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# 709 Communicator



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VOLUME 38  
2018

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



## Registration is Thursday, Aug. 2

7 a.m. to 5 p.m. for all schools

## Leaving our mark

Jefferson School celebrates  
90 years of educating the  
community

“Once a Patriot, always a Patriot” is the theme that captures the family atmosphere that Jefferson School has incorporated for 90 years. The school’s history has left a legacy of its own as it has educated several generations of families and has left its mark on the hearts of those who walked through its doors and the Morton community.

To celebrate Jefferson Elementary School turning 90, the school will have a float in the Pumpkin Festival parade. There will be a tent set up in front of the school during the week of the Pumpkin Festival, selling 90th celebration t-shirts, pavers, and cups with the Morton “M” logo.

Jefferson will hold its official 90th Open House celebration on Sunday, Sept. 16, 2018, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the school.

When Jefferson School was built in 1928, it was built on the same grounds as the old 2-story school building. The new school had eight classrooms, which surrounded the gymnasium. The school also had a principal’s office, library,

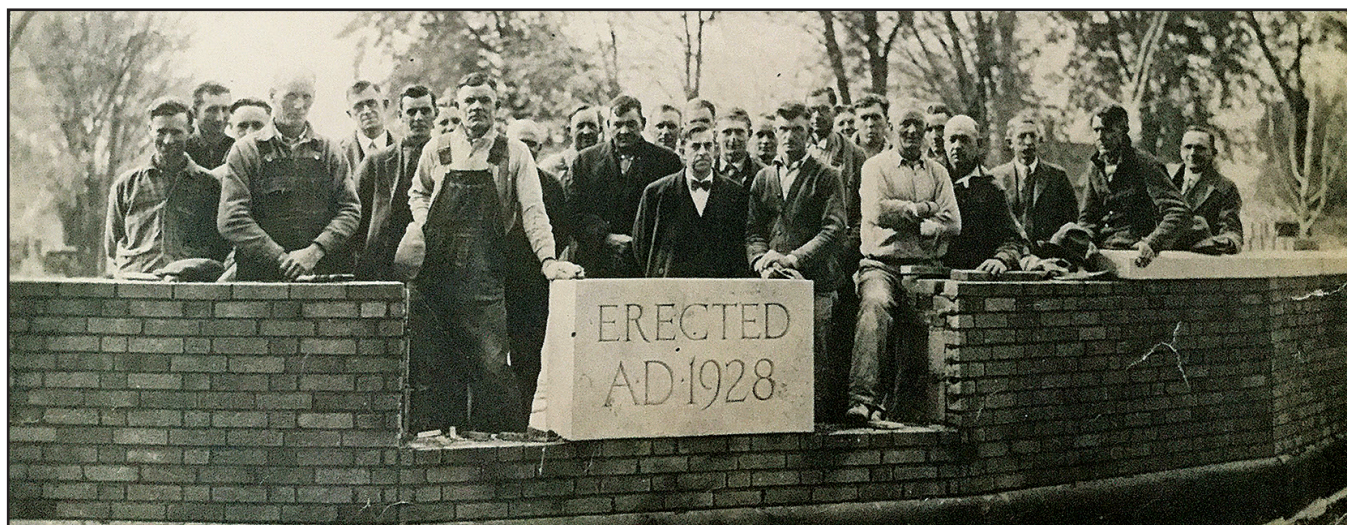


Photo Credit: Photo was taken from p. 29 of the book, “Morton A Pictorial History” by: Donald F. Roth and Ruth C. Roth

**It was a moment to remember as the construction team and school officials took a break from work to pose for a picture with the cornerstone in place.**

teacher’s lounge and restrooms. A time capsule containing some of Morton’s rich history was buried in the cornerstone of the building. The school bell that was located on the top of the old school building was used to call the children to school and it stands in front of the school building today as a monument in remembrance of this tradition.

Additions were added in 1944 and 1948 with the primary wing added in 1950. The school did not have a cafeteria until 1964, when the school remodeled the bus parking area and turned it into the cafeteria. One year later, in 1965, the Morton Grade School’s name was changed to Jefferson Elementary School. The old “M” logo still hangs in the gymnasium on the wall.

Jefferson School wasn’t named the “Patriots”

until 1979. The PTL had a mascot naming competition among the students and Stephanie Feely, now, Stephanie Ogden, was in Miss Sutter’s 5th grade class when she coined the “Patriots” as the school mascot. She also designed the logo of the Patriot with Thomas Jefferson as her inspiration.

“I wanted my logo to best represent Thomas Jefferson so that is why I came up with a Patriot as the school mascot,” said Stephanie Ogden. “A Patriot is a person who loves, supports and serves his/her country. I think that it is a good mascot for those who attend Jefferson Elementary, as the parents, the staff, and the kids are the ones who love, support, and serve their school.”

## You're Invited!

**Join the Jefferson  
90th Open House  
Celebration  
from 1 - 4 p.m.,  
Sunday, Sept.  
16, at Jefferson  
Elementary  
School!**

Please see LEGACY, Page 2



## Volunteer with MPTV

MPTV provides programs that highlight the Morton School District meetings, musical and award programs, athletic contests, graduation, and more. The MPTV crew is comprised of school district employees as well as 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 – <http://www.nfhsnetwork.com/schools/morton-high-school-morton-morton-il>

### MPTV Staff

**Becky Christianson** – Videographer and Program Scheduler

**Rachel Henderson** - Videographer Intern

**Brooke Jones** - Lead Videographer

**Dawn Rademaker** – Videographer

**Bill Schock** - Director of Broadcast Operations

### MPTV Needs Volunteers

MPTV is always looking for volunteers to help operate the television cameras. No experience is necessary. This is an excellent opportunity for high school and college students to build up their resume and gain experience behind the camera. MPTV also welcomes parents, grandparents, and other school district citizens to volunteer as well.

MPTV live broadcasts

## Get connected

Follow us on Twitter: @MPTV\_709

Visit us at [www.morton709.org/mptv](http://www.morton709.org/mptv) for the broadcasting schedule and more information.



**NFHS Subscription** – Don't forget to get your subscription for the upcoming school year! A subscription must be purchased to watch Live sporting events. Non-sporting events such as school board meetings and music programs are available to stream without a subscription.

An annual pass of 12 months is \$50.00, a seasonal pass of 4 months is \$30.00, and a 1-month subscription is only \$9.95.

many athletic contests throughout the school year. The broadcasting of these games offers the Morton schools and sports teams more exposure and creates more community interest. It also entices more fans to

come to the games.

"MPTV is vital to our Athletic Department and the promotion of our interscholastic sporting teams," said Scott Jones, Morton High School's Director of Athletics. "I am

amazed at the number of people in the community who talk about watching games on MPTV when unable to attend events, or who even watch games on their phones as they are attending another school event. MPTV is a great asset to our community and our school district."

If you are interested in volunteering for a couple of games, please email us at [MPTV@mcusd709.org](mailto:MPTV@mcusd709.org).

### Thanks, 2017-18 MPTV Volunteers!

Our volunteers have put in countless hours behind the scenes at MPTV in order to showcase our Morton school district students. Our volunteers are the driving force that makes the MPTV

engine run. Each and every one of these volunteers is a vital asset to the function of MPTV. We could not broadcast all of the sporting events without their selfless commitment to the team. Thank you!

**Pete Altenberger**  
**Todd Bisping**  
**Tim Cooper**  
**Jonathan Farrell**  
**Brian Gordon**  
**Marcus Greiner**  
**Lee Hall**  
**Rachel Henderson**  
**Blake Hochstettler**  
**Jeff King**  
**Ryan Lindley**  
**Ralph Mattia**  
**Sean Mikel**  
**Greg Prichard**  
**Llew Smith**  
**Jeff Stephens**  
**Craig Wright**

## LEGACY

### Continued from page 1

The Patriot school song was written by a student, Bobby Reese in 1984. He wrote the school song to the music of "You're a Grand Old Flag" and he adjusted the words to say "You're a Grand Old School." Reese is now a professor at Illinois Valley Community College. He remembers Jefferson School as a great school that offered him an excellent education.

"Jefferson was a great school. I have some great memories of some amazing teachers there. I remember Jefferson offered a good education overall and a good base to prepare students for the junior high and high school. I am glad that Jefferson School is celebrating its 90th birthday as it has been a staple in the Morton Community for as long as I can remember," said Reese.

Since the first stone was laid to construct the building, Jefferson School has left its mark educating young minds and building family legacies. The Rassi family contributed to that legacy as the

family had four generations attend Jefferson Elementary School. Ken Rassi Sr.'s maternal grandfather, John Strunk, was part of the construction team who laid the foundation for the school. Strunk had eight kids attend Jefferson School and he served as a member of the Jefferson School's Board of Education. Ken Rassi's paternal grandfather, Chris Rassi, moved to Morton from Germany and started his own jewelry store in the downtown area. He had nine boys who all attended Jefferson School. Ken Rassi Sr.'s dad, his children, and some of his grandchildren all attended Jefferson School.

Rassi remembers how close-knit the school community was, but what he remembers the most about Jefferson was the teachers. "Christine Crook, who was my first teacher, lived at my mom and dad's apartment building on Monroe Street," said Ken Rassi. Sr. "I am 75 years old and I still remember about every teacher I had. I remember Mr. Ward Grundy was the principal when I attended Jefferson School. He was a nice man, but you listened to what he said. He was pretty strict.



students who attended the school as there are now."

Dr. Wayne Sutter was Lincoln School's first principal, then the Assistant Superintendent of School District #644, which was the elementary school district. He is the father of Dan Sutter, who was Jefferson's custodian for 37 of Jefferson's 90 years of existence.

"Jefferson was, for as long as I was there, like one big family," said Mr. Dan Sutter. "It didn't matter who walked through those doors. Jefferson was a great place to work. It just seemed special."

Since Jefferson School was built in the middle of town, it has left its mark by serving as the cornerstone for the Village of Morton. In fact,

The school was very well disciplined. All the old names of Morton went to school at Jefferson. We were all pretty close. There were not that many

the school's playground is not only used as a community playground but also as the grounds of the annual Morton Pumpkin Festival.

Jefferson School's legacy carries on in the community of Morton as two other elementary schools were named after Jefferson School employees. Ward Grundy Elementary School, the second elementary school added to the school district, was named after Jefferson School's first principal. Lettie Brown Elementary School, the fourth and last elementary school added to the school district, was named after a teacher who served as the first-grade teacher at Jefferson for about 50 years.

