

**Inside this issue**

**Staff Awards**, Page 3

**2017 Graduation**, Pages 10-11

**School Calendar**, Page 14

**MCF Grants**, Page 18

**Laddy Potters**, Page 20

# 709 Communicator



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VOLUME 36  
2017

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

Registration Day is **Aug. 3!**

7 a.m. to 5 p.m. in all school buildings

Get all the details of what to expect  
at your District 709 school inside this paper.



Welcome  
Superintendent  
Dr. Jeffrey Hill

**D**r. Jeffrey Hill and his wife, Kelli, are proud to be back in the Pumpkin Capital of the World. Dr. Hill's favorite pumpkin dessert is pumpkin pie made with Libby's pumpkin, of course.

"I chose the Morton School District for its ongoing commitment to educational excellence, the challenge and benefits of working with a larger leadership team, and my fondness for the community we once called home," said Superintendent Hill. "Morton has a close knit, family feel to it. People rally around each other and demonstrate genuine interest in the community in a variety of ways, including strong support for education."



JEFFREY HILL

"My wife, Kelli, and I are lifelong educators and place a high value on learning," said Dr. Hill. He and his wife have two adult children. "Eli is currently a sophomore at University of Southern Indiana in Evansville, studying Civil Engineering and running on the track and cross country teams. Our daughter Cecily, is a freshman at Webster University in St. Louis, Missouri, where she is in the

FRESH LOOK, SAME TRADITION



**MORTON**  
**UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709**



**T**he updated and refreshed design of the Morton Community Unit School District logo still holds to the **Potter tradition** while encompassing a modern flair.

Please see HILL, Page 2

# Meet Morton High School's New Principal

Mr. Michael Gourley was officially hired as Morton High School's new principal by the Morton District 709 Board of Education at the March 21, 2017, board meeting. He has assumed his duties as the principal of MHS on July 1. He replaced Marjorie Johnson, who resigned in December 2016 to accept the superintendent's position at East Peoria Community High School District.

Mr. Gourley has served as the associate principal for curriculum and instruction at Urbana High School, a position he has held since 2012. Prior to that, from 2003-2012, he was an assistant principal at Normal Community High School, the same school where he began his career in public education in 1995 as a social studies teacher.

Michael and his wife, Shauna, have two adult children. Alyssa is 19 years old and will be a sophomore in college; while Grant is 17 years old and will be entering his freshman year in



**MICHAEL GOURLEY**

college in the fall. In his spare time, Mr. Gourley enjoys hunting and fishing.

His leadership philosophy is one of servant leadership combined with fostering an environment of teamwork when it comes to educating and supporting students. "I believe that all students can learn and achieve their personal best when all stakeholders are involved and supportive," said Principal Gourley.

"I am looking forward to years of service with a very dedicated staff and providing quality education to the students and families of Morton High School and to the district," said Mr. Gourley. "I couldn't be happier, and I am excited. I can't wait for the school year to begin. I am looking forward to starting the next chapter of our lives in this nice community." "Go Potters!"

as the superintendent. "I aim to foster teamwork that ensures everyone's perspectives are considered," said Dr. Hill. "Recognizing and celebrating successes while facing challenges with a positive, yet realistic outlook is important to making lasting progress."

## HILL

**Continued from page 1**

Conservatory of Theater Arts. Kelli and I enjoy watching each of them perform their unique passions of running and acting."

Teamwork will be Dr. Hill's mantra while serving

## Facilities Improvements Progressing

On March 15, 2016, Morton voters approved a \$10.5 million referendum for work in all six school buildings. The high school and junior high school band rooms were completed prior to the beginning of the 2016-2017 school year as scheduled. The additions at Lettie Brown, Grundy, and Lincoln are projected to be completed by the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year. The window replacement at Jefferson is projected to be completed by the summer of 2018.

The following is a school-by-school summary of the construction from the 2016 referendum:

### **Lettie Brown:**

1 classroom, 1 gymnasium (approximately 5,000 square feet), restrooms, storage – Complete by August 2017

### **Grundy:**

2 classrooms, 1 gymnasium (approximately 7,000 square feet), restrooms, storage – Complete by August 2017

### **Jefferson:**

New windows – Complete by Summer 2018

### **Lincoln:**

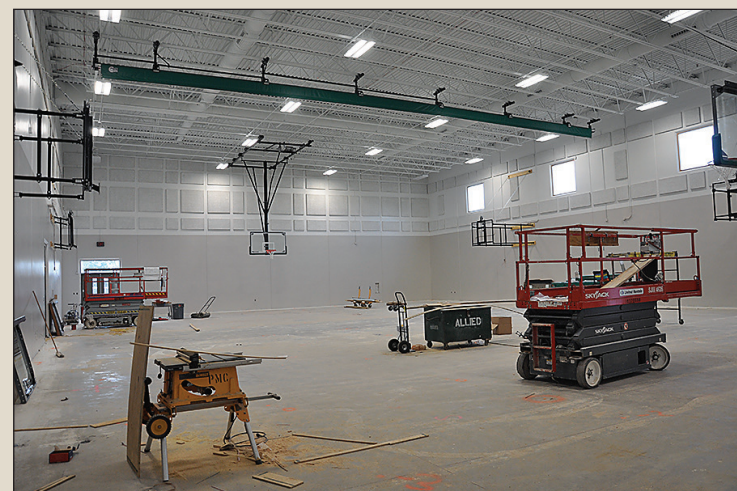
3 classrooms, 1 gymnasium (approximately 7,000 square feet), restrooms, storage – Complete by August 2017

### **Morton Junior High:**

Remodeling of band room area and other classrooms – Completed 2016/17

### **Morton High School:**

Remodeling of band room area – Completed 2016/17



An inside look at the new gymnasium at Lincoln school.



An outside look of the entrance to the new gymnasium and the gymnasium at Lincoln school.



An inside look at one of the new classrooms at Lincoln school.



# Three educators receive District's top honors

Every year, Morton Community Unit School District 709 honors a teacher or administrator, a person who supports staff and students, and for the first time, a person who works in the special education department. These are the highest honors District 709 awards its staff who go above and beyond their job expectations.

"The Master Potter Excellence in Education Award is a very high honor that 709 bestows upon a teacher or administrator who works with students," said District 709 Assistant Superintendent Dr. Craig Smock.

The Master Potter Award was presented to Dr. Ben Wellenreiter, History teacher and the Social Studies Department Chair at Morton Junior High.

"We know that Ben has had an amazing impact on his students after 19 dedicated years in the junior high teaching social science," said Dr. Smock. "He has also made a statewide impact as he served on a committee for the National Council of Social Studies where he helped develop the new learning standards. Now, to make a more global impact, he is a Professor of Education at Illinois State University. As our district loses him, no, not loses him, but, commissions him to the mission field of Illinois State University, we know we will miss him. I think that those who know him best know just how fitting it is that an educator of his caliber should become a



2017 Potter Award Winners, from left, Dr. Ben Wellenreiter, Ms. Denise Fountain, and Mr. Cody Pullium.

teacher of teachers."

New this year is the Dana Ashby Memorial Service Award. It was named in remembrance of Dana Ashby, who was the former Director of Special Education. She served District 709 for eight years before passing away unexpectedly in December of 2015. "Her dedication to serving students with special needs inspired the creation of this special service award for a recipient who uniquely exemplifies the character, qualities, and dedication to students that Dana so passionately worked towards," said Director of Student Support Services Carlie Owens.

Ms. Denise Fountain, a Special Education Resource Teacher at Morton High School, was named the recipient of the newly created Dana Ashby Memorial Service Award.

"I want to share a few words of support that were written for Ms. Fountain," said Mrs. Carlie Owens. "She goes above and beyond from what is expected. She works with students one-on-one and ensures that the

students are set up for success. She is the first teacher to arrive and the last one to leave the high school on a daily basis. Her dedication to the students is immeasurable."

"The Potter's Hand Award is for support staff members who are displaying a dedication and have a positive impact on student wellbeing by going above and beyond the call of duty," said Superintendent Dr. Lindsey Hall.

Cody Pullium, the Resource Study Hall Paraprofessional at the Morton High School, was awarded the Potter's Hand Award.

"Mr. Pullium is someone who has made a difference in the lives of our students," one letter of nomination read. "Mr. Pullium exemplifies each and every one of the characteristics of the Potter's Hand Award. This person shows dedication to our students that go far above and beyond the call of duty."

Congratulations to Dr. Ben Wellenreiter, Ms. Denise Fountain, and Mr. Cody Pullium.

## Retirees recognized for service

Morton School District 709 recognized eight people this spring who retired from various positions. Congratulations and best wishes to these retirees!



