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

STEM-ulating Minds

MJHS CareerMaker Lab gives students hands-on experience

Morton Junior High students are now able to get hands-on experience in some of America's most competitive career fields, thanks to the new CareerMaker STEM Lab class. The class is focused on engineering like other STEM based programs, but is also comprised of more hands-on learning career-based units.

The class utilizes Paxton Patterson Action Lab modules. MJHS has ten career-focused action labs plus four health science career labs for a total of 14 modules. All of the modules are considered to be in the science, technology, and engineering career fields.

The healthcare career modules are comprised of dentistry, veterinary medicine, biomedical engineering, and sports medicine. The other 10 career based modules are digital manufacturing, structural engineering, video production, computer graphics and animation, virtual architecture, forensic science, design and marketing, personal finance, robotics, and laser technology.

Students have the opportunity to choose and actively participate in three modules over the course of



MJHS students gain hands-on experience in Dentistry as they collaborate together to make molds of teeth in the Career-Maker STEM Lab.

the nine-week class and complete six of the 14 modules while at Morton Junior High.

No matter the choice of the module, students are expected to learn the basic concepts of a STEM career. "A student who is studying laser technology will have a better understanding about how laser refraction works while a student in veterinary medicine will have

a better idea of how to perform x-rays on an animal," said Mr. Bo Pratt, MJHS STEM teacher.

While other STEM programs are centered on a specific subject such as robotics, the CareerMaker STEM Lab is focused on career readiness. "The students are able to get hands-on experience in career fields they would never practice in another classroom," said Mr. Pratt. "It's not

that they are becoming masters at anything, but they are acquiring an early exposure to a variety of careers."

The idea behind the exposure to the different modules is it will help students decide in which careers they are most interested. This experience

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MCUSD 709 is hiring

The Morton Community Unit School District is hiring. If you or someone you know might be interested, please visit Morton709.org. Click on the Employment tab at the top of the page and follow the Online Applications link. From there, click the "Start an Online Application." We look forward to hearing from you!

Positions Available:

- ▶ Bus Drivers
- ▶ Instructional Aides
- ▶ Substitute Aides

Apply online

Visit morton709.org

New MCUSD 709 website coming soon

Morton Unit School District 709 and its schools will soon have an updated look and feel to their website. The Morton School District chose Cybernautic of Peoria to design and create a more visually appealing and user-friendly website for their visitors. The main goal in creating a new website was to make it easier for all users to quickly obtain the information they need. The new website is expected to launch in February.

MCUSD 709 asked Nick Maloof, the President of Cybernautic Peoria, to answer a couple of questions for their audience as to what they can expect with the newly designed website. Here are his answers to the questions.

1. What are some of the new features that the audience and/or parents will find to be most helpful?

We made it our mission to rethink, reorganize, and create new features that will help streamline the overall website navigation for each and every user. Some of the many features that we developed are:

- ▶ A new navigation bar that stays at the top and bottom of the screen. This will help users get to where they need to go without having to scroll and look for the navigation bar.
- ▶ We made it very simple for parents to get immediate school contact information, E-funds, MPTV, and PowerSchool by creating a secondary navigation bar.
- ▶ We have integrated a systemwide notification center that can be broadcasted to each and every school website.
- ▶ The overall design has been drastically improved in both design and functionality.
- ▶ We have rebuilt the school directory from the ground up.



2. What are some of the new features the new website offers that the old one did not have and how will the features benefit the district and community?

We would love to list all the features that the new Morton 709 website will offer, but we might run out of space! Here are just a couple that we are extremely proud of:

- ▶ The website will be mobile friendly. Users will be able to view the entire website using their smartphones.
- ▶ Updated the "Events Calendar" throughout the district and school websites.

- ▶ Rebuilt the MPTV Page.
- ▶ Created a seamless structure to help guide users to specific pages.
- ▶ Integrated Morton 709 Facebook posts to be made visible on the website with administration control.

3. Why is the updated website needed?

The current Morton 709 website is ready for an update in both functionality and appearance. The goal was to build a new website that not only looks great, but at the same time offers a better user experience that helps people get to the information they need more

quickly. With help from the Morton 709 team, we were able to figure out the most important content on the website and make it more available for students, parents, and staff.

4. When was the old current website created?

The current Morton 709 website launched in June 2010.

5. Are there any website analytics to say who mostly visits our website?

From the analytics that we can see, we show that 82% of traffic comes from mobile smartphones.

6. Anything else you would like to add about the newly designed website that our readers might find interesting or helpful?

"I truly can't wait to have the new Morton 709 website go live and for users to access the site on their mobile devices and the ease of use it will offer for parents and families to find the information they need to best benefit our students and our community," said Cybernautic Peoria President Nick Maloof. "We thank Morton 709 for the opportunity to serve."

STEM

Continued from page 1

may help them select electives to take in high school and fields of study they might be interested in when they go to college.

The structure of the program and the collaboration with a partner promotes critical thinking and problem solving. At the end of every module there is a project-based activity called a design brief. Students work in pairs in order to complete the assigned project. For example, the Laser Technology module may ask students to use everything they learned so far and spend the next three days creating an alarm system that will sound off to indicate that someone entered a room. The robotics module may ask the students to program a robot to follow a specific course. "All of the labs will have some kind of hands-

on learning experience," said Mr. Pratt. "The labs vary a lot, but they all require critical thinking in order to solve the module."

Upon the completion of every module, the students are asked to answer some follow-up questions such as what they learned and to explain what they accomplished in the program. This higher-order questioning allows the students to reflect on their participation and the material retained from each module.

The STEM lab was highlighted when Morton Junior High hosted a "Teacher Tuesdays" conference for area educators. The conference was centered on STEM education and began when local Peoria companies wanted to lend a helping hand to teachers by offering methods to further engage their students in the STEM fields.

The teachers who attended the

Thank You!

The Morton Junior High students, staff, PTO, and the Morton School District is very thankful for the following companies who have contributed to the future of our students and their education by generously donating the funds needed for the CareerMaker STEM Lab. Thank you!

- ▶ AllTrust Financial Management
- ▶ Better Banks
- ▶ Keach Architectural Design Incorporated
- ▶ Littlefield and Lovell Orthodontics
- ▶ Morton Community Foundation
- ▶ MJHS' Red and White PTO
- ▶ The Iona Group
- ▶ IBM

"Teacher Tuesdays" event at MJHS positively commented on the new

equipment, new computers, the industrial look of the classroom as well as the amount of space. "A lot of schools are trying to start STEM programs without any money," said Mr. Pratt. "They are doing programs they can find online for free or they are seeking out grant money for the curriculum and the equipment. We are very fortunate to have wonderful sponsors who made the purchase of all the equipment needed for the CareerMaker STEM Lab."

The financial backing of several corporate sponsors and the leadership of Principal Lee Hoffman was the driving force behind the success of launching the new CareerMaker STEM Lab. "The initial costs for the program was around \$75,000 and I was asked to secure 50 percent of the cost," said MJHS Principal Lee Hoffman. "At this time, I have almost secured all of those funds. I have written two

grants, worked with the Morton Community Foundation as well as the PTO for a donation, and have finalized seven corporate sponsorships with a couple more that might come to fruition."

Principal Hoffman's vision of adding a STEM program began with the growing enrollment and the need for an additional elective class. He also desired for the middle school students to gain career learning opportunities while obtaining a hands-on educational experience. "Thanks to the sponsors of the new class, we are able to introduce students to hands-on career learning opportunities, which will initiate early exploration of potential career paths," said Principal Hoffman. "The experience will provide students with the understanding of the necessary skills that should be developed during future education or career training."

Morton School District 709 Directory

Morton 709 Education and Administration Center

1050 S. Fourth Ave.,
Morton, IL 61550
263-2581

Superintendent:

Jeff Hill, Ed.D.

Assistant Superintendent:

Craig Smock, Ed.D.