Jefferson School has left its mark in the history of Morton and the hearts of many. It has and will continue to carry the family legacies that so many cherish. Jefferson's rich tradition holds a special place in the history of Morton, which is why Principal Kate Wyman would like to welcome everyone to the school's 90th celebration. She also encourages the current, past, and present Jefferson School Patriots to come, as it would be extra special to

hear them share their stories about Jefferson School and how they too are leaving their mark.

"Jefferson is well-known and well-loved," said Principal Kate Wyman. "The school has changed in size, curriculum, and personnel. Yet, the family atmosphere has remained. Jefferson is a place where students are welcomed and families are proud to call their school."

"Today, 90 years later, Jefferson continues to offer students an education experience that promotes the love of learning and develops the capacity of each learner to excel. The students are encouraged to read, think critically, and engage with others," said Wyman. "The legacy of Jefferson was founded upon and will continue to instruct upon the importance of relationships and to provide students opportunities to choose kindness and serve others within our school, community, and across the globe."

"Jefferson's legacy lives on in the lives of all Patriots. We invite you to join us for our 90th celebration on Sunday, Sept. 16, from 1 – 4 p.m.," said Wyman.

# MORTON ACADEMY

260 E. Queenwood | Phone: 284-8033

Morton Academy is starting its third year in the district. Our goal is to provide a balanced, varied school curriculum designed to meet the social, emotional, and academic needs of students from diverse backgrounds. Morton Academy is a school for boys that reside at Guardian Angel home. Guardian Angel home is a residential facility for boys that is operated by the Center for Youth and Family Solutions with a contract from the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. Up to 16 boys ages 6 to 18 from Illinois can reside at the home. The average stay at Guardian Angel home is around 11 months. Guardian Angel is a temporary home to boys looking to return to their family or a foster home.

The school has two classrooms with one certified special education teacher and one instructional aide. We follow a bell schedule and students switch teachers for different subject areas. We try to follow a modified middle school schedule that allows the boys to switch teachers for different subject areas, so they have an opportunity to work with more than one teacher and experience different routines/expectations along with transitioning from one room to another. The boys stay with their same-age peers for the entire school day. Typically 3rd- through 6th-graders are together and 7th through 12th graders are together, but we also insure we are meeting each student's individual needs.

Morton Academy has been providing daily physical education, with the help of PE teacher Mr. Bob Becker, since we opened in 2016. Prior to Guardian Angel moving to

## Meet the 2018-19 staff

**Supervisor** – Carlie Owens

**Primary Teacher** – Rhonda Howard

**Secondary Teacher** – Shay Nelson

**PE Teacher** – Bob Becker

**Music Teacher** – Shane Roche

**COTA** – Molly Suellentrop



Morton, the boys did not receive physical education as part of their school day.

This year, we are looking forward to bringing music to the school day. Students will have music two times per week with Music Teacher, Mr. Shane Roche. As a new school in the district, we strive to provide students at Morton Academy with the same opportunities as all students in the Morton School District. Support from district administration, our Board of Education and community businesses and organizations has been very instrumental in achieving this goal.

### Thank you for your partnership!

Last school year, Morton Academy was able to build partnerships with four organizations/businesses in our community. The partnerships included:

**1. The Morton Public Library** sent Children's Librarian Cindy Snoke and Digital Services Coordinator Lindsay Funk to the school two times a month to provide technology/STEM related activities, art, and literature experiences to the boys. The boys were then welcomed into the library throughout the year for different projects and to check out library books to take back to the school.

**2. Old School Arts** instructors

Scott and Heidi Warner also came to the school to provide art classes to the boys. The boys learned about different modes of art, the history of art, and got hands-on experience from experienced artists.

**3. Chef Amanda Pyle from The Cookery in Morton** worked with the boys the last 10 weeks of school. Once a week the boys were invited into the kitchen to learn different techniques, recipes, and hospitality skills. The boys enjoyed learning practical skills that they could use immediately at home, as well as all the delicious recipes she let them make and eat!

**4. Midwest Food Bank** allowed the boys to volunteer their time monthly and assist with packing boxes and any other tasks the food bank needed from them.

These partnerships allowed the boys an opportunity to be part of our community organizations and businesses, build relationships, work collaboratively with each other, practice generalizing skills they are learning in the classroom, and a chance to give back to a community that has been giving to them. We could not thank our partners enough for the time and energy they have given to the boys at Morton Academy and for allowing us to continue to do more this year. Morton Academy is grateful to you!

## Facilities Update

Morton District 709 has a history of maintaining their facilities and making improvements that enhance the learning environment for all students. While last year saw the completion of new additions to Lincoln, Grundy, and Lettie Brown elementary schools, annual maintenance and repair work is ongoing to make sure all schools are ready for students and teachers. Each year part of the school budget is devoted to doing the work necessary keep the schools in great shape. The summer of 2018 is no different, as we have several projects in progress to improve functionality and aesthetics.

In addition to the repairs and maintenance being completed this summer, District 709 has been working on developing a plan for improving safety, security, and functionality at the Morton Junior High School. The board is considering a number of options that will assist with the issues identified as well as an increase in enrollment anticipated for the 2019-20 school year.

Below is a list of repairs, maintenance, and renovation under way at each school for the summer of 2018:

### BERTHA FRANK

1. Electrical - retrofit/install new LED auditorium lighting and connect to dimmer system. Replace lights around mirrors in the dressing rooms.
2. Miscellaneous door repair/replacement

### GRUNDY

1. Miscellaneous plumbing - Hot water added to classroom sinks
2. Mechanical/Electrical - Miscellaneous exhaust/attic fan improvements

### JEFFERSON

1. Phase 2 window install- All North and South elevation windows to be replaced
2. Door/Frame replacement-  
Basement - Reading room/ Music/ Library/Social Work corridor  
Main level - rooms 105/106/117/118  
Second floor - rooms 204, 205, 212, 213, 214
3. Mechanical/Electrical - new HVAC installed in East/West basement room 110

### LETTIE BROWN

1. Roof replacement/original building

### LINCOLN

1. Window replacement - South wing - original building. Includes: rooms 101S, 102S, 103S, 104S, 105S, 106S, 107S, 108S, 109S, 111S, principal's office, and speech room.
2. Miscellaneous plumbing - Hot water to classrooms with sinks in original addition

### MORTON EDUCATION AND ADMINISTRATION CENTER

1. Complete roof replacement on the whole building.

### MORTON HIGH SCHOOL

1. Door/Frame replacement - North canopy, midway smoke doors and smoke doors by kitchen
2. Room change of use - Maintenance office relocating to storage room 59. The laundry facility in the boys' locker room will be moved next door to former boiler room.
3. Miscellaneous plumbing - 1st floor - eyewash stations/gas piping in Rooms 43, 43A, 44, 41, 23, 21, and 17.
4. Elevator - Remodel/construction
5. Mechanical - Installation of new exhaust fan/ductwork in the kitchen and dishwashing room. Miscellaneous exhaust fan work in other small spaces - Room 21A chemical storage, office 82 by midway stairwell, and lounge in student services.
6. Electrical - Room 1D- improve outlet/power situation at desks, re-configure outlets, and mount to the floor.

### MORTON JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

1. Masonry repair- South elevation- area surrounding Library (2nd floor)  
Alternate Bid - Replace windows in the area mentioned above.
2. Door/Frame replacement- East (main), Southeast, Southwest, and West band entrances
3. Miscellaneous work in boiler room
4. Miscellaneous work on roof (several locations)
5. Miscellaneous plumbing
6. Mechanical - New exhaust fan/ductwork in kitchen, new HVAC units in room 110, and cafeteria.
7. Electrical - Installation of new gym and bleacher lighting.



## LETTIE BROWN

## ELEMENTARY

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

**School day****Grades K-6**

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

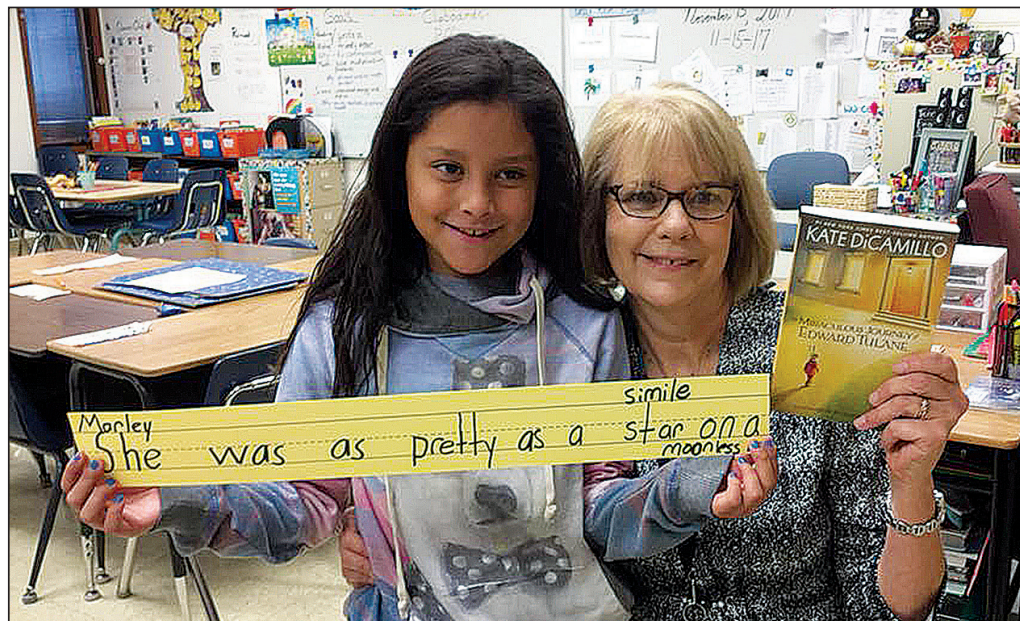
**Policies**

**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 pick-up:** 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](http://www.morton709.org). Click on the Lettie Brown icon for information about supply lists and other information about the school.



Lettie Brown participated in One School, One Book in 2017-2018. Families and staff thoroughly enjoyed reading "The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane" by Kate DiCamillo.

**Mark your calendar**

**Aug. 2** – Registration, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Aug. 9** – Class lists posted after 4 p.m.