Pictured, from left, Deb Weyhrich, 27 years; Vicky Mahrt, 23 years; and Nan Crawford; 24 years. Not Pictured: Scott Lynn, 30 years; Pam Ranta, 19 years; Kim Streenz, 9 years; Lynn Coverstone, 10 years; and Jamie Zwaga, 13 years.

## Meet our new teachers

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

### Brown

Lacey Scholl – 6th Grade

### Grundy

Emily Anderson – 1st Grade

Molly Maubach – 1st Grade

Jacob Stone – 5th Grade

Mindy Wendling – 6th Grade

### Jefferson

Melissa Ralston – 1st Grade

Kristy Kieser – 5th Grade

Bethany Kleckner – Full-Day Kindergarten

Summer Geist – 6th Grade

### Lincoln

Elenor Higus – 4th Grade

Sunny Snyder – P.T. Half-Day Kindergarten

Claire Schmitt – 6th Grade

### Junior High

Bo Pratt – STEM

Adam Sheley – Social Studies

Sean Breaux – Math

Toni Trilikis – Health

### High School

Jennifer Wheat – Special Ed. Life Skills

Ben Ginzel – Science

Matt Franks – Social Science

Jaclyn Smith – PT Social Science

### District

Chelsie Chaney – Speech and Language Pathologist

Dayrim Sheehan – PT ELL Coordinator

Dr. Dan Ebbert – School Psychologist

Kristen D'Alfonso – Elementary Rtl Coordinator

Laura Steiner – Social Worker

### New Administration

Kristina Peifer – Assistant Director of Student Support Services

Michael Gourley – High School Principal

Jeff Hill – Superintendent



# LETTIE BROWN ELEMENTARY

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

## School day

### Kindergarten

A.M. 8:10 to 10:45 a.m.  
P.M. 11:55 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

### Grades 1-6

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

## Policies

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

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

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

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

## Traditions

Prior to starting the school day, Lettie Brown students and staff have announcements in the gymnasium at 8:05 a.m. On many Fridays throughout the school year, Lettie Brown students can purchase a bag of popcorn for 25 cents. Lettie Brown has a student council for fourth, fifth, and sixth grades. On Fridays, students and staff show their school spirit by wearing Lettie Brown blue and orange spirit wear or Morton colors.

## Community Service

Lettie Brown staff and students participate in community service projects throughout the year. Some of our service projects last year included singing carols at Apostolic Christian Restmor (student council); hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive; collecting toys for Toys for Tots; sending care packages to the Air National Guard; providing fresh water through UNICEF; and raising funds for TAPS, St. Jude, and Children's Hospital of Illinois.



The Students of Lettie Brown raised money for Tazewell Animal Protective Society (TAPS). Pictured here are Abby Nieu Kirk, Haley Detloff, Maddy Stalter, Gracie Crawford, Kailie Mueller, Naomi Steffen, and a TAPS representative.

## Mark your calendar

**Aug. 3** – Registration, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Aug. 10** – Class lists posted after 4 p.m.

**Aug. 16** – First day for students, 8:10-11:45 a.m.

**Aug. 17** – Meet the Teacher, 6 to 7:30 p.m.

**Aug. 28** – PTO meeting, 7 p.m.

## Meet the 2017-18 staff

**Principal** – Faith Waterfield

**Secretary** – Tammy Bailey

**Kindergarten** – Kelley Bradford

**First** – Casie McDowell, Brenna Stork

**Second** – Kristy Boecker, Jan Martin

**Third** – Kim Knox, Carol Davison

**Fourth** – Stephanie Bishop, Laura Zehr

**Fifth** – Katy Gingerich, Michael Finck

**Sixth** – Shane Weyland, Lacey Scholl

**P.E.** – Julie Cassidy, Josh Prichard

**Music** – Shane Rocke,



FAITH WATERFIELD

Heather Berger

**Technology Aide** – Sondra Dole

**Library Aide** – Jamie Grethey

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

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

**Resource** – Edie Larson, Ashley King

**Speech** – Megan Baker

**Social Work** – Laura Steiner

**Psychologist** – Dr. Daniel Ebbert

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

**Custodians** – Tim Epkins, Dominique Mackey

**Crossing Guard** – Jean Melvin

## Lunch Schedule

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

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

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

## PTO Officers



Pictured above, left to right, are the 2017-2018 PTO officers for Lettie Brown Elementary: Ginny Weber, secretary; Shantel Zoss, treasurer; Angel Fisher, president; Julia Hischke, vice president (not pictured).



# WARD GRUNDY ELEMENTARY

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

## School day

### Kindergarten

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

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

### Grades 1-6

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

## Policies

### Absence reporting:

284-2000. The absence line is open 24 hours a day. Please call prior to 9 a.m. on the day of the absence.

### Morning drop-off:

Please use the driveway on the west side of the building. Students must exit from the passenger side of your vehicle.

Please remain in your vehicle to keep the line moving. If you need to walk your child inside, please park in the District Office parking lot.

### Afternoon pick-up:

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

**Supply lists:** Parents received a supply list at the end of the 2016-17 school year. Lists are also available on the Grundy website <http://grundy.morton709.org/home> and at local retailers.



Grundy Gators having fun while demonstrating their artistic talents.

## Mark your calendar

**Aug. 3** – Registration, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Aug. 4** – Grundy Pool Party, 7

to 9 p.m., Morton Pool

**Aug. 10** – Class lists posted after 4 p.m.

**Aug. 16** – First day of school, 8:20 to 11:55 a.m.

**Aug. 17** – Meet the Teacher, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

**Aug. 28** – PTO meeting, 6:30 p.m., Grundy library

## Meet the 2017-18 staff

**Principal** – Michael Saunders

**Secretary** – Kathy Shaw

**Clerical Aides** – Kelly Friend, Amy Fuiten, Valerie Wilkes  
**Kindergarten** – Jeanette Grant



MICHAEL SAUNDERS

**First** – Emily Anderson, Molly Maubach

**Second** – Lora Kober, Ashlie Reinert

**Third** – Jessica Gunn, Jami Kaisershot

**Fourth** – Jeanie Dennis, Jon

Wheat

**Fifth** – Jacob Stone, Jill Veskauf, Janine Weyland

**Sixth** – Becky Bazzetta, Mindy Wendling

**Building Technologist** – Beth Shook

**Challenge Teachers** – Jami Kaisershot, Janine Weyland

**Crossing Guard** – Theresa Hermacinski

**Custodians** – Pam Addams, Dwight Schuck

**Food Service** – Theresa Hermacinski, Jennifer Landrith, Trina Saunders

**Grade Level Aides** – Dawn Berg, Leslie Householter, Leanne Sommer, Carol Vance

**Librarian** – Angel Fisher

**Music Teacher** – Tim Beutel

**P.E. Teacher** – Jayne Eisenmann, Josh Prichard

**Resource Teachers** – Candice Harvey, Holly Toraason

**Resource Aides** – Holly Manthey, Michele Molton, Michelle Paulson, Staci Petersen, Pam Riddle, Lori Simpson, Jen Wilson

**RTI Aides** – Amanda Derrick, Emily Hauter, Anita Stidman, Danielle Tolly

**Social Worker** – Elizabeth Antonacci

**Speech and Language Pathologist** – Kelly Webb

**Title I Math Teacher** – Natalie Rollins

## Traditions

► **Educational Excellence:** Grundy is ranked among the top 5% of all schools in the State of Illinois. Grundy has earned the Academic Excellence Award from the ISBE and the School Search Bright A+ Award. Grundy is also among the few public elementary schools in the State of Illinois to have received a distinguished Greatschools.org rating of 10 out of 10. In 2017, 18% of our 6th graders earned the President's Award for Educational Excellence and 38% of our fourth- through sixth-graders earned the Principal's Honor Roll Award.

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

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

## PTO Officers



Pictured above, left to right, are the PTO officers for the 2017-2018 school year for Grundy Elementary – Malinda Radloff, President; Jessica Belsly, Vice President; Gina Strubhar, Co-Treasurer; Dan Beckler, Secretary; Not Pictured: Dawn Cole, Co-Treasurer.



# JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY

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

## School day

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

## For All Students

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

**Dismissal:** 2:40 p.m.

## Policies

**Absence reporting:** 284-3025. The absence line is open 24 hours a day. Please call prior to 9 a.m. on the day of the absence.

## Parking/drop off and pick up:

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

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

**Supply lists:** Lists are available at local retailers and on the district website, [www.morton709.org](http://www.morton709.org). Click on the Jefferson Patriot icon for supply lists and other information about the school.