Director of Curriculum and Technology:

Troy Teater, Ed.D.

Director of Special Education:

Carlie Owens, Ed.S.

Transportation

250 W. Courtland
Morton, IL 61550
263-1086

Director of Transportation:

Nancy Weigle



**MICHAEL
GOURLEY**



LEE HOFFMAN



FAITH WATERFIELD

Morton High School

350 N. Illinois, Morton, IL 61550; 266-7182

Principal: Michael Gourley

Assistant Principals: Kirk Edwards and Deidre Ripka

Assistant Principal/Athletic Director: Scott Jones

Reporting absence: 263-0611

Student Services: 263-0611

Guidance: 263-8585

Food Service: 263-7451

Morton Junior High

225 E. Jackson, Morton, IL 61550

Principal: Lee Hoffman

Assistant Principal: Chris Carter

Main Office: 266-6522

Reporting absence: 284-5000

Lettie Brown

2550 N. Morton Ave., Morton, IL 61550

Principal: Faith Waterfield

Main Office: 266-5309

Reporting absence: 284-1000



**MICHAEL
SAUNDERS**



KATE WYMAN



JULIE ALBERS

Grundy School

1100 S. Fourth Ave., Morton, IL 61550

Principal: Michael Saunders

Main Office: 263-1421

Reporting absence: 284-2000

Jefferson School

220 E. Jefferson St., Morton, IL 61550

Principal: Kate Wyman

Main Office: 263-2650

Reporting absence: 284-3025

Lincoln School

100 S. Nebraska Ave., Morton, IL 61550

Principal: Julie Albers

Assistant Principal: Michelle Peterson

Main Office: 266-6989

Reporting absence: 284-4000

District Calendar 2018-2019

January 2018

1-5 Christmas Vacation continues

8 No school: Teacher Institute Day

9 School resumes for students

15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day, no school

February

19 President's Day, no school

March

9 Half day a.m., no school p.m.: Teacher Institute Day

12 No school: Teacher Institute Day

30 Easter Break

April

2-6 Easter Break continues

May

20 Morton High School Graduation Ceremony 2 p.m.

28 Memorial Day, no school

31 Last day for students, half day a.m.

*Note: *Any unused emergency days can be declared as special holidays. In the event that no emergency days are used, May 23 would be the last student attendance day and May 24 a Teacher Institute Day.*

August

14 No school: Teacher Institute Day

15 First day of attendance for students, half day a.m.

September

3 Labor Day, no school

October

8 Columbus Day, no school

9 No school: Teacher Institute Day

18 No school, P/T conferences

19 No school, P/T conferences

November

21-23 Thanksgiving Vacation

December

21 Half day a.m., no school p.m.: Teacher Institute Day

24-31 Christmas Vacation

January

1-4 Christmas Vacation continues

7 No school: Teacher Institute Day

8 School resumes for students

21 Martin Luther Jr. Day, no school

February

18 President's Day, no school

March

8 Half day a.m., no school p.m.: Teacher Institute Day

11 No school: Teacher Institute Day

April

15-22 Easter Break

May

19 Morton High School Graduation Ceremony 2 p.m.

27 Memorial Day, no school

30 Last day for students, half day a.m.

31 No school: Teacher Institute Day

*Note: *Any unused emergency days can be declared as special holidays. 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.*

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 i3 Broadband Channel 21. Click on the MPTV logo on our website for a broadcast schedule and to go to the online streaming feature.



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

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

Morton District 709 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.

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.

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.

Upcoming meetings 2018

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

Jan. 16 – 6:30 p.m.	April 24 – 7:15 p.m.
Jan. 23 – 7:00 p.m.	May 1 – 6:30 p.m.
Feb. 6 – 6:30 p.m.	May 15 – 6:30 p.m.
Feb. 20 – 7:15 p.m.	May 29 – 6:00 p.m.
March 6 – 6:30 p.m.	June 5 – 6:30 p.m.
March 20 – 7:15 p.m.	July 10 – 6:30 p.m.
April 17 – 6:30 p.m.	

Coach Becker Inducted into Illinois Basketball Coach Association's Hall of Fame

Morton is already familiar with the successes of Coach Bob Becker and the Morton Lady Potters as they won their 3rd consecutive IHSA State Basketball Title in March of 2017.

Coach Becker will have a new accomplishment to add to his already decorated coaching resume as he will be inducted into the Illinois Basketball Coach Association's Hall of Fame in May of 2018. The induction ceremonies will be held May 5 at Illinois State University's Redbird Arena.

Coach Becker, like many would have assumed, was extremely humbled by the news of receiving such an honor. "It feels good to be recognized certainly," said Coach Becker. "I still have a lot of work to do. It is a credit to the Morton Lady Potters program, the players, and other coaches I have worked with."

Even though Coach Becker tends to downplay his successes, Lady Potters



The Lady Potters third consecutive State Championship in 2017 at Illinois State University's Redbird Arena.

Assistant Coach Megan Hasler found it difficult to do anything but praise everything he has contributed to the game, the team, and the coaching staff.

"I was beyond proud of Coach Becker for this year's

induction," said Coach Hasler. "Honestly, my first thought was it's about time! He has accomplished so much over his career and this honor is just as deserving."

Coach Hasler not only

feels the induction was well deserved but goes on to speak about what makes Coach Becker such a talented coach. "What separates Coach Becker from the rest is his desire to teach the game," said Ms.

Hasler. "His love of the game and teaching the game goes far beyond his desire to win."

Coach Hasler adds that his ability to motivate the players and staff is infectious. "He wants the most from his players. Even if his players can't see their full potential, Coach Becker finds a way to show them what they can achieve."

"He makes believers out of his team," said Coach Hasler. "Doubt is never allowed. We know we can because he tells us we can. His confidence in everyone shows through."

It is no surprise that Coach Hasler feels Coach Becker has been a key influencer in her career. "As a coach, I take each practice, conversation, and game as a day at school with one of the best," said Coach Hasler. "He has taught me more about the game and how to coach the game in four years than I ever thought imaginable. Being new to the staff, Coach has always been there to listen and talk."

MPTV upgrades to high-definition

On Wednesday, December 20, MPTV, the broadcasting division of Morton Community Unit School District, started providing a 720P High-Definition signal to its viewers on the i3 Broadband cable system.

"This is something that we have been working towards for the last several years and we are excited to see it come into fruition," said Bill Schock, Director of Broadcast Operations for the MCUSD 709 district. "As our previous equipment reached the end of its useful life, we started

replacing it with High-Definition capable equipment. The last piece of the puzzle was to install a play-out server that was capable of handling the High-Definition signal. All of the programs, school board meetings, and sporting events that we have recorded this school year were recorded in an HD format with the anticipation of being able to play them out on the cable channel in HD. We have also been live-streaming



programming from this school year in HD on our NFHS Network website."

In addition to a better quality picture, the viewers will also notice a new bulletin board feature that has announcements, lunch menus, time and temperature, and the district's Facebook and Twitter feeds.

Schock added, "We would like to thank the technical staff at i3 Broadband for working with us to make this upgrade possible. Unfortunately, Comcast was not able to provide us with a High-Definition channel at this time



An inside look of MPTV's mobile TV broadcasting trailer.

so we are down-converting our signal back to standard definition to go out on their system."

MPTV is operated by a combination of school

district staff, community volunteers, and students. The programming can be viewed on i3 Broadband Channel 21 and Comcast Xfinity Channel 20.

Almost time for Kindergarten pre-registration

Planning for the first day of school next August is well underway, and the ability to sign up for kindergarten pre-registration and screening will begin in February.

On March 22 and 23, Morton School District 709 will conduct pre-registration and screening at the District Office, 1050 S. Fourth Ave., for students who will be 5 years old by Sept. 1.

"The screening helps schools plan for the number of kindergarten classes needed and to get some baseline data on our new students," said Michael Saunders, principal at Grundy Elementary.

