

# SCHOOL SPIRIT



**Monticello Community School District**

**Dr. Brian Jaeger, Superintendent**

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April 2026

## NEWS & NOTES

### of the Monticello Community School District

Hello everyone,

Spring Break is in the rearview mirror, Parent-Teacher conferences are complete, and we've welcomed a new elementary principal to our team. In addition, we've been reviewing school survey results and organizing meetings with parents, staff, and students to help shape our Strategic Operating Plan. We are also preparing for ISASP testing in April, spring sports are underway, and with the warmer weather, progress continues on the new elementary school building. There is certainly a lot happening across MCSD!

#### Last Day of School

Many of you have asked about the last day of school. Our calendar is based on instructional hours rather than days, with a state requirement of 1,080 hours each year. We intentionally build in extra time to account for weather-related delays. At this point, due to cancellations and late starts, we are approximately six hours short of that requirement. Our goal is to still conclude the school year as scheduled on May 22. To make that possible, we will utilize one additional virtual learning day. This will allow us to meet the required hours, assuming no further disruptions. The school board will make a final determination on the last day of school at the April meeting, and I will communicate any updates immediately following that decision.

#### Property Tax "Tax Cards"

You may have recently received "tax cards" in the mail. These provide tax information from the school, county, and city. Please note that the school's tax rate listed is an estimate. The state has not yet provided all necessary funding details for the 2026-2027 school year. Once those finalized numbers are available and incorporated into our financial planning, the school tax rate is expected to decrease from the current estimate.

#### ISASP Testing

Parents who grew up in Iowa may remember taking the ITBS or ITED assessments each spring. Today, students take the ISASP (Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress). While these assessments remain an important measure of student learning, it has become increasingly challenging to encourage students to give their best effort. These assessments provide valuable data that guide our curriculum, instructional strategies, and individual student support. Because of this, I ask for your partnership in reinforcing the importance of doing their best. If we are required to administer these assessments, we want the results to accurately reflect our students' abilities and help us continue improving as a district.



That is it for this month. As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to send me an email or give me a call at any time. Thank you for your continued support of the Monticello Community School District.

Sincerely,

Brian Jaeger, Superintendent

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#### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

HS Seniors —  
Important Dates  
on page 2!

*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.*

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Shannon Elementary Spring Concert

April 28



Join us for some "Springtime Hootenanny"

at the Shannon Elementary Concert on April 28 at 6:00pm in the HS Gym.

## SENIORS!

PLEASE!  
NOTE

**Scholarships**—Many scholarship deadlines are quickly approaching. Check out the scholarship website for details and deadline information and be sure to turn in completed applications soon!

We want to recognize seniors for the scholarships and awards they have earned. Seniors are responsible for contacting Alyssa McNally with this information no later than May 8. Alyssa can be reached at [alysa.mcnally@monticello.k12.ia.us](mailto:alysa.mcnally@monticello.k12.ia.us). Honors Night is scheduled for Tuesday, May 12 at 7:45pm. Thank you!

**PTO NEWS...** Thank you to those that helped provide food for the staff during conferences and those that purchased photos during our Spring Photo fundraiser. The PTO will soon be planning the Elementary Fun Day and our Tattoo a Teacher Fundraiser!

If you would like to join us in the planning of our upcoming events or have new ideas to share with the PTO, please join us at our next meeting on **Tuesday, April 14 at 7pm** in the Carpenter Library.



Good luck to our Spring athletes and coaches!

**GO PANTHERS!**



## Important Dates—Please Mark Your Calendars!

- April 10—Deadline for Senior Questionnaire
- April 18—Grand March at 3:30pm (HS Aud.) Prom Dance from 8pm to 10pm (MS Gym), followed by Post Prom from 10:30pm to 1:00am (HS & MS)
- May 6—Cap & gown pick up in the HS Office from 1:00-3:45pm
- May 8—Senior Silver Service hours due to Alyssa McNally by 3:15pm
- May 8—Final notification (by 3:15) to Alyssa McNally of scholarships/awards to be announced at Honors Night
- May 11—National Honor Society practice for new members and current NHS officers at 7:30am in HS Auditorium
- May 12—National Honor Society Inductions at 7:00pm, followed by Honors Night at 7:45pm in HS Gym
- May 13—Baccalaureate at First Presbyterian Church at 6:30pm
- May 15—Last day of classes for seniors who have met graduation requirements
- May 15—Senior Walk Thru, meet at HS commons at 8:00am (wear cap & gown), followed by Senior breakfast in HS commons at 9:15am
- May 15—Commencement Rehearsal for all Seniors at football field at 10:00am—**MANDATORY**
- May 17—Commencement at Football Field at 2:00pm