## Mark your calendar

**Aug. 3** – Registration – 7 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**Aug. 10** – Class lists posted at 4 p.m. (Please do not take photos of lists.)

**Aug. 16** – First day of school 8:20-11:55 a.m.

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

**Aug. 28** – PTO meeting 6:30 p.m.



**TOP:** Jefferson students sporting their Patriot gear.

**ABOVE:** Jefferson students participating in an all-school lap to raise money for St. Jude Laps for Life.

## PTO Officers



**Pictured above, left to right, are the 2017-2018 PTO officers for Jefferson Elementary School: Amy Jones, president; Jennifer Donovan, vice president; Amy Glass, secretary; Lisa Cook, treasurer.**

## Traditions

Jefferson School, established in 1928, is home of the Patriots. Jefferson recognizes students who reach their reading targets throughout the school year and during the summer. We also sponsor many after school clubs and activities for students. Jefferson holds family nights throughout the year at no cost to families. The PTO organizes and hosts the annual Carnival, Laugh Olympics, and Read-a-thon. Read-a-thon has become a Jefferson tradition and serves as the main fundraiser for the school. Jefferson also supports The Children's Hospital Of Illinois and St. Jude. Jefferson is proud to be the site of the annual Morton Pumpkin Festival.

## Meet the 2017-18 staff

**Principal** – Kate Wyman

**Secretary** – Grace Nessler



**KATE WYMAN**

**Kindergarten** – Allison Bohnhoff, Kelsey Cirilli, Bethany Kleckner

**First** – Ashley Parker, Melissa Ralston

**Second** – Heather Hochstettler,

Teresa Oaks

**Third** – Ashley Sarver, Margaret Shafer

**Fourth** – Steve Brenkman, Lindsey Welsh

**Fifth** – Kristy Kieser, Shay Nelson

**Sixth** – Summer Geist, Therese Scifres

**P.E.** – Pat Lowder, Dan Gashaw

**Music** – Heather Berger

**Rtl Aides** – Lisa Cook, Michelle Lyons, Amanda Nelson, Sara Hornsby

**Rtl Coordinator** – Kristen D'Alfonso

**ELL Coordinator** – Dayrim Sheehan

**Challenge Teachers** – TBD, TBD

**Title 1 Math** – Sara Dirks

**Title 1 Math Aide** – Renee Bommargarden

**Resource** – Melissa Danner, Nadine Worstell

**Speech** – Chelsie Chaney

**Technologist** – Terri Keys

**Library** – Melissa Clementz

**Clerical Aides** – Kathy Funkhouser, Mandy Collins

**Custodians** – Dan Sutter, Dave Keen

**Psychologist** – Dr. Dan Ebbert

**Social Worker** – Sandi Cross

**Crossing Guard** – Stacy Krantz



# LINCOLN ELEMENTARY

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

## Traditions

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

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



The Lincoln School PTO Walk-a-Thon is the primary fundraising activity of the PTO. Funds raised from the 2016 Walk-a-Thon helped to provide new playground equipment, student lockers, science materials and equipment, along with a wide variety of other items to benefit the students and teachers at Lincoln.

## Mark your calendar

**Aug. 3** - Registration in cafeteria 7 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Aug. 3** - PTO Back to School Swim Party at Morton Pool 7-9 p.m.

**Aug. 10** - Class lists posted at 4 p.m.

**Aug. 14** - PTO meeting, 7 p.m. in Music Room

**Aug. 16** - First day of school, 8:20-11:55 a.m.;

AM ECE/K: 8:30-9:30 a.m.; PM ECE/K-10:30-11:30 a.m. (No transportation for ECE and K)

**Aug. 22** - Meet the Teacher Night 6-7:30 p.m.

## Meet the 2017-18 staff

**Principal** – Julie Albers



JULIE ALBERS

**Assistant Principal** – Michelle Peterson

**Secretaries** – Sueann Spinder, Katie Whalen

**Office Clerical Aide** – Leah Collins

**Nurse** – Annette Kelso

**Early Childhood** – Erin Chan, Leslie Gibbs

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

mediate)

**Kindergarten** – Jodi Hoelscher, Sunny Snyder

**First** – Kara Brooks, Michelle Essert, Wendy Vastine

**Second** – Laina Lagomarcino, Abby Schwarting, Sarah Todd

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

**Fourth** – El Higus, Andrea Knepp, Bri Schreiner

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

**Sixth** – Kaiti Brown, Mary Mills, Claire Schmitt

**P.E.** – Bob Becker, Michelle DeBoer

**Music** – Shane Rocke

**Resource** – Diane Puetz, Molly Stephens

**Speech** – Brooke Behm, Sherry Robinson

**Social Worker** – Lauren Pratt

**Technologists** – Diana Schauer, Rhonda Stalter

**Technology Aide** – Keri Dodson

**Library Aide** – Denise Poshard

**Psychologist** – Melissa Kerber-Long

**Custodians** – Dwight Hamilton, Bob Harkless

**Crossing Guards** – Rhonda Konieczny; Ronda Bense, Tracy Rusnak

**Food Service Staff** – Janet Lane, Ronae Fender, Mary Dralle

## School day

### Kindergarten and Early Childhood

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

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

### Grades 1-6

8:20 a.m. to 2:40 p.m. (all students will be dismissed at 2:40 p.m.)

## Policies

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

**Parking/drop off and pick-up:** Please help follow these guidelines in the morning and after school to ensure the safety of all children. Students who arrive at school by car should be dropped off in the circle drive on the west side of the school. Please do not drop off your child on Nebraska Avenue as Nebraska is very busy and it is not safe for students to cross traffic on Nebraska or in the circle drive. The north parking lot is for bus drop off and pick up; please do not drop off or pick up

children in this parking lot. Cars should pull up in the drive as far as possible to allow for multiple cars to drop off their children. After your child exits the passenger side, proceed out the drive to allow for more cars to pull through. It is important for children to exit the vehicle on the passenger side so they do not cross in front of other vehicles. Please help keep the traffic flow moving smoothly by having your child ready to exit the car once it is stopped. Walkers and bicycle riders should walk on the sidewalk that goes up to the building. Do not cross the driveway to park a bicycle or to walk to the building.

**Supply lists:** Parents received a supply list at the end of the 2016-2017 school year with student report cards. Lists are also available at local retail stores and on the district website, [www.morton709.org](http://www.morton709.org). Click on the Lincoln icon for information.

## PTO Officers



Pictured above, left to right, are the 2017-2018 PTO officers for Lincoln Elementary - Susan Nichols, Secretary; Stacy Litersky, President; Amy Retherford, Treasurer; and Kari Gosteli, Vice President.



# MORTON JUNIOR HIGH

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

## School day

8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

## Policies

### Absence reporting:

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

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

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

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

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

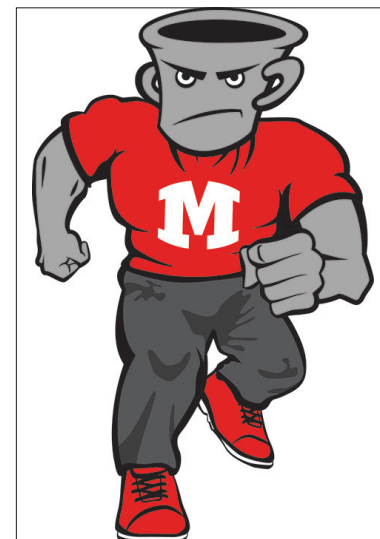
**Identification:** MJHS students are issued ID cards.

IDs are needed during the day in the Library and Media Center (LMC) to check out books and use the computer. IDs are also needed at lunch. IDs will be available at registration, at orientation, and on the first day of school.

**Team concept:** MJHS has a team teaching concept. The seventh-grade students are divided into two teams – green and white. The eighth-grade students are divided into two teams – red and gray. Each team has a group of teachers, and the curriculum for each team is the same. The team teachers meet to plan and discuss upcoming tests, interdisciplinary units and the progress of all students.

**Lunch:** Students at MJHS can purchase a lunch for \$2.55 a day, or they can buy ala carte items. Money can be added to your child's lunch account through E-Funds. Your child's charging habits can be tracked on My Lunch Account. Both of these websites can be accessed under the Parent tab on our school's website ([www.morton709.org](http://www.morton709.org)).

**Dress code:** MJHS does have a dress code and it can be found in the student handbook. Parents and students should become familiar with the dress code. In short, students are to be covered from shoulder to mid-thigh (4 inches from the knee).