"It helps us to get to know each child as a learner."

The screening process takes about 30 minutes and is conducted by kindergarten teachers. The screening includes letter, number and color identification, counting, shapes, and fine motor skills. Following the screening, parents will receive feedback from the teacher.

"It gives parents a clear picture of their child at that point," Mr. Saunders said. "The teacher will let the parent know what they can be working on before school starts."

All students will need to be screened prior to the first day of school. To schedule an appointment, call 263-2581.



LEFT: A Jefferson kindergarten class learns how to draw a picture using a computer in the school's Computer Lab. BOTTOM: Mrs. Grant's Kindergarten class at Grundy Elementary School explores their numbers with the assistance of Ms. Emily Hauter who is the classroom instructional aide.



Fact Box

What: Kindergarten pre-registration and screening

Who: Children who will be 5 years old by Sept. 1, 2018

When: 8 a.m. – 7 p.m., March 22 and 8 a.m. – noon, March 23

Where: District Office, 1050 S. Fourth Ave.

How: Call 263-2581 to make an appointment

Other: Screening takes about 30 minutes, parents will receive feedback

Please bring: Certified birth certificate (the one from the county, not the hospital); immunization records; most recent physical, dental, and vision exams if you have them.

We appreciate our school aides

There are about 150 people that work throughout District 709 in roles that meet specific needs of students. These people fill the many aide positions throughout the school district and their work is vital to the success of each student. They support the certified teaching staff, office staff, broadcasting, music, and manage computer labs and libraries.

Aide Appreciation Day is March 16, 2018. In remembrance of Amy Hardin, who was an aide at Lincoln Elementary School, the school district honors all aides on Amy's birthday.

The aides for this school year are:

Lettie Brown

Lisa Anderson, Elaine Campbell, Elizabeth Cigelnik, Wendy Collins, Teresa Detloff, Sondra Dole, Jamie Grethey, Brenda Grimm, Erin Kellerstrass, Staci Loyd, Carol Main, Valerie Mellen, Jean Melvin, Katie Riddle, Matthew Robison, Julie Schmidgall, Judy Taylor, Annette Urban, Tracey Vickerman, Sabrina Vior, and Elizabeth Walter.

Grundy

Dawn Berg, Amanda Derrick, Angel Fisher, Amy Fuiten, Emily Hauter, Leslie Householter, Holly Manthey, Michelle Paulson, Staci Petersen, Pam Riddle, Michelle Robinson-Molton, Jennifer Sadler, Beth Shook, Lori Simpson, Leanne Sommer, Anita Stidman, Danielle



Holly Manthey, an Instructional Aide at Grundy Elementary School, is assisting a 5th grade student in the classroom.

Tolly, Carol Vance, Valerie Wilkes, Jennifer Wilson, and Emily Zehr.

Jefferson

Tracy Aghaei, Renee Bommagarden, Amberlee Campbell, Melissa Clementz, Mandy Collins, Lisa Cook, Kathy Funhouser, Amy Glass, Erika Graves, Sarah Hornsby, Stacy Krantz, Michelle Lyons, Shelby Nicholson, Lindsey O'Donnell, Amy Olson, Amie Pearce, Julie Peck, Tammy Presley, Christy Powers, Nan Reynolds, Robin Sizemore, Monica Taylor, Zoe Troxell, and Emily Zehr.

Lincoln

Kylie Adams, Michelle Backhaus, Shelly Bair, Michaela Balducci, Angie Beyer, Cindy Chambers, Leah Collins, Rachel Cushman, Andrew Dibler, Keri Dodson, Kari Dyche, Rachel Eichorn, Tracy Fick, Natalie Friend, Andrew Funk, Kate Gashaw, Lynn Greene, Hannah Grow, Sonya Hillrich, Brandy Hutchcraft, Julie Kampa-Thompson, Lorrie Knapp, Nancy LaGrow, Lynnette Litwiller, Angie Mattson, Anne Miller, Julie Miller, Sally Miller, Julie Moza,

Sherrie Parnham, Karyn Phillips, Denise Poshard, Lori Rider, Meghan Ronin, Ann Skaggs, Darci Slocum, Kris Stieglitz, Justine Szetela, Jody Vernon, Andrea Ward, Sarah Warman, Sarah Webb, Amy Zbinden, and Shelby Zbinden.

Morton Junior High

Jacqueline Akers, Jeff Arbisi, Dawn Blunier, Ginny Cody, Diane Conklin, Joel Harper, Theckla Krysak, Clara Jo Ogden, Melissa Peters, Kimberly Serrurier, Ashley Turner, Wendy Wright, and Andy Zuck.

Morton High School

Becky Christiansen, Alison Eckhart, Rick Everetts, Jennifer Fort, Jodi Garner, Barb Goggins, Caitlyn Gschwend, Jackie Harrison, Andrew Irwin, Brooke Janes, Diane Kirk, Tina McKimmey, Doreen Propst, Cody Pullium, and Jaclyn Smith.

Morton Academy

Randi Kohtz and Krista Naab

Special Education

Tracy Fick, Randi Kohtz, Angie Kupferschmid, and Carol Williams

Tommy Kuhl has taken high school golf to the next level

Tommy Kuhl's golf game began when he was a little kid going to the golf course with his dad, Mike Kuhl, and his brother, Pete Kuhl. Tommy's parents and his brother not only inspired Tommy to play golf but they have always encouraged the athlete and his love of the game.

Tommy's love for golf grew when he first attended golf camp the summer of his fifth-grade year. The junior golf camp was led by Coach Small, who is the head golf coach at University of Illinois and a professional golfer. Needless to say, the camp fueled Tommy's devotion to the sport. "As soon as I got into sixth grade, I wanted to take it (the game of golf) more seriously," said Tommy Kuhl. "I saw that I had talent. So, I took it to the next level and started competing in tournaments in sixth grade, traveling across the state. That's when I knew I wanted to play golf for the rest of my future."

All of his hard work and competing in the tournaments paid off as he took home 6th place in the Illinois Elementary School Association (IESA) golf tournament as a seventh-grader at Morton Junior High School (MJHS) and won the IESA individual state boys golf title while playing golf as an MJHS eighth-grader. He won the state title by five strokes with shooting a 2-under par 70.

Joining the forces of Coach King and the Morton High School golf team, Tommy won his second individual state title as a freshman, which was the first for Morton High School. The victories did not stop there as the MHS Boys Golf Team also took home their first state team title and Morton's second state championship in team sports the same year. So, it was no surprise that Tommy Kuhl was named the "2014 Journal Star Golfer of the Year" and won the IHSA individual medalist honors as a freshman. What made it extra special was that Tommy and his brother Pete played together on the same team when they brought home the individual and



All photos courtesy of Mike and Michele Kuhl

LEFT: Tommy Kuhl wearing his 2nd IHSA Golf Individual State Championship medal his senior year. **ABOVE:** Tommy Kuhl holds Morton High School's first IHSA Golf State Championship trophy his freshman year, while wearing a gold medal for each of the Team's State Championship and his Individual State Championship win. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Tommy Kuhl as an 8th-grader proudly displays his IESA Golf Individual State Championship medal.



LEFT: The 2014 Morton High School Golf Team and their Coach Jamie King pose for a picture with the Potters' first IHSA Golf Team State Championship trophy. **ABOVE:** Tommy Kuhl with his parents, Mike and Michele Kuhl, pose for pictures on College Sign Day as Tommy signed his letter of intent to play golf at the University of Illinois in the fall.

team state championships.

In 2015, the MHS Boys Golf Team, including brothers Tommy and Pete, became back-to-back state champions. They won their second state team title and Tommy ranked 17th in the state as a sophomore. Tommy tied for 4th place as a junior and for the second time, was named "Journal Star Golfer of the Year" in 2016.

