

## Inside this issue

Crawford Honored, Page 5

Kindergarten Pre-Registration,  
Page 6

Jefferson Playground, Page 13

Morton Moving Forward, Page 17

# 709 Communicator



Check us out online

Scan this code with your  
smartphone to view the  
District website



NON-PROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
MORTON, ILLINOIS  
61550  
PERMIT NO. 193  
POSTAL PATRON  
ECRWSS

VOLUME 39  
2019

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

## Kindergarten students 'thriving'

Teachers report positive impact of all-day kindergarten at all elementary schools

## MCUSD 709 is hiring

Kindergartners  
at Lincoln  
School  
learn about  
shapes.

The Morton Unit School District is hiring. If you or someone you know is interested, please visit [Morton709.org](http://Morton709.org). Click on the Employment tab located in the red banner at the bottom 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



All-day kindergarten is in full swing and with the school year half-way completed, the Morton School District would like to update the community on how the implementation is progressing.

Even though all day kindergarten is not a new addition to Jefferson School, it has increased the professional development opportunities for their teachers. "Although all-day kindergarten did not change much for my students at Jefferson, it has impacted me as a teacher in that planning with colleagues from other schools is much more possible because we all have similar schedules and opportunities now," said Jefferson School Kindergarten Teacher Mrs. Allison Bonhoff.

Thus far, the kindergarten teachers are pleased with the implementation of full-day kindergarten. They are able to cover more subjects, focus on more social developmental skills, and the students have more time to be engaged with their teacher and peers.

Mrs. Jodi Hoelscher has taught both full-day and half-day kindergarten at Lincoln Elementary School and shared her thoughts on the transition: "It is truly amazing! The students are thriving and are absolutely loving school! As a teacher, I feel like I know my students and their needs

on a much higher level than I did in the past."

Students had adjustments to make in the beginning of the school year, but these were to be expected for kindergarten students. Mrs. Hoelscher added, "As in any grade, the first month of school is challenging. The students were building stamina to be in school all day, learning expectations of not only the classroom, but lunch

and recess as well. The students adjusted to the lunch routine rather quickly and P.E. is one of their favorite parts of the day. They love having that time to be active and play games and exercise with their peers."

The kindergarten teachers have reported that they are able to cover more subjects and have more activities with their students than in previous years. "Being able to

teach language every day has been so beneficial to the students," said Mrs. Hoelscher. "We are able to focus on phonics and engage them in so many different texts. We are also able to expose the students to more STEM activities."

Students are much more relaxed as they have more time to work on their subjects. "I honestly feel their stress level has decreased," said Mrs.

Please see **THRIVING**, Page 2



**Apply online!**

Visit  
[Morton709.org](http://Morton709.org)

# District thankful for Thanksgiving food baskets

**The First Mennonite Church members prepared the Thanksgiving baskets.**



The Morton School District is thankful for the First Mennonite Church's generous donation of Thanksgiving Baskets for District 709 families in need. The congregation has been donating these food baskets containing a Thanksgiving meal with all of the trimmings for over a decade.

Carlie Owens, Director of Student Support Services for Morton School District, added, "The baskets included a lot of the ingredients needed for a full Thanksgiving dinner and a

gift card so the families could purchase whatever meat the family desired for their Thanksgiving dinner. They also included some breakfast and other meal items to help these families in need of the extra support."

The First Mennonite Church has been very reliable and generous filling this need for the families in the school district. They have also increased the food supply to extend to several other meals, such as spaghetti and macaroni and cheese to help support families beyond the

Thanksgiving meal. "They have been wonderful to work with and very consistent over the years by following through and providing that support for our families," said Owens.

"The Thanksgiving Baskets are a true testimony to the generosity of our community and how they find ways to help families in need," said Owens. "So many of our churches have such hearts for service to our families in Morton that need it the most."

## THRIVING

**Continued from page 1**

Hoelscher. "We are able to teach at a much more age-appropriate pace, allowing students the time they need for discovery and repeated practice, rather than trying to cram a large amount of information into a small amount of time."

Likewise, student performance has increased in comparison to the metrics recorded last year. "After completing the reading benchmark assessments for winter, many students are above the benchmark for this point in the year, which is great news," said Mrs. Hoelscher. "I have also seen great improvement in the students' overall social skills and peer interactions. During purposeful play, they are able to work through their differences with a teacher to model appropriate problem-solving strategies."

In addition, Mrs. Jeanette Grant, Grundy Elementary kindergarten teacher, indicated, "I

also was able to compare the data of the students from this year and those in the past. Their reading levels are at least one or two levels above where they've been in the past at this time of the year and we are three units beyond where we typically are in reading and math."

Lastly, the kindergarten teachers are very thankful to have full-day kindergarten for their students. Mrs. Bonhoff expressed her gratitude and excitement for the community, teachers, and students.

"I'm just so thankful that all of the students in our district now get the benefit of all-day kindergarten. As a teacher at Jefferson, I've been blessed to see such growth in my students over the course of a year across subject areas because we have time to devote daily to reading, math, writing, science, social studies, and play," she said.

"It's just such a blessing for teachers, students, and families alike and I'm excited to see how it impacts our district as these students pass through later grades."



**Mrs. Hoelscher's kindergarten class practices their phonics while in groups.**

## 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

### Transportation

250 W. Courtland  
Morton, IL 61550  
263-1086

**Director of Transportation:** Nancy Weigle



**MICHAEL  
GOURLEY**

### Morton High School

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

**Principal:** Michael Gourley

**Assistant Principals:** Jamie Adolphson and  
Deidre Ripka

**Assistant Principal/Athletic Director:** Scott Jones

**Reporting absence:** 263-0611

**Student Services:** 263-0611

**Guidance:** 263-8585

**Food Service:** 263-7451



**MICHAEL  
SAUNDERS**

### Grundy School

1100 S. Fourth Ave., Morton, IL 61550

**Principal:** Michael Saunders

**Main Office:** 263-1421

**Reporting absence:** 284-2000



**LEE HOFFMAN**

### Morton Junior High

225 E. Jackson, Morton, IL 61550

**Principal:** Lee Hoffman

**Assistant Principal:** Chris Carter

**Main Office:** 266-6522

**Reporting absence:** 284-5000



**KATE WYMAN**

### Jefferson School

220 E. Jefferson St., Morton, IL 61550

**Principal:** Kate Wyman

**Main Office:** 263-2650

**Reporting absence:** 284-3025



**FAITH WATERFIELD**

### Lettie Brown

2550 N. Morton Ave., Morton, IL 61550

**Principal:** Faith Waterfield

**Main Office:** 266-5309

**Reporting absence:** 284-1000



**JULIE ALBERS**

### Lincoln School

100 S. Nebraska Ave., Morton, IL 61550

**Principal:** Julie Albers

**Assistant Principal:** Michelle Peterson

**Main Office:** 266-6989

**Reporting absence:** 284-4000

## 2019 District Calendar

### January

1-4 Christmas Vacation  
continues

7 No school: Teacher  
Institute Day

8 School resumes for  
students

9 Early dismissal day

21 Martin Luther King Jr.  
Day, no school

### February

6 Early dismissal day

18 Presidents Day,  
no school

### March

6 Early dismissal day

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

11 No school: Teacher  
Institute Day

### April

3 Early dismissal day  
15-22 Easter Break, no  
school

### May

1 Early dismissal day  
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: 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](mailto:board@mcusd709.org).

## More information

More information about the Board of Education is available on our website – [www.morton709.org](http://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 2019

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:

### 2019

Jan. 22 – 7:15 p.m.

Feb. 5 – 6:30 p.m.

Feb. 19 – 7:15 p.m.

March 5 – 6:30 p.m.

March 19 – 7:15 p.m.

April 2 – 6:30 p.m.

April 9 – 7:15 p.m.

May 7 – 6:30 p.m.

May 21 – 6:30 p.m.

June 4 – 6:30 p.m.

July 2 – 6:30 p.m.

# Crawford named Class 3A Baseball Coach of the Year

Coach Jesse Crawford is the head baseball coach at both Morton Junior High and Morton High School. As many already know, the MHS boys' baseball team brought home some very nice hardware as the 2018 Class 3A Baseball State Champions.

