

SCHOOL SPIRIT



Monticello Community School District

Dr. Brian Jaeger, Superintendent

PH 319-465-3000

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WEB www.monticello.k12.ia.us

Hello everyone,

It is hard to believe that we already had our first snow accumulation the Sunday after Thanksgiving. With that snowfall it is probably a great time to remind parents to get connected with the school district. If you have not signed up to receive notifications from the Monticello Community School District, and you are the parent of a Monticello Community School District student, please get signed up ASAP by contacting the MCSD district office. The notifications keep you in the loop of delays and cancellations as they occur. These notifications can be text or email. Ground zero for weather delays and cancellations has traditionally been in January and February. Those months are quickly approaching so make sure you are signed up for the notifications. During the winter months we are dialed into the weather forecast. We get out on the roads around 5am and we normally try to make a decision on delays or cancellations by 6am. When possible we may make an announcement the night before, however, that is hard sometimes because the weather forecast can change quickly.

To be better prepared for the winter season, please spend some time now making plans on what you will do in the event of a snow delay, early dismissal, or snow day with your children. Make sure you have a plan so when it happens, you are prepared for all circumstances. If you have younger children, please make sure they are bundled up during the winter months. If it is really cold outside make sure they are not outside too long if they are walking to school or even waiting for the bus.

If you have teen drivers in your household please talk to them about slowing down when it snows, leaving earlier for school so they are not in a rush, and driving defensively around other vehicles. Also, take them out when there is snow on the streets. It is so much better to talk them through driving in snowy conditions, when they can actually drive in snowy conditions. Practice driving between your home and school, that is how they learn to drive in bad weather. Most of our kids took driver's education in the summer, so some winter driving lessons would be very valuable. I think the Jaeger girls learned a lot from our winter driving sessions. It gave them confidence with winter driving and it gave me more gray hair.

Our next School Spirit Newsletter will not come out until January of 2024, so I hope that during the holidays you find some time to rest, relax, and enjoy the special time with your family. If your kids are younger or older, or if you have a small family or a large one, I hope you make some lasting memories for all. If you are traveling, I wish you safe travels and hope you enjoy every moment with your loved ones. Thank you ALL for your continued support of the Monticello Community School District and as always, please feel free to contact me anytime if you have questions, concerns, or comments.



My email address is brian.jaeger@monticello.k12.ia.us.

Happy Holidays!!!

Brian Jaeger, Superintendent

*The **MISSION** of the Monticello Community Schools, a district striving for educational excellence, is to prepare students through challenging experiences, to be caring, productive, creative citizens, who will be life-long learners.*

December 2023

NEWS & NOTES

of the Monticello Community School District

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

Employment
Opportunities
on page 5!

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Carpenter Elementary
Fine Arts Night
Tuesday, December 12**

Art Show

5-6:00pm
High School Commons

Music Concert

6:00pm
High School Gym
Join us for our Winter Concert and Art Show!

Carpenter Holiday Concert to be on KDST!

Listen to KDST 99.3 FM to hear the Carpenter Elementary students perform selections from their Holiday Concerts.

2nd grade
Dec. 1 @ 7:40am
Dec. 5 @ 12:25pm
Dec. 9 @ 5:32pm
Dec. 14 @ 7:40am
Dec. 18 @ 12:25pm

3rd grade
Dec. 1 @ 12:25pm
Dec. 5 @ 5:32pm
Dec. 10 @ 7:40am
Dec. 14 @ 12:25pm
Dec. 18 @ 5:32pm



4th grade
Dec. 1 @ 5:32pm
Dec. 6 @ 7:40am
Dec. 10 @ 12:25pm
Dec. 14 @ 5:32pm
Dec. 19 @ 7:40am

Sponsored By DuTrac Community Credit Union.

The December Board of Education regular meeting will be either **Wednesday, December 13 or December 20 at 6:00 PM** in the Board room. We will not have a work session in December. We will post it when it is finalized.
Thank you!