Tommy set a new goal for himself as he approached his senior year and that was to make it even better than the previous years. "Obviously, I had that in the back of mind that this was my last high school round so I wanted to make the most of it," said Tommy Kuhl.

Goal accomplished. Tommy golfed the best 18-hole total in IHSA Boys Golf State Final history on the first round of the state tournament by posting a 63 (30-33) game.

"Tommy's first round on Friday was flawless," said MHS Varsity Boys Golf Coach Jamie King. "He had a clean score card with eight birdies, 10 pars, and no bogies."

Kuhl's second round of the state tournament carded a 66 (34-32) which brought his 36-hole total to 129, setting the IHSA state final record for a 36-hole round. Thus, winning his second state individual title by 12 strokes at the tourney with a -13.

Tommy enjoyed bringing home another individual win his senior year, but what made it extra special was that he was able to play in the state finals one last time with the MHS Boys Golf Team. Although the team did not win another state team title, Tommy will always remember what it takes to have a great team. "We had a really good group of guys," said Kuhl. "We got

along. We pushed each other and I think that is why we were so successful. I love competing as a team more than as an individual. I would take a team win over an individual win any day."

The second state victory positioned Kuhl as the 11th player in Illinois state history to win multiple individual state titles. He was once again, for the third time in fact, named "Journal Star Golfer of the Year." The only year Tommy was not given the title in his high school career was in 2015 when his brother

"I love competing as a team more than as an individual. I would take a team win over an individual win any day."

Tommy Kuhl, Morton High School Senior and IHSA Boys Golf State Champion

Pete was given the honor.

That was not all, Tommy Kuhl was also featured in Sports Illustrated's "Faces in the Crowd" article the week of Dec. 11, 2017. Professional athletes like Emmitt Smith,

Terry Bradshaw, and Tiger Woods, to only name a few, also graced the same article of the very distinguished magazine as high school athletes.

To say that Tommy Kuhl has talent now is a bit of an understatement. An article featuring Tommy on the Illinois High School Association's website says, "Morton

High School senior Tommy Kuhl put on the best performance in IHSA Boys Golf State Final history in 2017, a year after the IHSA held its centennial anniversary for the tournament." (www.ihsa.org/IHSAState/IHSAStateArticles) (IHSA, 2017) His golf career at Morton High School has been record-setting not just for Morton, but for the whole Illinois high school golf program in its 100 plus years of existence.

Although it was Tommy's hard work and commitment to the game that has earned him great success, he is very grateful for his parents, his brother Pete, and Coach King for being key influencers in his life.

"My parents taught me a lot about the game," said Tommy Kuhl. "My dad taught me how to carry myself around the game. My mom and dad pushed me to be better

each and every day."

"My brother is very influential in my life," said Tommy. "I get to go out and play golf with my brother every day. He teaches me a lot. We learn from each other."

Coach King began his high school coaching career at Morton High School the same year Tommy joined the team as a freshman. Tommy will always remember the drive and support Coach King provided throughout his high school career. "Not a lot of people think that golf coaches do much on the course because they can't really tell you what to do, but Coach King is really good with my mental side of the game," said Tommy Kuhl. "Coach King was a great athlete in high school and college so he knows about the competitiveness of the game. He calms me down when I need to be calmed down

and he pumps me up when I need to be pumped up."

What does Tommy Kuhl hope to achieve now? In addition to his unbelievably successful golfing career at MHS, Tommy has committed to play Division I golf for University of Illinois, where he will fulfill his dream of playing golf under the direction of Coach Small. "What pushed me to play for the U of I was the facilities and Coach Small," said Kuhl. "Coach Small is really good with the mental side of the game and he has had success. Academically, at U of I, I plan on studying sports management."

"My ultimate dream would be to play golf professionally, and to win the Masters would be unreal," said Kuhl.

Are you ready for homework without the headache?

By Dr. Dan Ebbert

School Psychologist at Jefferson
and Lettie Brown Elementary
Schools

Homework can teach children skills referred to as habits of mind that include learning how to plan ahead, organize tasks, manage time, problem-solve, and make choices, all of which are important skills when students begin to work and function in the adult world. In addition, homework can have moderate benefits on school achievement in middle school and clear benefits on achievement in high school. Therefore, it is important that children practice and learn to do homework consistently early on in their school careers.

With this in mind, how can parents and caregivers help reduce the stress that is often associated with homework? Establishing clear routines and building in rewards and incentives to use with children who are not motivated simply by earning good grades are two key strategies caregivers can use to help homework go more smoothly.

When establishing a daily routine for homework completion, first, finding a location in the house where homework will actually get done is key. The right location will depend on your child and the culture within your household. Both you and your child should sit down and discuss the pros and cons of different settings in which homework could be completed and arrive at a mutually agreed upon location.



Second, you will want to set up a homework center. Once you have identified a homework location, make sure there are adequate supplies and your child is most likely to need and eliminate distractions in this area. If the homework area is a multipurpose space, your child can keep homework supplies in a bin, crate, or other portable organizer.

Third, establish a homework time with your child so that homework is completed at the same time every day. While some children need a break right after school to relax and have a snack, others may need to start homework while they are still in "school mode" and take a break at a later time. The general recommendation is to get homework done before dinner or as early in the evening as possible so that

your child is not tired, which can lengthen the pace at which homework gets done.

Finally, establish a daily homework schedule. At least into middle school you should sit down with your child and make a homework schedule/plan. Such a plan can include reviewing assignments, checking for understanding of concepts before homework is started, and checking to make sure all materials are available. During this time, have your child estimate how long each assignment should take to complete and on which assignments help will be needed. Performing this task will make it so that the estimated start times for each assignment can take into account parent availability.

For those students who are not intrinsically motivated solely by grades, **caregivers**

may want to establish an incentive system to help them get through their homework consistently with care and in a timely manner. Simple incentive systems can include things such as reminding a child of a fun activity to do when homework is completed. Having something to look forward to can be a powerful incentive to get the hard work done, and the reminder of this incentive at the start of homework time can sometimes be the catalyst that helps motivate the child to finish their work completely.

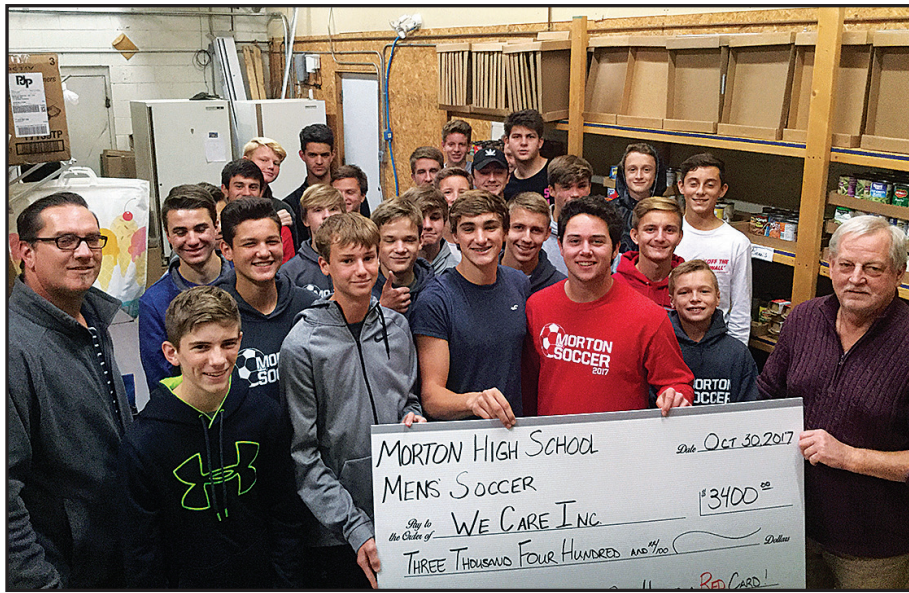
More elaborate incentive systems involve more planning, but may be necessary to tackle more significant and recurrent homework problems. Such systems could involve a plan for earning points, chips, tokens, or stickers, that could

be traded in for certain rewards. Within this system, more points (etc.) could be earned for accomplishing more difficult homework tasks. Elaborate incentive systems work best when caregivers and children work together to establish these systems so that goals, rewards, and any penalties are realistic.