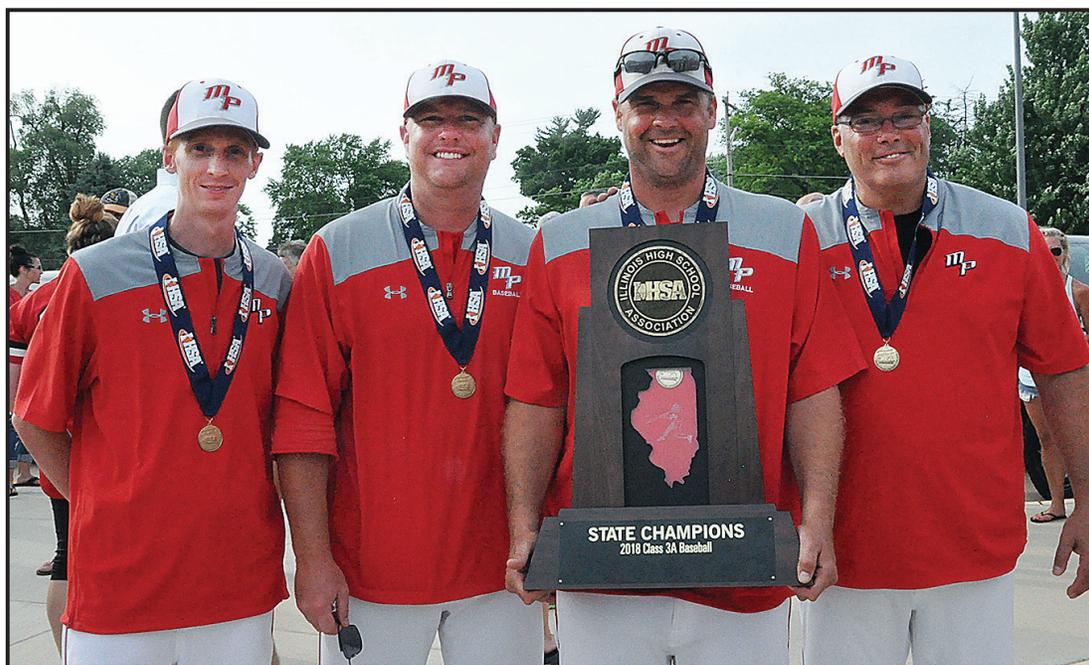
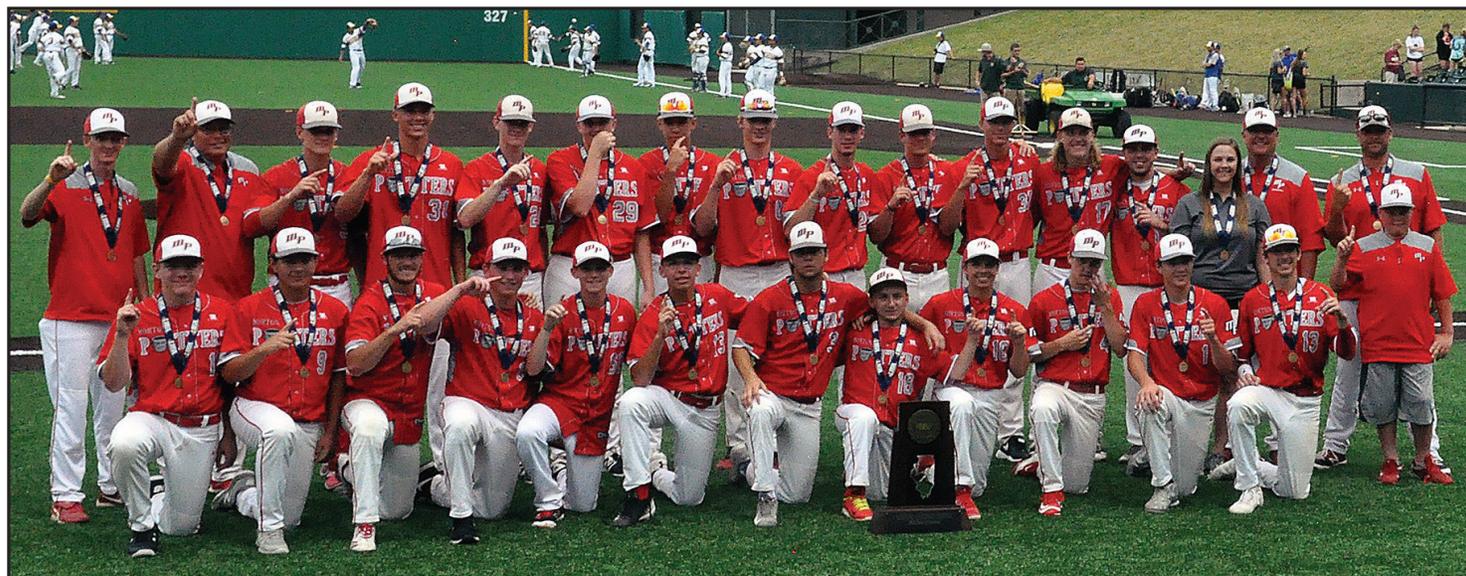
On Jan. 26, Coach Crawford will be receiving another honor - the Class 3A Coach of the Year award presented by the Illinois High School Baseball Coaches Association.

Prior to serving as a teacher and coach in Morton, Crawford was an assistant coach promoted to head coach at Knox County High School in Missouri. There, Coach Crawford coached both the varsity basketball and baseball programs and was named Class 2A Coach of the Year for both sports. He also led his basketball team to two Sweet 16 appearances with a 68-42 overall record.

As an assistant basketball coach at MHS, he helped the Potters program advance to its first Elite Eight in program history. A few years later, Crawford took over as Head Varsity Baseball Coach and Head Junior High Baseball Coach.

As the head coach at MJHS, the Junior Potters completed an undefeated 25-0 season and won the IESA State Championship. In his six years heading the Junior Potter program, Crawford's record is 124-31 with two title game appearances and two additional Elite Eight bids.

As a varsity baseball coach at Knox County and Morton, Jesse Crawford holds a 189-110 record. He has been part of 11 conference titles in 14 years of coaching. Over the past four seasons, his varsity team at Morton High School has averaged 28 wins per season and



**ABOVE:** Coach Crawford poses for a picture with his coaching staff as the Potters returned home with the State Championship trophy. As pictured, from left to right: Benji Cashdollar, Doug McCarty, Jesse Crawford, and Craig Wright. **TOP:** The Morton High School Varsity Baseball team poses for a picture after winning the 2018 IHSA Class 3A State Championship.

made an Elite Eight appearance in 2017 backed up by a State Title in 2018. The Potters have also captured multiple Mid-Illini Conference, Regional and Sectional crowns during Crawford's tenure.

Coach Crawford's persistence and coaching style has made an impact on his assistant coach and the baseball program. MHS and MJHS Baseball Assistant Coach Steve Bates commented, "I'm the only assistant coach

that is fortunate to assist Coach Crawford with High School and Jr High baseball teams as well as getting the opportunity to assist him with all of his baseball camps during the year for Morton boys ages 8-13."

"Coach Crawford is the Morton Baseball Program. I say that because Coach Crawford provides coaching and counseling to Morton baseball players at all levels. I get the opportunity to watch how he works with baseball players and how he monitors their progress starting at approximately 8 years old. He never gives up on any boy that continues to try and improve their baseball abilities. He always sees something good in any player that goes out and gives baseball 100 percent."

Potters baseball alum Anthony Mannino expresses his gratitude for what Coach Crawford has brought to the program, "The Potter Baseball alumni are very proud of Coach Crawford. This award is well deserved."

"Not just for the wins and the trophy but for developing young athletes on and off the white lines. Instilling his same passion into the players and keeping them accountable for their hard work," he added. "With the team chemistry he develops, there will be a Baseball Dynasty in Morton (south of Chicago) for a long time."

# Sign up for kindergarten pre-registration

Planning for the first day of school this fall is well underway. Sign-up for Kindergarten pre-registration and screening will begin in February.

On March 21 and 22, Morton School District 709 will conduct the 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.



**ABOVE:** Mrs. Bushman's kindergarten class at Lettie Brown Elementary School explores shapes and patterns. **TOP:** Lincoln teacher Mrs. Vernon assists her kindergarten class with their letters and the sounds they make.

## Fact Box

**What:** Kindergarten pre-registration and screening

**Who:** Children who will be 5 years old by Sept. 1, 2019

**When:** 8 a.m. – 7 p.m. March 21 and 8 a.m. – noon March 22

**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 exam if you have them.

# Thank you, support staff!

There are about 230 people that work throughout District 709 in support roles that meet the specific needs of our staff, schools, and/or students. The Morton School District is proud to honor the aides, building secretaries, cafeteria workers, clerical staff, crossing guards, custodians, district office staff, interpreter, maintenance staff, technology support staff, transportation crew, and MPTV staff. These people fill the many positions throughout the buildings, and their work is vital to the success of our school district.

## District Office

John Brown, Anthony Crum, Barbara Getz, Amy Greiner, Brenda Hepard, Carolu Kizer, Patty Munson, Greg Murphy, Clayton Payne, Diana Schauer, Scott Schoon, Rodney Schuck, Leonard Shumaker, Stephanie Siggers, Rhonda Stalter, Emily Stubbs, Andrew Young, and Amy Zimmerman.

## Grundy

Pam Addams, Olgajean Atteberry, Angela Beyer, Sarah Chadbourn, Amanda Derrick, Tracy Fick, Angel Fisher, Emily Hauter, Theresa Hermancinski, Rachel Herrmann, Leslie Householter, Jan Huetter, Jessica Moeller, Priscilla Oggero, Celeste Paulson, Angela Rees, Pamela Riddle, Jennifer Sadler, Katie Schlappi, Dwight Schuck, Kathy Shaw, Mary Beth Shook, Leanne Sommer, Anita Stidman, Kristyn Studebaker, Danielle Tolly, Carol Vance, Valerie Wilkes, and Jennifer Wilson.

## Jefferson

Melissa Clementz, Mandy Collins, Lisa Cook, Sarah Fore, Amanda Glass, Theresa Goodspeed, Sara Hornsby, Amy Jones, David Keen, Terri Keys, Stacy Krantz, Susan Martin, Valerie Messer, Grace Nessler, Shelby Nichol-



**Samantha Frey, the Student Services Secretary at Morton High School, offers assistance to the students in the Student Services office.**

## Aide Appreciation Day

► **Aide Appreciation Day is March 16, 2019.** In remembrance of Amy Hardin, who was an aide at Lincoln Elementary School, the school district honors all aides on Amy's birthday.

son, Lindsey O'Donnell, Amie Pearce, Julie Peck, Christy Powers, Tammy Presley, Nan Reynolds, Wanda Righi, Judy Rosenberg, Joseph Schick, Christine Seneca, Robin Sizemore, Monica Taylor, Zoe Troxell, Sarah Webb, and Dante Williams.