**MONTICELLO
SCHOOL FOUNDATION
Get Your Foot in the
Door - 2024!**

PO BOX 2 MONTICELLO IA 52310

*18th Annual Tailgate
Party & Alumni Reunion
March 2, 2024*



Winter break is December 22—January 1. No School on January 2—Teacher Collaboration Day. **Classes will resume on Wednesday, January 3!**

Happy Holidays!!

District Speech Contest Help Needed! Saturday, January 20 (shifts available 7:30 am-12 or 12—4:30 pm)

Monticello will be hosting District Speech Contest in January and volunteers are needed. There are several areas you could volunteer. Room chair keeps the room running on time, time keeper (just have to know how to run a stopwatch), or concession helper. If you are interested in helping contact Kim Carlson either by phone 465-3000, option 2 or email kim.carlson@monticello.k12.ia.us.



Mark your calendars for **Jammin' in January!**

Join us on January 8 at the Youth Development Center for some sweet jazz and good eats!

ANNUAL NOTICES

Equal Employment Opportunity

The district shall provide equal opportunity to all employees and applicants for employment in accordance with all applicable equal opportunity laws, directives and regulations of federal, state, and local governing bodies and agencies. The district shall take affirmative action, consistent with its adopted affirmative action plan, in the recruitment, appointment, assignment and advancement of personnel to accomplish the goals of equal employment opportunity. In keeping with the law, the district shall consider the veteran status of applicants. The district will select for employment qualified applicants for each position based upon the applicant's qualifications and without regard to the race, color, age, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, physical attributes, physical or mental ability, ancestry, political party preference, political belief, socioeconomic status, familial status, disability, religion, creed, and/or genetic information of the applicant. The district will not discriminate against any individual with respect to compensation, terms, conditions, or privileges of employment because of such individual's race, color, age, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, physical attributes, physical or mental ability, ancestry, political party preference, political belief, socioeconomic status, familial status, disability, religion, creed, and/or genetic information.

Employees or applicants for employment having inquiries regarding compliance with equal employment opportunity and affirmative action are directed to contact the affirmative action/equity coordinator: Todd Werner, Middle School Principal, 860 E Oak St., Monticello, IA 52310. Phone: 319-465-3000. Inquiries may also be directed, in writing, to the Iowa Civil Rights Department or to the Director of the Region VII Office of Civil Rights, Department of Education, Kansas City, Missouri. Such inquiry or complaint to the state or federal office may be done instead of, or in addition to, an inquiry or complaint at the local level pursuant to the complaint procedures set forth in the board's policies.

Continuous Notice of Nondiscrimination

Students, parents, employees, and others doing business with or performing services for the Monticello Community School District are hereby notified that the District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, creed, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, or genetic information (for employment) in any of its education programs, activities, or employment opportunities, pursuant to Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and other applicable state and federal laws. This prohibition on discrimination applies to admission and employment. The District has adopted grievance procedures for processing and resolving formal and informal Title IX sex discrimination and sexual harassment complaints and other discrimination complaints. Inquiries regarding sex discrimination pursuant to Title IX of the District's nondiscrimination policy may be directed to the District's Title IX Coordinator, Todd Werner, 860 East Oak Street, Monticello, Iowa 52310, 319-465-3000 ex2101, todd.werner@monticello.k12.ia.us; other grievances or complaints related to the District's nondiscrimination policy may be directed to the District's Equity Coordinator, Todd Werner, 860 East Oak Street, Monticello, Iowa 52310, 319-465-3000 ex2101, todd.werner@monticello.k12.ia.us. Inquiries related to sex discrimination pursuant to Title IX may also be referred to U.S. Department of Education (attn. Assistant Secretary, Office for Civil Rights; 400 Maryland Avenue Southwest, Washington, DC 20202; 800-421-3481; OCR@ed.gov). Inquires related to other grievances or complaints may be directed to the Director of the Office for Civil Rights U.S. Department of Education, Citigroup Center, 500 W. Madison Street, Suite 1475, Chicago, IL 60661-7204, Telephone: (312) 730-1560 Facsimile: (312) 730-1576, Email: OCR.Chicago@ed.gov)