**Aug. 15** – First day for students, 8:10-11:45 a.m.

**Aug. 20** – PTO meeting, 7 p.m.

**Aug. 28** – Meet the Teacher, 6 to 7:30 p.m.

**Lunch Schedule**

**Kindergarten** - 10:50 to 11:35 a.m.

**5th and 6th grades** - 11:15 a.m. to noon

**3rd and 4th grades** - 11:37 a.m. to 12:22 p.m.

**1st and 2nd grades** - 12:00 to 12:45 p.m.

**PTO Officers**

Pictured above, left to right, are the 2018-2019 PTO officers for Lettie Brown Elementary. Shantel Zoss - Treasurer, Holly Bones - Vice President, Angel Fisher - President, and Renee McClain - Secretary.

**Meet the 2018-19 staff**

**Principal** – Faith Waterfield

**Secretary** – Abbey Carpenter

**Kindergarten** – Kelley Bradford, Jenny Bushman



FAITH WATERFIELD

**First** – Brenna Stork, Sydney Beer

**Second** – Kristy Boecker, Erin Kellerstrass

**Third** – Kim Knox, Carol Davison

**Fourth** – Stephanie Bishop, Laura Zehr

**Fifth** – Katy Gingerich, Michael Finck

**Sixth** – Shane Weyland, Lacey Scholl

**Literacy Coach** – Casie Mc-

Dowell

**P.E.** – Julie Cassidy, Claire Schmitt

**Technology Aide** – Sondra Dole

**Library Aide** – Teri Detloff

**Rtl Aides** – Lisa Anderson, Staci Loyd, Wendy Collins

**Instructional Aides** – Tracey Vickerman, Julie Schmidgall, Judy Taylor, Elaine Campbell, Valerie Mellen, Heidi Robbins, Elizabeth Walter

**Interpreter** – Sabrina Vior

**Challenge teachers** – Shane Weyland, Laura Zehr

**Resource** – Edie Russell, Ashley King

**Social Work** – Laura Steiner

**Psychologist** – Daniel Ebbert

**Clerical Aides** – Brenda Grimm, Carol Main, Liz Cigelnik

**Custodians** – Tim Epkins, Dominique Mackey

**Crossing Guard** – Jean Melvin

**Traditions:**

Prior to starting the school day, Lettie Brown students and staff have announcements in the gymnasium at 8:05 a.m. Lettie Brown has a student council for fourth, fifth, and sixth grades. We started a yearly tradition last year of participating in One School, One Book, with the entire school reading the same 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, providing fresh water through UNICEF, collecting children's books for Children's Hospital of Illinois, and raising funds for St. Jude and Children's Hospital of Illinois.



# 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 your 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 pick-up:

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 2017-18 school year. Lists are also available on the Grundy website <http://grundy.morton709.org/home> and at local retailers.



Grundy Gators working on a classroom assignment.

## Mark your calendar

**Aug. 2** – Registration, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Aug. 3** – Grundy Pool Party, 7 to 9 p.m., Morton Pool

**Aug. 9** – Class lists posted after 4 p.m.

**Aug. 14** – Kindergarten Parent Orientation, 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

**Aug. 15** – First day of school,

8:20 to 11:55 a.m.

**Aug. 16** – Meet the Teacher, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

**Aug. 27** – PTO meeting, 6:30 p.m., Grundy library

## Meet the 2018-19 staff

**Principal** – Michael Saunders

**Secretary** – Kathy Shaw

**Clerical Aides** – Jennifer



MICHAEL SAUNDERS

Sadler, Valerie Wilkes, TBD

**Kindergarten** – Jeanette Grant, Julie Matlock

**First** – Molly Ackerman, Emily Anderson

**Second** – Lora

Kober, Ashlie Reinert

**Third** – Jessica Gunn, Jami Kaisershot

**Fourth** – Jeanie Dennis, Jon Wheat

**Fifth** – Jill Veskauf, Janine

Weyland

**Sixth** – Becky Bazzetta, Holly Manthey, Jacob Stone

**Building Technologist** – Beth Shook

**Challenge Teachers** – Jacob Stone, Janine Weyland

**Crossing Guard** – Theresa Hermacinski

**Custodians** – Pam Addams, Dwight Schuck

**ECE Teachers** – Ryan Gillhouse, Bridget Joos

**ECE Aides** – Tracy Fick, Rachel Herrmann, Angie Kupfer-schmid

**Food Service** – Theresa Hermacinski, Jan Huette, Jennifer Landrith,

**Grade Level Aides** – Leslie

Householter, Leanne Sommer, Danielle Tolly, Carol Vance

**Librarian** – Angel Fisher

**Music Teacher** – Tim Beutel

**P.E. Teachers** – Jayne Eisenmann, Claire Schmitt

**Resource Teachers** – Joy Gronewold, Natalie Rollins, Holly Toraason

**Resource Aides** – Olgajean Atteberry, Angie Beyer, Michelle Paulson, Pam Riddle, Jen Wilson

**RTI Aides** – Sarah Chadbourn, Amanda Derrick, Emily Hauter, Anita Stidman

**Social Worker** – Elizabeth Antonacci

**Speech and Language Pathologists** – Brooke Behm, Kelly Webb

## Traditions

► **Educational Excellence:** Educational Excellence: Grundy is ranked among the top 5% 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 is also among the few public elementary schools in the State of Illinois to have received a distinguished GreatSchools.org rating of 10 out of 10. In 2018, four of our 6th graders earned the President's Award for Educational Excellence and 43% of our 3rd-6th 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 to honor those who have served our country.

## PTO Officers



Pictured above, left to right, are the PTO officers for the 2018-2019 school year for Grundy Elementary School – Sara Dally (Treasurer), Jessica Belsly (President), Erica Kennedy (Vice President), and Dan Beckler (Secretary).



# JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY

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

## School day

**Doors open:** 7:45 a.m.

## For All Students

**Announcements:** 8:10 a.m.

**Classes Begin:** 8:20 a.m.

**Dismissal:** 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 pick up:

Jefferson School is located in downtown Morton. Parents are asked to follow these guidelines when dropping off and picking up students at school due to traffic. 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 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 pick up is on the front side of Jefferson or on Third. K-1 students dismiss out of the doors on Adams Street. Grade 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](http://www.morton709.org). Click on the Jefferson icon for information about supply lists and other information about the school.



## Mark your calendar

**Aug. 2** – Registration – 7 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**Aug. 9** – Class lists posted at 4 p.m. (Please do not take photos of lists.)

**Aug. 15** – First day of school 8:20-11:55 a.m.

**Aug. 21** – Meet the Teacher Night 6-7:30 p.m.

**Above:** Jefferson students showing their Patriotic pride.

## Join the Celebration

Jefferson will be hosting a Community Open House on Sept. 16, 2018, from 1 - 4 p.m. to celebrate the 90 years Jefferson has been leaving it's mark on the community of Morton. All are invited to attend!

## PTO Officers



**Pictured above:** Jefferson PTO Officers for the 2018-2019 school year from left to right: Jennifer Donovan (Vice President), Emily Hinch (Treasurer), Sarah Webb (Secretary), and Amy Jones (President).

## Traditions

Jefferson School, established in 1928, is home of the Patriots. Jefferson recognizes students who reach their reading targets throughout the school year and during the summer. We also 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 site of the annual Morton Pumpkin Festival.

## Meet the 2018-19 staff

**Principal** – Kate Wyman

**Secretary** – Grace Nessler



KATE WYMAN

**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, Therese Scifres

**P.E.** – Pat Lowder, Dan Gashaw

**Music** – Heather Berger

**Rtl Aides** – Lisa Cook, Sara Hornsby, Susan Martin, Shelby Nicholson

**Rtl Coordinator** – Kristen D'Alfonso

**Literacy Coach** – Randi Deverman

**ELL Coordinator** – Dayrim Sheehan

**Challenge Teachers** – Ashley Sarver, Sara Dirks

**Title 1 Math** – Sara Dirks

**Title 1 K-2 Math Aide** – Susan Martin

**Rtl 3-6 Math Aide** – Julie Peck

**Reading Aide** – Amie Pearce

**Resource** – Kristin Muzzarelli (4-6), Nadine Worstell (K-3)

**Speech** – Chelsie Chaney

**Technologist** – Terri Keys

**Library** – Amy Jones

**Clerical Aides** – Tammy Presley

**Custodians** – Dave Keen, Joe Schick

**Psychologist** – Dan Ebbert

**Social Worker** – Kelly Hobson

**Crossing Guard** – Stacy Krantz

**Resource Aides** – Amy Glass, Nan Reynolds, Christine Senecca, Sarah Webb

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

**ELL Aide** – Robin Sizemore, TBD

**\*\* Personnel subject to change.**



# LINCOLN ELEMENTARY

100 S. Nebraska Ave. | Phone: 266-6989

## 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 spiritwear.

► 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.



Each year, the Lincoln Elementary PTO plans one primary fundraiser, which is the PTO Walk-a-thon. Funds raised from the walk-a-thon are used to support a variety of needs at Lincoln. During the past school year, PTO funding helped provide new sixth-grade lockers, flexible seating in all classrooms, two water bottle fillers, supplies used by teachers for various hands on science learning, Artistic Adventures, Family Fun Nights and ongoing support to all teachers for classroom expenses.

## Mark your calendar

**Aug. 2** - Registration in cafeteria 7 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Aug. 2** - PTO Back to School Swim Party at Morton Pool 7-9 p.m.

**Aug. 9** - Class lists posted at 4 p.m.

**Aug. 13** - PTO meeting, 7 p.m. in Gym Vestibule

**Aug. 14** - "Unpack Your Backpack" for all K-6 students; 4-5 p.m.

**Aug. 15** - First day of school, 11:55 a.m. dismissal

**Aug. 20** - Meet the Teacher Night 6-7:30 p.m.

**Aug. 28** - School Picture Day

## Meet the 2018-19 staff

**Principal** - Julie Albers



JULIE ALBERS

**Assistant Principal** - Michelle Peterson

**Secretaries** - Sueann Spinder, Jen Bakirdan

**Office Clerical Aide** - Leah Collins

**Nurse** - Annette Kelso

**Kindergarten** - Jodi Hoelscher, Haley Veldhuizen, Jody Vernon

**First** - Kara Brooks, Madison Kumpf, Wendy Vastine

**Second** - Erika Bastain, Sarah

Mosby, Abby Schwarting

**Third** - Kelley Friedrich, Janelle Guetschow, Kayla Knoblauch

**Fourth** - El Higus, Bri Schreiner, Emily Turner

**Fifth** - Barb Blanco, Samantha McKee, Stuart Smith

**Sixth** - Kaiti Brown, Andrea Knepp, Rachel Roush

**P.E.** - Bob Becker, Michelle DeBoer, Claire Schmitt

**Music** - Shane Rocke

**Resource** - Erin Chan, Diane Puetz, Molly Stephens

**Instructional Program** - Kaylee Callahan (Primary), Megan Levitt (Middle), Amanda Rickenberg (Intermediate)

**Literacy Coach** - Olivia Gabbert

**Speech** - Brooke Behm, Chelsie Chaney, Sherry Robinson

**Social Worker** - Lauren Pratt

**Psychologist** - Melissa Kerber-Long

**Technologists** - Diana Schauer, Rhonda Stalter

**Technology Aide** - Keri Dodson

**Library Aide** - Denise Poshard

**Custodians** - Dwight Hamilton, Bob Harkless, Dante Williams

**Crossing Guards** - Rhonda Konieczny, Tracy Rusnak, Heidi Tovey

**Food Service Staff** - Lisa Horn, Ronae Fender, Mary Dralle

## 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 pick-up:**

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 pick up; 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 who are 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 1 document from this group: property tax bill, mortgage paperwork, rental agreement and previous month's payment, letter from landlord in lieu of lease; along with copies of 2 documents 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:** Parents received a supply list at the end of the 2017-18 school year with student report cards. Lists are also available at local retailers and on the district website, [www.morton709.org](http://www.morton709.org). Click on the Lincoln icon for information.