## Lettie Brown

Rachel Bloch, Elaine Campbell, Abbey Carpenter, Elizabeth Cigelnik, Wendy Collins, Krista Davis, Teresa Detloff, Sondra Dole, Tim Epkins, Linda Fanning, Brenda Grimm, Jan Hauk, Tammy Lamirand, Dominique Mackey, Carolyn Main, Valerie Melten, Jean Melvin, Teresa Pheasant, Katie Riddle, Heidi Robbins, George Russell, Julie Schmidgall, Molly Smith, Judith Taylor, Lisa Tillison, Tracey Vickerman, and Sabrina Vior.

## Lincoln

Shelly Bair, Jennifer Bakirdan, Jill Bar-

nard, Cindy Chambers, Leah Collins, Baylie Craig, Rachel Cushman, Caitlin Dillard, Keri Dodson, Mary Dralle, Kari Dyche, Rachel Eichorn, Ronae Fender, Natalie Friend, Andrew Funk, Ashlie Geiger, Angie George, Lynn Greene, Tyne Haas, Dwight Hamilton, Robert Harkless, Sonya Hillrich, Jamie Hilt, Karol Holmes, Lisa Horn, Rhonda Konieczny, Katie Kraft, Nancy LaGrow, Lynnette Litwiller, Angelia Mattson, Debra Maxwell, Anne Miller, Julia Miller, Sally Miller, Michelle Mullen, Karyn Phillips, Leslie Porubcansky, Denise Poshard, Tracy Rusnak, Darci Slocum, Sueann Spinder, Heidi Stephenson, Kristine Stieglitz, Justine Szetela, Marci Tewksbury, Heidi Tovey, Mindy Vanaken, Joy Voorhees, Andrea Ward, Sarah Warman, Bonni Whalen, Dante Williams, and Amy Zbinden.

## Morton Academy

Krista Naab

## Morton High School

Bobby Barker, Mary Blair, Nicole Carson, Laura Chambers, Becky Christianson, Mary Dierks, Rodney Duneheew, Daniel Epkins, Rick Everetts, Kimberly Fonner, Jennifer Fort, Allen Fort, Samantha Frey, Jodi

Garner, Leah Getz, Barbara Goggins, Caitlin Gschwend, Jacqueline Harrison, Andrew Irwin, Brandon Jacob, Maranda Joos, Diane Kirk, Debra Lane, Krystal Malin, Tina Mckimmey, Desnee Neubauer, Lorissa Osmer, Doreen Propst, Cody Pullium, Kristi Ruxlow, Millicent Sanders, Lisa Schaffer, Bill Schock, Terri Schuck, Kristen Spangler, Dan Stimpert, Katrina White, Shari Wilkerson, and Steve Young.

## Morton Junior High

Jacqueline Akers, Jeffrey Arbisi, Ronda Bensel, Bradley Berry, Dawn Blunier, Virginia Cody, Diane Conklin, Steven Culbertson, Valerie Hoehn, Tiffanie McNeese, Mark Moore, Clara Ogden, Jill Parod, Melissa Peters, Holli Pfeifer, Kimberly Serrurier, Mary Smith, Valerie Smith, Elliott Spinder, Ashley Turner, Wendy Wright, and Andrew Zuck.

## Morton Potter Television (MPTV)

Becky Christianson, Brook Janes, Dawn Rademaker, and Bill Schock.

## Special Education

Amanda Bunting, Dawn Cole, Keri Gillette, Molly Suellentrop, Marcia Wallace, and Carol Williams.

## Transportation

William Akers, Jeri Baldovin, Sandra Bowen, Amanda Bray, Heather Brooks, Steven Castleman, Lori Clark, Anna Decker, Nancy Domnick, Raymond Finck, Christina Garcia, Pamela Glascock, Eric Glaser, Theresa Goodspeed, Joe Grant, Kandis Grant, Stacy Grawe, Linda Kerby, Jennifer Landrith, John Pfeifer, Elizabeth Milt- enberger, Edmund Railey, Christine Rankin, Karen Remmert, Sara Savicz, Ruth Smith, Michelle Spicer, Nancy Stephens, Julie Tharp, Donette Waller, Deborah Warner, Nancy Weigle, Danny Wolf, and Julie Zoss.

# Mentor program helps students & community

Several local companies have set out to make a difference in the educational careers of the Morton High School students. It is all a part of the Morton Mentor Program designed by the Morton Chamber of Commerce and Morton District 709 to provide work-based learning experiences for students and promote living and working in our community.

The mentoring program began as a community project out of the Morton Chamber of Commerce's leadership program.

The Morton Mentor Program launched three years ago with the idea to connect Morton High School students and local professionals in a one-to-one mentoring relationship to help students gain an in-depth understanding of a chosen career pathway.

The program seeks to help students narrow down their potential career options while providing them an opportunity to network and practice soft skills.

"The vision of the program is to see students become more confident in their decision to pursue or not pursue a certain career," said Lenora Fisher, Community Development Director at the Morton Chamber of Commerce.

The program runs throughout the school year, and the mentors are asked to meet with their mentees a minimum of five times for an hour in that time period. "It is a deeper dive than just a one-day job



**Morton High School students gain hands-on experience while job shadowing their mentors.**

are not going to college and grad school and getting into a career path that they dislike. The program provides more exposure at the time when the students are making those important career decisions."

One student noted his thoughts about the program in a post-survey: "It was really beneficial to be able to shadow the mentor and to see the day-to-day job atmosphere."

"The Morton Mentor Program was beneficial for my daughter as it helped her to learn and to see an aspect of engineering she had not known before," said a parent in the post-survey.

Morton Chamber of

Commerce and the Morton Economic Development Council Executive Director and CEO Leigh Ann Brown shared her thoughts on how the program is beneficial to the local economy: "Through the Economic Development Council, this program is incredibly valuable as we work with businesses."

"Anytime we can expose the businesses and the career path opportunities in our community to the future workforce, it is incredibly valuable to the students, parents, counselors, educators, our community growth, and especially to the businesses," said Brown. "We have had a lot of conversations and partnered with District 709 about creating career pathways and building out those opportunities at all age levels and so this has been another great program to add to that pathway to fulfill that goal."

The Morton High School students see and understand the significance of mentorship. Since the mentorship program launched three years ago, the number of student applicants has increased 600% and is still growing.

Morton High School Counselor Christina Kienitz commented on how the program is favorable to the students. "It is an honor and privilege to work with the Morton Chamber of Commerce to provide the Morton Mentoring Program to the students of MHS. It is an invaluable experience for each student to learn from

a local professional's career journey."

"Mentors have an opportunity to companion a very young adult on their career path and provide them support and encouragement as they explore options within their chosen career cluster. Students are fortunate to live in a community that values and fosters professional relations," she said.

Although the increase in the number of students applying is advantageous, the program will begin to need more mentors with the increased interest.

Morton High School is interested in recruiting any professional that is willing to be a mentor. "We do have a lot of students interested in both the health sciences and the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics careers," said Mrs. Kienitz.

There are students who are interested in a career field that the Morton Chamber of Commerce can't match with a mentor. "It would be nice to know what types of professionals that are out in the area and if they are interested in helping the students," said Mrs. Fisher. "Right now, we have students with interests that we don't have a direct fit because we can't find a person who works in that certain profession."

"We would like to hear from the current professionals in the area and encourage them to become a mentor."

# One School One Book unites one community

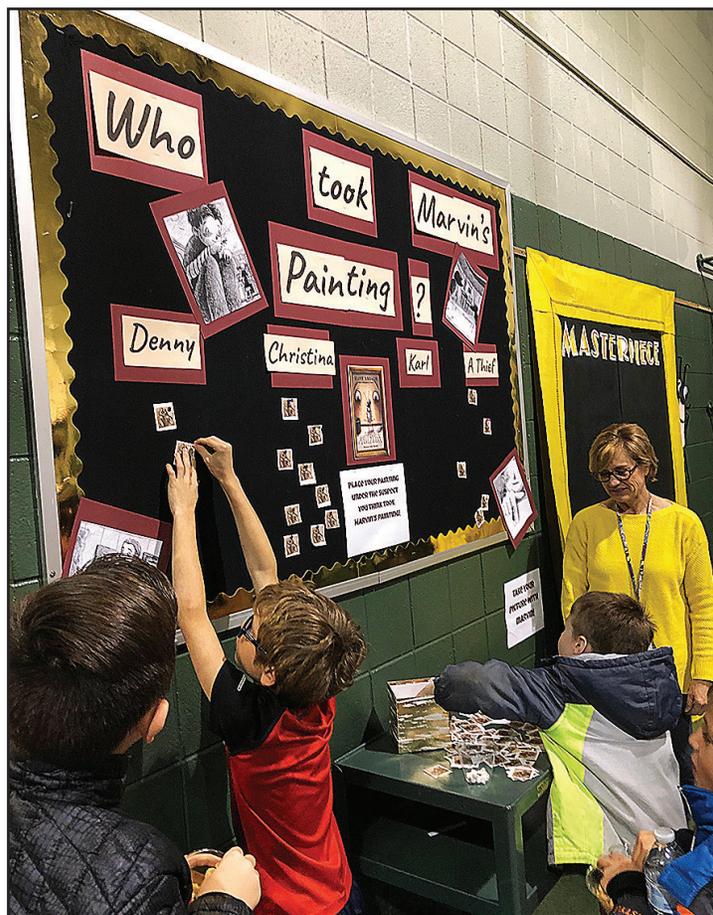
The One School One Book program brought a community closer together through literacy as all elementary school students, teachers, and families read the book “Masterpiece” together.