Be sure to build in breaks and opportunities for small rewards for a child who cannot make it all the way to the end without a small break or reward along the way. Choice can also be built in to a homework system to allow children a sense of control related to the order in which assignments will be completed and the schedule that will be followed. In addition to motivating children, choice can greatly reduce power struggles and lead to more positive interactions during homework time.

Please keep in mind that the suggestions provided here will need to be adapted to the age of your specific child. The suggestions here are also by no means an exhaustive list, but are some that have been researched and recommended by the National Association of School Psychologists (Dawson, 2009). If problems occur that are persistent and seem to not respond to continued attempts to address the problem in various ways, consult your child's teacher or your school building's school psychologist for further assistance.

Note: Information in this article was adapted from: Dawson, P. (2009) Homework: A Guide for Parents, Communique, 38(1).



MHS Boys Soccer Team presents Morton We Care's Executive Director Mike Hutchison with a donation to help end hunger in Morton.

Morton High School soccer team donates \$3,400 to We Care of Morton

The Morton High School Boys Soccer team raised \$3,400 to help stock the food pantry shelves and to assist the Meals on Wheels program of We Care Incorporated in Morton.

Over the course of the soccer season, the soccer team conducted a raffle fundraiser and sold "Give Hunger a Red Card" t-shirts, with 100% of the profit being donated to We Care Incorporated in Morton. The Morton community was very generous in contributing amazing prizes for the raffle, which generated interest and increased the financial success of the event.

The MHS Boys soccer team is honored to raise funds for and to be

a part of the good works at We Care, Inc. The experience has further instilled in the players and parents alike the importance of community, charity, and teamwork. It is a great accomplishment to be able to come together as a community and make a difference in the lives of those in need, especially in time for the holidays.

"We Care serves over 300 people each year in Morton and rural Tazewell County," said We Care's Executive Director Mike Hutchinson. "We are very grateful for the generous donation made by the Morton High School Soccer team and their hard work. The funds will be used to help feed those families in need."

PB&J gives Morton students a taste of different musical styles

The 6th grade Morton Elementary Choir (MEC) students can now audition for the newly created singing group called PB&J. The ensemble was named and created by MEC Choir Director Mr. Shane Roche with the goal to focus on growing confidence in the singers and enrich their musical understanding of the styles of music they cover.

The name PB&J stands for "Pop, Broadway, and Jazz" which are the genres of music the group will focus on. "Obviously, we're playing off of the sandwich by the same name, which is in our logo," said Mr. Roche.

Although the group has 16 members this year, the group can grow or shrink depending on the number of students who audition while making sure the group is balanced (each voice part needs to be covered by roughly the same number of singers.) When the group is small, everyone has an important role to play.



"The idea of students having their voice heard is something they get accustomed to," said Mr. Roche.

The singing ensemble was designed for students who want to sing and those who want to learn how to approach today's "popular" musical styles in a way that fosters skill and musical understanding. There will be solo opportunities in the group unlike in the Morton Elementary Choir.

PB&J's first performance will be at the Heidi White concert in March. They also plan to perform at "Arts in the Park" and the Spring Choral Awards Concert.

"The PB&J ensemble's songs for

this year will be: 'The Circle of Life' - from the Broadway version of Disney's 'Lion King'; 'The Pink Panther Theme,' which is a delightful jazz tune; and 'I Will,' by the Beatles," said Mr. Roche.

"It is exciting because students this young have not previously had the opportunity to be in an auditioned group within District 709," said Mr. Roche. "It's going to be neat to see the quality of music we can create with students this young. They are very energetic, dedicated to the group, and their work is already starting to pay off."

PTOs support District 709 schools

PTO meeting dates

Morton High School

All PTO meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 1 p.m. in the MHS Conference Room. Check in at the main office on Illinois Street. Upcoming meetings are 2/13, 3/13, 4/10, and 5/8.

Morton Junior High Red and White Club

Upcoming meetings are 2/15, 3/15, and 4/19. Meetings begin at 7 p.m. in the Library and Media Center.

Grundy

Upcoming meetings are 2/26, 3/26, 4/23, and 5/21. Meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Library.

Lettie Brown

PTO meetings are held the last Monday of every month and start at 7 p.m. in the Music Room. Upcoming meetings are 1/30, 2/27, 3/27, and 4/24.

PTO also meets after school from 2:40-3:45 p.m. every Thursday unless a holiday or over break.

Lincoln

Upcoming meetings are 2/5, 3/19, 4/16, and 5/7. Meetings begin at 7 p.m. in the Music Room.

Jefferson

Upcoming meetings are 2/26, 3/26, 4/23, and 5/22 (*Morning Meeting 8-8:30 a.m.*) Meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Teacher Work Room.



Lettie Brown's Principal Faith Waterfield and PTO members Angel Fisher and Jessica Kapustka present a plaque to Mike Mahle as a token of appreciation for freshening up the Lettie Brown logo as shown on the middle of the school's new gym floor.

Morton Potter Cards

The PTO at Morton High School has partnered with local businesses to offer the Morton Potter Card.

The Potter Card costs \$10 and offers discounts at local Morton businesses. All proceeds go to MHS PTO for the benefit of the high school students, teachers, and staff.

The Potter Card may be used only once per day, per business, per customer, and not in conjunction with any other discounts. The Potter Card can be used over and over throughout 2018.

The Potter Card is valid Jan. 1, 2018, through Dec. 31, 2018, and can be purchased at the MHS office, J&J Cleaners, Morton Leaves 'N Beans, Rudy's Hair Salon, and So Chic Boutique of Morton.

The PTO parents are selling the cards as well and will have cards for sale at the home varsity boys and girls basketball games.

There are new businesses this year who are generously supporting the MHS PTO. They are Em.bel.ish Hair Design, Elevate Trampoline Park Peoria, Sucre Sweets & Socials, and Threads Boutique.

All proceeds benefit the Morton High School PTO. For questions, contact Jane Hoffmire or Cindy Honegger.

Thank you to the following businesses for their ongoing support! The businesses below are on the 2018 Potter Card:

Basta's Italian Kitchen — 10% carry-out only

Carius Dairy Queen — Buy 1 OJ or OJ Smoothie, get 1/2 off OJ or OJ Smoothie of equal or lesser value

The Confectionery, Inc. — 10% off of all purchases

Culver's of Morton — \$1 off value basket

Dunkin Donuts/Baskin Robbins — Buy 1 dozen donuts at regular price, get 6 free

Eli's Coffee Shop — Buy 1 drink, get 1 of equal or lesser value 25% off. 1 per visit

Em.bel.ish Hair Design — 20% off any hair service of \$50 or more, 10% off gel or regular manicure

Elevate Trampoline Park Peoria — Buy 1 hour of jump, get 2nd hour free, 1 per person

per day

FJT Office Supplies — \$2 off H-P ink cartridges

Floral Designs, Ltd. — \$5 off a dozen roses

Gamer's Pizza and Wings — Buy 1XL pizza, get 1 small appetizer free

Great American Popcorn Co. of Morton — 10% off purchase, with \$10 minimum purchase

Great Harvest Bread Co. — Buy a medium coffee, get 1/2 off a sweet

Grimm's Inc. — 10% off one original priced item, in stock only

Hacienda Fuentes — Buy 1 combo #1-#20 at full price, get 2nd combo #1-#20 of equal or lesser value for half price

J&J Cleaners — 10% off all services

Johnson's Floral — 10% off flower purchase. In store only, excludes weddings,

special events, or special orders

La Fiesta Mexican Restaurant — Buy 1 combo, #1-#30 at full price, get 2nd combo #1-#30 of equal or lesser value for half price