Parents/Guardians Rights Notifications

Parents/Guardians in the Monticello School District have the right to learn about the following qualifications of their child's teacher: state licensure requirements for the grade level and content areas taught, the current licensing status of your child's teacher, and baccalaureate/graduate certification/degree. You may also request the qualifications of an instructional paraprofessional who serves your student in a Title I program or if your school operates a school wide Title 1 program. Parents/Guardians may request this information from the Superintendent's Office by calling: (319)-465-3000 or send a letter of request to the Superintendent, 850 E Oak St, Monticello, IA 52310. The Monticello Community School District ensures that parents will be notified in writing if their child has been assigned, or has been taught by a teacher for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not considered highly qualified.

Thank You

- Thank you to **Pam Thompson of Nightingale Drug** for offering flu shot clinics for our staff!
- Thank you to **Mandy Norton** for the donation of crayons to Panther Academy.
- Thank you to **Kati Besler & Becky Cooper** for the donation of clothing to the middle school nurse's office.
- Thank you to **Sheri Osterkamp** for the donation of hand crocheted stocking caps to Shannon & Carpenter Elementary.
- Thank you to **Ohnward Bank & Trust, Citizens State Bank, F&M Bank, Ron & Jackie Schneiter, and Brad & Larissa Holub** for their donations to state XC and state football.
- Thank you to **Amanda Brenneman & family** for the donation of inhalers and spacers to all of our schools.
- Thank you to **Shannon Simonson & family** and **Nadia Stamp** for donating books to Shannon & Carpenter Elementary.
- Thank you to the **families of Mya Toenjes, Kenzie Jones, Dawson White, Carver Monk, Gracen Haas, Sophia Smith, and Gabbi Stumma** for their donations to Ms. Stephen's classroom.
- Thank you to **New Life Community Church** for providing groceries for a holiday meal to several families in our district.
- Thank you to **Heather Paddock** for a donation to the middle school.
- Thank you to **Nadia Stamp & family** for the donation of snow pants, hats, and mittens to the elementary nurse's office.

FAFSA for Seniors

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is still set to be released prior to the end of the year. Get ready to file the FAFSA by setting up an FSA ID. Both the student and a parent/guardian need to have an FSA ID and it may take 3-5 days to process. Go to studentaid.gov to create an FSA ID.

Scholarships

When scholarship information is received, it is pushed out to students via their school emails. Encourage your student to take a look at the newsletter of scholarships that is forwarded to them on a weekly basis. The scholarship web page on the High School Counseling site is currently being updated and local scholarships will be accessible there as they become active.

Social Media & Mental Health

You are growing up in a world where social media has always been a part of connecting with others, especially friends and classmates. Social media has made it possible to stay connected to other people from almost anywhere and at any time. However, digital platforms can also make things more difficult for you emotionally. It's important to recognize when patterns of social media use are unhelpful and understand the potential consequences.

Learning People Skills

Have you ever noticed how intensely babies look at the faces of people around them? Our brains are wired to use our senses to connect with others; by seeing their facial expressions, hearing their tone of voice and noticing their reactions as we speak, we learn important social cues and effective communication habits. It is a complicated and ongoing learning process that can be negatively impacted by social media. If the majority of your interactions with others are coming through a screen or in written messages, especially when you are young and your brain is still developing, you may be missing out on opportunities to improve your people skills through face-to-face communication.

Online Bullying

You are most likely aware that sometimes people behave or interact online in ways they would not in person. This might include bullying, using offensive or insulting language or other hurtful behaviors. When this behavior happens on social media, it is generally viewed and even shared widely — making it difficult to reduce its impact.