Every family in the four elementary schools was given a copy of the book, written by Elise Broach, to read while following the same schedule for six to eight weeks. The program promoted the importance of literacy while encouraging families to have read aloud time together.

“One of the most important ways to foster the love of reading and to grow a lifelong reader is to lead by example,” said Grundy Elementary Literacy Coach Mindy Wendling. “The One School One Book Program has brought families together to read in a time where the hustle and bustle of life gets the best of all us.”

Reading is an important part of the elementary school students’ curriculum. The more a child practices, the better they get. The One School One Book program further encouraged students to read outside of school. Lincoln Elementary Second-Grade Teacher Mrs. Abby Schwarting expressed her thoughts of the program, “The One Book One School program did a wonderful job incorporating the love of reading at home. Often times, as students become more fluent readers, students will read independently, especially at home.”

Not only was reading outside of school a valuable experience for the students,



**ABOVE: Lincoln Elementary School students engage in predicting the art thief in the book “Masterpiece.”**  
**LEFT: Students at Lettie Brown Elementary School pose for a picture with author Elise Broach.**

they also enjoyed reading the book with their families. Riley Gashaw, who is a sixth-grade student at Jefferson Elementary School, said, “It was nice spending time with my family and reading the book together.” She also

program.

Jack Brubaker, a second-grade student at Lettie Brown School added, “I really loved the program, and I think that all schools should do it because you get to spend a lot

of time with your family and good books.”

Skyler Kohlagen, a fourth-grader at Grundy Elementary School, spoke about how the program inspired her: “It is a pretty good program. When I become an author, I want to enter my book into the program.” She also added that she loves the idea of fantasy and she wants to write a fantasy mystery book one day.

Parents also became engaged in the program. Stacy Litersky, a mother of two daughters who attend Lincoln Elementary School, shared her observations of the program: “The girls looked forward to reading each evening and we made an effort to work it into our schedules. Each of us took turns reading and I noticed the girls read with expression and excitement. As a family, we talked about the story, the characters, and tried to guess the different scenarios and outcomes. We talked about art and artists and even researched about Durer and the others. It opened up a lot of educational conversations.”

Not only did the program encourage families to come together, it brought the school district and community closer together. So much that the Morton Public Library purchased several books for other community members interested in joining the fun. They also had several themed projects incorporated as well. “It truly was an amazing community experience with all four elementary schools and other families and friends reading the same book at the same time,” said Grundy School Librarian Angel

Fisher. “We took a wonderful journey together while promoting literacy and family togetherness. What a priceless gift!”

To further enhance the reading experience, the schools incorporated several fun activities and get-togethers for the students and their families. “The schools had so many activities planned throughout the district to further engage the kids,” said Lincoln School Literacy Coach Mrs. Olivia Gabbert. “From stolen art heists and traveling beetles, to family reading nights in pajamas, we tried to make the book come alive for the students. We’re hoping this experience will help continue building a community of readers throughout not only the district, but the town of Morton as well.”

In addition to all of the family nights at the schools, Elise Broach, author of the book “Masterpiece,” visited with all of the elementary students as the program concluded. Mrs. Broach shared her behind-the-scenes stories about the book and what it takes to be an author. She encouraged and inspired all of the students and staff. She also shared her thoughts on the One School One Book program.

“It is an incredible program. It is such a great way to create community around books. It builds literacy. It builds the opportunity for families to bond over a book,” Broach said. “We have TV shows and movies that we all watch together. It is rare that you would have a book be the center of those conversations.”

**“What I love most about my school is all the fun things my teacher has in store for me.”**

**Mila C., 5th grade, Grundy Elementary School**

# I LOVE my school!

**“I love that we have lots of opportunities to prepare for our future careers.”**

**Coreena W., Senior, Morton High School**

Students across the district share their favorite things about their school

## Jefferson

### Jefferson is Amazing

Jefferson's colors are red, white, and blue  
Our staff is really, really cool  
We have lots of very fun games and none of them are ever lame  
We have music, library, computer, and PE  
And if you come visit you will see  
How awesome Jefferson school can be!  
— *Parker B., 4th grade Jefferson School*

I love Jefferson school because it's safe and comfortable. — *Brinley K., 1st grade*

I love Jefferson School because I love science and I want to be a scientist when I grow up. — *Emmy C., 4th grade*

Jefferson is the happiest place to be because this school keeps us safe and it makes us learn. — *Paxton L., 1st grade*

Jefferson is happy because you meet lots of friends all over the school. — *Kate J., 1st grade*

I think that Jefferson is amazing because of its staff, students, and principal. Jefferson is amazing because of how the teachers teach in a fun way. I get to learn a lot and because of field trips. — *Anisha K., 3rd Grade*

Jefferson is a happy place because we learn there and that's the whole point. — *John G., Kindergarten*

The teachers at Jefferson make learning fun by having us do workshops. — *Cain. C., 5th grade*

The staff at Jefferson helps me by always being ready to help. Whenever I have a question, request, or I just want to talk, every staff member will try their best to help. Even if they can't help, I feel better because they try hard to make us feel great, even when things aren't going great. — *Ella G., 5th grade*



## Grundy

The thing I love the most about our school is the honest and trustworthy students and teachers. — *Aaden L., 5th grade,*

Every kid at Grundy is kind and respectful. — *Jack H., 6th grade*

What I love most about my school is the kids. I have made a tremendous amount of friends here. — *Olivia S., 5th grade*

What I love most about my school is that the staff is so nice and is always helpful. — *Abigail B., 6th grade*

What I love most about school is that the teachers and staff are so caring and they help me understand everything. — *Chrissa B., 5th grade*

My favorite thing about school is the teachers and staff. — *Aidan B., 6th grade*

What I love about my school is math because we get to work in a group in centers and we can get our work done. — *Tucker B., 6th grade*

Each day we wake up, Excited to see, All of our friends and our school family! Each day we try to do our best, And never any less, Our teachers work as hard as us, And no one accepts a mess. Until tomorrow, We say as we leave, I can't wait to see what we will achieve! — *Emma B., 6th grade*

My favorite thing about Grundy is that I love my 6th grade teachers. They are really fun and amazing. I love library and how many books Grundy has. — *Aaliyah M., 6th grade*

My favorite thing about Grundy is the fun and friendly atmosphere. — *Greg M. 6th grade*

**“Lincoln is awesome because of the nice teachers! They always encourage you when things are hard.”**

**Lucille J., 3rd grade Lincoln Elementary School**



## Lincoln

The teachers at Lincoln School make learning fun by turning math into a game. If you do a math problem, you'll move a space like in chess. — *Max G., 3rd grade*

What makes my school so amazing is the awesome staff because they are so caring. The environment at Lincoln is very, very amazing and every single person is so nice and kind. Mrs. Higus makes learning fun because she has so many cool topics to learn about. — *Izzy R., 4th grade*

I would describe the environment at my school as bright, competitive, friendly, and everyone feels like family; even though you don't know some people in other grades. — *Stella R., 6th grade*

My teachers all have their own way of making learning fun. My math teacher, Mrs. Roush does scavenger hunts, team games, and guessing games. My language arts and reading teacher, Mrs. Brown has group discussions and games. My social studies and science teacher, Mrs. Knepp has hands-on experiments, and games. — *Lily S., 6th grade*

We have the nicest principal and the nicest teacher that make sure we learn all the things we need to, but they make it a little more fun. All the other staff helps everything go smoothly and make sure our building is clean and the school runs how it should. — *Sariah H., 6th grade*



## Lettie Brown

You should come to Lettie Brown Elementary School because they have the best teachers, library, and principal. That's why I go there, too! — *Ava, 2nd grade*

My favorite thing about Lettie Brown is P.E. because Mrs. Cassidy comes up with really good games and she make us stronger. She is very kind and thoughtful. — *Hadley L., 2nd grade*

I love Lettie Brown because of our assemblies. When I go to assemblies I get to learn new things, watch people do things I've never seen before, and I can laugh and enjoy myself. Especially love the assemblies when there were animals. — *Alea, 3rd grade*

I love that we have literacy stations so that I can read my book and do a little on my iPad. I like that all of our teachers are encouraging to every person in our class. I also like that we can do computer lab so we can learn more how to type. — *Joelle H., 3rd grade*

Lettie Brown is cool because all of my best friends go there. In science, we get to build roller coasters. Also in school, we get awesome spirit days like Christmas dress up day. At recess, we play soccer and kickball. That is why I think Lettie Brown is awesome. — *Greg, 4th grade*

What I enjoy about Lettie Brown are the excellent teachers. They always have new and fun ways to learn. Also, they are always kind to their pupils. The teachers are always smiling. This is what I appreciate about Lettie Brown's teachers. — *Adrian H., 4th grade*



## Morton Junior High School

My teachers make learning fun by giving us experiences that go along with our lesson, like looking through a microscope in science at cells. It's so cool to actually see what we're learning about! It keeps us interested all the time! — *Caroline E., 7th grade*

My favorite subject is social studies because I enjoy how we do a perfect mix of fun and work. Overall, all of our teachers and staff are so helpful. They are what make MJHS so great. Our teachers make fun conversations that everyone can relate to when we are done with our work, and that's what I look forward to walking into most of my classes. — *Olivia C., 7th grade*

My favorite class is band because you get to make music. You also get to interact with other people. Something that makes school amazing is the teachers. They can be funny and make you laugh, but when they are serious, they mean business. — *Ava C., 7th grade*