Clockwise from above: MJHS students engage in a friendly competition of dodgeball to raise funds for Morton's Game-ball Run in which all proceeds are donated to the Children's Hospital of Illinois. Morton Junior High may have an updated logo, but the traditions remain the same. Grandparent's day is a fun way for grandparents to engage in classroom activities and have lunch with their grandchild.

## Meet the MJHS 2017-18 staff

**Principal** – Lee Hoffman

**Assistant Principal** – Chris Carter

**Counselor** – Beth Spaniol

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

**Language Arts** – Ben VandenBerg, Shelly Reichert, Megan Hasler, Kristin Henrichs

**Math** – Tom Hermann, Kirk Schick, Jennifer Dawson, Sean Breaux

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

**Science** – Brandon Parrott, Jordan Williams, Melissa Tortorella, Christina Jester



LEE HOFFMAN



CHRIS CARTER

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

**STEM** – Bo Pratt

**Writing Lab** – Jeanenne Plevka

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

**Art** – Brittany DuPont

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

**Speech Therapist** – Chelsie Chaney

**Health** – Toni Trilikis

**Library** – Jacqueline Akers

**Social Work** – Sandi Cross

**Psychologist** – Amanda May

**Interventionist** – Katie Miller

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

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

**Crossing Guard** – TBD



## Stay Connected to MJHS

- **Mid-Term Reports** – Mailed home to students receiving D's and/or F's at the mid-term.
- **Parent/Teacher Conferences** – Thursday (8 a.m.-7 p.m.) and Friday (8 a.m. - noon) October 19 and 20, are the two days set aside as conference days. Parents have the opportunity to meet with individual teachers to discuss their child's progress. To sign-up, simply call the office beginning in September.
- **PowerSchool** – Parents can access their child's grades, attendance, and the school's daily announcements. Parents can also sign up to receive email updates of grades, attendance, and/or announcements (<https://powerschool.morton709.org/public>).
- **Report Cards** – Report cards are distributed to students approximately one week after the conclusion of the term.
- **Team Meetings** – If parents would like to meet with the teachers, they are welcome to attend a team meeting. To set an appointment, contact the team leader. Meeting times: Green 10-10:45 a.m.; White 8-8:45 a.m.; Gray 9-9:45 a.m.; Red 11-11:45 a.m.
- **Facebook and Twitter**– Follow what is going on at MJHS ([www.twitter.com/MJHSJrPtrs](http://www.twitter.com/MJHSJrPtrs) and [www.facebook.com/MortonJuniorHighSchool](http://www.facebook.com/MortonJuniorHighSchool)).
- **Sports Notification** – By signing up and providing an email and or phone number, parents receive email notification when an event is cancelled or changed ([il.8to18.com/mortonjhs/](http://il.8to18.com/mortonjhs/)).
- **Help-a-thon** – MJHS will conduct a Help-a-thon fundraiser again this year. Students will seek donations to sponsor their involvement in community service projects. The proceeds will benefit MJHS and selected charities.
- **Advisory** – On Tuesdays for 30 minutes, teachers will meet with small groups of students to discuss academic and social topics. This time will give teachers another opportunity to connect with students. All eight regular class periods will still meet on those days but on a slightly altered schedule.

### Athletic Information

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

**Athletic passes:** MJHS offers athletic passes for students and for families. These

passes are valid for all home, indoor events. These events include boys and girls basketball, volleyball and wrestling. Passes are available at registration and the MJHS office. Passes are \$8 for students, \$10 for adults and \$30 for a family. Passes are valid for regular season events only. Red Storm shirts no longer provide free admission. Regional and sectional events hosted at MJHS are required to charge an admission fee. Admission fees to regular season MJHS athletic events

are \$1 for students and \$2 for adults. Seniors 60 and older are admitted for free.

**Sports participation:** New in 2017: Athletes must be registered online. Visit Morton Junior High's athletic website, [il.8to18.com/mortonjhs](http://il.8to18.com/mortonjhs), to complete the online registration process. The only document students need to turn into the office is the sports physical. Participation cards (also known as Green cards), will no longer be distributed. Athletes will not be allowed

to try-out, practice, or participate without registering and turning in their physical.

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

## Red and White Club

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

### Help-a-thon fundraiser

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

### Teacher Appreciation

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

**Spaghetti Supper** – This event is during basketball season and is a fun event for students, staff, and families.

If you are interested in either chairing an activity or simply helping out, please sign up at registration or contact the office. All parents are encouraged to



Pictured above are members of the MJHS Red & White PTO Board 2017-2018. From left to right: Kara Knepp, Vice President; Mary Moser, Secretary; Becki Davis, Treasurer; Tracy Heer, Activities Chair; Dana Weber, President.

consider an opportunity to get involved with MJHS. Monthly meetings are typically held on the third Thursday evening of the month. The 2017-18 calendar will be available at registration.

## Junior High Supply List

Pens (blue/black and red)	5 pocket folders	<i>tional supply expectations depending on the Team.</i>
Pencils and pouch	3 spiral notebooks	
Colored pencils	Index cards (3x5)	<b>Physical Education uniform:</b> shirt (\$10), shorts (\$12) (Available on registration day or from PE teacher) and athletic shoes
Highlighters	3-ring zippered binder	
Loose leaf paper	Earbuds for iPad	
Protractor	Morton Public Library Card	
Box of tissues	<i>Teachers may have addi-</i>	

## Traditions

**Grandparents' Day** — MJHS has a tradition of hosting Grandparents' Day each spring. The Red and White Club hosts the event with assistance from the Student Council. Grandparents attend two class periods and have lunch with their grandchildren.

## Mark your calendar

**July 31** – MJHS office opens

**Aug. 3** – Registration, 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**Aug. 15** – 7th-Grade and New Student Orientation, 2:30 – 3:45 p.m.

**Aug. 16** – First day of school, 8-11 a.m.

**Aug. 28** – Meet the Teacher Night, 6-8 p.m.

## MJHS Daily Schedule

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# MHS COMMENCEMENT MEMORIES

May 14, 2017



LEFT: These students received the Highest Honor Student distinction for the Morton High School Class of 2017. Front row, left to right, Juliet Boyer, Emily Heim, Emley Holcombe. Middle row, left to right, Maggie Brennan and Nicole West. Back row, left to right, Gavin Blair, Michelle Gehner, and Andrew Rhode.



## MHS Class of 2017 students serving in the Armed Forces

**Jacob Underwood** - Army  
**Ben Watts**- Army  
**Tyler Austin**-Marines  
**Isaac Knepp** - Marines  
**Joel Rowell**- Marines  
**Nathan Sigulas**- Marines  
**Lukas Tunis**- Marines  
**Bethany Wefer**- Navy



# MORTON HIGH SCHOOL

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

## Our Vision

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

## Our Mission

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

## School day

8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

## Daily schedule

1st hour – 8-8:49 a.m.  
 2nd hour – 8:54-9:42 a.m.  
 3rd hour – 9:47-10:35 a.m.  
 4th hour – 10:40-11:28 a.m.  
 5th hour – 11:33 a.m.-1:14 p.m.  
 (Students have class, a 16-minute study hall and lunch during 5th hour)  
 6th hour – 1:19-2:07 p.m.  
 7th hour – 2:12-3 p.m.  
 Teacher Assistance - 3:00-3:40 (as needed)

## Counseling office

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



The updated MHS band room has all of the band students smiling as they have more room and storage for all of the instruments.

## Follow us on Social Media:

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

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

**Facebook:** Morton Athletics - @PotterPride

## Policies

**Handbook:** Parents and students can view the student handbook online at [www.morton709.org](http://www.morton709.org), click on the MHS icon on the top right. The handbook is under the "About" tab. The policies listed below are an overview and more detailed information is listed in the handbook.

**Absence:** 263-0611. All absences, including appointments, should be called into the attendance clerk, Lisa Schafer. Notes from parents will not be accepted. Parents can leave messages for Mrs. Schafer 24 hours a day. Attendance is taken at MHS each class period during the day. If students are leaving MHS during the school day for any reason, they must sign out in Student Services. They also need to go to Student Services to sign in when arriving any time after 8:05 a.m.

**Parking, drop off, and pick-up:** Students that do not drive can

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

**Parking passes:** Parking spaces at MHS are assigned and the passes are available at registration or will be mailed to your home before school starts. Students apply and pay for a parking spot in the spring. Information about the application and fee will be announced at school and will also be on the MHS website in the spring. New students may apply for a parking pass at registration or through the Student Services office starting July 31.