Lulu's on Main — 25% off one item. Excludes Blue Dot, gift cards & consignment pieces

Miller Paint Shop — 10% off regular priced item

Morton Cinemas — \$1 off any size drink or popcorn, limit 2 per visit

Morton Firehouse Pizza — \$2 off lunch buffet, \$4 off pickup or delivery order (\$20 minimum)

Morton La Gondola — 10% off purchase

Morton Leaves 'N Beans — 10% off purchase

Morton Papa Murphy's Pizza — \$2 off any size regular priced pizza, excludes Mini Murphys and Faves, Morton only

Morton Pizza Ranch — 10% off any purchase

Pegasus Pizza — \$3 off any 16" pizza or pair, \$2 off any 12" pizza or pair, Pick up only

Rudy's Hair Salon — \$10 off one spray tan. One person per card, Maximum use twice per month

Safari Bowl, Inc. — Buy 1 game, get one free; Shoe rental not included

Schooners — 20% off total bill, Dine in only, Excludes weekends, banquets and alcohol

Seasons Gastropub — Half price kids menu on Wednesday (dinner only), 1 child per adult purchase

So Chic Boutique of Morton — 10% off entire boutique purchase

Sucre Sweets & Socials — Buy 1 cotton candy, get \$1 off 2nd cotton candy, Tuesday only

Threads Boutique — 10% off regular priced jeans

School Fundraisers

Thank you MCUSD 709 Community and Companies for Your Support!

Lettie Brown

Lettie Brown Elementary School held their annual Walk-A-Thon fundraiser. The funds will be used to support various school functions and to purchase supplies.

The Lettie Brown Bears would like to thank the community and the following companies for their generous contributions.

- ▶ A Perfect Promotion
- ▶ Bob Grimm Chevrolet
- ▶ CEFCU
- ▶ FJT Office Supply
- ▶ Heartland Bank
- ▶ Lighthouse Buick GMC
- ▶ McDonald's of Morton
- ▶ Mike Murphy Ford
- ▶ Morton/Peoria Rental

Jefferson

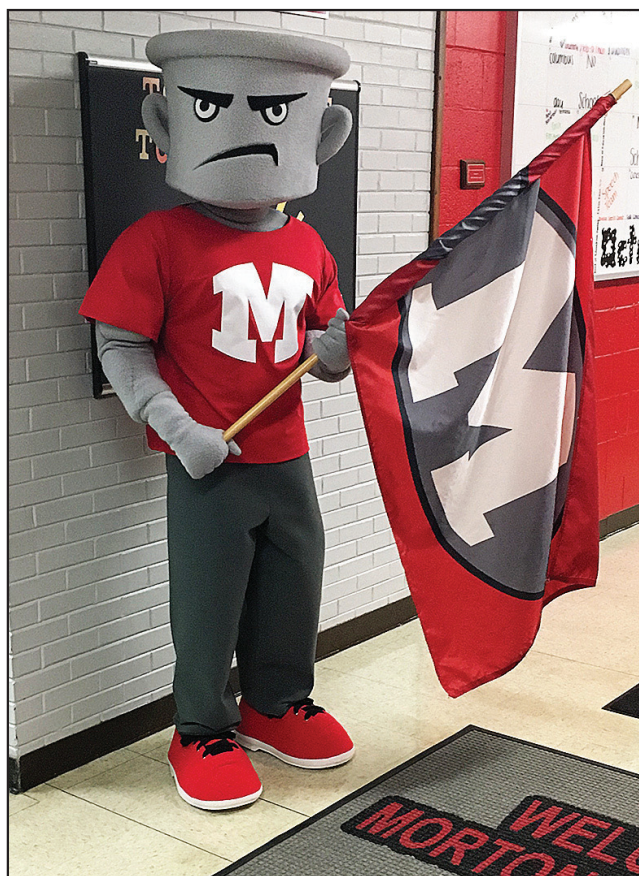
Jefferson Elementary School held their annual Read-A-Thon fundraiser. The money will be used to support various school functions and to purchase supplies.

The Jefferson Patriots are very thankful for the contributions of their PTO and the community.

Grundy

Grundy Elementary School sold Fannie May candies for their annual fundraiser. The money raised will go towards the purchase of books, classroom supplies, PE equipment, field trips, and playground improvements.

The Grundy Gators would like to thank their PTO and the community for their generous support.



The new Potter Guy mascot was partially funded by the PTO and he has been quite busy going to games, making special appearances at several events, and has been the substitute crossing guard.

Morton Junior High

The Morton Junior High Held their annual Help-A-Thon fundraiser. The money will be used to support the academic, athletic, and music programs, as well as student field trips.

The Junior Potters are thankful for the generous contributions from their PTO, the community, and the following companies.

- ▶ 360 Electric
- ▶ Core Construction

- ▶ Element Construction
- ▶ Grainger Industrial Supply
- ▶ Grimm's, Inc
- ▶ IBM
- ▶ Illinois Cancer Care
- ▶ JJ Braker and Sons
- ▶ J-Tec Industries
- ▶ Leman Property Management
- ▶ Lighthouse Automotive
- ▶ Mike Murphy Ford
- ▶ Pure Fitness Innovation
- ▶ Reality Drafting
- ▶ Tanner Farms

Morton High School

The Morton High School sold their MHS PTO Potter Cards for their annual fundraiser. The money will be used to fund grants for the teachers who need additional supplies for classroom projects, a teacher appreciation dinner, and the Junior ACT breakfast.

The Potters would like to thank their PTO, the community, the MHS parents, and the following companies for their support in the sales of this year's Potter Card.

- ▶ Basta's Italian Kitchen
- ▶ Brittany VanEtten at Bella's Salon
- ▶ Carius Dairy Queen
- ▶ The Confectionary, Inc.
- ▶ Culvers of Morton
- ▶ Dunkin' Donuts
- ▶ Eli's
- ▶ FJT Office Supplies
- ▶ Floral Design, Ltd.
- ▶ Garner's Pizza & Wings

- ▶ Great American Popcorn Co. of Morton
- ▶ Great Harvest Bread Co.
- ▶ Grimm's Inc.
- ▶ Hacienda Fuentes
- ▶ J & J Cleaners
- ▶ Johnson's Floral
- ▶ La Fiesta Mexican Restaurant
- ▶ LuLu's On Main
- ▶ Merle Norman Cosmetics
- ▶ Miller Paint Shop
- ▶ The Morton Cinemas
- ▶ Morton Firehouse Pizza
- ▶ Morton La Gondola
- ▶ Morton Leaves 'N Beans
- ▶ Morton Papa Murphy's
- ▶ Morton Pizza Ranch
- ▶ Pegasus Pizza
- ▶ Red Rock
- ▶ Rudy's Hair Salon
- ▶ Safari Bowl
- ▶ Schooner's
- ▶ Seasons
- ▶ So Chic Boutique & Events

Lincoln

Lincoln Elementary School held their annual Walk-A-Thon fundraiser. The money will be used to purchase new lockers, support various school functions, and to purchase supplies.

The Lincoln Lions would like to thank their PTO, the community, and the following companies for their generous donations.