My favorite class is math because I am good at it and I can get it done fast. I also enjoy the fun math stations that we do at times. My teacher makes math fun by letting us sit in groups and by helping us when we cannot figure out the answer to the question on our own. — *Haley W., 7th grade*

My favorite class is ELA with Miss Hasler because she takes something I love (reading and writing) and makes it even more enjoyable. She lets us express ourselves in all of our writing but still challenges us and helps us expand our skills and knowledge. Our teachers make learning, what some might consider a tedious task, highly enjoyable. They do their best to connect whatever we are learning to something we can relate to whether it be a movie, sport, or video game. — *Lanie S., 8th grade*

## Morton High School

I love the support I get at Morton High School. Life can be rough, but Morton high is dedicated to helping students succeed and to have a good and successful life. The staff greatly cares for the students and they don't stop helping us until we have got it. — *Brandon P., Sophomore*

I just love the community around Morton High School! Our staff and teachers do an amazing job preparing students for life after high school. — *Isaac S., Senior*

There is a great staff of teachers, counselors, and deans here that you can build relationships with. Also, the sports teams are great here at Morton High School. — *Austin G., Junior*

I love the family relationship that we as students create with each other. Some of our best friends for life we meet here, and it's fantastic to have a place where I can feel safe

outside my home and with people I love and care for. — *Sophia B., Sophomore*

I love having teachers who love what they do and are excited to teach. — *Julia W., Senior*

I love the staff at Morton High School. — *Brianna T., Senior*

My counselor, Mrs. Spicklemire is very easy to talk to. She cares about the students and their future. — *Autumn G., Freshman*



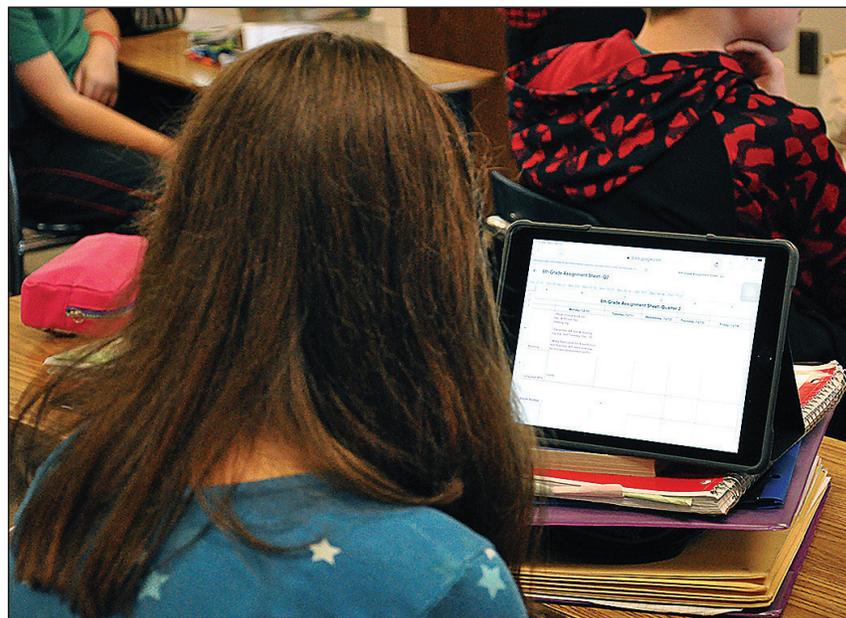
# UNPLUGGED: The Importance of Limiting Screen Time (For Adults and Children)

By Dr. Dan Ebbert

School Psychologist at Jefferson  
and Lettie Brown Elementary  
Schools

A recent study by mobileinsurance.com has revealed that the average person spends 90 minutes a day on their phone. Additionally, studies have shown that Americans check their phones an average of 80 times a day while on vacation, with some checking their screen more than 300 times each day. If we spend 90 minutes a day on our phones, that means that up to 23 days a year and 3.9 years of the average person's life is spent staring at their phone screen. Any way you cut it, this is a lot of time staring at a screen.

A growing body of evidence shows that video games and other electronics induce the fight-or-flight syndrome, putting the body in a state of stress. Studies show sustained increases in blood pressure and pulse, even hours after playing a video game or viewing a screen. These games don't have to be a violent game, or even an action game - or even a game at all. Over time, social media surfing and texting will similarly put the brain and body in a state of stress, just from the high level of visual and cognitive stimulation. This can then lead to disruptions in sleep where deep sleep is sacrificed, causing the restorative stages of sleep to be cut short. Over time, this can have negative health impacts for kids and adults and can negatively



impact a student's overall functioning at school.

Looking at how we use screens with our kids is important. Generally speaking, if we use screens as a tool, both parents and children come to rely on screens. For example, many parents rely on screens to help calm their children when they are upset or to get their child to sit still. Such reliance, while effective in the moment, can also limit a child's opportunity to develop age-appropriate attention and self-regulation skills, which are the foundation for learning.

For example, if parents and children get into the habit of putting on a YouTube video anytime the child gets upset, the child is not learning to use their brain or body to help them calm down on their own. Furthermore, with young children, they are not learning to use their social skills with those around them (often

parents) to calm themselves. Similarly, children who come to rely on screens to help them sit at the dinner table, stay in their crib or sit in a waiting room are not getting the opportunity to practice these self-regulatory skills.

With all this in mind, here are some practical strategies you could use to help establish healthy screen time practices that can help with overall exposure to screens and to build age-appropriate self-regulation skills:

► **Model Healthy Electronic Use** — Setting examples of healthy electronics use for children is vital. Keeping the TV on for background noise all the time or scrolling through Facebook any time we have a spare minute teaches bad habits.

► **Make Screen Time a Privilege** — Screen time should be a privilege and not

a right. Take away privileges, such as TV time or computer use, as a negative consequence. Once you've set a limit on how much screen time is allowed, don't allow kids to earn extra time as a reward. Instead, stick to the daily limit and offer other free or low-cost rewards.

► **Set Aside Times to Unplug or Power Down** — Set aside times

for the entire family to become unplugged from electronic devices. You could start with the dinner hour and an hour before bedtime. Consider having a basket or bin where everyone places their electronics during this screen-free time. Not only will this allow for more quality time together as a family, but it will help promote healthier sleep patterns if screens are turned off an hour before bedtime.

► **Create "Technology-Free Zones"** — Establish zones in your house where you just don't allow electronics, like smartphones, tablets, and laptops. For example, the dining room can be a great technology-free zone that is reserved for meals and family conversation.

► **Set Up, Use, and Monitor Parental Controls** — Use parental controls on your/their devices that allow

you to monitor what your children are viewing on TV and what they're doing online. In some instances, you can also set parameters on when the devices can be active and when they can connect to the internet.

► **Talk to Kids About the Dangers of Too Much Screen Time** — Kids who understand, "It's not healthy to watch too much TV," are less likely to try and break the rules compared to kids who think, "I can't watch TV because my parents are mean."

► **Encourage Other Activities** — Kids easily grow dependent on technology for entertainment. Encourage your children to become involved in activities that don't involve screens. Get your child to play outside, read a book, or play a game.

► **Don't Allow Screen Media in Your Child's Bedroom** — It will be nearly impossible to monitor a child's screen media use if it's allowed in the bedroom. Don't allow your child to have a TV, video game system or computer in his room. This includes handheld devices that many children use late at night, which can interfere with their sleep.

Please keep in mind that the suggestions provided here will need to be adapted to the age of your specific child. If you would like further assistance in working through specific screen time issues, consult your child's teacher or your school building's school psychologist or social worker for further assistance.

# Help us build a new playground at Jefferson



Here is a proposed plan of the future playground at Jefferson School.

Jefferson Elementary School seeks to update the playground equipment because of its age and condition, and to better meet the needs of all children in the area.

The total project expected to cost around \$90,000. The Morton Community Foundation and the Morton School District have jointly developed a "Pass-Through Project Fund," to which anyone can make a charitable donation. All donations collected, minus a 2% administrative fee, go directly to the project for

the purchase and installation of equipment.

Jefferson Elementary School has been the cornerstone of Morton for over 90 years as it stands in the heart of Morton and serves as the location of the Morton Pumpkin Festival. Although the playground equipment is used by the students at Jefferson, it also provides a benefit to the public. Jefferson's playground is extensively utilized by members of the community as they visit downtown businesses or walk to the playground

from nearby neighborhoods. In addition, it also provides a significant amount of service to the visitors of the Morton Pumpkin Festival.

Jefferson School would like to replace the playground equipment with ADA compliant sections to ensure that all children, including those with special needs, can enjoy the playground for many years to come.

Some of the playground pieces have already been purchased through funds already collected. The installation of the previously purchased equipment

is expected to take place over the summer. However, additional funds to complete the project are needed. Fundraising will continue throughout 2019 to go towards additional planned pieces of equipment as well as installation costs.

Please consider donating toward this project. You may mail or drop off a check to the MCF office at 105 E. Jefferson St., or donate online at [www.cfmorton.org/jefferson-playground](http://www.cfmorton.org/jefferson-playground).

**Thank you.**

## PTOs support District 709 schools

### PTO meeting dates

#### Morton High School

All PTO meetings are held on the 2nd 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 2/12, 3/12, 4/9, and 5/14

#### Morton Junior High Red and White Club

Upcoming meetings are 1/17, 2/21, 3/21, and 4/11. Meetings begin at 7 p.m. in the Library and Media Center.

#### Grundy

Upcoming meetings are 1/28, 2/25, 3/25, 4/29, and 5/20. 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 1/28, 2/25, 3/25, and 4/29.