**Orientation:** MHS will host an orientation for all new students and incoming freshmen from

## Student Assistance Program/Response to Intervention

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

## Textbooks and iPads:

Textbooks and iPads: MHS students can receive their textbooks on registration day, Aug. 3 through Tuesday, Aug. 14. They will need a copy of their schedule, available in PowerSchool, to check out books. iPad checkout will occur for freshmen and new students on Thursday, Aug. 10 from 2 - 4 p.m. Returning students will need to check out their iPads in the lobby of Bertha Frank Auditorium from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 14.

9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Aug. 10 at the Bertha Frank Performing Arts Center. iPad checkout for these students will occur immediately after orientation concludes until 4 p.m.

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

**Dress code:** Each year, parents and administrators at MHS review the dress code and suggest changes. Those suggested changes are reviewed and approved by the Board of Education. The goal is to create an environment that promotes the educational process. Parents should become familiar with the MHS dress code when selecting clothing for school. Ultimately, students should be covered from shoulders to mid-thigh, with no holes in apparel above mid-

thigh. Again, the MHS handbook provides specific examples and guidelines about appropriate clothing for school and parents are encouraged to review the dress code section. The staff appreciates the cooperation of parents and students as we continue to create an environment focused on academics.

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



## Meet the 2017-18 staff

**Principal** – Michael Gourley  
**Principal's secretary** – Janet Zehr  
**Athletic director** – Scott Jones  
**Athletic secretary** – Terri Schuck  
**Assistant principals** – Kirk Edwards, Deidre Ripka  
**Attendance secretary** – Lisa Schafer  
**Student Services secretary** – Samantha Frey  
**Receptionist/secretary** – Kristen Friedrich  
**Guidance** – Stephanie Brown, Christina Kienitz, Holly Riggins  
**Guidance secretary** – Shari Wilkerson  
**Social worker** – Peter Klinkner



MICHAEL GOURLEY

**Speech therapist** – Chelsie Chaney  
**Psychologist/Rtl** – Katharine Zwolinski  
**Resource officer** – Jason Cabell  
**Language Arts** – Kayla Anderson, Carol Bally, Courtney Eddleman, Tony Feleccia, Krista Kolls, Ryan Lindley, Laura Lee Moss, Elizabeth Rebmann  
**Mathematics** – Tim Bradford, Rose Durand, Sarah Knapp, Kristin Lucas, Joi Monferdini, Joel Zehr, Joe Zeller  
**Science** – Kate Fritts, Ben Ginzler, Mary Holmgren, Clark Ingwersen, Autumn Moss, Jacob Tierney, Emily Wegner, Nathan Young

**Social Studies** – Tory Delong, Matt Franks, Robert Hornsby, Kim Johnson, Barbara Katz, Jaclyn Smith  
**Modern Language** – Mackenzie Leach, Jay Mahannah, Raphael Rodriguez, Vonda Zehr, Ben Zoss  
**Business** – Erin Kemp, Lori Prichard  
**Library media specialist** – Stacy Cornell; Aide – Krys Malin  
**Technology Education and Engineering** – Mark Cox, William Dunn, Christopher Garner  
**Family and Consumer Science** – Karen Gardner, Mary Jo Proctor, Teresa Wettstein  
**Art** – Amy Woods  
**Band** – Patrick Mainieri, Jeff Neavor  
**Orchestra** – Dave Getz, Pete

Martin  
**Vocal Music** – Heather Berger  
**Physical Education** – Tim Brilley, Stacey Buescher, Darren Hurst, Lynn Rudin,  
**Health** – Darren Hurst, Josh Prichard  
**Driver's Education** – Tim Brilley, Stacey Buescher, Edward Henderson, Marshall Tucker,  
**Special Education** – Dawn Block, Denise Fountain, Jamie King, Marcia Mays, Kara Powers, Christopher Roberts, Lisa Schock, Jennifer Wheat  
**Security and MPTV** – Becky Christianson, Bill Schock  
**Custodians** – Bobby Barker, Mary Dierks, Rodney Duneheew, Allen Fort, Michael Klaasen, Deb Lane, Millicent Sanders, Steve Young

## Mark your calendar

**Aug. 10** – New student orientation, 9a.m.-2 p.m.  
**Aug. 15** – Freshman parent meeting, 6 p.m.  
**Aug. 16** – First day of school, 8-11 a.m.  
**Aug. 18** – Cherry and Gray Night, 5 p.m.  
**Aug. 21** – Meet the Teacher Night, 6:30 p.m.  
**Aug. 21** – Junior parent meeting, 8 p.m.  
**Sept. 29** – Homecoming Game v. Pekin  
**Sept. 30** – Homecoming Dance, 7:30-10:30 p.m., East Gym

## Parent organization

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



Pictured above, left to right, are the 2017-2018 PTO officers for Morton High School – Dawn Lane-Wagner, secretary; Becky Fowler, treasurer; Malinda Radloff, vice president; and Christina Smith, president.

## Athletic passes

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

## Registration information

MHS parents were mailed a registration invoice along with emergency card information sheet at the beginning of July for the 2017-18 school year. Parents have the option of pre-registering MHS students by one of the following methods:

► Pay registration fees online with EFUNDS at [www.morton709.org](http://www.morton709.org) website. You also can pay for your yearbook and Potter Parent Power membership as well as Athletic Season Passes.

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

► Come to the main office of the high school and make your payment and bring in your updated emergency card sheet. The MHS summer office hours are 6:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 1 - 3

p.m.

► All students will have access to Power School on Monday, July 31. Your student should print out his/her schedule and bring their schedule along with their MHS ID to check out textbooks during regular hours from Thursday, Aug. 3, to Monday, Aug. 14. iPad check-out will occur for freshmen and new students on Thursday, Aug. 10, from 2 - 4 p.m. Returning students will need to check out their iPads in the lobby of Bertha Frank Auditorium from 8 a.m.- 4 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 14. If you choose not to pre-register your student, please come to registration at the MHS cafeteria on Thursday, Aug. 3 from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. You also will have the opportunity to sign up for season passes, athletic boosters and PTO at this time. Our goal at MHS is to make the registration process as easy as possible for parents and students.

► Remember – all sophomores, juniors and seniors must bring their school ID to registration. If a new ID is needed by your student, it can be purchased at registration (\$6.00). Freshman will receive their IDs at Freshman Orientation on Aug. 10.

► If you have any questions, please feel free to call the MHS office at 266-7182. Fee waiver/free and reduced lunch applications are available upon request from the main office.

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

**Technology fee:** \$45

**Yearbook:** \$50

**PPP membership:** \$10

**Parking Pass:** \$75

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

**MHS ID (replacement):** \$6.00

**High school lunch:** \$2.65

**Instrument maintenance fee:** \$50 per year

**Percussion use fee:** \$50 per semester



## I N F O R M A T I O N C E N T E R

## District calendar

## August

15 No school: Teacher Institute Day  
16 First day of attendance for students, half day a.m.

## September

4 Labor Day, no school

## October

9 Columbus Day, no

school

10 No school: School Improvement, Teacher Institute Day  
19 No school: P/T Conferences  
20 No school: P/T Conferences

## November

22-24 Thanksgiving Vacation, no school

## December

22 Half day a.m., no school p.m.: Teacher Institute Day  
25-29 Christmas Vacation, no school

## 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 Presidents 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, no school

## April

2-6 Easter Break continues

## May

20 MHS Graduation, 2 p.m.  
28 Memorial Day, no school  
31 Last day for stu-

dents, half day a.m.

## June

1 No school: Teacher Institute Day

*Note: 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.*

## Regular &amp; Special Schedules

for 2017-18

## FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL, AUG. 16

The first day of school for students is Wednesday, Aug. 16. A special schedule applies that day only:

## Lettie Brown

Grades 1-6	8:10 - 11:45 a.m.
A.M. Kindergarten	8:30 - 9:30 a.m.
P.M. Kindergarten	10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

## Grundy, Jefferson, and Lincoln

Grades 1-6	8:20 - 11:55 a.m.
A.M. EC & Kinder.	8:30 - 9:30 a.m.
P.M. EC & Kinder.	10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

**Morton Junior High** 8:00 - 11:00 a.m.

**Morton High** 8:00 - 11:00 a.m.

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

## REGULAR SCHEDULE

The daily District 709 school schedule is as follows:

## Lettie Brown

Grades 1-6	8:10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
A.M. Kindergarten	8:10 - 10:45 a.m.
P.M. Kindergarten	11:55 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

## Grundy, Jefferson, and Lincoln

Grades 1-6	8:20 a.m.-2:40 p.m.
A.M. EC & Kinder.	8:20 - 10:55 a.m.
P.M. EC & Kinder.	12:05 - 2:40 p.m.

