dismissal day 18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day, no school	March 3 Early dismissal day 5 Inservice half day a.m., no school p.m. 29-31 Spring Break, no school	June 4 Last day for students, no school p.m. 7 Last day for teachers
October 7 Early dismissal day 9 Inservice half day a.m., no school p.m. 12 Columbus Day, no	December 2 Early dismissal day 18 Inservice half day a.m.,	February 3 Early dismissal day 15 Presidents Day, no	April 1-5 Easter Break continues, no school 7 Early dismissal day	<i>Note: In the event that no emergency days are used, May 20 would be the last student attendance day and May 21 a Teacher Institute Day.</i>
			May 5 Early dismissal day	

Regular & Special Schedules

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL, AUG. 11
The first day of school for students is Tuesday, Aug. 11. A special schedule applies that day only:

Grundy	
Grades K-6	8:20 - 11:55 a.m.
A.M. Early Childhood	8:30-9:30 a.m.
P.M. Early Childhood	10:30-11:30 a.m.
Lettie Brown	8:10 - 11:45 a.m.
Jefferson and Lincoln	8:20 - 11:55 a.m.
Morton Junior High	8 -11 a.m.
Morton High	8 -11 a.m.

Parents of children in Early Childhood classes will accompany their student and stay with them while they are in attendance on the first day.

REGULAR SCHEDULE

The daily District 709 school schedule is as follows:

Grundy	
Grades K-6	8:20 a.m.-2:40 p.m.
A.M. Early Childhood	8:20 -10:55 a.m.
P.M. Early Childhood	12:05 -2:40 p.m.
Lettie Brown	8:10 a.m. -2:30 p.m.
Jefferson and Lincoln	8:20 a.m. -2:40 p.m.
Morton Academy	8:10 a.m. - 2:40 p.m.
Morton Junior High	8 a.m.-3p.m.
Morton High	8 a.m.-3 p.m.

EARLY DISMISSAL WEDNESDAYS*

*Every 1st Wednesday of the month, the students will be released early to provide continuous and collaborative professional development for faculty. The dismissal times are the same as the half-day schedule. *Non-Wednesday early dismissal days: Friday, Sept. 18; Monday, Jan. 4. No early dismissal day in November.*

Lettie Brown	11:45 a.m.
Other Elementary Schools	11:55 a.m.
MJHS and MHS	11:00 a.m.

e-Funds online payment system

District 709 will hold registration for the 2020-2021 school year from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, July 30, at all schools.

An online payment system called e-Funds allows parents to pay for registration fees, technology fees, school lunches, yearbooks, athletic fees and other school-specific fees online.

Parents can pay online using three different payment methods – an ACH automatic withdrawal from their bank account, a debit card, or a credit card. The ACH payment is a lower cost to the school district and is provided at no charge to parents. A \$2.65 fee per \$100 will be charged for credit and debit card transactions.

Parents will be able to enter the Power School ID number for each student and pay for all students in one transaction. If you do not know your Power School ID number, please contact your building principal.

This makes payment easier

for families with students in more than one building. This system also allows parents to put a certain amount of money into e-Funds for student lunches. That amount is then drawn down when purchases are made. Parents also can schedule payments to be made in advance. These features make paying for lunches easier and eliminate the need to send cash or checks to school with students.

For a small fee, parents have the option of having text messages sent when the lunch account balance is low. Email notices are sent free of charge.

Parents are encouraged to register in e-Funds prior to registration day. This registration will require the parents to connect their students to the parent account and to register a bank account, credit card or debit card. They can pay in advance on the e-Funds website, print the receipt and bring that receipt to registration. If parents prefer to wait and pay at the school building on registration day but still want to use an ACH payment or a debit/credit card payment, they

should still register in e-Funds in advance.

School lunches:

District 709 uses the e-Funds website as a way for parents to pay for school lunches.

The website will require the parent to set up an account and then associate the student account to their parent account. The parent will need to know their student's PowerSchool ID number. To access e-Funds, go to **www.morton709.org** and select "Lunch Resources" under the "Parent" tab.