If this happens to you, it's understandable to feel hurt or down about it. To stop the bullying from continuing, it's important to report what's happening — both on the social media platform you are using and to let an adult that you trust know about it.

Comparing Ourselves To Others

People often present unrealistic or adjusted images of themselves and their lives on social media. They may only share the fun and exciting aspects of their lives, never mentioning any of their private struggles — or they may digitally edit photos to hide things they perceive as flaws. Constantly viewing these idealized depictions can lead to feeling competitive and/or unhappy if we try to compare ourselves to these images that may not be realistic.

Isolation

Research has shown that people who spend more time on social media and less time in personal interactions with others have an increased risk of feeling anxious and depressed. However, it's difficult to know which came first: if spending time online causes anxiety and depression or if young people who are depressed and anxious are more likely to be isolated, less active and spending time on social media. In either case, too much time online and too little time with others can have a negative impact on our mental health.

Suggestions For Protecting Your Mental Health

Here are a few suggestions to maintain your mental health while using social media:

- Limit your time on social media platforms. Some platforms, such as Apple and Google, have settings to help you do this automatically on your phone.
- Consider what sites and profiles you visit; if they make you feel bad, unfollow them
- Before you post something about yourself or someone else, consider if you would make this comment in an in-person setting
- Remember that what you post will be very hard to take back or remove
- Remember that what people post, or what you see, may not be honest or real presentations of their experiences or lives
- Leave or unfollow a profile/page/site if it is making you feel worse
- Report posts that are hurtful or making you worried
- Tell an adult you trust — a parent, teacher, school counselor — immediately if a friend is posting content that worries you or suggests that they may be in a serious situation.

(from the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI))

COMMUNITY



CONNECTION

IMPORTANT INFO



2024-2025 Preschool & Kindergarten Information

Parent Reminder: Look for the Preschool & Kindergarten registration information for the 2024-2025 school year in the upcoming January School Spirit.

CLASS of 2024!

Pictures are due December 21!

Senior and baby pictures for the yearbook are due **BEFORE WINTER BREAK-December 21st**! Submit your Senior's photo and have one thing crossed off the senior to-do list! Guidelines are listed below.

- vertical format, clothing should conform to school dress code, no inappropriate poses, no other people, animals, objects/props in photograph, no sunglasses, color or B/W are acceptable, submit digitally (preferred) or write name on back if submitting a hard copy, must be received by deadline (before winter break of senior year).

Photos can be emailed to emily.marjoux@monticello.k12.ia.us or can be turned in at the office drive up window. Baby photos are optional but must also be submitted by deadline. Copies and digital submissions are preferred to original heirloom photos. Baby pictures not submitted digitally should be labeled on the back with first and last names. For senior pictures, of course, you are free to have any senior photo poses you and your photographer wish for your own use. However, the senior portrait selected and submitted for use in the school yearbook must meet the above guidelines. Thanks!

Monticello Board of Education Corner...

The Board of Education held their Annual & Organizational Meeting on Monday, November 27. The Board thanked Amanda Brenneman for her years of service and welcomed newly elected Board member Tony Amsler. Craig Stadtmueller was elected President and Mandy Norton Vice-President.

If you see any of them out and about please thank them for their service!

We're Hiring for the 2024-25 School Year!

- We currently have an opening for a 6th Grade Teacher!

Apply online at: <https://www.monticello.k12.ia.us/district-2/human-resources/employment/>



Do you like helping kids?

Would you like to work the hours your kids are in school?

Would you like your summers off?

THEN WE HAVE THE JOB FOR YOU!

The Monticello Community School District is hiring Associates!

- This position would be for 7 hours per day, 5 days per week, while school is in session, and pay is \$15 per hour.
- Benefits include IPERS, longevity pay, long term disability insurance, sick leave, personal leave, and bereavement leave.
- Voluntary benefits include: flexible spending accounts, dental insurance, vision insurance, short-term disability insurance, accident insurance, critical illness w/cancer insurance, hospital indemnity insurance, voluntary group life insurance, identity theft protection/legal guard, and 403b retirement investment.