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

#### Lincoln

Upcoming meetings are 2/11, 3/18, 4/8, and 5/6. Meetings begin at 7 p.m. in the Music Room.

#### Jefferson

Upcoming meetings are 1/28, 3/25, and 4/29. Meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Teacher Work Room.



**Thank you, PTO: Lincoln Elementary School's PTO raised enough funds last year to purchase lockers for the 6th grade students and this year they raised enough to purchase lockers for the 5th grade students as well.**

## 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 2019.

The Potter Card is valid Jan. 1, 2019, through Dec. 31, 2019, 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.

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 2019 Potter Card:

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

**Be YOUUnique Designs** — 10% off birthday parties of 9 or more, 10% off private craft parties of 8 or more (discounted per person)

**Casey's of Morton** — \$2 off any large pizza.

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

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

**Dunkin Donuts in Morton** — Buy 1 dozen donuts at regular price, get 6 free

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

**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 your choice of massage

services of \$75 or more

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

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

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

**Garner'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, 99 cents per lb. drop off laundry (5 lb. minimum)

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

events, and 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

**La Gondola of Morton** — 10% off purchase

**Leaves 'N Beans** — 10% off purchase

**Lulu's on Main** — 25% off one regular priced 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 Dairy Queen** — \$2 off DQ Bakes dessert item

**Nena Ace Hardware of Morton** — 10% off softener salt, 10% off outdoor mulch, 10% off ice melt

**Papa Murphy's Pizza in Morton** — \$2 off any size regular priced pizza. Excludes Mini Murphys, Faves, & XLNY. Morton only

**Pegasus Pizza** — \$3 off any 16"

pizza or pizza pair, \$2 off any 12" pizza or pizza pair. Pick up only

**Pizza Ranch** — 10% off any purchase

**Rudy's Hair Salon** — \$5 off one spray tan. 50% off eyebrow wax. One person per card

**Schooners** — 10% off total bill. Dine in only. Excludes weekends, banquets and alcohol

**Seasons Gastropub** — 10% off carry out Tues./Wed. only. Half price kids menus on Wed. (dinner dine in only) 1 child per adult purchase

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

**Stress Busters Massage and Float Suite** — 10% off any single full price service.

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

**Threads Boutique** — 15% off original priced item

**Upscale Resale** — Buy 1 item, get 1/2 off 2nd item of equal or lesser price

## 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 events and to purchase supplies for Popcorn Fridays, books for the library, classroom books, a book for each student's birthday, supplies for the Artistic Adventures program, to fund the One School One Book reading program, and much more.

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
- ▶ Grethey Rose Construction and Restoration
- ▶ Lighthouse Buick GMC
- ▶ McDonald's
- ▶ Mike Murphy Ford

### 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.

### 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
- ▶ Element Building
- ▶ Grimm Inc.
- ▶ J.J. Braker & Sons, Inc.
- ▶ Leman Property Management
- ▶ Morton Fury Soccer
- ▶ Pippin Dome Sports & Recreation



**The Morton Junior High PTO was able to purchase Virtual Reality headsets for the students thanks to the companies and the community members who contributed to the Help-A-Thon.**

- ▶ Pure Fitness Innovations
- ▶ Renewal by Anderson
- ▶ Unland Companies
- ▶ Staker and Sons Construction

### Lincoln

Lincoln Elementary School held their annual Walk-A-Thon fundraiser. The funds will be used to purchase fifth-grade lockers, new benches for outside and inside the vestibule by the new gym, a portable coat rack, and continue to fund the PTO programs throughout the year, including; teacher classroom requests, Artistic Adventures, Mystery Science, family fun events, Junior Achievement, technology purchases and maintenance, school carnival, and so much more.

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

- ▶ Carl's Bakery
- ▶ Center Stage Academy of Dance
- ▶ Central Illinois Insulation
- ▶ Central Illinois Wellness Center - Dr. Eric Dicks
- ▶ Clayton Financial Group

- ▶ Core Construction Services of IL
- ▶ Floral Designs
- ▶ Friends of Lincoln PTO
- ▶ Gold's Gym
- ▶ Gosteli Technology Solutions
- ▶ Illinois Civil Contractors Inc.
- ▶ Lighthouse GMC Automotive
- ▶ Michael Yordy Excavating
- ▶ Morton Audiology & Hearing Aid Center
- ▶ Morton Collision Repair
- ▶ Preckshot Professional Pharmacy
- ▶ Renewal by Anderson
- ▶ Schooners of Morton
- ▶ Staker & Sons Construction, LLC
- ▶ Sucre
- ▶ Sum Fun Stable
- ▶ Tanner Farms
- ▶ The Unlimited Stitch
- ▶ Tony & Sons Tire Pros
- ▶ Xcell Mechanical
- ▶ Zobrist Construction

### Morton High School

The Morton High School and PTO sold The Morton 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 the 2018 Morton Potter Card.

- ▶ Basta's Italian Kitchen
- ▶ Carius Dairy Queen
- ▶ The Confectionery, Inc.
- ▶ Culver's of Morton
- ▶ Dunkin Donuts/Baskin Robbins
- ▶ Eli's Coffee Shop
- ▶ Em.bel.ish Hair Design
- ▶ Elevate Trampoline Park Peoria
- ▶ Firehouse Pizza in Morton

- ▶ FJT Office Supplies
- ▶ Floral Designs, Ltd.
- ▶ Garner's Pizza and Wings
- ▶ Great American Popcorn Co. of Morton
- ▶ Great Harvest Bread Co.
- ▶ Grimm's Inc.
- ▶ Hacienda Fuentes
- ▶ J & J Cleaners
- ▶ Johnson's Floral
- ▶ La Gondola of Morton
- ▶ La Fiesta Mexican Restaurant
- ▶ Leaves 'N Beans of Morton
- ▶ Lulu's on Main
- ▶ Miller Paint Shop
- ▶ Morton Cinemas
- ▶ Papa Murphy's Pizza
- ▶ Pegasus Pizza
- ▶ Pizza Ranch of Morton
- ▶ Rudy's Hair Salon
- ▶ Safari Bowl, Inc.
- ▶ Schooners
- ▶ Seasons Gastropub
- ▶ So Chic Boutique of Morton
- ▶ Sucre Sweets & Socials
- ▶ Threads Boutique

### Jefferson

Jefferson Elementary School held their annual Read-A-Thon fundraiser. We appreciate the numerous business sponsors for this year's Read-A-Thon. The money raised will be used to support various school events and purchase teacher supplies. The Jefferson Patriots are very thankful for the donations of other local businesses and individuals within our community who have made generous donations of supplies, coats, and monies for lunch balances.

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

- ▶ Andris Family Dental
- ▶ Casey's General Store
- ▶ CEFCU - Morton
- ▶ Chalk & Chestnut
- ▶ Colby Natural Health

- ▶ Craig Spine & Sport
- ▶ Culver's - Morton
- ▶ Family Video
- ▶ Great Clips
- ▶ Kroger - Morton
- ▶ Lighthouse Automotive
- ▶ Midstate Collision Repair
- ▶ Morton Audiology & Hearing Aid Center
- ▶ Morton Community Bank
- ▶ Morton Paramedics Local #4952
- ▶ Morton Roller Rink
- ▶ Morton VFW
- ▶ New Castle Realty
- ▶ Paw Pad Goldendoodles
- ▶ Pizza Ranch
- ▶ Plank Pilates Studio
- ▶ S Donnell Construction
- ▶ Stephens Striping & Signs
- ▶ Tazewell Floor Covering
- ▶ VIVO

## Morton District 709 Facilities Goal

**“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.”**

The Morton District 709's 15-year plan is focused on the priority of maximizing the use of the current facilities. Over the last six months, the board has identified the renovations needed to help reach the facilities goal.

### Morton Junior High Addition Approved

One aspect of the work identified and approved by the Morton 709 Board of Education is an addition at Morton Junior High School. Phase 1 of the project focuses on improving safety, traffic flow, and parking. The plan includes a new drop off/pick up area, new office space with a more secure entryway, additional parking, new elevator, and additional classroom space. This work will begin summer of 2019, with the new office, additional classroom space, and new elevator being completed in the fall of 2019. The new drive, drop off area, and parking will be a joint project with the Village of Morton expected to be completed by August 2020. Phase 2 includes a gymnasium if the funds become available.

### MEAC Auditorium Renovation

The MEAC auditorium renovation is also part of the 15 year plan to fully utilize existing facilities. To make this space fully functional, it is necessary to increase handicap accessibility and provide adequate seating for student performances.



Photo Credit: Craig Fitzpatrick

An aerial view of Grundy Elementary School and the new playground.

### Morton High School Facility Work

In addition to the work at Morton Junior High School, several projects have been identified for Morton High School should funds become available for the work to proceed:

- 1. Cafeteria / Library.** Remodel the rooms to add student collaborative space.
- 2. Remodel Classrooms**
  - a. STEM Classrooms
  - b. Update General Classrooms for 21st Century Learning
- 3. The Canopy Entrance Expansion Project.**
  - a. This project enlarges foyer space, adds a concession stand, restrooms and enlarges girls' varsity locker room.
  - b. Remodel PE locker rooms / lockers / new bleachers / resurface gym floor
- 4. Enhance Labor Trade Teaching Space**
  - a. Enhance manufacturing space and equipment
  - b. Auto space and equipment

Morton District 709 will continue to monitor enrollment and best practices in facility use to support student learning, and evaluate the resources needed to make improvements.