**Morton Junior High** 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

**Morton High** 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

## e-Funds online payment system

*District 709 will hold registration for the 2017-2018 school year from 7 a.m. – 5 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 3, in all buildings.*

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

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

Parents will be able to enter the Power School ID number for each student and pay for all students in one transaction. If you do not know your Power School ID number, please contact your building principal. This makes payment easier for families with students in more than one building. This system also allows parents to put a

certain amount of money into e-Funds for student lunches, and that amount is drawn down when purchases are made. Parents also can schedule payments to be made in advance. These features make paying for lunches easier and eliminate the need to send cash or checks to school with students. For a small fee, parents have the option of having text messages sent when the lunch account balance is low. Email notices are sent free of charge.

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

## School lunches:

There are two websites

District 709 uses for school lunches.

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

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

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

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

## Free and reduced lunch

District 709 has applications available for free and reduced lunch. Applications are available at each school and at the district office throughout the school year as well as registration on Aug. 3.

## School Fees

for 2017-2018

## MORTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

## EC-6 textbook

Rental and supply fee..... \$73

## Technology

K-4 Technology fee ..... \$15

5-6 Technology fee ..... \$45

## MORTON JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

## Textbook rental &amp; supply fee

All ..... \$115

## Technology

All ..... \$45

## General

Padlock lost ..... \$6

I.D. card lost ..... \$6

Library fines per day ..... 10c

## Band

Instrument Maintenance Fee (yearly for District owned Inst.) ..... \$50

Percussion Use Fee (per semester) \$50

## User supply fee

Co-curricular activities ..... \$65

## MORTON HIGH SCHOOL

## Textbook rental &amp; supply fee

All ..... \$180

## Technology

All ..... \$45

## General

I.D. replacement fee ..... \$6

Library fines per day ..... 10c

Marching Band Fee ..... \$650

Instrument Maintenance Fee (yearly for District owned Inst.) ..... \$50

Percussion Use Fee (per semester) \$50

## User supply fee

Co-curricular activities ..... \$95

## Athletic gate receipts

Adults ..... \$4

Students/Seniors..... \$2

Season ticket, adult..... \$30

Season ticket, student..... \$15

## Parking

Student parking ..... \$75

## Driver education

1st & 2nd semester ..... \$75

Summer school ..... \$75

## LUNCH PRICES FOR 2014-2015

Adults, staff and visitors..... \$2.95

Grades 1-6..... \$2.45

Grades 7-8..... \$2.55

Grades 9-12..... \$2.65

Milk..... 50 cents



## District 709 Policies

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



Visit **www.morton709.org**  
for more information.

## Health and Medical Information

Information about dental and eye exams, physicals, and immunizations is available at each building. The Morton School District also has a policy regarding administering medication during school hours and school-related activities. This policy can be found on the District website — **www.morton709.org** — under the Board of Education tab, Policies. Morton District 709 also employs a medical office assistant at MJHS and a school nurse that is responsible for the care of students with diabetes and other significant health needs.

### EYE AND DENTAL

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

### IMMUNIZATIONS

These are the immunization requirements for the 2017-18 school year.

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

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

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

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

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

**6th and 9th Grade:** vaccines above,

physical exam 2nd chicken pox vaccine or proof of the disease.

**12th Grade:** vaccines above and meningococcal vaccine on or after 16th birthday.

**All requirements** - To view a complete list of immunization requirements for all grade levels, go to **www.morton709.org** and click on the Parents Tab, Medical Information.

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

### SCHOOL PHYSICALS

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

A new law in Illinois, effective for 2017-18, requires your doctor to perform an age-appropriate developmental screening and an age-appropriate social and emotional screening as part of the physical for those students who are required to have a school

physical. Please ask your doctor about conducting these screenings.

### MORTON JUNIOR HIGH

Students that plan to participate in extra-curricular activities need to have an athletic physical and have a signed insurance waiver form before they will be allowed to participate. It is important to get the athletic physical during the summer if your child plans to participate in a fall sport. Both forms – insurance waiver and athletic physical – are available on the MJHS website under the Parents tab, Online Forms.

### MORTON HIGH SCHOOL

#### Students participating in athletics

– These students must have an athletic physical before they will be allowed to try-out or participate in athletics at MHS. Parents are encouraged to schedule these physical exams during the summer. The following forms will also need to be completed and filed at MHS – athletic physical, concussion information, insurance waiver, drug/alcohol testing, and consent to treat. These forms are available on the MHS website under the Athletics tab, Sports Forms.

## Morton District 709 Staff

**District Office – 263-2581**

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

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

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

**District Office Secretary** – Carolu Kizer

**Secretary to the Superintendent** – Emily Stubbs

**Accountant** – Stephanie Siggers

**Business Office Assistant** – Amy Zimmerman

**Chief Financial Officer** – Barb Getz

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

**Communications Coordinator** – Amy Greiner

**Human Resources Coordinator** – Brenda Heppard

**Payroll Bookkeeper** – Clay Payne

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

**Videographer (MPTV)** – Brooke Janes

**Transportation – 284-5091**

**Director of Transportation** – Nancy Weigle

**Office Bus Drivers** – Jeri Baldwin, Lori Clark, Nancy Domnick, Raymond Finck, Pamela Glascock, Eric Glaser, Theresa Goodspeed, Joe Grant, Kandis Grant, Linda Kerby, John Pfeifer, Christine Rankin, Lawrence Smith, Ruth Smith, Michelle Spicer, Nancy Stephens, Julie Tharp, Donette Waller, Danny Wolf, Stephen Zoss

**Bus Aides** – Amanda Bray, Bhaineeta Brown, Stacy Grawe, Jennifer Landrith, Elizabeth Miltenberger, Sara Savicz, Deb Warner, Julie Zoss

### Special Education

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

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

**Secretary** – Marcia Wallace

**Clerical Aide** – Carol Williams

**Social Workers** – Elizabeth Antonacci, Sandi Cross, Peter Klinkner, Lauren Oliger

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

### Districtwide Staff

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

**ELL Coordinator** – Dayrim Sheehan

### Custodial/Maintenance

**Director of Operations** – Rodney Schuck

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

**K-8 Grounds** – Greg Murphy

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

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

**Maintenance** – Leonard Shumaker

**District Office** – Andrew Young

## Asbestos Management Plan

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



## District 709 Board of Education

### President: Tom Neeley

First Elected: 1989; Term Expires: 2017  
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.

## Goals

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

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

**Climate:** Maintain a cohesive organizational system which facilitates and fosters a productive and trusting climate with a highly qualified staff.

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

**Finance:** Support student learning (which includes achievement, climate, facilities, and communication) in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

## Upcoming meetings

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

### 2017

Aug. 1 – 7:30 p.m.  
Aug. 15 – 6:30 p.m.  
Sep. 5 – 6:30 p.m.  
Sep. 19 – 7:15 p.m.  
Oct. 3 – 6:30 p.m.  
Oct. 17 – 7:00 p.m.  
Nov. 7 – 6:30 p.m.  
Nov. 14 – 7:15 p.m.  
Dec. 5 – 6:30 p.m.  
Dec. 19 – 6:30 p.m.

### 2018

Jan. 16 – 6:30 p.m.

Jan. 23 – 7:00 p.m.  
Feb. 6 – 6:30 p.m.  
Feb. 20 – 7:15 p.m.  
Mar. 6 – 7:15 p.m.  
Mar. 20 – 7:15 p.m.  
Apr. 17 – 6:30 p.m.  
Apr. 24 – 7:15 p.m.  
May 1 – 6:30 p.m.  
May 15 – 6:30 p.m.  
May 29 – Goal Setting-time TBD  
Jun. 5 – 6:30 p.m.  
Jul. 10 – 6:30 p.m.



## Fine Arts Calendar



Photo Credit: Jacque Austin

**The Morton High School Wind Ensemble was one of 26 high school bands selected for the 2017 National Concert Festival. This is the nation's most prestigious festival for school instrumental music ensembles. 59 bands, orchestras, and chamber ensembles, from Hawaii to New Jersey, were selected by audition and performed at the festival in Indianapolis on March 9-11th.**

The following are the Fine Arts events for the school district for the first part of the 2017-2018 school year.