## PTO Officers



The Lincoln Elementary PTO officers for the 2018-19 school year are (left to right): Yuri Jones (Treasurer), Stacy Litersky (President), Bonnie Ricci (Vice President) and Susan Nichols (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 that ride the bus to school will arrive between 7:15 and 7:50 a.m. All students are to enter the gym through the north entrance and should find a seat in the bleachers until 7:50 a.m.

### Orientation:

Orientation for new students and incoming 7th-grade students will be from 2:30-3:45 p.m. Aug. 14. Students can stay until 4:15 to practice their locker combinations. The school is open a few days before school starts if students want to practice their locker combination or review their schedule and location of classes.

**Website:** Parents and students can find a lot of information on the MJHS website, [www.morton709.org](http://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 stu-

dents 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. The 7th-grade students are divided into two teams – Green and White. The 8th-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 \$2.65 a day, or they can buy ala 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](http://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.



The Morton Junior High students were able to help local food banks, retirement homes, schools, and parks by collecting money from donors to sponsor their work at local not-for-profit entities. The students raised \$37,354 from last school year's annual Helpathon fundraiser. Thank you Morton and Groveland community for your support. The funds support the school activities and to assist teachers with any supplies needed.

## Meet the MJHS 2018-19 staff

**Principal** – Lee Hoffman

**Assistant Principal** – Chris Carter

**Counselors** – Beth Spaniol, Danielle VanMeenen

**Secretaries** – Holli Pfeifer, Valerie Smith, Jill Parod

**Language Arts** – Rachel Shore, Cady Windish, Megan Hasler, Kristin Henrichs

**Math** – Tom Hermann, Kirk Schick, Ashley Geil, Sean Breaux

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

**Science** – Brandon Parrott, Jordan Williams, Melissa Tortorella, TBD

**Social Studies** – Don Swearingen, Adam Sheley, Alex Bishop, Jennifer Rabe



LEE HOFFMAN



CHRIS CARTER

**Writing Lab** – Jeanenne Plevka

**Music** – Tim Beutel, Pete Martin, Katrina Fitzpatrick

**Art** – Brittany DuPont

**Resource/Collaboration** – Gena Jones, Leslie Gray, Abby Everett, Jaclyn Herr, Dylan Stork

**Speech Therapist** – Cynthia

**Knutilla**

**Health** – Toni Trilikis

**Library** – Jacqueline Akers

**Social Work** – TBD

**Psychologist** – Amanda May

**Interventionist** – Katie Miller

**Study Hall** – Clara Jo Odgen, Theckla Kryszak, Andy Zuck

**Custodians** – Brad Berry, Steve Culbertson, Elliot Spinder

**Crossing Guard** – Tiffanie McNeese

**Aides** – Ginny Cody, Diane Conklin, Kim Serrurier, Ashley Turner, Dawn Blunier, Wendy Wright, Melissa Peters, Jeff Arbisi



## Stay Connected to MJHS

- **Mid-Term Reports** – Mailed home to students receiving D's and/or F's at the mid-term.
- **Parent/Teacher Conferences** – Thursday (8a.m.-7p.m.) and Friday (8 a.m. - noon) October 18 and 19, are the two days set aside as conference days. Parents have the opportunity to meet with individual teachers 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 can also sign up to receive email updates of grades, attendance, and/or announcements (<https://powerschool.morton709.org/public>).
- **Report Cards** – Report cards are distributed to students approximately one week after the conclusion of the term.
- **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 10-10:45 a.m.; White 8-8:45 a.m.; Gray 9-9:45 a.m.; Red 11-11:45 a.m.
- **Facebook and Twitter** – Follow what is going on at MJHS ([www.twitter.com/MJHSJrPtrs](http://www.twitter.com/MJHSJrPtrs) and [www.facebook.com/MortonJuniorHighSchool](http://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 cancelled or changed ([il.8to18.com/mortonjhs/](http://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.
- **Advisory** – On Tuesdays for 30 minutes, teachers will meet with small groups of students to discuss academic and social topics. This time will give teachers another opportunity to connect with students. All eight regular class periods will still meet on those days but on a slightly altered schedule.

### 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 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](http://il.8to18.com/mortonjhs), to complete the online registration process. The only document students need to turn into the office is the sports physical. Participation cards (also known as Green cards, will no longer be distributed.) Athletes will not be allowed to try-out, practice, or partici-

pate 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](mailto:chris.carter@mcusd709.org).

## Red and White Club

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



**MJHS Red & White PTO Board 2018-2019, from left to right: Geana Tanner (Activities Chair), Tracy Heer (Vice President), Kara Knepp (President), Becki Davis (Treasurer), and Beth Shook (Secretary).**

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.

## Junior High Supply List

Pens (blue/black and red)	3 spiral notebooks
Pencils and pouch	Index cards (3x5)
Colored pencils	3-ring zippered binder
Highlighters	Earbuds for iPad
Loose leaf paper	Morton Public Library Card
Protractor	(not required but available at no cost to ALL Morton students)
Box of tissues	
5 pocket folders	

*Teachers may have additional supply expectations depending on the Team.*

**Physical Education uniform:** shirt (\$10), shorts (\$12) (Available on registration day or from PE teacher) and athletic shoes

## Traditions

**Grandparents' Day** — 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 with their grandchildren.

## Mark your calendar

**July 30** – MJHS office opens

**Aug. 2** – Registration, 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**Aug. 14** – 7th-Grade and New Student Orientation, 2:30 – 3:45 p.m.

**Aug. 15** – First day of school, 8-11 a.m.

**Aug. 27** – Meet the Teacher Night, 6-8 p.m.

## MJHS Daily Schedule

**1st Period:** 8:00-8:57 a.m.

**2nd Period:** 9:01-9:52 a.m.

**3rd Period:** 9:56-10:48 a.m.

**4th Period:** 10:52-11:43 a.m.

**5th Period:** 11:45-12:37 p.m.

**6th Period:** 12:20-1:10 p.m.

**7th Period:** 1:14-2:04 p.m.

**8th Period:** 2:08-3:00 p.m.

Lunches will be during 4th, 5th and 6th periods.



# MHS COMMENCEMENT MEMORIES

May 20, 2018



**MHS Class of 2018 students  
serving in the Armed Forces**

**Justin McCabe** - Navy  
**Cameron Whisler**- Air  
Force  
**Carson Rinkenbeger**-  
Marines  
**Brycen Stein**- Air Force



These students received the Highest Honor Student distinction for the Morton High School Class of 2018. Front row, left to right, Sophi MacLean. Middle row, left to right, Macy Meiss and Hannah Johnson. Back row, left to right, Bryan Himmel, Jack Arnold, and Kyle Killion.



# Baseball championship 'a dream come true'

Potters bring home  
2018 state title

It is always a great day to be a Potter, but it was an even greater day when the Morton Potters Baseball team took home the 2018 IHSA Class 3A Baseball State Championship. This was Morton's first baseball state championship since 1984.

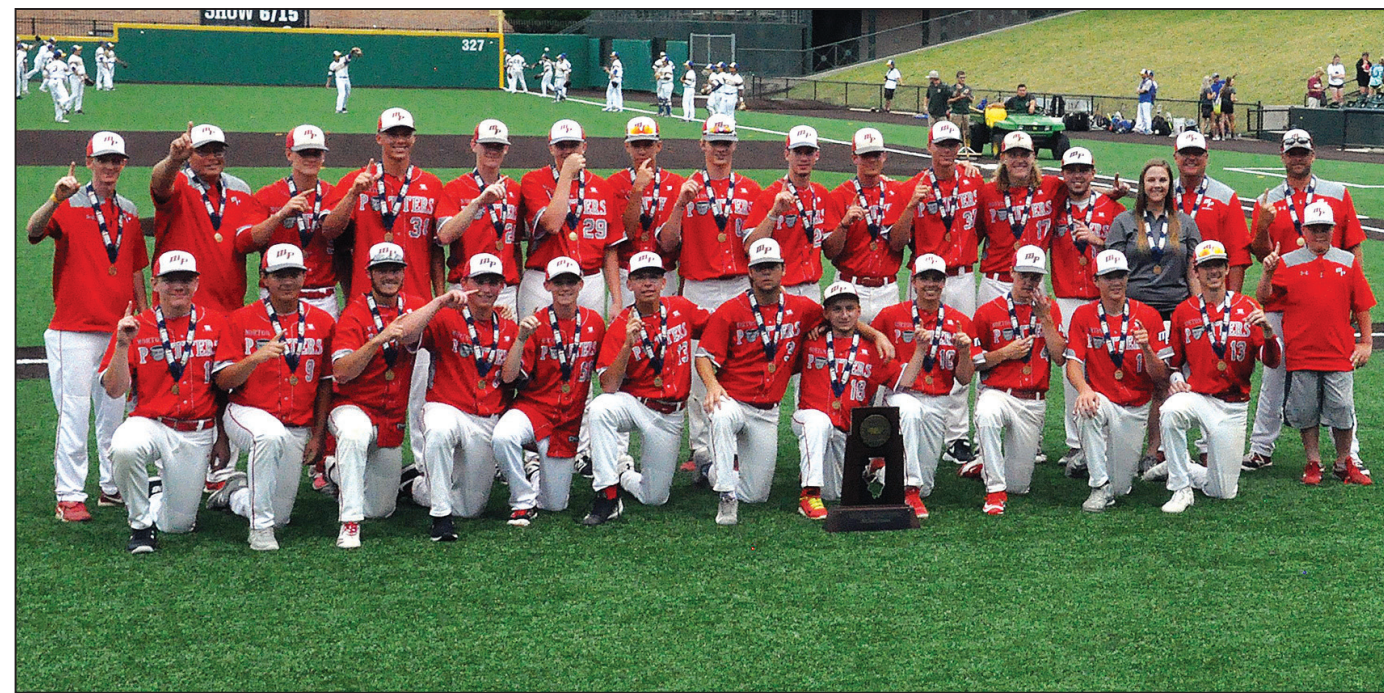
The Route 66 Stadium in Joliet, Ill., was packed with the support of past, present, and future Potters. Morton's huge fan following was evident throughout the state tournament. The baseball state series games tested the Potter Pride with unfavorable weather and a series of rain delays. Needless to say, the Potter Pride shone through as the stadium was filled with some of the 1984 baseball players, current and future Morton High School students, parents, and of course, the Morton Youth Baseball Association players and coaches.