- ▶ Beauty Counter
- ▶ Carl's Bakery
- ▶ Central Illinois Insulation
- ▶ Center Stage Academy of Dance
- ▶ Cloyd Plumbing, Inc.
- ▶ Core Construction Services of IL

- ▶ Duke Mini Storage
- ▶ Gold's Gym
- ▶ Gosteli Technology Solutions
- ▶ Illinois Civil Contractors Inc.
- ▶ Lighthouse GMC Automotive
- ▶ Morton Audiology & Hearing Aid Center
- ▶ Morton Collision
- ▶ Schooner's of Morton
- ▶ Sucre
- ▶ Sum Fun Stable
- ▶ Tanner Farms
- ▶ Tony & Sons
- ▶ The Unlimited Stitch
- ▶ Velde Auto Group
- ▶ Xcell Mechanical
- ▶ Zobrist Construction

Morton Moving Forward: Strategies Proposed

Morton District 709 has been working through the process of reviewing our academic program and has developed a set of strategies entitled Morton Moving Forward. In researching districts like Morton and becoming familiar with the research-based strategies highlighted in the evidence-based funding model, we have identified several different actions that would help improve student achievement in the district. The four key ideas in Morton Moving

Forward are:

1. Focusing on reading
2. Intentional transitioning to high school
3. Preparing for college/careers
4. Organizing and investing in professional learning

As we provide more detail for these areas, we will seek faculty insight on the actions to implement. This is a vision that continues to be refined as we gather input from teachers, parents, administrators, and



MORTON
UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

the board members.

We have detailed aspects of *Focusing on Reading* at the December board meeting, and *Intentional transitioning to high school* at the January board meeting. We will continue this process with *Preparing for college and careers* at the Feb. 6 board meeting.

Organizing and Investing

in professional learning is a key strategy we will articulate throughout all presentations as it is foundational to success in each area.

Once we have had the opportunity to explain the strategy and actions in each of these areas, we will determine what might be best to recommend. We hope you will take time to review these ideas as we look to make improvements for the students. There is a more detailed presentation on the district's

website, www.morton709.org, on the left hand side of the web page, under Superintendent's Corner. It is titled *Morton Moving Forward*.

Jeffrey W. Hill

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

Morton 709 facilities upgrades continue

On March 15, 2016, the voters of Morton CUSD 709 passed a \$10.5 million bond issue. The work covered with the passage of this referendum includes the following:

► Renovation of the band room at Morton High School (completed in summer of 2016)

► Renovation of the fine arts area and 4 classrooms at Morton Jr. High School (completed in the summer of 2016)

► Construction of a new storage building outside of MHS (completed in the fall of 2016).

► Grundy Elementary added on a gymnasium, 2 classrooms, restrooms, and storage (completed summer 2017.)

► Lincoln Elementary added on a gymnasium, 3 classrooms, restrooms, and storage (completed summer 2017.)

► Lettie Brown Elementary added on a gymnasium, 1 classroom, restrooms, and storage (completed summer 2017.)

► Replacement of windows at Jefferson Elementary along with some brickwork

Work that began in the summer

of 2017 and is slated to occur in the summer of 2018, includes the completion of the window replacement at Jefferson Elementary. This is a large project that cannot be completed in the timeframe of one summer. All of the work in the bond issue, which totals close to \$10.5 million, after utilizing some of the district's reserve funds, are to address urgent needs at all of our buildings. Even though the District had referendum approval to issue \$10.5 million in bonds, only \$8.99 million was issued.

In addition to the windows to be completed at Jefferson, we are also in the process of bidding the following projects as part of Morton CUSD 709 five-year Capital Plan. *The final list of work that will be completed is dependent upon submitted bids and the facilities budget.* Each school will also have required Health Life Safety work that is part of the bid process:

Brown School

1. West entrance walk and curb
2. New carpet in computer lab
3. Paving improvements parking lot/ bus drop-off/playground
4. Replace roofing

Grundy School

1. Replace roofing

Jefferson School

1. Interior doors
2. Remaining Phase III windows

Lincoln School

1. Replace south wing windows
2. Abatement for south wing windows
3. Replace south wing window blinds
4. Reseal entrance drive

MJHS

1. Replace nine exterior doors
2. New LED lighting & wiring in gym
3. Reinstall HVAC unit vents in cafeteria
4. South face alcove masonry repair and seal

MHS

1. Replace four interior doors
2. Athletic storage space and maintenance space
3. Replace eight exterior doors
4. Renovate elevator



TOP: PE class in the new gym at Lettie Brown. **ABOVE:** Windows on the east and west of the school building with new windows.

5. Improve HVAC duct extensions in west & east gyms

Bertha Frank Performing Arts Center

1. Replace light fixtures with LED
2. Replace six interior doors
3. Replace exterior garage door

Administration DO

1. Replace roofing

Mark your calendar

2018 Fine Arts Calendar

**Dates and times are subject to change. Please check school's website for more detailed information.*

January

Friday, 26 - 7 p.m. - Junior High Musical at Bertha Frank
7 p.m. - MHS All-State Band, Choir, and Orchestra at Peoria Civic Center
Saturday, 27 - 7 p.m. - Junior High Musical at Bertha Frank
7 p.m. - MHS All-State Band, Choir, and Orchestra at Peoria Civic Center
Sunday, 28 - 3 p.m. - Junior High Musical at Bertha Frank

February

Friday, 2 - 7 p.m. - In Their Own Write at Bertha Frank
7 p.m. - MHS Mid-Illini Jazz Festival at Metamora
Monday, 5 - 7 p.m. - MHS Mid-Illini Choir Concert at Washington
Tuesday, 20 - 7 p.m. - MHS/MJHS Jazz Band @ Bradley Jazz Festival (Bradley Univ.)
Thursday, 22 - 7 p.m. - Morton High School Band Concert at Bertha Frank
Friday, 23 - MEC at Peoria Rivermen Game (Peoria)

March

Thursday, 1 - 6:30 p.m. - Lettie Brown Musical at Bertha Frank
Saturday, 3 - IHSA Solo and

Ensemble (Normal)
Monday, 5 - 7 p.m. - MHS Orchestra Concert at Bertha Frank
Tuesday, 6 - MHS Mid-Illini Concert Band Festival (Pekin)
Thursday, 8 - 6:30 p.m. - Lincoln 4th and 5th Grade Program at Bertha Frank
Friday, 9 - 7 p.m. - MJHS Solo and Ensemble at MJHS
Thursday, 15 - 6:30 p.m. - Jefferson 5th and 6th Grade Musical (Jefferson)
Thursday, 22 - 6:30 p.m. - Grundy 3rd and 4th Grade Program at Bertha Frank
Friday, 23 - 7 p.m. - MHS Wind Ensemble Joint Concert with ISU Wind Ensemble (ISU)
Saturday, 24 - 7 p.m. - MHS Tal-

ent Show at Bertha Frank
Tuesday, 27 - 6:30 p.m. - Heidi White Concert MHS/MJHS/MEC at Grace Church

April

Friday, 20 - MHS Symphonic Winds at ISU Concert Festival (ISU)
26, 27, 28, 29 - MHS Musical (Bertha Frank)
Friday, 27 - MJHS Band, JH Choir, JH Orchestra @ Dunlap Music Contest (Dunlap)

May

Tuesday, 1 - MJHS/MEC @ Spring Music Celebration (Peoria Courthouse Square)
- MHS Choir Awards Concert at Bertha Frank

Thursday, 3 - MJHS Orchestra Awards Concert (MJHS Gym)
Friday, 4 - MHS Art Journal (Bertha Frank Lobby)
- MHS Wind Ensemble at Super-State Festival tentative (Univ. of Illinois)
Tuesday, 8 - MHS Orchestra Awards Concert (Idlewood Park)
Thursday, 10 - MHS Band Awards Concert (MHS West Gym)
Monday, 14 - MJHS Choir and MEC Awards Concert at Bertha Frank
Thursday, 17 - MJHS Band Awards Concert (MJHS Gym)
Friday, 18 - MJHS/MEC Choir at Peoria Chiefs Game (Peoria)
Sunday, 20 - MHS Orchestra at MHS Graduation (Carper Field)

2018 MHS Winter Athletics Calendar

**Dates and times are subject to change. Please check MHS' Sports Schedules by going to MHS. Morton709.org. Click on the "Schedules" tab and select "School, Sports, and Activities Calendar to find more information and to see the spring sports schedules.*