To apply, pick up an application at the District Office, 850 E Oak Street, Monticello, IA 52310, or apply online at <https://www.monticello.k12.ia.us/district-2/human-resources/employment/>. If you have any questions, please contact the district office at 319-465-3000, option 1. EEO.

FOOD SERVICE NEWS

BREAKFAST MENU



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MILK served with all meals.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				1 Cereal Pop tart Fruit Fruit juice
4 Fruit stuffed bagel Fruit Fruit juice	5 Pancakes Sausage links Fruit Fruit juice	6 Blueberry muffin Fruit Fruit juice	7 Mini donuts Fruit Fruit juice	8 Cereal Pop tart Fruit Fruit juice
11 Breakfast pizza Fruit Fruit juice	12 Frosted long john donut Fruit Fruit juice	13 Cereal bar Fruit Fruit juice	14 Cheese omelet Tater tots Fruit Fruit juice	15 Cereal Pop tart Fruit Fruit juice
18 Biscuits & gravy Fruit Fruit juice	19 Chocolate muffin Fruit Fruit juice	20 French toast sticks Fruit Fruit juice	21 Cereal Pop tart Fruit Fruit juice	22 NO SCHOOL—Winter Break
25 NO SCHOOL—Winter Break	26 NO SCHOOL—Winter Break	27 NO SCHOOL—Winter Break	28 NO SCHOOL—Winter Break	29 NO SCHOOL—Winter Break

LUNCH MENU



USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Menus are subject to change.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				1 Garlic cheese bread Lettuce salad Buttered corn Watermelon
4 Chicken & noodles Mixed vegetables Mandarin oranges Roll & butter	5 Breaded pork / bun Sweet potato waffle fries Green beans Pears	6 Boneless chicken drumsticks French fries Fresh Broccoli Orange slices	7 Walking taco Spanish rice Fiesta beans Diced peaches	8 Sausage pizza Leafy green salad Steamed carrots Pineapple tidbits
11 Breaded cheese sticks Garden salad w/ dressing Green beans Orange wedges	12 Bacon cheeseburger French fries Corn Strawberries & grapes	13 Chili w/ crackers String cheese Applesauce Frosted cinnamon roll	14 Baked ham Cheesy hash browns Pork & beans Mandarin / pineapple Roll & butter	15 Popcorn chicken Seasoned rice Oriental vegetables Watermelon
18 BBQ rib / bun Baked chips Green beans Apple wedges	19 Quesadilla Garden salad w/ dressing Green beans Mixed fruit	20 French toast HB patty Sausage links Strawberries & bananas	21 Hot dog / bun Waffle fries Steamed carrots Peaches	22 NO SCHOOL—Winter Break
25 NO SCHOOL—Winter Break	26 NO SCHOOL—Winter Break	27 NO SCHOOL—Winter Break	28 NO SCHOOL—Winter Break	29 NO SCHOOL—Winter Break

Choose a salad as an alternate lunch daily (HS & MS only)