Morton has a rich history in baseball and former Coach Mike McDonald has been an inspiration and a huge part of that history. He coached the 1984 team that took home the state championship and the 1994 team who placed runner-up at state. He laid the foundation as he coached the Potters Baseball team for 24 years before passing the torch to Coach Jesse Crawford.

Coach Crawford describes his pride for the state champions, "I am most proud of the resiliency of this group. We battled injuries for over half of the year. Isaiah Gudeman was banged up, Logan Peterson and Nick Guerra kept battling injuries."

"I have been coaching for 14 years and to get to the top is indescribable. I am very happy and proud of this group. We outscored our opponents 62-19 in the postseason. Our pitching was outstanding, hitting was incredible, and defensively, we only made 4 errors in 7 games," said Coach Crawford. "We don't have a Division 1 baseball player, just a bunch of great guys who love the game and love playing together."

"The feeling of making it to Joliet was great, and to win is a dream come true."



Meet the 2018 IHSA Class 3A Baseball State Champions.

Logan Peterson and Vinni Massaglia were great on the mound and Nick Guerra was also incredible. Vinni also hit four home runs in postseason. Evan Pfeifer played great defensively at shortstop. Kyle Killion had several big moments at the plate as well. This team will go down as the best in school history going 30-6 and winning the Mid Illini. The guys worked so hard in the off season to reach the pinnacle of baseball in the state," said Coach Crawford.

So, what does the win mean to the senior players? Vinni Massaglia, senior Potter's first baseman, describes how he feels about the win, "When we won the championship, there was no way to describe it. There were a lot of emotions knowing that all of our hard work had finally paid off in the end and that, for us seniors, meant we would go out as state champions, and we will always be champions."

Senior shortstop player Evan Pfeifer added, "With our team winning State for the second time in school history, it hits me pretty hard. This group of seniors has played together since we were 8 years old and it has been our goal since then to

win the state championship. It also hits me another way because my uncle, Tom King, was on the team that won state in 1984, so that is really cool to have two state champs in the family."

Senior right fielder Kyle Killion stated how he felt after winning the state championship; "I think I was honestly in shock for the first few hours after we had won the state title. It really didn't hit me until about 8 p.m. that night when I was looking through team photos and I thought, 'Wow that really just happened. My baseball career really ended in the best way possible.'"

Senior third baseman Logan Peterson was named 2018 Journal Star Baseball Player of the Year. He credits the hard work of his teammates and is thankful for the support of the community. "The state championship means a lot to me because it shows that the hard work that our team put in really paid off. From this experience, I have learned that anything is possible when you have a team, coaches, and a community supporting you even through losses. Support is key when you are trying to succeed."

Although many of the Morton players

thought the championship game was their last game for the season, the journey led some of them to one more. Each year, the Journal Star selects 10 All-Star Baseball Players. The Morton Potters Baseball team had three players chosen. Nick Guerra, Vinni Massaglia, and Logan Peterson were awarded the honor and were able to play one more game as part of the 10 all-area baseball team at the Peoria Chiefs stadium, Dozer Park in June.

This was the end of a remarkable and unforgettable season that will go down in the history books, for Morton and Central Illinois, being the first big-school state championship since 1988. Prior to Galesburg winning in 1988, the only other state title for the last 35 to 40 years in Central Illinois was the 1984 state champion Morton Potters.

"The state championship is not only the high school's title but a title for the whole Morton baseball program, starting with the Morton Youth Baseball Association and the younger ages all the way through," said Crawford. "There is a lot of parent support and excellent coaching staff that got us to where we are today."



# MORTON HIGH SCHOOL

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

**Michael Gourley**

*Principal*

**Scott Jones**

*Assistant Principal/Activities & Athletic Director*

**Deidre Ripka**

*Assistant Principal*

**Jamie Adolphson**

*Assistant Principal*

**Patrick Mainieri**

*Director of Student Activities and Engagement  
(5th - 12th grade)*

## Our Vision

Morton High School students are independent, critically-thinking citizens of strong character who are prepared to succeed in society through rigorous curriculum and extracurricular 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, meeting the needs of students.

### School day

8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### Daily schedule

1st hour – 8-8:49 a.m.

2nd hour – 8:54-9:42 a.m.

3rd hour – 9:47-10:35 a.m.

4th hour – 10:40-11:28 a.m.

5th hour – 11:33 a.m.-1:14 p.m.

(Students have class, a 16-minute study hall and lunch during 5th hour)

6th hour – 1:19-2:07 p.m.

7th hour – 2:12-3 p.m.

Teacher Assistance - 3-3:40 p.m.  
(as needed)



Morton High School's Mr. Ginzel and students work on chemical bond structures in Chemistry.

## Follow us on Social Media:

**Facebook:** Morton High School - @MortonHighSchoolPotters

**Twitter:** Morton Athletics - @Potter\_Pride709

**Facebook:** Morton Athletics - @PotterPride

### Counseling office

Phone: 263-8585. Counselors will be in the office starting July 31 to handle scheduling needs. Office hours are 7 a.m. – 3 p.m. through Aug. 14. Beginning Aug. 15, the counselors will be available from 7:50 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. daily. Appointments should be scheduled in advance.

### Textbooks and iPads:

MHS students can receive their textbooks on registration day, Aug. 2 or starting Aug. 6-14 in the library. They will need a copy of their schedule, available in PowerSchool, to check out books. iPad checkout will occur for freshmen and new students on Thursday, Aug. 9 from 2 - 4 p.m. Returning students will need to check out their iPads in the cafeteria from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 13.

### Student Assistance Program/Response to Intervention

The Student Assistance Program at MHS, a part of the District's Response to Intervention program, identifies students that might need help in an academic area. Teachers use best practices and give individual attention to help bring a student up to the level needed for that class. If a teacher is still concerned after that step, a student is referred to the Student Assistance Program. At that time, a student will have a designated team of teachers, counselors and deans that will discuss the student's needs and develop a plan that addresses the student's academic or behavioral needs. After the plan is established, it will be given to all the student's teachers. A review will be scheduled to monitor the student's progress.

### Policies

**Handbook:** Parents and students can view the student handbook online at [www.morton709.org](http://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 clerk, Lisa Schafer. Notes from parents will not be accepted. Parents can leave messages for Mrs. Schafer 24 hours a day. Attendance is taken at MHS each class period during the day. If students are 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 pick-up:

Students that do not drive can be dropped off at the canopy doors off Jackson Street. School buses also use this entrance. On school days, parents should not drop off and pick up students in the south lot at the band room entrance. This is the faculty parking lot and it can become congested at the beginning and the end of the school day.

**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 31.

**Orientation:** MHS will host an orientation for all new students

and incoming freshmen on Aug. 9 from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., in the West gym. iPad checkout for these students will occur immediately after orientation concludes until 4 p.m.

**Cell phones/Electronic Devices:** MHS students may carry their cell phone with them during the day, but the phone is to be off and out-of-sight. Cell phones are not to be used during the school day from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

**Dress code:** Each year, parents and administrators at MHS review the dress code and suggest changes. Those suggested changes are reviewed and approved by the Board of Education. The goal is to create an environment that promotes the educational process. Parents should become familiar with the MHS dress code when selecting clothing for school. Ultimately, students should be covered from shoulders to mid-thigh, with no holes in apparel above mid-thigh. Again, the MHS handbook provides specific examples and guidelines about appropriate clothing for school and parents are encouraged to review the dress code section. The staff appreciates the cooperation of parents and students as we continue to create an environment focused on academics.

**Lunch:** There are four lunch periods at MHS that take place during 5th hour. Students attend class, lunch and have a 16-minute study hall during 5th hour. Some courtyard seating is available for students so they can eat outside during warmer weather. Additional seating is available in the Bertha Frank lobby and in the hallways near the cafeteria. Seniors are allowed to leave campus for lunch but must scan their student ID at the canopy doors as they leave and when they return.