### August

**31** – 6th Grade Band Parent Meeting at Bertha Frank

### September

**6** – 6th Grade Instrument Rental Night at Bertha Frank  
**9** – Marching Band at Washington at Washington High School  
**16** – Morton Marching Band Invitational at Carper Field  
**23** – Marching Band at Bands of America, Ohio at University of Toledo, Ohio

### October

**3** – Grundy 3rd and 4th

Grade Music Program at Bertha Frank  
**5** – Brown 4th and 6th Grade Music Program at Bertha Frank  
**7** – Marching Band at Limestone High School  
**12** – Lincoln 6th Grade Musical at Bertha Frank  
**14** – Marching Band at Illinois State – ISU Hancock Stadium  
**16** – 5th – 12th Grade Choir Concert at Grace Church  
**21** – Marching Band at Bands of America – America's Center, St. Louis  
**23** – MHS Orchestra Concert at Bertha Frank  
**24** – Marching Band Community Performance at Carper Field

**26** – MJHS Orchestra Concert at MJHS Gym  
**28** – MJHS Band Concert at MJHS Gym

### November

**7** – Jefferson 3rd and 4th Grade Program at Jefferson  
**10-12** – MHS Fall Play at Bertha Frank

### December

**1-3** – MHS Madrigal Dinners at Bertha Frank  
**4** – 5th-12th Grade Choir Concert at Grace Church  
**7** – Lettie Brown Christmas Program at Bertha Frank  
**9** – MJHS Band Christmas Concert at MJHS Gym  
**11** – Lincoln Christmas Program at Bertha Frank  
**12** – Jefferson K-2 Christmas

Concert at Bertha Frank

**14** – MJHS/MHS Orchestra Christmas Concert at West Gym/MHS

**18** – Grundy Christmas Program at Bertha Frank

*Note: All dates, times, and locations are 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.berthaf-rank.org](http://www.berthaf-rank.org). You can also follow Fine Arts on Facebook @Morton CUSD709 Fine Arts.*

## All students can get Morton Public Library cards

**T**he Morton Public Library wants to make sure every student has a free library card. The Morton 709 Board of Education has entered into an agreement with the Morton Library to provide library cards for students who do not pay taxes to any library district.

Through this agreement, all students attending District 709 are eligible for a student use card. The card will give them access to a wide range of library resources such as books, hoopla digital, and the library's research databases, such as e-library. Students can turn to the library for materials, programs, and a knowledgeable library staff that supports academic achievement.

Access to a public library has a far reaching value for students as they read and learn, now and into the future. Librarians provide important resources to families whose children are at the earliest stages of development by teaching parents and caregivers the components of early literacy, which help children develop the basic tools for school readiness.

Older students can access high-speed Internet, digital tools, and the opportunity to work with trained professionals on how to use them. Librarians provide guided training in digital media and help foster digital literacy skills.

To receive a student use card, please bring proof of enrollment at a District 709 school to the Morton Public Library along with proof of home address. Students can also get their library cards at school registration, Aug. 3. This card will be a student use only card and cannot be used to check out DVDs. It will be good through Aug. 14, 2018, so students can enjoy the Morton Public Library's summer reading program as well.



# Morton Community Foundation Grants & Scholarships

## District receives \$30,750 in MCF grants

Morton District 709 received \$30,750 in grants from the Morton Community Foundation during the spring 2017 grant cycle. The mission of the Morton Community Foundation is "to improve the quality of life for Morton area residents now and for generations to come." They do this by building community endowment, investing in the community through strategic grant-making, turning donor's dreams into permanent legacies, and providing leadership to identify and address changing community

needs. The Morton School District would like to thank the MCF and the many donors that make these grants possible.

In 2017, District 709 received grants from the MCF for the following projects:

- ▶ \$1,195 – Lettie Brown Elementary toward the purchase of Ozbot classroom kit for STEM activities.
- ▶ \$2,995 – Morton Junior High for the purchase of robotics module for the CareerMaker STEM lab.
- ▶ \$900 – Morton High School Cross Country for the

purchase of a canopy tent.

▶ \$2,500 – Morton Community Unit School District 709 toward the purchase of a High Definition TV camera for MPTV.

▶ \$860 – Morton High School Band Boosters for the purchase of six cymbals for the percussion program.

▶ \$3,725 – Bertha Frank Performing Arts Center toward purchase of two HD TVs, camera, and HD encoder modulator.

### Scholarship Recipients

The MCF also manages several scholarships that benefit MHS students. These scholarships are awarded at Honors and Awards Night at MHS each May. The 2017 recipients are:

#### ▶ \$2,000 – Wayne L. Sampson Memorial Educator's Scholarship



JACEY WHARRAM

**Fund - Recipient:** Jacey Wharram. An award is made annually from the fund in memory of Wayne L. Sampson for the purpose of granting a senior at MHS or a prior graduate from MHS a scholarship

to attend a college or university to pursue a degree in education.

#### ▶ \$2,500 – Drew M. Cousins



TUCKER ANDERSON

**Memorial Scholarship Fund – Recipient:** Tucker Anderson. An award made annually from the fund in memory of Drew Cousins. Representatives of MHS select a worthy MHS

student football player pursuing a college education that will participate in college football.

#### ▶ \$1,500 – Renee M. Mahrt Memorial Scholarship Fund –

**Recipient:** Alicia Urban. An award made annually in memory of Renee Mahrt. Representatives of MHS select one or more worthy



ALICIA URBAN

MHS female student track or cross country participant(s) pursuing a college education. The Renee Mahrt Memorial Scholarship has been established

to assist deserving student(s) who desire to pursue a college education. Should girls track and cross country be discontinued at some time in the future, student(s) interested in fashion design and/or social work are to be considered for the scholarship.

#### ▶ \$500 – Mary Kay Beth Jibben Bane Memorial Scholarship Fund –

**Recipient:** Micah Brown. An award made annually from the fund in memory of Kay Beth Jibben Bane. Representatives of MHS will select a worthy MHS senior student who has excelled in their music studies and is pursuing music studies. The goal of the scholarship grant is to encourage and help students who have, as Kay Beth did, a positive outlook for the future and the determination to accomplish success in their lives. (Not Photographed)

#### ▶ \$1,000 – William E. and Betty L. McCormick Memorial Scholarship Fund – Recipient:

Young people growing up in a single-parent household face many challenges, including paying for college education. The William E. and Betty L. McCormick Scholarship was established to assist



SCHAEFER ROACH

deserving student(s) who desire to pursue a college education and who live with a single, widowed or divorced parent. An award is made annually from the fund in memory of William E. and Betty L. McCormick. Representatives of MHS will select one or more worthy MHS student(s) who reside(d) in a single-parent household while attending high school, and who are or will be pursuing a college education.

▶ **\$1,250 – Ethel Gerber Scholarship Fund – Recipient:** Schaefer Roach. An award is made annually to one or more MHS graduating seniors that demonstrate financial need. Special consideration is given to students planning a career in education.



MAYA PHAN

▶ **\$1,000 – Morton Soccer Scholarship Fund – Recipient:** Maya Phan. An award is made annually to assist deserving students

who have participated in various Morton soccer programs with college expenses, and to encourage their participation as adults in community youth soccer programs.



LILLIAN TEATER



EMILY HEIM

▶ **\$2,000 – Morton Rotary Scholarship – Recipients:** Lillian Teater, Emily Heim. The Morton Rotary Club awards two \$1,000 scholarships each year to graduating MHS seniors. Their fund at the MCF generates \$500 toward these scholarships and the Morton Club donates the remaining \$1,500. The club plans to grown their endowment fund so it can fully fund these annual scholarships.

▶ **\$1,000 – Ilse Droell Memorial Women's Medical Career Scholarship – Recipient:** Michelle Gehner. An award is made annually in memory of Ilse Droell to certain women residing in Morton or Morton Township enrolled in an accredited school in a medical related field. (Not Photographed)

### MCF Funds

*The following funds at the MCF directly benefit District 709 through improvements to facilities, funding for programs, and scholarships. If you would like to have more information or donate to any of these funds, please contact Scott Witzig at the MCF, 291-0434 or go to [www.mortoncommunityfoundation.org](http://www.mortoncommunityfoundation.org).*

▶ Bertha Frank Performing Arts Center Capital Improvement Fund

▶ Morton Community Unit School District 709 Foundation Fund

▶ Morton Community Unit School District 709 Orchestra Fund

▶ Morton High School Cross Country Fund

▶ District 709 Band Endowment Fund

▶ MHS Science Department Fund

▶ Heidi White Memorial Music Endowment Fund

▶ Performing and Visual Arts Endowment Morton CUSD 709 Fund

▶ Robert W. Brown Memorial Morton CUSD 709 Activity Fees Fund

▶ Morton CUSD 709 Youth Golf Fund



# Have you checked out Morton Potter Television?

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

## MPTV Crew:

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

**MPTV Videographer -** Brooke Janes  
**Communications Coordinator -** Amy Greiner

**Follow us on Twitter:** @MPTV\_709

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

## MPTV Needs Volunteers

MPTV is always looking for volunteers to help operate the television cameras. No experience is necessary. This is an excellent opportunity for high school and

college students to build up their resume and gain experience behind the camera. MPTV also welcomes parents, grandparents, and other school district citizens to volunteer as well.