## BAND Info

### 7/8 Grade Band Solo Fun Night!

7/8 grade band Solo Fun Night will be held Friday, April 17 at the middle school from 4:15-7:00pm. Since this is an individually scheduled event, please contact Mrs. Ellis at [ellen.ellis@monticello.k12.ia.us](mailto:ellen.ellis@monticello.k12.ia.us) if your band student has activities that afternoon/evening that will need to be scheduled around. Thank you.

**Attention 4th grade parents!** In April and May, Mrs. Ellis and Mr. Butterworth will be visiting with 4th grade classrooms at Carpenter Elementary & Sacred Heart to begin the process of recruiting members for next year's 5th grade band. There will be a scheduled "video/demonstration day" for each class, and "instrument matching" time for individuals. It's a great opportunity for students to learn about band, and all students will get to participate regardless if they are planning to join band or not. It's a great time to start discussions at home about the possibility of joining our band family next fall! If you have questions at any time, please contact Mrs. Ellis at [ellen.ellis@monticello.k12.ia.us](mailto:ellen.ellis@monticello.k12.ia.us)

# UPCOMING EVENTS



## Grand March & Post Prom!

The Post Prom Committee will be hosting a Grand March Event on Saturday, April 18 at 3:30pm in the High School Auditorium. Students need to check in at 3:15pm sharp in the hallway at the door to the stage entrance. Public and family members are welcome. Doors will open at 2pm if anyone would like to take photos with students prior. **FREE WILL DONATIONS WELCOME** to help with the 2026 Post Prom fundraising efforts.

This year's Prom Dance is hosted by the Monticello Junior Class and the theme is 1920's and will be held at the Middle School Gym from 8-10pm.

Post Prom (After Party) will be from 10:30pm to 1:00am in the High School and Middle commons areas, gyms, auditorium, and library. This year's Post Prom is full of lots of fun activities that include glow golf, a mechanical bull, a variety of Inflatables from Tough Entertainment, karaoke, casino games, yard games, photo booth by Doug Ries, food, caffeine bar, and hundreds of prizes for Monticello Junior & Senior students to choose from! **Students must arrive by 10:30pm sharp (even if they don't attend the dance) at the High School entrance only.**

Volunteer to help for Post Prom (Junior & Senior Parents) here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040F48AFA62DA02-62853987-post>

Help with food here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A044DA5AC28A0FF2-63081346-post>



Monetary or prize donations can be dropped off at the District Office anytime or you can use this QR Code:

Monticello Post Prom can be found on FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/postprommhs>. THANK YOU!

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP FOR PROTECTING CHILDREN & JONES COUNTY FAMILY COUNCIL PRESENTS:

# SPRING INTO KINDESS

## FAMILY FUN EVENT

Ages PreK - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

**SATURDAY**  
**APRIL 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2026**

**10:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

**RISE & PLAY CAFE**  
101 EAST 1<sup>ST</sup> STREET  
MONTICELLO, IA 52310

**WHAT TO EXPECT**

- Safety Talks with Monticello Police Department at 10:30 AM & 12:00 PM
- Scavenger Hunt with Prizes! - 11:00 AM
- FREE access to Rise & Play Cafe 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
- Kindness Chalk Walk & Other Activities for Kids
- FREE snacks, treats, and other fun items
- Pizza & Beverages available for purchase

APRIL IS NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH!

YOUR HOST:



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



## Attention Current Monticello 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Graders

Register for FALL 2026 ~ 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> GRADE YOUTH TACKLE FOOTBALL

The Monticello Youth Football program, a division of the Youth Sports Foundation, is available to any Monticello area youth entering the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> grade in the fall of 2026.

The tackle football program begins the week of August 11<sup>th</sup> and includes introduction skills for tackle football, and a six-game schedule. Games are held on Sundays beginning September 13<sup>th</sup>.