January

Friday, 26

5:30 p.m. - Boys Sophomore Basketball vs. Metamora High School (Home - West Gym)
7 p.m. - Boys Varsity Basketball vs. Metamora High School (Home - West Gym)

Saturday, 27

9 a.m. - Boys Freshmen Sophomore Wrestling vs. Mid Illini Conference Meet at East Peoria High School
5 p.m. - Girls Sophomore Basketball at Pekin High School
5 p.m. - Boys Sophomore Basketball at Lincoln High School
6:30 p.m. - Girls Varsity Basketball at Pekin High School
6:30 p.m. - Boys Varsity Basketball at Lincoln High School

Monday, 29

6 p.m. - Boys Freshmen Basketball at Limestone High School

Tuesday, 30

4:30 p.m. - Boys Varsity- Swimming vs. Dunlap/Manual at Washington Five Points
TBA - Scholastic Bowl JV and Varsity at Pekin High School

February

Thursday, 1

6 p.m. - Boys Freshmen Basketball at Richwoods High School
6 p.m. - Girls Freshmen Basketball vs. Normal Community H.S (Home) - West Gym

Friday, 2

5:30 p.m. - Girls Varsity Basketball at Limestone High School
5:30 p.m. - Boys Sophomore Basketball at Limestone High School
7 p.m. - Girls Sophomore Basketball at Limestone High School
7 p.m. - Boys Varsity Basketball at Limestone High School

Saturday, 3

9:30 a.m. - Boys Freshmen Basketball vs. Dunlap High School (Home) - West Gym
10 a.m. - Boys Varsity Swimming



vs. Mid Illini meet at Pekin High School

5 p.m. - Boys Sophomore Basketball vs. Dunlap High School (Home) - West Gym
6:30 p.m. - Boys Varsity Basketball vs. Dunlap High School (Home) - West Gym
TBA - Scholastic Bowl JV Mid-Illini Tourney at Metamora High School

Monday, 5

6 p.m. - Girls Freshmen Basketball vs. Pekin High School (Home) - West Gym
6 p.m. - Boys Freshmen Basketball at Pekin High School

Tuesday, 6

5:30 p.m. - Girls Sophomore Basketball vs. Canton High School (Home) - West Gym
7 p.m. - Girls Varsity Basketball vs.

Canton High School (Home) - West Gym

TBA - Scholastic Bowl - JV/Varsity (Home)

Thursday, 8

4:30 p.m. - Boys Varsity Swimming at Dunlap High School

Friday, 9

5:30 p.m. - Girls Sophomore Basketball at Washington High School
7 p.m. - Girls Varsity Basketball at Washington High School

Saturday, 10

9:30 a.m. - Boys Freshmen Basketball vs. Metamora High School (Home) - West Gym
5 p.m. - Boys Sophomore Basketball at Pekin High School
6:30 p.m. - Boys Varsity Basketball at Pekin High School

Monday, 12

6 p.m. - Boys Freshmen Basketball vs. East Peoria High School (Home) - West Gym

Wednesday, 14

6 p.m. - Boys Freshmen Basketball at Lincoln High School

Thursday, 15

4 p.m. - Gameball Run - The Run (Home) - Carper Field/West Gym

Friday, 16

5:15 p.m. - Boys Sophomore Basketball vs. East Peoria High School (Home) - West Gym
7 p.m. - Boys Varsity Basketball vs. East Peoria High School - Gameball Run (Home) - West Gym

Saturday, 17

5 p.m. - Boys Sophomore Basketball vs. Canton High School (Home) - West Gym
6:30 p.m. - Boys Varsity Basketball vs. Canton High School (Home) - West Gym

Monday, 19

6 p.m. - Boys Freshmen Basketball at Canton High School

Wednesday, 21

6:30 p.m. - Boys Freshmen Basketball at Washington High School

Friday, 23

5:30 p.m. - Boys Sophomore Basketball at Washington High School
7 p.m. - Boys Varsity Basketball at Washington High School

Saturday, 24

9:30 a.m. - Boys Sophomore Basketball at Metamora High School
Sophomore Tourney

6th ANNUAL GAMEBALL RUN

Funds help build new AHK home

Mission

Gameball Run: A community event to raise money and awareness for Children's Hospital of Illinois.

- Involve all schools, all students and our community
- An opportunity for our boys' basketball team to serve in a philanthropic role
- The chance to give back to an organization that has served multiple families and students in the Morton schools.

Gameball Run - The Run

Thursday, Feb. 15, 2018

At 4 p.m., the Gameball RUN Opening Ceremony starts at Morton High School, with the run immediately following. The run will be on the Morton High School Athletic Facility track (weather dependent).

- The run will include the MHS boys' basketball teams, District 709 administration and faculty members, our Miracle Families, and any student willing to donate \$20 to participate! Participants must be registered prior to Feb. 2.
- There will be music, fun, and concessions for our guests to cheer on the runners and families.

Gameball Run Ceremony and Game

Friday, Feb. 16, 2018

Come out to the Potterdome at 6:30 p.m. Friday night as the Potters take on East Peoria. Prior to tipoff, we will celebrate the success of this year's Gameball Run by honoring our Miracle Families, sponsors, and Morton 709 schools, as well as presenting a check to the Children's Hospital of Illinois in a special ceremony. Show your support by wearing your 2018 Gameball Run t-shirt. Your Gameball Run t-shirt will serve as admission into the game.



Photo credit: Kristen D'Alfonso

Each school in District 709 selects a Miracle Family for Gameball Run. These children have received services at Children's Hospital of Illinois. Pictured above, left to right, are the 2018 Miracle Kids – Front row: Kai Carr, Jefferson. Back row: Elly Crider, MHS; Collins White, Grundy; Mallory Zoss, Lettie Brown; Abram Sauder, Lincoln; Bryant White, Grundy; Molly Shook, MJHS.

2018 Miracle Families

Each school in District 709 selected a Miracle Family. These families have received or continue to use the services at Children's Hospital of Illinois. We have 7 Miracle Kids this year.

Miracle Families

Grundy: The White Family – Collins and Bryant White

Jefferson: The Carr Family – Kai Carr

Lettie Brown: The Zoss Family – Mallory Zoss

Lincoln: The Sauder Family – Abram Sauder

Morton Junior High School: The Shook Family – Molly Shook

Morton High School: The Crider Family – Elly Crider

Honors/Awards

Morton Gameball Run has been recognized in several ways. Room 603 at Children's Hospital was named "Morton Gameball Run" in April of 2015. The team was presented the 2015 Joey Stowell Youth award during the 2015 Children's Hospital of Illinois Telethon in May. The team was also recognized by the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Central Illinois Chapter, in November of 2015 by receiving the Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy Award.

Total Raised

Since 2013, the Gameball Run event has raised \$258,938 for Children's Hospital of Illinois.

Last year's fundraising dollars (\$92,840.54) went to the Children's Hospital of Illinois' new project called Almost Home Kids (AHK). The 2018 Morton Gameball Run funds also will go to AHK. Almost Home Kids, whose locations in Naperville and Chicago are affiliated with Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, is an innovative and integrated community-based transitional care model that is the first of its kind in the country. It provides transitional care for children with complicated health needs, such as children who are dependent on a ventilator to breathe or a feeding tube for nourishment, who are ready to be discharged from the hospital but for whom preparations at home need to be made, as well as training for their families, and respite care.

Children's Hospital of Illinois will own and operate the new AHK Home in Peoria and receive on-going services from AHK. It will be the third home of its kind in the nation, and the first purpose-built AHK ever. It is currently under construction and is slated to open in April 2018.

T-shirts

Gameball Run T-shirts will serve as admittance into the game on Feb. 16. Shirts will be \$10 each and will be sold at home boys basketball games and at District 709 schools.

Our sponsors

A special thanks to our sponsors at the Presenting, Gameball Run and Potterdome levels!

Howard & Howard Attorneys, PLLC

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