## Meet the 2018-19 staff

**Principal** – Michael Gourley  
**Principal's secretary** – Janet Zehr

**Athletic director** – Scott Jones

**Athletic secretary** – Terri Schuck

**Assistant principals** – Jamie Adolphson, Deidre Ripka

**Director of Student Activities and Engagement** – Patrick Mainieri

**Attendance secretary** – Lisa Schafer

**Student Services secretary** – Samantha Frey

**Receptionist/secretary** – Kristen Friedrich

**Guidance** – Stephanie Brown, Christina Kienitz, Holly Riggins, & 2 more counselors - TBD



MICHAEL GOURLEY

### Guidance secretary

– Shari Wilkerson

**Social worker** – Peter Klinkner

**Speech therapist** – Cynthia Knutilla

**Psychologist/Rtl** – Katharine Zwolinski

**Resource officer** – Jason Cabell

**Language Arts** – Carol Bally, Courtney Eddleman, Tony Eleccia, Krista Kolls, Ryan Lindley, Lauralee Moss, Elizabeth Rebmann, Kristina Vik

**Mathematics** – Tim Bradford, Rose Durand, Sarah Knapp, Kristin Lucas, Joi Monferdini, Joel Zehr, Joe Zeller

**Science** – Kate Fritts, Ben Ginzel, Mary Holmgren, Clark Ingwersen, Autumn Moss, Jacob Tierney, Emily Wegner, Nathan

Young

**Social Studies** – Tory Delong, Brian Deters, Matt Franks, Robert Hornsby, Barbara Katz, Jaclyn Smith

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

**Business** – Erin Kemp, Lori Prichard

**Library media specialist** – Stacy Reisdorf; **Aide** – Krys Malin

**Technology Education and Engineering** – William Dunn, Christopher Garner, Joseph Rosel

**Family and Consumer Science** – Karen Gardner, Kait Morissette, Teresa Wettstein

**Art** – Amy Woods

**Band** – Jeff Neavor

**Orchestra** – Dave Getz, Pete

Martin

**Vocal Music** – Heather Berger  
**Physical Education** – Tim Brilley, Stacey Buescher, Darren Hurst, Jessica Kerby

**Health** – Darren Hurst, Josh Prichard

**Driver's Education** – Tim Brilley, Stacey Buescher, Edward Henderson, Marshall Tucker

**Special Education** – Dawn Block, Kaylie Breaux, Denise Fountain, Jamie King, Alison Eckart, Kara Powers, Christopher Roberts, Lisa Schock, Jennifer Wheat

**Security and MPTV** – Becky Christianson, Bill Schock

**Custodians** – Bobby Barker, Mary Blair, Rodney Duneheew, Allen Fort, Brandon Jacob, Michael Klaasen, Deb Lane, Millicent Sanders, Steve Young

## Mark your calendar

**Aug. 9** – New student orientation, 9a.m.-2 p.m.

**Aug. 14** – Freshman parent meeting, 6 p.m.

**Aug. 15** – First day of school, 8-11 a.m.

**Aug. 17** – Cherry and Gray Night, 5 p.m.

**Aug. 23** – Meet the Teacher Night, 6:30 p.m.

**Aug. 23** – Junior parent meeting, 8 p.m.

**Oct. 5** – Homecoming Game v. East Peoria

**Oct. 6** – Homecoming Dance, 7:30-10:30 p.m., East Gym

## 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 High School PTO Officers for 2018-2019, from left to right, Melinda Radloff (Vice-President), Becky Fowler (Treasurer), Christina Smith (President), Dana Weber (Secretary).**

## Athletic passes

MHS offers athletic passes, and they are available with Mrs. Frey in Student Services or at the Cherry & Gray night and winter Red & White night. Admission prices are as follows: adults, \$4; students, \$2; and senior citizens are free with a pass. Season tickets are \$30 per adult and \$15 per student in grades K-12. For more information about passes, please contact Samantha Frey at MHS, 266-7182.

## Registration information

MHS parents were mailed a registration invoice along with an emergency card information sheet at the beginning of July for the 2018-19 school year. Parents have the option of pre-registering MHS students by one of the following methods:

► Pay registration fees online with EFUNDS at [www.morton709.org](http://www.morton709.org) website. You also can pay for your yearbook, ICC Dual credit classes, PTO membership as well as Athletic Season Passes.

► Parents also can send registration fees by mailing a check to: Morton High School, 350 N. Illinois St., Morton, IL 61550, c/o Janet. Please make checks payable to Morton Unit District 709. Please include corrected emergency card information as well.

► Come to the main office of the high school to make your payment and bring in your

updated emergency card sheet. The MHS summer office hours are 7 a.m. - 3 p.m. weekdays (we are closed for lunch).

► All students/parents will have access to PowerSchool on Monday, July 30. Your student should print out his/her schedule and bring their schedule along with their MHS ID to check out textbooks at registration (Aug. 2) or from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Monday, Aug. 6, through Tuesday, Aug. 14. iPad checkout will occur for freshmen and new students on Thursday, Aug. 9 from 2 - 4 p.m. in the cafeteria. Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors will need to check out their iPads in the cafeteria from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday, Aug. 13. If you choose not to pre-register your student, please come to registration at the MHS cafeteria on Thursday, Aug. 2, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. You also will have the opportunity to sign up for season passes, athletic boosters

and PTO at this time. Our goal at MHS is to make the registration process as easy as possible for parents and students.

► Remember – all sophomores, juniors and seniors must bring their school ID to registration. If a new ID is needed by your student, it can be purchased at registration (\$6.00). Freshmen and new students will receive their IDs at New Student Orientation on Aug. 9.

► If you have any 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.

**Registration fees:** \$180 per year

**Technology fee:** \$45

**Yearbook:** \$50

**PPP membership:** \$10

**Parking Pass:** \$75

**Driver's Education:** \$75

**MHS ID (replacement):** \$6

**High school lunch:** \$2.75



District calendar

<b>August</b>	school
14 No school: Teacher Institute Day	9 No school: Teacher Institute Day
15 First day of attendance for students, half day a.m.	18 No school: P/T Conferences
<b>September</b>	19 No school: P/T Conferences
3 Labor Day, no school	<b>November</b>
5 Early dismissal day	7 Early dismissal day
<b>October</b>	21-23 Thanksgiving Vacation, no school
3 Early dismissal day	
8 Columbus Day, no	

<b>December</b>	8 School resumes for students
5 Early dismissal day	9 Early dismissal day
21 Half day a.m., no school p.m.: Teacher Institute Day	21 Martin Luther King Jr. Day, no school
24-31 Christmas Vacation, no school	<b>February</b>
<b>January 2018</b>	6 Early dismissal day
1-4 Christmas Vacation continues	18 Presidents Day, no school
7 No school: Teacher Institute Day	<b>March</b>
	6 Early dismissal day
	8 Half day a.m., no

school p.m.: Teacher Institute Day	27 Memorial Day, no school
11 No school: Teacher Institute Day	30 Last day for students, half-day a.m.
<b>April</b>	31 No school: Teacher Institute Day
3 Early dismissal day	<i>Note: In the event that no emergency days are used, May 22 would be the last student attendance day and May 23 a Teacher Institute Day.</i>
15-22 Easter Break, no school	
<b>May</b>	
1 Early dismissal day	
19 MHS Graduation, 2 p.m.	

Regular & Special Schedules

for 2018-19

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL, AUG. 15

The first day of school for students is Wednesday, Aug. 15. A special schedule applies that day only:

<b>Grundy</b>	
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.
<b>Lettie Brown</b>	8:10 - 11:45 a.m.
<b>Jefferson and Lincoln</b>	8:20 - 11:55 a.m.
<b>Morton Junior High</b>	8 - 11 a.m.
<b>Morton High</b>	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:

<b>Grundy</b>	
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.
<b>Lettie Brown</b>	8:10 a.m. -2:30 p.m.
<b>Jefferson and Lincoln</b>	8:20 a.m. -2:40 p.m.
<b>Morton Academy</b>	8:10 a.m. - 2:40 p.m.
<b>Morton Junior High</b>	8 a.m.-3p.m.
<b>Morton High</b>	8 a.m.-3 p.m.

EARLY DISMISSAL WEDNESDAYS

Students will be dismissed early the first Wednesday of the month beginning in September. Dismissal times for those days are as follows:

<b>Lettie Brown</b>	1 p.m.
<b>Other Elementary Schools</b>	1:10 p.m.
<b>MJHS and MHS</b>	1:40 p.m.

e-Funds online payment system

District 709 will hold registration for the 2018-2019 school year from 7 a.m. – 5 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 2, in all buildings.

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, and that amount is 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 or credit card payment, they should still register in e-Funds in advance.

School lunches:

There are two websites

District 709 uses for school lunches.

► e-funds can be used to place money on your student’s account with a credit card or electronic check.

► MealMagic/Send Money To School can be used to view how students spend their money on school lunches. Money can be added to student accounts using the MealMagic web page, but the fees are higher so District 709 suggests using e-funds when making payments.

Both websites require you to setup accounts and then associate your student to your account, so you will need to know their PowerSchool ID numbers.

To access e-Funds and Meal-Magic/Send Money to School, go to [www.morton709.org](http://www.morton709.org) and click on the “Parents” section, school lunch resources.

Free and reduced lunch

District 709 has applications available for free and reduced lunch. Applications are available at each school and at the district office throughout the school year as well as registration on Aug. 2.

School Fees

for 2018-2019

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 2018-2019

Adults, staff and visitors..... \$3.05

Grades K-6..... \$2.55

Grades 7-8..... \$2.65

Grades 9-12..... \$2.75

Milk..... 50 cents



## District 709 Policies

**M**orton 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. The Morton School District 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** — under the Board of Education tab, Policies. Morton District 709 also employs a medical office assistant at MJHS and a school nurse that is responsible for the care of students with diabetes and other significant health needs.

### 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 2018-19 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, 1 pneumococcal vaccine.

**Kindergarten:** physical exam, eye exam, dental exam, 3 or more polio vaccines, 4 or more DTaP vaccines, 2 MMR vaccines, 2 chicken pox vaccines or proof of the disease, lead screening.

**2nd and 6th Grades:** vaccines above and dental exam.

**6th Grade:** vaccines above and 1 meningococcal vaccine on or after 11th birthday

**6th-12th Grades:** vaccines above and 3 hepatitis B vaccines (if not already received), 1 Tdap vaccine

**6th and 9th Grade:** vaccines above, physical exam, and 2nd chicken pox

vaccine or proof of the disease

**12th Grade:** vaccines 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 click on the Parents Tab, Medical Information.

**Clinics** – Tazewell County Health Department hosts immunization clinics. Go to **www.tazewellhealth.org** to view their schedule.

### SCHOOL PHYSICALS

School physicals are required for students entering the early childhood program, kindergarten, 6th and 9th grades. The school physical form for 9th-grade students also qualifies as the athletic physical if that student is participating in an extra-curricular activity at MHS. Local physicians have school physical forms or they are available at your school.

### MORTON JUNIOR HIGH

Students that plan to participate in extra-curricular activities need to register online by going to the MJHS website, select the Activities and Athletic Homepage under the Athletics tab, and click the registration tab to begin the process. Students must have an athletic

physical and have a signed insurance waiver form before they will be allowed to participate. It is important to get the athletic physical during the summer if your child plans to participate in a fall sport. Both forms – insurance waiver and athletic physical – are available during the online registration process as mentioned above and on the MJHS web site under Online Forms.

### MORTON HIGH SCHOOL

#### Students participating in athletics

– These students need to register online by going to the MHS website, select the Activities and Athletic Homepage under the Athletics tab, and click 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 will also 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 web site under the Athletics tab.

