

Good afternoon!

I hope you are doing well as we complete a full week of school! Our challenging weather has forced school districts throughout the region to think critically about the use of instructional time and how to provide students with the best learning experiences possible. With that in mind I have a couple of updates for you regarding our calendar and our status in regards to the use of “digital days”.

March 11th - Morton District 709 is changing March 11th from a teachers institute day to a student attendance day.

This is being done for the following reasons:

- The students' last attendance day will be May 24th, the Friday before Memorial Day, so families would not be required to return after the long weekend.
- MHS students can complete their final exams prior to the Memorial Day weekend, which provides better continuity throughout the final exam process.
- Students will be more prepared for learning in March as opposed to an extra instructional day added in late May.

We understand and apologize to those families who have made trip plans for the weekend prior to March 11. However, we believe this change gives our students the best opportunities for learning. We could, of course, have other calendar changes ahead, depending on weather, and we will communicate those if needed.

Digital Days - Morton District 709 has had discussions regarding “digital days” but has not yet come to a conclusion on implementation. While there are many positives regarding digital learning, we want to ensure the highest quality of learning experiences.

This, along with proposed legislation on this issue, has caused us to be a bit more cautious in our implementation. We will be monitoring proposed legislation, and should “digital days” be permitted in the future, we will continue our discussion as we consider moving forward.

Thanks again for your patience and support, and think Spring!

Jeff Hill

Superintendent