MPTV live broadcasts the home varsity football games on the NFHS Network. They also broadcast the varsity girls basketball, varsity boys basketball, girls volleyball, and girls soccer games live. The broadcasting of these games offers the Morton schools and sports teams more exposure and creates more community interest. It also entices more fans to come to the games.

"MPTV is vital to our Athletic Department and the promotion of our interscholastic sporting teams," said Scott Jones, Morton High School's Director of Athletics. "I am amazed at the number of people in the community who talk about watching games on MPTV when unable to attend events, or who even watch games on their phones as they are attending another school event. MPTV is a great asset to our community and our school district."

If you are interested in volunteer-

## 2016-17 Volunteers

Our volunteers have put in countless of hours behind the scenes at MPTV in order to showcase our Morton school district students. Our volunteers are the driving force that makes the MPTV engine run. Each and every one of these volunteers is a vital asset to the function of MPTV. We could not broadcast all of the sporting events without their selfless commitment to the team. Thank you!

**Tim Cooper**  
**Dylan Corbet**  
**Jonathan Farell**  
**Brian Gordon**  
**Marcus Greiner**  
**Julie Heim**  
**Sam Heim**  
**Jane Hildebrand**  
**Blake Hochstettler**  
**Ryan Lindley**  
**Ralph Mattia**  
**Sean Mikel**  
**Aidan Randall**  
**Lew Smith**  
**Jeff Stephens**  
**Craig Wright**

ing for a couple of games, please call Amy Greiner at 284-8046 or email her at [amy.greiner@mcusd709.org](mailto:amy.greiner@mcusd709.org).



**HIGH SCHOOL  
HAPPENS HERE**

## NFHS Network Benefits:

### Subscribing to the NFHS Network gives you:

- Full access to ALL Live regular season and post-season sporting events
- Immediate access to events when they are available On Demand
- Watch games on the go with our iPhone and Android apps

### Members can fully customize their NFHS Network experience by:

- Personalizing your home page by following your favorite high schools
- Creating and sharing your own clips of memorable highlights
- Saving events for future viewing



## Don't forget to get your NFHS subscription for the school year!

MPTV would like to remind its viewers that there is a fee to subscribe to the live media streaming of the National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) network.

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

There are a lot of benefits a person will get from subscribing to MPTV's NFHS network. Not only can viewers watch any MPTV produced home game, they may be able to view away games if the other school is a participating NFHS network school. Another advantage is that they can watch any game in the United States

on the NFHS network. So, if a person has a grandchild or a relative who plays sports at another school on the NFHS network, the individual can watch their sporting event too. Subscribers also have the ability to watch games online whenever and wherever they want. They can watch from their smartphone, tablet, laptop, and with the new Apple TV app. The programming on Comcast Channel 20 and i3 Broadband Channel 21 will remain the same. It will continue to broadcast graduation, orchestra and band concerts, school board meetings and all of their original broadcasting on the channel as usual.

# WINNERS

Continued from page 20

and Jacey left behind a culture of excellence," said Coach Becker. "If our players who are returning continue to work hard and improve, they will collectively find a way to fill the void of their leadership, skills, rebounding, and scoring. I don't think you ask one person to fill another player's shoes. It will have to be a collective effort."

The Lady Potters will have 11 of their 13 players coming back, including their leading scorer, three starters, and two others that have significant experience. "We've got a lot of talent," said Coach Becker. "If the players can fight the complacency and they continue to work hard, improve, and

stay selfless, they will have a solid team chemistry, which is important because our target gets bigger every year. Everyone wants a piece of the Morton Potters."

In preparation for the upcoming basketball season, Josi, Cassidy, and Caylie have their goals in place. It is no surprise that these goals align with the Coach's and that the team is their primary focus. "A big goal this year will be to continue developing everyone's individual games so we can bring them all together and form one strong, fundamentally sound team," said Josi Becker. "Another goal is to continue to build everyone's confidence. We will have a lot of young players back who will have larger roles in the upcoming years and they will need that confidence in order to succeed through them."

"We have to make sure we keep a

good team chemistry and hold ourselves accountable for high expectations," said Cassidy Shurman.

"Our team needs to maintain a constant burning desire to do our best," said Caylie Jones. "We need to go as hard as we can at every practice and it will reflect in our games. We have the potential to win a fourth if we put 110% effort in everything we do."

With the goals set for the upcoming year and the hopes of winning a fourth state title championship, Brandi and Jacey left the team with their own words of advice and their confidences in the team. "Remember to have fun with it," said Jacey Wharram, who played as the Senior Captain Center. "Also, have confidence. If you get your shot blocked, who really cares. Everyone gets their shot blocked. As long as you shoot

with confidence, it's going to go in."

"Always put family first, and by family, of course, I mean the team," said Brandi Bisping.

"I hope they go 4-peat," said Brandi.

"Nothing would make me happier. I hope I get to come down and watch it. I think they are capable of it. They have a lot of talent coming back and the same coaching staff."

"I hope they win another state title," said Wharram. "It is so much fun and it would be record breaking."

"It would be a terrific story if they went out and won it a fourth consecutive time as seniors," said Coach Becker. "It won't be easy and I don't want them to feel any undue pressure. I don't want them to feel like failures if they don't. They've had incredible careers even without a senior year."



# ‘They know nothing but winning’

The Morton Lady Potters took home their 3rd consecutive IHSA State Championship trophy last school year with the leadership of seniors Brandi Bisping and Jacey Wharram. There are only three other schools who have been able to accomplish this monumental and record-setting achievement in the IHSA girls basketball 3A division. What most people do not know is that three of the Morton Lady Potters have gone to state every year since they were in seventh grade.

Caylie Jones, Josi Becker, and Kassidy Shurman won their first state basketball title in seventh grade. Not only was it their first state championship win, but Morton Junior High's first as well. “They know nothing but winning,” said Coach Bob Becker. “They were undefeated as seventh graders and became the state champions. In eighth grade, they made it to state and they only lost one game. While playing basketball at the junior high, they only lost one game. As freshmen, they were 33-3 State Champs. As sophomores, they were 33-3 State Champs. As juniors, 34-2 State Champs. So in 5 years, they’ve lost nine games. They are winners.”

Their MJHS basketball coach, Coach Dawn Swearingen, recalls how the ladies played during their seventh and eighth grade basketball careers. “They were borderline professional,” said



**TOP: The 2016-2017 Lady Potters won their 3rd consecutive 3A IHSA State Championship title. BOTTOM: The 2012 MJHS Girls Basketball team.**

Coach Swearingen. “I think it is because they had gone through so much, they had done so much, and they had an idea of exactly what they needed to do to win. They were very driven. Of all of my memories in basketball, I remember Josi writing me a note saying that practice should probably be harder.”

Although it may be hard for some to imagine what the

team dynamics will look like for the three Lady Potters, Coach Swearingen spoke highly of their leadership skills and determination. “Josi has always been a quiet leader,” said Coach Swearingen. “Josi has this stately and calm personality where I think people are naturally comfortable following her even if she doesn’t ask. She has a clear

sense of who she is. Nothing really bothered her. I think her future role will be similar.”

“Altogether, I think their work ethic is going to be one that the freshman and sophomores can look at and understand; this is what it takes,” said Coach Swearingen. “They don’t take practices off. They don’t take plays off. They are focused on what they need to do all

of the time. Part of being a good leader is knowing when it is not your time to lead and I think both Caylie and Kassidy know that. I am sure that Caylie and Kassidy are looking forward to this upcoming year when they are probably going to play bigger roles in terms of leadership.”

From the basketball courts of the junior high to joining the forces of the Morton High School girls basketball team, the ladies have not only gone to state, but they also became state champions three years in a row. This year, Caylie, Josi, and Kassidy will be the seniors playing on the ladies basketball team while Jacey and Brandi continue on their new journeys after graduating.

Although the three Lady Potters may not have the height that Jacey and Brandi have, that does not budge Coach Becker’s confidence in them. “All three of the girls are poised to be leaders and captains in this year’s team,” said Coach Becker. “Kassidy and Josi are 5-foot-2 inches and 5-foot-3 inches tall, but you can’t measure their performance based on height. They are not the most imposing kids but they will impose their will on you. They’ve got the grit, the heart, the determination, and they are very smart and very skilled. They have a lot of heart and you can’t measure that.”

Every school year, there is a change in leadership roles and it offers opportunity and its own challenges. “Brandi