## Morton District 709 Staff

**District Office – 263-2581**

**Superintendent** – Jeffrey Hill, Ed.D.

**Assistant Superintendent** – Craig Smock, Ed.D.

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

**District Office Secretary** – Carolu Kizer

**Secretary to the Superintendent** – Emily Stubbs

**Accountant** – Stephanie Siggers

**Business Office Assistant** – Amy Zimmerman

**Chief Financial Officer** – Barb Getz

**Communications Coordinator** – Amy Greiner

**Coordinator of Electronics and Security** – Bill Schock

**District Data Aide** – Molly Smith

**District Technologists** – Anthony Crum, Patty Munson, Diana Schauer

**Human Resources Coordinator** – Brenda Heppard

**Payroll Bookkeeper** – Clay Payne

**Technology Integration Specialists** – Lauri VanDerVoorn, Don Sturm

**Technology Manager** – Rhonda Statler

**Videographers (MPTV)** – Becky Christianson, Brooke Janes, Dawn Rademaker

**Transportation – 284-5091**

**Director of Transportation** – Nancy Weigle

**Office Bus Drivers** – William Akers II, Jeri Baldovin, Steven Castleman, Lori Clark, Nancy Domnick, Raymond Finck, Pamela Glascock, Eric Glaser, Theresa Goodspeed, Joe Grant, Kandis Grant, Linda Kerby, John Pfeifer, Edmund Railey, Christine Rankin, Karen Remmert, Ruth Smith, Michelle Spicer, Nancy Stephens, Julie Tharp, Donette Waller, Nancy Weigle, Danny Wolf

**Bus Aides** – Sandra Bowen, Amanda Bray, Heather Brooks, Anna Decker, Stacy Grawe, Jennifer Landrith, Elizabeth Milt-enberger, Sara Savicz, Deb Warner, Julie Zoss

### Special Education

**Director of Student Support Services** – Carlie Owens

**Asst. Director of Student Support Services** – Kristina Peifer

**Secretary** – Marcia Wallace

**Clerical Aide** – Carol Williams

**Social Workers** – Elizabeth Antonacci, Kelly Hobson, Peter Klinkner, Lauren Pratt, and Laura Steiner

**School Psychologists** – Dr. Dan Ebbert, Melissa Kerber-Long, Amanda May, Katharine Zwolinski

### Districtwide Staff

**K-6 Rtl Coordinator** – Kristen D'Alfonso

**ELL Coordinator** – Dayrim Sheehan

### Custodial/Maintenance

**Director of Operations** – Rodney Schuck

**K-8 Custodial Supervisor** – John Brown

**K-8 Grounds** – Greg Murphy

**MHS Custodial/Maintenance Supervisor** – Steve Young

**K-8 Maintenance Director** – Scott Schoon

**Maintenance** – Leonard Shumaker

**District Office** – Andrew Young

## 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 in the administrative office of the District and 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: Tom Neeley

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

### Vice President: Dr. Shad Beaty

First Elected: 2015; Term Expires: 2019  
shad.beaty@mcusd709.org

### Secretary: Jeff Schmidgall

First Elected: 2015; Term Expires: 2019  
jeffrey.schmidgall@mcusd709.org

### Kevin Austin

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

### Michelle Bernier

First Elected: 2011; Term Expires: 2019  
michelle.bernier@mcusd709.org

### Dr. David Cross

First Elected: 2017; Term Expires: 2021  
david.cross@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 – **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 to go to the online streaming feature.



Photo Credit: Jacque Austin

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

## Mission

**T**he 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:** Morton District 709 will nurture and challenge each student to reach their potential through the highest quality teaching and using evidence-based instructional practices, curriculum, programs, and services.

**Facilities:** Morton District 709 will develop and maintain facilities providing the current and future students with safe, well-maintained, and functional space to support research-based best practices in teaching and learning.

**Finance:** Morton District 709 will maintain a financial position which supports all district operations in an efficient, cost-effective manner, as well as providing long-term stability for the district.

**Climate:** Morton District 709 will maintain a cohesive organizational system which fosters a culture characterized by mutual trust and respect among the board, administration, faculty, staff, students, and community resulting in an organization focused on continuous improvement.

**Communication:** Morton District 709 will strive to engage all members of the district and community in open, meaningful two-way communication providing timely information and opportunities for dialogue regarding key educational issues.

## 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:*

### 2018

Aug. 7 – 7:30 p.m.	Jan. 22 – 7:15 p.m.
Aug. 21 – 6:30 p.m.	Feb. 5 – 6:30 p.m.
Sep. 4 – 6:30 p.m.	Feb. 19 – 7:15 p.m.
Sep. 18 – 7:00 p.m.	Mar. 5 – 6:30 p.m.
Oct. 2 – 6:30 p.m.	Mar. 19 – 7:15 p.m.
Oct. 16 – 7:15 p.m.	Apr. 2 – 6:30 p.m.
Nov. 6 – 6:30 p.m.	Apr. 9 – 7:15 p.m.
Nov. 13 – 7:15 p.m.	May 7 – 6:30 p.m.
Dec. 4 – 6:30 p.m.	May 21 – 6:30 p.m.

### 2019

Jan. 15 – 6:30 p.m.	Jun. 4 – 6:30 p.m.
	Jul. 2 – 6:30 p.m.



# MHS Marching Band earns international honor

**C**ongratulations to Morton High School Band Director Jeff Neavor as the Morton High School Band program is the recipient of the 2017 Sudler Shield for United States Small School Division - an international award recognizing high school, youth, and international marching bands of world class excellence.

This award is the highest international award given to a high school marching band and only one other Illinois marching band has ever received it - Marian Catholic High School in 1997.

W. Dale Warren from the John Philip Sousa Foundation presented the award at the Morton High School's Spring Band Concert in May. "Out of over 35,000 public and private high schools in the United States and countless of others abroad, only 80 schools have been presented with the Sudler Shield since 1987 and only four bands were judged worthy recipients in 2017," said W. Dale Warren, Sudler Shield Chairman.

Such an honorary award commanded a special event, and it was. Every seat in the auditorium of Five Points Washington in Washington, Ill., was packed with the



**Morton High School Band Director Jeff Neavor (left) and Assistant Band Director Patrick Mainieri (right) proudly pose for a picture holding their Sudler Shield plaques with Sudler Shield Chairman W. Dale Warren (center).**

support of the Morton community. Caitlin Knute, nightly news anchor for local news channel WEEK, was the Emcee for the ceremony, and Congressman Darin LaHood, Morton's Mayor Jeff Kaufman, and State Representative Keith Sommer

were present at the ceremony to show their support.

Governor Bruce Rauner voiced his congratulations by stating, "Every member of the Morton Marching Band, as well as director Jeff Neavor, should be very proud

of this lifetime achievement."

Congressman Darin LaHood placed the Morton High School Marching Band's recognition of the 2017 Sudler Shield Award in the Congressional Record, which will be stored in history in the National Library of Congress. "The hard work and dedication these students and the band members have gone through, the commitment that they have to do what they do is really inspiring," said Congressman LaHood.

"The talent and the energy that you see when you hear them perform the beautiful music they do does not happen by happenstance. It's the parents, faculty, mentors, and obviously Jeff and Patrick. Thank you, Jeff and Patrick, for all that you do for the Morton High School Bands and for our state," said LaHood.

Director of Bands Jeff Neavor expressed his gratitude, "We are incredibly honored by this distinction. The effort put forth by our students, families, and community to support the Morton Band program is reflected in this honor. I am proud of our students for their hard work and thankful to be a part of a community that supports music education."

## Fine Arts Calendar

The following are the Fine Arts events for the school district for first semester of the 2018-2019 school year.

### August

**30** – 6th Grade Band Parent Meeting at Bertha Frank

### September

**5** – 6th Grade Instrument Rental Night at Bertha Frank  
**8** – Marching Band at Washington Invitational at Washington High School  
**12** – Choirs at Pumpkin Festival Grand Opening

### October

**2** – Grundy 3rd and 4th Grade Music Program at Bertha Frank  
**11** – Brown 4th and 6th Grade Music Program at Bertha Frank  
**15** – Lincoln 6th Grade Musical at Bertha Frank  
**16** – MHS Orchestra Concert at Bertha Frank  
**20** – Marching Band at Illinois State – ISU Hancock Stadium  
**22** – 5th-12th Grade Choir

### November

**1** – MJHS Band Concert at MJHS Gym  
**6** – Jefferson 3rd and 4th Grade Musical at Jefferson  
**9-11** – Marching Band at Bands of America Grand Nationals – Lucas Oil Stadium, Indianapolis  
**9-11** – MHS Fall Play at Bertha Frank

**13** – Madrigal Tour – Around Morton  
**19** – Mid-Illini Madrigal Sing at Metamora HS

### December

**Nov. 30-Dec. 2** – MHS Madrigal Dinners at Bertha Frank  
**3** – 5-12 Grade Choir Concert at Grace Church  
**6** – Lettie Brown Christmas Program at Bertha Frank  
**8** – MJHS Band Christmas Concert at MJHS Gym  
**10** – Lincoln K-1 Christmas Program at Bertha Frank  
**11** – Jefferson K-2 Christmas Program at Bertha Frank  
**13** – MJHS/MHS Orchestra Christmas Concert at West

Gym/MHS

**17** – Grundy 1-2 Christmas Program at Bertha Frank  
**18** – Lincoln 2-3 Christmas Program at Bertha Frank

*Note: All dates, times, and locations subject to change. Check the specific school calendar for the most up-to-date information. All events, school district and community events, which are scheduled for the Bertha Frank Performing Arts Center at Morton High School are available at [www.berthafank.org](http://www.berthafank.org). You can also follow Fine Arts on Facebook @MortonCUSD-709FineArts.*



# District honors three outstanding employees

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 Award (outstanding special educator), and The Master Potter (outstanding teacher). These are the highest awards District 709 rewards its staff 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 Community Unit School District (MCUSD) Assistant Superintendent Dr. Craig Smock.

Janet Zehr, the Morton High School principal's secretary, was awarded the Potter's Hand Award for the 2017-2018 school year.

Co-workers described Janet as "professional, multi-tasker, exceptional, helpful, above and beyond, patient, people oriented, genuinely caring, compassionate, kind hearted, gracious, encouraging, and always smiling."

An excerpt from a nomination letter stated, "Janet shows real friendship and interest in all members of the staff. She approaches her job with the care of each person in mind and does it in a way that makes her seem more like family than just a colleague."

The Dana Ashby Memorial Service Award recognizes the outstanding service of any employee who works



**2018 Potter Award Winners, left to right, Mrs. Pam Riddle, Ms. Lynn Rudin, and Mrs. Janet Zehr**

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 Mrs. Carlie Owens.