### REGISTRATION-EQUIPMENT FITTING INFORMATION

Register Online by going to the YSF website and locate your YSF community!  
[www.youthsportsfoundation.org](http://www.youthsportsfoundation.org)

Online registration fee is \$180.00 (an additional \$5.00 processing fee will be added to the total amount). An optional hard-cup chin strap is also available for \$25.00

**Make Plans To Attend the Required Equipment Fitting Date!**

Date: Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>  
Time: 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.  
Location: Monticello High School

**Mark Your Calendar To Attend The May 13<sup>th</sup> Equipment Fitting date!**  
**Online registration will be open until May 12<sup>th</sup>**

*After Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup> a \$50.00 Late Fee will be added.*

Online registrations after the scheduled area equipment fitting date may be accepted at the discretion of the coordinator for each town! Team numbers are limited. Register early! No refunds after August 14<sup>th</sup>.

The Youth Sports Foundation offers: Certified Coaches, USA Football affiliation, and full equipment. Our focus is on learning fundamentals and an opportunity to learn the sport of tackle football without a highly competitive atmosphere.

**Age Policy:** During the football season, the registered YSF youth must be in the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> grade AND must turn at least 10 years of age during the 5<sup>th</sup> grade school year AND must not turn 13 before September 15<sup>th</sup> of their 6<sup>th</sup> grade year.

**Refunds** (less \$35.00) offered until 3:30 P.M. Friday, August 14<sup>th</sup>. Allow 4-6 weeks to process.

For further questions contact your area coordinator: Courtney Hinrichs (480) 628-6943  
or email: [cilly01@gmail.com](mailto:cilly01@gmail.com)

Call the YSF office: 563-288-2541

To learn more about the Youth Sports Foundation visit our website: [www.youthsportsfoundation.org](http://www.youthsportsfoundation.org)

# COUNSELORS NEWS



**STRESS**  
AWARENESS MONTH  
APRIL

April is **Stress Awareness Month**, and it's a great reminder that everyone experiences stress—students and adults alike.

Helping students manage stress can make a big difference in their learning and overall well-being. When school or life feels overwhelming, try taking a quick “**Panther Pause.**”

- ◆ Practice deep breathing to help calm your mind
- ◆ Stretch or take a short break when feeling overwhelmed
- ◆ Talk openly about your feelings with someone you trust
- ◆ Maintain a consistent sleep routine to get plenty of rest

Even small moments of support can help students and families feel calmer and more confident.

If your child is struggling, the **School Counseling Team at Monticello Community School District** is here to help.

## ACTIVITIES UPDATE

### Monticello High School Hires New Varsity Coaches

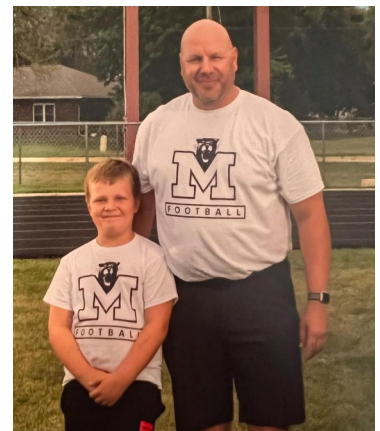


Monticello High School has announced the hiring of **Nick Blakesley** as its new Varsity baseball coach.

Nick's love for the game started at a young age with AAU, then high school and college baseball. Positivity, accountability and work ethic are a part of his success in the game of baseball and life. His passion for teaching and coaching has fueled his career in education and coaching. Nick's coaching career began early while still playing the game in college. After graduation he returned to his hometown to coach multiple sports, including baseball. While there he worked with a variety of age groups from elementary to high school and helped to build a program with sustained success. Upon moving to eastern Iowa and starting a family, he began coaching t-ball and progressed to coaching his oldest daughter, now in 6th grade, in multiple sports including softball. Through these experiences, his passion for the game has grown, and he looks forward to instilling these values with each and every one of the great athletes in Monticello! Welcome Coach Blakesley!

Monticello High School has announced the hiring of **Jon Kyte** as its new Varsity football coach.

A 2000 graduate of Monticello, Kyte returns to lead the Panthers with deep roots in the community and a passion for developing young athletes. The 2026 season will mark his 23rd year coaching at the high school and collegiate levels, where he has built a reputation for dedication, character development, and building winning cultures. Kyte lives in Monticello with his son, Kinnick. He works for Kyte Health Insurance and currently serves as the interim pastor at Peace United Church of Christ. He is also active in the community as a School Foundation Board member and Monticello Rotarian. Welcome Coach Kyte!



# IMPORTANT INFO

## **Thank You!**

The Monticello Community School Foundation would like to extend a sincere thank you to everyone who helped make the 21st Annual Tailgate Party and Alumni Reunion on March 7 such a tremendous success.