Free and reduced lunch

District 709 has applications available for free and reduced lunch. Applications will be available July 1 at each school and at the district office throughout the school year, as well as at registration on July 30. Parents also can apply for free/reduced lunch benefits online, beginning July 1, by visiting **www.morton709.org** and selecting "Lunch Resources" under the "Parent" tab.

School Fees

for 2020-2021

MORTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

EC-6 textbook	
Rental and supply fee.....	\$73

Technology	
K-4 Technology fee	\$15
5-6 Technology fee	\$45

MORTON JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Textbook rental & supply fee	
All	\$115

Technology	
All	\$45

General	
Padlock lost	\$6
I.D. card lost	\$6
Library fines per day.....	10c

Band	
Instrument Maintenance Fee (yearly for District owned Inst.)	\$50
Percussion Use Fee (per semester)	\$50

User supply fee	
Co-curricular activities	\$65

MORTON HIGH SCHOOL

Textbook rental & supply fee	
All	\$180

Technology	
All	\$45

General	
I.D. replacement fee	\$6
Library fines per day.....	10c
Marching Band Fee*	\$650
Instrument Maintenance Fee (yearly for District Owned Inst.)	\$50
Percussion Use Fee (per semester)	\$50

User supply fee	
Co-curricular activities	\$95

Athletic gate receipts	
Adults	\$4
Students/Seniors.....	\$2
Season ticket, adult.....	\$30
Season ticket, student.....	\$15

Parking	
Student parking	\$75

Driver education	
1st & 2nd semester	\$75
Summer school	\$75

LUNCH PRICES FOR 2020-2021

Adults, staff and visitors.....	\$3.30
Grades K-6.....	\$2.70
Grades 7-8.....	\$2.80
Grades 9-12.....	\$2.90
Milk.....	50 cents

**Marching Band students will also be assessed the User Supply Fee, Co-curricular Activities Fee of \$95.*

MHS senior Tori Larrabee achieves rare distinction

Teen thanks parents, counselors for help and support as she earns 2 degrees

Graduating from high school and community college simultaneously while working three jobs, participating in several extracurricular activities, and enduring the COVID-19 pandemic sure make for a graduation to remember. Make that two.

Morton High School senior Tori Larrabee graduated this May with a high school diploma and her associate degree from Illinois Central College (ICC) through the Strong Start Program. Tori's hard work and perseverance led her to accomplish the dual graduation, a feat few students achieve.

At the beginning of Tori's senior year in high school, she had already accumulated 23 credit hours at ICC by taking dual-credit courses her junior year and by taking classes over the summer.

"The rigor at MHS was similar to that at ICC," said Tori. "This made it easier to transition from high school to college. I decided I would try to get my associate's since I was already close to having my freshman year at ICC finished."

This was no cakewalk, as Tori took 17 credit hours at ICC while completing the coursework required to graduate high school. Planning her schedule between the two schools required a lot of assistance and guidance.

"With my dad's, MHS



“Tori is an overcomer, a model of strength and dignity,”

Mrs. Christina Kienitz, Morton High School counselor

counselors', and ICC advisors' help, I was able to situate everything," said Tori. "Mrs. Christina Kienitz, my high school counselor, helped me figure out which classes to take at the high school and which to take at ICC. She also supported me when I was going through personal issues or was stressed out. I would not be where I am without her endless support, comfort and guidance."

"My father was the most

supportive person in helping me achieve dual graduation," said Tori. "He would always tell me how proud he was of me and build up my confidence until I was confident in myself. My dad has always been there for me and I could never thank him enough for everything he has done."

As if the classroom demands placed upon Tori at ICC and at MHS weren't enough, she also was a full participant in



ABOVE: Morton High School senior Tori Larrabee and her father, Terry Larrabee. LEFT: Tori Larrabee poses with her MHS diploma, one of two she earned this year.

student life at Morton High School (MHS), engaging in 11 extracurricular activities, clubs and sports. She also held three jobs and still made time to work on her studies. She made high honor at MHS and received the Rotary scholarship.