# Morton Moving Forward making progress

## District Goal - Achievement:

**M**orton District 709 will nurture and challenge each student to reach his/her greatest potential through evidence-based instructional practices and the highest quality of instruction, curriculum, programs, and services.

Morton District 709 continues to implement various aspects of Morton Moving Forward. We want to share with you the new opportunities for students that will be instrumental in improving student learning. Below is an update on how we are pursuing the District Goal of Achievement:

### Strategy 1 - Systemic Focus on Reading

► **Implement Readers Workshop and Literacy Coaches at each of the elementary schools** — Our principals and teachers have shared positive feedback regarding Readers Workshop implementation. Learning new strategies is hard work, and our staff has been up to this challenge. As we continue our work, literacy coaches will continue to support our students as they each become better readers!

► **Implement Full Day Kindergarten** — Our kindergarten teachers have reported progress in student academic development and transition skills. This is attributed to the opportunity to improve the pacing of academic and social development issues. Kindergarten teachers have noted that student progress has accelerated due to the increased time and attention teachers are able to devote to each student.

### Strategy 2- Intentional Transition to Secondary

► **Develop and implement JHS schedule**

that increases core instructional time and enhancement opportunities - The District 709 Board of Education has approved a robust proposal from Morton Jr. High School on how to simultaneously improve transition to the

high school and student performance in key academic areas of Math and English/Language Art. The new schedule is supported by a new leadership framework, reduced student/counselor ratio, and an instructional coach. The schedule was developed collaboratively with teachers and will move our junior-high students to the front of the pack in terms of academic preparation, student support, and transitioning.

► **Develop plan for departmentalization at the 5th and 6th grades** - Conversations around fifth- and sixth-grade departmentalization have been challenging in large part due to our grade level structure. We are moving toward teachers at those grade levels being responsible for either a Math/Science assignment, or a Language Arts/Social Science assignment. We believe this structure will help improve academic rigor and meaningful transition behaviors needed for junior high school and high school students.

### Strategy 3- Redefine College and Career Readiness



► **Reduce counselor/student ratio for greater guidance of HS students toward post-secondary options** - The MHS Counseling Department has been able to improve its responsiveness to student and parent needs. Several services have been

added as a result, including counselor/parent coffees, a counseling department newsletter, electronic transcripts, and social/emotional group supports. Student Activities now has a stronger identity and hopefully will increase student participation through extracurricular opportunities. Morton High School and Morton Junior High currently have 77% and 79% student participation. We will be reviewing data regarding student involvement this spring as we seek to have every student involved with an extracurricular activity.

► **Increase certification programs that align with area workforce shortage needs and Increase opportunities for college credit for all students** - Counselors, teachers, and administrators have worked to identify certificate programs with the potential to help students secure employment after graduation in the areas of automotive and manufacturing. Business partnerships are being developed in those areas as well, with Sam Leman and Parker Fabrication offering to help support our programs with equipment and

potentially work opportunities for our students. These programs not only address student needs, but also regional workforce shortage areas. In addition to the certificate programs being developed, new AP and dual credit courses are being proposed as additions to the curriculum for next year. One class being discussed is AP Computer Programming, and another, Human Anatomy and Physiology, is being considered as a new course for the 2020-21 school year. Auto 110 is also being considered for next year and would be dual credit.

### Strategy 4 - Organize and Invest in Professional Learning

► **Improve opportunities for professional learning** - Teachers and administrators have been working diligently to provide meaningful professional learning opportunities that have been critical to professional development. Each school has used the time to advance actions in Morton Moving Forward, and as a result there has been considerable progress. In addition, instructional and literacy coaches have been playing a vital role supporting teachers who focus on teaching strategies that provide the greatest impact on their students. We have done outstanding work in embracing these learning opportunities as we look to improve student learning!

Jeffrey W. Hill, Ed.D  
Superintendent

# Explore an interactive history of Morton

Morton History Project gives users a glimpse of the past in a whole new way

The 2018 Morton History Project has been published, and community members are invited to find the Morton History Story Map, oral histories and written narratives on the Morton Chamber of Commerce Website under the “Community” tab.

The Morton History Project was made possible by a Morton Community Foundation grant and implemented in partnership with the Morton Chamber of Commerce and Morton Public Library. The project sought to capture and share Morton’s history in a whole new way.

Launched in May of 2018, the Morton Chamber of Commerce set out to collect written narratives and audio/visual recordings of people’s memories of the Morton community. These recordings are published on the Morton History webpage and can be enjoyed for years to come. Topics discussed include family heritage, favorite memories and beloved businesses in Morton’s history.

Video participants include Kenneth Aupperle; Burdell Hall; Gordon and Jean Ann Honegger; Philip Kuhl; Harriet McClellan; Stephen Newhouse; Kenneth Getz; Bob Hauter; Joan Oberlander; Lester Freidinger; Dr. Tom Clark; Dean Martin; Susan Pyles; Herb Roth; Ruthie Roth; Michael, Scott and Philip Witzig; Linda Yoder; and Bud Zobrist. Written submissions include Eleanor Jacob, Noah Zobrist, Craig Mason, and Gary Kutcat.

Another outcome of the project is a digital story map that displays an address on a map alongside a historical photo of that location with information about a business that existed at that location in years past. It is an interactive map that allows participants to walk from place to place and see what Morton addresses looked like at different points in



A picture of the Story Map’s online landing page. Find it by visiting the webpage: <https://www.mortonchamber.org/morton-history-project>.

history.

A third outcome of the project are oral history resources for use in the future too. We know there are countless stories to tell about Morton’s people and places in history and this project only scratches the surface. Our hope is that the resources built for this project could be used by future generations to continue capturing and telling Morton’s stories.

When asked about the project, Scott Witzig, Executive Director of the Morton Community Foundation, said, “The Morton Community Foundation’s Mission is to improve the quality of life for Morton area residents, now and for generations to come. We are pleased to have provided necessary funding for this project which helps create an archive of resources for students, businesses, residents and tourists to

use for years to come.”

To access the videos and the story map, visit the Morton Chamber of Commerce webpage. You can find the Morton History Project under the “Community” tab’s drop-down menu. The resources will also be published on the Morton Library website when it is updated in 2019 and permanently archived at the Morton Public Library.

## Mark your calendar

### 2019 Fine Arts Calendar

The following are the Fine Arts events for the school district for second semester of the 2018-2019 school year. 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.berthafrank.org](http://www.berthafrank.org). You can also follow Fine Arts on Facebook @Morton CUSD709 Fine Arts.

#### January

**24 - 26:** Illinois Music Educator Association All-State Conference at Peoria Convention Center  
**25:** High School Wind Ensemble

Performance at Illinois Music Education All-State Conference at Peoria Convention Center - 9 a.m.  
**30:** District Spelling Bee at Bertha Frank

#### February

**1:** Mid-Illini Jazz Festival at Pekin High School  
**1-3:** Junior High Musical at Bertha Frank  
**4:** Mid-Illini Choral Festival at Canton High School  
**10:** In Their Own Write at Bertha Frank  
**21:** High School Band Concert at Bertha Frank  
**22:** ROE 53 Spelling Bee at Bertha Frank  
**25:** Morton Elementary Choir Concert at Bertha Frank  
**26:** JH/HS Jazz Bands at Bradley University

**28:** Lincoln 4th and 5th Grade Program at Bertha Frank

#### March

**1:** Junior High Choral and Orchestra Festival at Morton Junior High  
**2:** IHSA Solo and Ensemble Contest in Normal, Illinois  
**5:** High School Orchestra Concert at Bertha Frank  
**7:** Lettie Brown 5th Grade Musical at Bertha Frank  
**8:** Junior High Solo and Ensemble at Morton Junior High  
**13:** Mid-Illini Concert Band Festival at Washington Five Points  
**14:** Jefferson 5th and 6th Grade Musical at Jefferson Elementary  
**21:** Grundy 5th and 6th Grade Music Program at Bertha Frank  
**23:** Junior High Honor Band Preview Concert for Heritage Festival in Bertha Frank

#### April

**TBA:** Mid-Illini Art Show at Prairie Center of the Arts in Peoria, Illinois  
**4-7:** High School Musical Performances at Bertha Frank  
**6:** Junior High Honor Band Heritage Festival Performance in Chicago, Illinois  
**26:** Junior High Bands at Dunlap Music Contest at Dunlap JH/HS

#### May

**3:** High School Art Journal - Flight - at Bertha Frank  
**3:** High School Band SuperState at University of Illinois (tentative)  
**7:** Music Ensembles at Spring Celebration at Peoria Courthouse Square  
**7:** High School Orchestra Concert

at Idlewood Pavilion in Morton, Illinois (rain plan - Bertha Frank)  
**7:** Jefferson Kindergarten Program at Jefferson Elementary  
**7:** Junior High Art Show and Passion Projects  
**9:** Junior High Orchestra Concert at Junior High Gym  
**9:** High School Band Concert at High School West Gym  
**10:** Junior High Jazz Band at Morton Community Foundation Event  
**13:** Junior High Band Concert at Junior High Gym  
**14:** High School Choir Concert at Bertha Frank  
**16:** Morton Elementary Choir and Junior High Choir Concert at Bertha Frank

### 2019 MHS Winter Athletics Calendar

\*Dates and times are subject to change. Please check MHS' Sports Schedules by going to [MHS.Morton709.org](http://MHS.Morton709.org). Click on the "Athletics" tab and select "Athletic and Activity Homepage" to find more information and to see the spring sports schedules.