We appreciate all who donated items, purchased tickets, and supported the event. A special thank you to La Hacienda for the delicious meal; the 5th and 6th grade football players for their help with cleanup; Kris (Kromminga) Riley and June Fellingner for the decorations; Pete Temple for serving as auctioneer and emcee; Nancy Toenjes' Foods Class for the wonderful desserts; the Jones County Dairy Board for the cheese trays; the Chamber of Commerce for beverage service; Culligan Total Water for the bottled water; Camp Courageous for ice and miscellaneous supplies; Citizens Investment Center for their hard work; our school administrators; Judy Hayen; and Express Printing & Design.

A heartfelt **THANK YOU** to all of the volunteers who helped make the night such a great success!

**Foundation Board Members:** Jon Kyte (President), Carrie Yates (Vice President), Ashley Faust, Courtney Hinrichs, Sue Lilly, Annette Smith, Phil Hanna, Marcia Fisher, Dan Good-year, Dave Kehoe, Audrey Savage, Julie Welter, and Kris (Kromminga) Riley. **Honorary Members:** Charlie Becker, Steve Williams, and Kathy Harms

### **Become a Foundation Board Member!**

Interested in volunteering with the Foundation? Since 1988, the Monticello Community School Foundation Board has worked to provide educational enhancements that support classroom teachers in delivering a strong education. Students benefit greatly from the many projects funded by the Foundation.

If you are interested in helping grow educational opportunities within the Monticello Community School District by becoming a Foundation Board Member, please reach out to a current board member or email [foundation@monticello.k12.ia.us](mailto:foundation@monticello.k12.ia.us).

## *Thank You*

- Thank you to the **Monticello School District Foundation** for a wonderful Pep Rally and for all you do for our students and staff.
- Thank you to the **Monticello PTO** for providing food for staff during conferences. Much appreciated!
- Thank you to **Fareway** for their donations to the Transition's School Chili Cook-Off.
- Thank you to **Rose Mary Rivera Ortiz** for the donation of pants to Carpenter Elementary.
- Thank you to **Abby Manternach/Am Design & Co.** for the donation of t-shirts to the HS.
- Thank you to **Bill & Linda Mysak** for the donation of clothing.
- Thank you to **Joseph & Carol Engler** for the donation to the Middle School STEM Program!
- Thank you to **Sherry White** for the donation of bells to the elementary music classroom.

### **FRIDAY FOLDERS**



Friday Folders is on our website and is a great place to check for upcoming events (*for all grade levels*) and activities or items that used to be sent home in your child's folder. Please contact Judy Hayen to post items in our Friday Folder at [judy.hayen@monticello.k12.ia.us](mailto:judy.hayen@monticello.k12.ia.us). Check it out!

**Register Today!**

## **2026-2027 Kindergarten Registration**



**Kindergarten Registration for the 2026-2027 school year is now open!**

**Kindergarten Registration is for students entering Kindergarten in the Fall of 2026. Parents are asked to use the electronic registration form to create their student in Infinite Campus. You can register on our website at [www.monticello.k12.ia.us](http://www.monticello.k12.ia.us) at any time.**

**We kindly ask that you register as soon as possible to help us prepare for the upcoming year!**

**Students must turn 5 years of age on or before September 15, 2026 to attend Kindergarten.**

# FOOD SERVICE NEWS

## BREAKFAST MENU



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MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
		1 Pancake sausage bites Fruit Fruit juice	2 Breakfast pizza Fruit Fruit juice	3 <b>NO SCHOOL-- Holiday</b>
6 <b>NO SCHOOL-- Teacher Collabora- tion Day</b>	7 Long John Fruit Fruit juice	8 Chocolate muffin Fruit Fruit juice	9 Sausage biscuit Fruit Fruit juice	10 Cereal Pop tart Fruit Fruit juice
13 Chocolate chip French toast Fruit Fruit juice	14 Cereal bar Fruit Fruit juice	15 Pancake on a stick Fruit Fruit juice	16 Scrambled egg bake Fruit Fruit juice	17 Cereal Pop tart Fruit Fruit juice
20 Breakfast pizza Fruit Fruit juice	21 Mini donuts Fruit Fruit juice	22 Blueberry muffin Fruit Fruit juice	23 Breakfast bagel Fruit Fruit juice	24 Cereal Pop tart Fruit Fruit juice
27 Waffles Fruit Fruit juice	28 Donut Fruit Fruit juice	29 Cereal bar Fruit Fruit juice	30 French toast Fruit Fruit juice	<b>MILK served with all meals.</b>