Mrs. Pam Riddle, a teacher's assistant at Grundy Elementary School, was named the recipient of the Dana Ashby Memorial Service Award.

A parent reflected, "Mrs. Riddle has truly opened doors and helped to create a path that is best for my child. I am proud to call her an advocate, teacher, mentor, and friend. I am so eternally thankful that she is in our lives. My child would not be where she is today without her."

The Master Potter Excellence in Education Award is for lifetime excellence in education. "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 Dr. Jeff Hill.

The Master Potter Award was presented to Lynn Rudin, a physical education teacher and head track coach at the Morton High School who has been a teacher in the Morton School District for the past 33 years.

A colleague wrote, "If we measure our success by the impact that we have had on other people's lives, then Lynn is the most important and successful person I know. She always stands up for what is right but in a manner that is non-confrontational and respectful to all concerned."

A student wrote in a nomination letter, "She taught us to be respectful, to stay humble, push ourselves to be better, and to be the best version of ourselves that we can be."

The award recipients were honored May 24, at an end-of-the-year celebration and received a standing ovation from their colleagues.

## Retirees recognized for service

Morton School District 709 honored seven retirees this spring. "I want to thank our retirees for their combined 175 years of service," said Superintendent Jeff Hill. "Thank you for your dedication and what you have done over the years to make our district one of excellence."



**Pictured, from left to right: Jan Martin, 28 years; Mary Mills, 20 years; Lynn Rudin, 33 years; and Kathy Funkhouser, 13 years. Not Pictured: Mark Cox, 14 years; MaryJo Proctor, 30 years; and Dan Sutter, 40 years.**

## Meet our new teachers

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

### Brown

Sydney Beer - 1st Grade  
Jenny Bushman - Kindergarten  
Karli Jozaites - Speech Language Pathologist  
Erin Kellerstrass - 2nd Grade

### Grundy

Ryan Gillhouse - ECE Teacher  
Joy Gronewold - S.E. Resource  
Holly Manthey - 6th Grade  
Julie Matlock - Kindergarten

### Jefferson

Emily Cline - 5th Grade  
Randi Deverman - Literacy Coach  
Kelly Hobson - Social Worker  
Kristin Muzzarelli - S.E. Resource  
Emily Ropp - Kindergarten

### Lincoln

Erika Bastian - 2nd Grade  
Olivia Gabbert - Literacy Coach  
Madison Kumpf - 1st Grade  
Rachel Roush - 6th Grade

Emily Turner - 4th Grade  
Haley Veldhuizen - Kindergarten  
Jody Vernon - Kindergarten

### Junior High

Ashley Geil - 7th Grade  
Melissa Kruse - Instructional Coach  
Rachel Shore - 7th Grade LA  
Danielle Van Meenen - Counselor  
Kelsey Whetzel - 7th Grade Science  
Cady Windish - 8th Grade LA

### High School

Brian Deters - PT Social Studies  
Alison Eckart - Special Education  
Jessica Kerby - P.E. Teacher  
Taylor King - Counselor  
Joseph Rosel - Industrial Arts Instructor  
Jordan Spicklemire - Counselor  
Kristina Vik - ELA

### District

Mitchell Jones - Assistant Band & Elementary Music Teacher

### New Administration

Jamie Adolphson - High School Assistant Principal & Dean



# Morton Community Foundation Grants & Scholarships

## District receives \$34,134 in MCF grants

Morton District 709 received \$34,134 in grants and scholarships from the Morton Community Foundation during the spring 2018 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 community endowment, investing in the community through strategic grant-making, turning donor's

dreams into permanent legacies, and providing leadership to identify and address changing community needs. The Morton School District would like to thank the MCF and the many donors that make these grants possible.

### 2018 Competitive Grants

► Lettie Brown Elementary School was awarded \$710 to go towards the purchase of two sets of stack stools, two sets of soft seats, and four k'motion stools.

► Jefferson Elementary PTO was awarded \$4,200 to go towards the purchase of a new climbing structure for a new playground at Jefferson Elementary School.

► Jefferson Elementary School was awarded \$1,000 to go towards the purchase of 18 Ozobot Bit Classroom Kits.

► Lincoln Elementary School was awarded \$1,134 to go towards the purchase of six Osmos educational gaming systems for iPads.

► Morton High School Cross Country was granted \$1,000 to go towards the purchase of Garmin GPS watches.

► Morton High School Band Boosters were awarded \$1,000 to go towards the purchase of a Pearl EM1 malletSTATION, an electronic percussion instrument.

► Morton High School Orchestra was awarded \$1,140 to go towards the purchase of a sound mixing board for electric strings instruments.

### 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 2018 recipients are:

► **\$2,500 - Wayne L. Sampson Memorial Educator's Scholarship Fund** - Recipient: Macy Meiss. 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.

► **\$2,500 - Drew M. Cousins Memorial Scholarship Fund** - Recipient: Parker Howard. This fund was started in May of 2005 by Sue and Jeff Cousins in memory of the sudden passing of their late son Drew. 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.

► **\$1,500 - Renee M. Mahrt Memorial Scholarship Fund** - Recipient: Hannah Johnson. This fund was started in August of 2005 by Cathy & Dan Mahrt in memory of the sudden passing of their late 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.

► **\$500 - Kay Beth Jibben Bane Memorial Scholarship Fund** - Recipient: Constantine Janello. 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.

► **\$1,000 - William E. and Betty L. McCormick Memorial Scholarship Fund** - Recipient: Rachel



The Morton Community Foundation Scholarship recipients, from left to right: Rachel Waterfield, Parker Howard, Justin McCabe, Macy Meiss, Madison Smith, Hannah Johnson, and Rebecca Thrasher.

Waterfield. This fund was started in April of 2008 by Judy 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.

► **\$1,500 - Ethel Gerber Scholarship Fund** - Recipient: Madison Smith. 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.

► **\$1,000 - Morton Soccer Scholarship Fund** - Recipient: Justin McCabe. 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.

► **\$500 - Morton Rotary Scholarship Fund** - Recipients: Alexander Hischke and Macy Meiss. The Morton Rotary Club awards two \$1,000 scholarships each year to graduating MHS seniors who have served at least 2 years in the Interact Club. Their fund at the MCF generates \$500 toward these scholarships and the Morton Club donates the remaining \$1,500. The club plans to grown their endowment fund so it can fully fund these annual scholarships.

► **\$5,000 - Kelli S. Hendryx Memorial Scholarship Fund** - 2 Recipients - \$2,500 each: Rebecca Thrasher and Katherine Majors. 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.

### Non-Competitive Grants

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

► **\$800 - District 709 Band Endowment Fund**

► **\$500 - Heidi White Memorial Music Endowment Fund**

► **\$2,700 - Performing and Visual Arts Endowment Morton CUSD 709 Fund**

► **\$500 - Robert W. Brown Memorial Morton CUSD 709 Activity Fees Fund**

► **\$1,000 - Morton CUSD 709 Youth Golf Fund**

► **\$550 - Joal T Stanfield Memorial MHS Tennis Endowment Fund**

► **\$700 - Dan & Preston Poyner Huge Hearts Memorial MHS Wrestling Fund**

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

If you would like to have more information or donate to any of the school-related funds, please contact Scott Witzig at the MCF, 291-0434 or go to [www.mortoncommunityfoundation.org](http://www.mortoncommunityfoundation.org).



# Morton Moving Forward

An update from Superintendent Dr. Jeff Hill

The 2017-18 school year saw our board and school district make several decisions to help improve the academic achievement of our students and invest heavily in supporting our teachers. The decisions were made in light of the following goals that have been established:

1. 100% of our students reading at or above grade level by the end of third grade
2. 100% of our students ready to move to the next level by end of 6th grade
3. 100% of our students ready for high school by the end of the freshmen year
4. 100% of our students achieving the entrance requirements necessary for each student's chosen post-secondary path

To reach these lofty goals, many recommendations from the Morton Moving Forward study were approved and will begin with the 2018-19 school year. In addition, we will continue to work with faculty, students, parents, and the community to form recommendations for Year 2.

## **Morton Moving Forward outlined four key strategies:**

1. Systemic Focus on Reading
2. Purposeful Transition to Secondary
3. Redefining College/Career Readiness
4. Organize and Invest in Professional Learning

For the 2018-19 school year, we will be implementing the following actions aligned to the four key strategies:

### **Systemic Focus on Reading**

1. Full-day kindergarten
2. Adding a literacy coach at each elementary school
3. Adding a special education teacher to Grundy and Lincoln to improve student/teacher ratio

### **Purposeful Transition to Secondary**

1. Adding one counselor to MJHS to reduce counselor/student ratio
2. Plan for the departmentalization of 5th and 6th grades
3. Provide instructional coaching to teachers
4. Plan for new Jr. High School daily schedule

### **Redefining College/Career Readiness**

1. Adding two counselors to MHS to reduce counselor/student ratio
2. Adding Director of Student Activities and Engagement position to increase student participation in activities
3. Planning for increased certification programs, AP and dual-credit courses
4. Continue to build the Morton Mentor program through the Chamber of Commerce

### **Organizing and Investing in Professional Learning**

1. Implementing early dismissal the first Wednesday of each month for faculty professional development
2. Re-organizing teacher leadership positions at the Jr. High School

The implementation of these actions represents a significant investment in the continued improvement of student learning in Morton District 709. Progress on our goals will be shared with our board and community throughout the upcoming year. As we consider a new schedule at the Jr. High and new programming at the High School it will be essential that we further understand community perspective and will be outlining processes in the near future.

We are excited about what the year will hold as we take new strides towards student success!

### **Morton District 709 Early Dismissal Fact Box**

**Purpose:** To provide continuous and collaborative professional development for faculty

#### **Other Benefits:**

- ▶ Reduced costs for substitutes for articulation
- ▶ Increased time for teachers to be in their classrooms

**When:** First Wednesday of each month beginning in September

#### **Dates:**

Sept. 5  
Oct. 3  
Nov. 7  
Dec. 5  
Jan. 9  
Feb. 6  
March 6  
April 3  
May 1

#### **Dismissal Times:**

Elementary dismissal — 1:10 p.m.  
(Brown — 1 p.m.)  
Jr. High/High School — 1:40 p.m.

#### **Faculty Professional Development time — 2 hours**

Elementary — 1:50-3:50 p.m.  
Jr. High/High School — 1:50-3:50 p.m.

#### **Transportation:**

Buses will pick up students at the end of the day. Students staying later than the dismissal time will need to be transported by parents. Our current procedures for half days apply.