#### January

##### Monday, 21

**6 p.m.** - BOYS Freshmen Basketball VS Canton at Canton High School  
**6 p.m.** - GIRLS Freshmen Basketball VS Canton at HOME

##### Tuesday, 22

**5:30 p.m.** - GIRLS Sophomore Basketball VS Washington at Washington High School  
**7 p.m.** - GIRLS Varsity Basketball VS Washington at Washington High School

##### Wednesday, 23

**4:30 p.m.** - BOYS Varsity Swimming VS Richwoods at Richwoods High School

##### Thursday, 24

**4:30 p.m.** - BOYS Varsity Swimming VS Macomb at Macomb High School  
**6 p.m.** - BOYS Fresh/Soph Wrestling VS Olympia High School at HOME

**6 p.m.** - BOYS Varsity Wrestling VS Olympia High School at HOME  
**6 p.m.** - BOYS Freshmen Basketball VS Metamora at Metamora High School

##### Friday, 25

**5:30 p.m.** - BOYS Sophomore Basketball VS Canton at Canton High School  
**7 p.m.** - BOYS Varsity Basketball VS Canton at Canton High School

##### Saturday, 26

**9 a.m.** - BOYS Fresh./Soph. Wrestling VS Mid Illini Conference Meet at Limestone High School

**9:30 a.m.** - GIRLS Freshmen Basketball at East Peoria High School

**4:30 a.m.** - BOYS Sophomore Basketball Shootout VS Richwoods at Peoria High School

**5 p.m.** - GIRLS Sophomore Basketball VS Metamora at HOME

**6 p.m.** - BOYS Varsity Basketball Shootout VS Richwoods at Peoria High School

**6:30 p.m.** - GIRLS Varsity Basketball VS Metamora at HOME

##### Monday, 28

**6 p.m.** - BOYS Freshmen Basketball VS Pekin at HOME

**6 p.m.** - GIRLS Freshmen Basketball VS Pekin at Pekin High School

##### Tuesday, 29



**4:30 p.m.** - BOYS Varsity- Swimming VS Dunlap at Dunlap High School

##### Wednesday, 30

**6:30 p.m.** - BOYS Freshmen Basketball VS Washington at Washington High School

##### Thursday, 31

**6 p.m.** - GIRLS Freshmen Basketball VS Normal at Normal Community High School

##### February 2018

##### Friday, 1

**5:30 p.m.** - BOYS Sophomore Basketball VS at HOME

**5:30 p.m.** - GIRLS Sophomore Basketball VS Pekin at Pekin High School  
 - GIRLS Varsity Basketball VS Pekin at Pekin High School

**7 p.m.** - BOYS Varsity Basketball VS Pekin at HOME

##### Saturday, 2

**9:30 a.m.** - GIRLS Freshmen Basketball VS Washington at HOME

**10 a.m.** - BOYS Varsity - Swimming Mid Illini Meet VS Pekin at Pekin High School

**5 p.m.** - GIRLS Varsity Basketball VS William Fremd High School at ICC

**5 p.m.** - BOYS Sophomore Basketball VS Washington at HOME

**6:30 p.m.** - BOYS Varsity Basketball VS Washington at HOME

##### Monday, 4

**6 p.m.** - GIRLS Freshmen Basketball VS Metamora at Metamora High School

**6 p.m.** - BOYS Freshmen Basketball VS Metamora at HOME

##### Tuesday, 5

**5:30 p.m.** - GIRLS Sophomore Basketball VS Limestone at Limestone High School

**7 p.m.** - GIRLS Varsity Basketball VS Limestone at Limestone High School

##### Friday, 8

**5:30 p.m.** - GIRLS Sophomore Basketball VS Dunlap at HOME

**7 p.m.** - GIRLS Varsity Basketball VS Dunlap at HOME

##### Saturday, 9

**5 p.m.** - BOYS Sophomore Basketball VS Metamora at HOME

**6:30 p.m.** - BOYS Varsity Basketball VS Metamora at HOME

##### Monday, 11

**6 p.m.** - BOYS Freshmen Basketball VS East Peoria at East Peoria High School

##### Wednesday, 13

**6 p.m.** - BOYS Freshmen Basketball VS Lincoln at HOME

##### Thursday, 14

**4 p.m.** - Gameball Run - The Run - at Carper Field/West Gym HOME

##### Friday, 15

**5:15 p.m.** - BOYS Sophomore Basketball VS East Peoria at HOME

**7 p.m.** - BOYS Varsity Basketball VS East Peoria - Gameball Run at HOME

##### Saturday, 16

**5 p.m.** - BOYS Sophomore Basketball VS Limestone at HOME

**6:30 p.m.** - BOYS Varsity Basketball VS Limestone at HOME - Senior Night

##### Thursday, 21

**6 p.m.** - BOYS Freshmen Basketball VS Dunlap at Dunlap High School

##### Friday, 22

**5:30 p.m.** - BOYS Sophomore Basketball VS Dunlap at Dunlap High School

**7 p.m.** - BOYS Varsity Basketball VS Dunlap at Dunlap High School

##### Saturday, 23

**9:30 a.m.** - BOYS Sophomore Basketball at Metamora High School Sophomore Tournament

## GAMEBALL RUN 2019

# Join our team to make a difference!

## 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. 14, 2019**

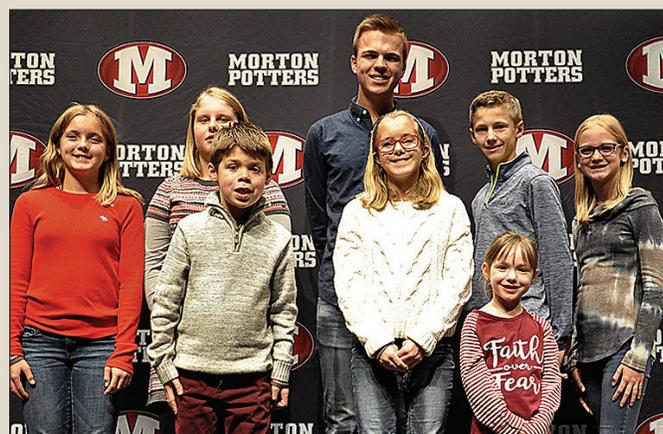
At 4 p.m., the Gameball RUN Opening Ceremony starts at Morton High School, with the run immediately following. The run will be on the Morton High School Athletic Facility track (weather dependent).

- ▶ The run will include the MHS Boys' Basketball teams, District 709 administration and faculty members, our Miracle Families, and any student willing to donate \$25 to participate! Participants must be registered prior to Feb. 1.
- ▶ There will be music, fun, and concessions for our guests to cheer on the runners and families.

## Gameball Run Ceremony and Game

**Friday, Feb. 15, 2019**

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 2019 Gameball Run t-shirt. Your Gameball Run t-shirt will serve as admission into the game.



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 2019 Gameball Run Miracle Kids – Front row: Kinsley Relph, Jefferson. Middle row: Taevin Hangartner, Lincoln; Madison Deters, MJHS; Andrew McLauchlan, Bethel; and Zaira Bruesch, Grundy. Back row: Taylor Deters, MJHS; Reese McClain, Lettie Brown; Kyle Davis, MHS.

## 2019 Miracle Families

Each school in District 709 selected a Miracle Family. District 709 is honored to have Bethel Lutheran School join them for the first time this year. These families have received or continue to use the services at Children's Hospital of Illinois. There are eight Miracle Kids this year.

### Miracle Families

**Bethel Lutheran School:** The McLauchlan Family - Andrew McLauchlan

**Grundy:** The Bruesch Family – Zaira Bruesch

**Jefferson:** The Relph Family – Kinsley Relph

**Lettie Brown:** The McClain Family – Reese McClain

**Lincoln:** The Hangartner Family – Taevin Hangartner

**Morton Junior High School:** The Deters Family – Madison and Taylor Deters

**Morton High School:** The Davis Family – Kyle Davis

## T-shirts

Gameball Run t-shirts will serve as admittance into the game on Feb. 15. Shirts will be \$10 each and will be sold at home Boys' Basketball games, Bethel Lutheran School and at District 709 schools.

## Our Sponsors

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

### Presenting Sponsors:

- Howard & Howard Attorneys, PLLC
- Morton Unit 709 School District

### Gameball Run Sponsors:

- Friends of Morton Basketball
- A Perfect Promotion
- Fort Transfer

### Potterdome Sponsors:

- ANJ Electric, Inc.
- American Pest Control
- Better Banks
- Billy Daniel Excavating
- Central Illinois Insulation
- Home Instead Senior Care

- Littlefield & Lovell Orthodontics
- McCully & Associates
- Morton Dental Center
- Ray Dennison Chevrolet
- Hilltop Wealth Management of Raymond James
- Rotary Club of Morton
- Staker & Sons Construction
- Sue Neihouser – Re/Max Traders Unlimited
- Synergy Healthcare and Sports Facility
- Unland Insurance & Benefits
- Dan Waibel Designer-Builder

## Total Raised

Since 2013, the Gameball Run event has raised \$359,280 for Children's Hospital of Illinois.

Last year's fundraising dollars (\$100,341) went to the Children's Hospital of Illinois' Almost Home Kids (AHK.) The 2019 Morton Gameball Run funds will go towards Children's Hospital of Illinois new project, The John & Annette Heller Learning for Living Center. The new center will allow the Children's Hospital of Illinois to better serve the pediatric cancer patients and their families.

## For More Information

For more information about Gameball Run, this year's miracle families, and how you can donate to the cause, please visit our website [www.MortonGameballRun.org](http://www.MortonGameballRun.org).

## 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. 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.