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DECEMBER 2023

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 JV/V GBB @ West Branch-4:30 & 6:00 JV/V BBB vs West Branch -4:30 & 7:30	2 NEIBA District Honor Band @ Oelwein HS FFA IAT Conferences in Ankeny V WR Home-10:00 JV/V GBB vs Western Dbq—3:30 & 4:20 @ Middle School
4 7/8 GBB @ Cascade-4:00 7/8 WR—Home-4:00 JV WR Tourney @ CPU—4:30	5 G/B Bowling @ Du-rant-2:00 JV/V BBB vs Anamosa-4:30 & 7:30 V GBB vs Anamosa-6:00 PTO Meeting	6 FFA Fruit Delivery 1:00 Early Dismissal— Prof. Development	7 7/8 GBB @ Beckman-4:00 V WR @ Mid-Prairie—6:00 5/6 Band & Vocal Concert-6:30-HS Aud.	8 7/8 WR @ Mid-Prairie MS-4:00 JV/V GBB @ Bellevue-4:00 & 6:15 JV/V BBB @ Bellevue-4:45 & 7:45	9 V WR @ Oelwein-10:00 JV/V BBB vs Easton Valley—2:00 & 3:30
11 7/8 WR @ Wilton-4:00 JV WR @ Vinton Shellsburg-4:30 HS Winter Band Concert-7:00-HS Aud.	12 Kirkwood 1st Semester ends JV/V GBB @ Cascade—4:00 & 6:15 JV/V BBB @ Cascade—5:00 & 7:15 Carpenter Fine Arts Night—5:00-HS Gym	13 Legislative Forum & Board Meeting (tentative) —6:00	14 7/8 GBB vs Maquoketa—4:00 7/8 Choir & Band Concert-7:00-HS Auditorium	15 JV/V GBB @ Beckman-4:30 & 6:15 JV/V BBB @ Beckman 4:30 & 7:45	16 V WR @ Starmont-10:00 B Bowling @ Prairie/Lancer Lanes-1:00 JV GBB @ Maq. Valley-2:00
18 B V Bowling vs Bellevue-4:00 HS Vocal Concert-7:00— HS Auditorium	19 G/B V Bowling @ W. Delaware-4:00 JV/V GBB vs Camanche-4:00 & 6:00 JV/V BBB vs Camanche-4:40 & 7:30	20 Legislative Forum & Board Meeting (tentative) —6:00	21 1:00 Early Dismissal SENIOR photos for yearbook due to Mrs. Marjoux today! JV/V GBB vs Center Point-Urbana -4:00 & 6:00 JV/V BBB vs Center Point-Urbana -4:40 & 7:30	22 NO SCHOOL— Winter Break	23 Happy Holidays!
25 NO SCHOOL— Winter Break	26 NO SCHOOL— Winter Break	27 NO SCHOOL— Winter Break	28 NO SCHOOL— Winter Break	29 NO SCHOOL— Winter Break	30 Classes resume Wednesday, Jan. 3!

Monticello Community School District
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Monticello, Iowa 52310

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Board of Education

Craig Stadtmueller
Mandy Norton
John Schlarmann
Mark Rieken
Tony Amsler

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION—Students, parents, employees, and others doing business with or performing services for the Monticello Community School District are hereby notified that the District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, creed, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, or genetic information (for employment) in any of its education programs, activities, or employment opportunities, pursuant to Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and other applicable state and federal laws. This prohibition on discrimination applies to admission and employment. The District has adopted grievance procedures for processing and resolving formal and informal Title IX sex discrimination and sexual harassment complaints and other discrimination complaints. Inquiries regarding sex discrimination pursuant to Title IX of the District's nondiscrimination policy may be directed to the District's Title IX Coordinator, Todd Werner, 860 East Oak Street, Monticello, Iowa 52310, 319-465-3000 ext.2101, todd.werner@monticello.k12.ia.us; other grievances or complaints related to the District's nondiscrimination policy may be directed to the District's Equity Coordinator, Todd Werner, at 860 East Oak Street, Monticello, Iowa, 319-465-3000 ext.2101, todd.werner@monticello.k12.ia.us. Inquiries related to sex discrimination pursuant to Title IX may also be referred to U.S. Department of Education (attn. Assistant Secretary, Office for Civil Rights; 400 Maryland Avenue Southwest, Washington, DC 20202; 800-421-3481; OCR@ed.gov). Inquiries related to other grievances or complaints may be directed to the Director of the Office for Civil Rights U.S. Department of Education, Citigroup Center, 500 W. Madison Street, Suite 1475, Chicago, IL 60661-7204, Telephone: (312) 730-1560 Facsimile: (312) 730-1576, Email: OCR.Chicago@ed.gov