"Tori is an overcomer, a model of strength and dignity," said Mrs. Kienitz. "The dual diplomas are one of many other high school experiences in which Tori participated. She immersed herself in all that high school has to offer, and those experiences resulted in a well-rounded, mature young woman."

Tori's favorite high school memories revolve around her time as a member of the band. She credits the band for helping her develop leadership and mentorship skills, while

instilling confidence and trust in her abilities.

Morton Junior High (MJHS) Band Director Katrina Fitzpatrick has known Tori since the 6th grade. Tori and Mrs. Fitzpatrick worked countless hours in MJHS Jazz Band rehearsals, MHS Marching Band practice, and camps such as the Bradley Band Camp and the Music for All Summer Camp.

"What impresses me so much about Tori is her compassion for her fellow students and family," said Mrs. Fitzpatrick. "She was a leader in the marching band. It was important to her that everyone felt valued and significant in the band. As a result, the younger members performed at a higher level."

Tori's dad, Terry Larrabee, shared his thoughts on his daughter's success. "This is an amazing accomplishment for an 18-year-old young woman," he said. "I believe only a few could accomplish this. High school and college are two diverse environments. Managing to exist in both environments is extremely difficult and takes dedication to make it happen successfully."

"From the first day of school, Tori always wanted to catch up to her sister academically. The race continues today, since both daughters will be transferring to Illinois State University as juniors in the fall."

Rest assured, Tori won't be leaving her extraordinary drive and ambition back in Morton. She already has her sights set on medical school and a career as a cardiothoracic surgeon following her future graduation from ISU.

Morton Community Foundation Grants & Scholarships

District receives over \$46,000 from MCF

Morton District 709 received \$46,839 in grants and scholarships from the Morton Community Foundation during the spring 2020 grant cycle. The mission of the Morton Community Foundation is "to improve the quality of life for Morton area residents now and for generations to come." They do this by building a community endowment, investing in the

community through strategic grant-making, turning donors' dreams into permanent legacies, and providing leadership to identify and address changing community needs. Morton School District 709 would like to thank the MCF and the many donors that make these grants possible.

2020 Competitive Grants

► Morton High School Business Department was

awarded \$2,250 to go towards the purchase of Hotronix Fusion-IQ Heat Press.

► Morton High School Band was awarded \$3,500 to go towards the purchase of Color Guard spirit flags and instruments.

► Lettie Brown Elementary was awarded \$979 towards the purchase of items for STEAM bins.

► Morton CUSD 709

Elementary Music Programs were awarded \$1,500 for the purchase of 4 guitars, 4 baritone ukes, 16 baritone uke cases and replacement strings.

► Jefferson Elementary and PTO were awarded \$5,800 for the purchase of 2 backboards with rims and 2 benches for basketball courts at the corner of First and Adams streets.

► Lincoln Elementary was

awarded \$1,500 for the purchase of Sensory Path Under the Sea sensory package.

► Morton High School Tennis was awarded \$5,335 for the purchase of 4 windscreens and 8 benches for Joal Stanfield Memorial Tennis Complex.

► Bertha Frank Performing Arts Center was awarded \$1,500 for 2 LED spotlights to replace halogen spotlights

Scholarship Recipients

The MCF also manages several scholarships that benefit MHS students. These scholarships are awarded at Honors and Awards Night at MHS each May. The 2020 recipients are:

► Wayne L. Sampson Memorial Educator's Scholarship Fund,

\$3,000 – Recipient: Madison Ingold.

An award is made annually from the fund in memory of Wayne L. Sampson for the purpose of granting a senior at MHS or a prior graduate from MHS a scholarship to attend a college or university to pursue a degree in education.



MADISON INGOLD

► Drew M. Cousins Memorial Scholarship Fund,

\$2,000 – Recipient: Tristan Parker. This fund was started in May of 2005 by Sue and Jeff Cousins in memory of the sudden passing of their son, Drew.



TRISTAN PARKER

The established purpose of the fund is to provide annual scholarships to MHS senior boys' football players who plan to play football at the college level.

► **Renee M. Mahrt Memorial Scholarship Fund, \$1,500** – Recipient: Olivia Knight. This fund

was started in August of 2005 by Cathy and Dan Mahrt in memory of the sudden passing of their daughter, Renee. The established purpose of the fund is to provide annual college scholarships to MHS senior girls who participated in and demonstrated a commitment to either track or cross country during high school.

► Kay Beth Jibben Bane Memorial Scholarship Fund,

\$1,000 – Recipient: Casey Hoffmire.

This fund was started in 1989 by the Class of 1954 in loving memory of their classmate, Kay Beth Jibben. The fund was established to provide annual scholarships to qualified MHS seniors who have exemplified outstanding leadership and overall music contribution.

► William E. and Betty L. McCormick Memorial Scholarship Fund,

\$1,000 – Recipient: Chase Greene.



OLIVIA KNIGHT



CASEY HOFFMIRE



CHASE GREEN

McCormick, who married William McCormick after the passing of his first wife Betty. Judy established this annual scholarship to assist deserving Morton High School seniors who desire to pursue a college education and who live with a single widowed or divorced parent.

► Ethel Gerber Scholarship Fund,

\$1,600 – Recipient: Zoe Gass. The Ethel Gerber scholarship

was originally established by a gift from the Ethel Gerber estate in April of 1998. The established purpose of the fund is to provide annual scholarships to MHS seniors pursuing a career in education.



ZOE GASS



TORI LARRABEE



MADISON CASSIDY

► Morton Rotary Scholarship Fund,

\$675 – Recipients: Tori Larrabee and Madison Cassidy. The Morton Rotary Club awarded 2 scholarships totaling \$3,000 to graduating MHS seniors who have served at least 2 years in the Interact Club. Their fund at the MCF generates \$675 toward these scholarships and the Morton Club

donates the remaining \$2,325. The club plans to grow its endowment fund so it can fully fund these annual scholarships.

► Kelli S. Hendryx Memorial Scholarship Fund, \$2,000 –

Recipient: Rachel Saunders. This scholarship fund

was started in March of 2015 by Jeff Hendryx (Kelli's husband), and his daughters, Holly and Chelsie, after Kelli's passing. The fund is intended to provide an annual scholarship to a Morton High School senior who is pursuing a degree in either Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy or Elementary Education.

► Morton Soccer Scholarship Fund, \$1,000 – Recipient: Elliana Short.

This fund was started in October of 2010 by a committee of volunteers who organized a celebration of the 25th year of Morton High School Soccer. The Morton Soccer Scholarship Fund has been established to assist students who have participated in various Morton soccer programs with college expenses, and to encourage their participation as adults in community youth soccer programs.

RACHEL SAUNDERS

ELLIANA SHORT

Non-Competitive Grants

Other non-competitive grants were distributed from the following endowed funds:

► **\$850** - District 709 Band Endowment Fund

► **\$650** - Heidi White Memorial Music Endowment Fund

► **\$2,750** - Performing and Visual Arts Endowment Morton CUSD 709 Fund

► **\$550** - Robert W. Brown Memorial Morton CUSD 709 Activity Fees Fund

► **\$1,200** - Morton CUSD 709 Youth Golf Fund

► **\$650** - Joal T. Stanfield Memorial MHS Tennis Endowment Fund

► **\$850** - Dan & Preston Poyner Huge Hearts Memorial MHS Wrestling Fund

► **\$1,200** - Tom Shipley Memorial Fund

► **\$1,050** - Morton 709 Cross Country Fund

► **\$950** - Morton 709 Orchestra

If you would like more information or wish to donate to any of the school-related funds, please contact Scott Witzig at the MCF, 291-0434, or go to www.mortoncommunityfoundation.org.