## LUNCH MENU

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider.  
Menus are subject to change.*

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
		1 BBQ Rib/bun Potato wedges Baked beans Pineapple tidbits Chocolate chip cookie	2 Breaded chicken/ bun Sweet potato waffle fries Steamed broccoli Grapes	3 <b>NO SCHOOL-- Holiday</b>
6 <b>NO SCHOOL-- Teacher Collaboration Day</b>	7 Bacon cheeseburger Smiley fries Steamed glazed carrots Mixed fruit	8 Mandarin orange chicken Seasoned rice Oriental vegetables Mandarin oranges	9 Breaded pork/bun French fries Broccoli Normandy Blushing pears	10 Chicken quesadilla Lettuce salad w/ greens Corn Applesauce
13 Chicken, bacon club/bun Sweet potato waffle fries Corn Orange wedges	14 Meatball sub Potato wedges Green beans Diced pears M&M cookie	15 Deli/bun Baked chips Fresh veggies w/ dip Diced peaches Johnny pop	16 Corn dog Smile fries Steamed broccoli Fresh cut fruit	17 Bosco sticks w/ sauce Lettuce salad w/ greens Mixed vegetables Apple wedges
20 Salisbury steak Mashed potatoes & gravy Mandarin oranges/ pineapple Roll & butter	21 Sausage pizza Lettuce w/ romaine Steamed broccoli Orange wedges	22 Chicken nuggets Potato cubes Mixed vegetables Apple wedges	23 Philly beef/bun Sweet potato waffle fries Baked Brussel sprouts Pears	24 Garlic cheese bread Lettuce salad w/ greens Baby carrots Watermelon
27 Chicken strips Mashed potatoes& gravy Green beans w/ bacon Mixed fruit	28 French toast w/ syrup Sausage links Hash brown patties Strawberries & bananas	29 Hot dog w/ bun WG baked chips Fresh veggies w/ dip Fruit cup Cookie	30 Popcorn chicken Seasoned rice Oriental vegetables Banana Roll & butter (grades 6-12)	<b>MILK served with all meals. Choose a salad as an alternate lunch daily (HS &amp; MS only)</b>

# APRIL 2026

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 B V Track—IRA Duns- worth Invite, Davenport -4:00 V G Soccer vs Ana- mosa—5:00	3 <b>NO SCHOOL—</b> Holiday	4
6 <b>NO SCHOOL—</b> Teacher Collab. Day G V Golf vs Northeast- 4:00 B V Golf @ Northeast-- Preston Valley Golf Course-4:00 B V Track @ Anamosa- 4:00 G/B V Soccer @ Iowa City Regina-5:00 & 7:00	7 G V Track @ Dubu- que Senior-4:00  B V Soccer @ Cas- cade-5:00	8 <b>Board Work Session—6pm</b>  Athletic Booster Club Meeting—7:00 –HS Library	9 Grandparents Break- fast @ Shannon- 8:15-9am  B 7/8 Track @ Beck- man-4:00 B V Track @ Albur- nett-4:30	10 Grandparents Breakfast @ Carpenter-8:15-9am  G V Track @ Beck- man-4:15  B V Soccer vs Ana- mosa-7:00	11 Solo & Ensemble Con- test Home— 8:00 G/B V Golf @ Ed-Co- 10:00 B V Track @ Assump- tion-10:30 G V Track @ Iowa City West-10:30 V G Soccer vs Harford- 12:00
13 G V Golf vs Beckman- 4:00 B V Golf @ Beckman- 4:00  G/B JV Track—Home- 4:00 G/B V Soccer @ West Delaware-5:00 & 6:30	14 B V Track @ DeWitt- 4:00 G V Track @ Dubuque Senior-4:00 G V Track @ North Cedar-4:30 5/6 Grade Play-6:00 7/8 Play—7:00  PTO Meeting – Carpenter Library-5:00	15 <b>1:00 Early Dismissal-Prof. Development</b>	16 B V Golf @ Tipton— 11:30 7/8 G Track @ Clayton Ridge-4:00 V B Track @ Dbq. Senior-4:00 G V Track @ Western Dbq—4:15 G/B V Soccer vs Cedar Valley Christian/ Albernett-5:00	17 7/8 Grade Band Solo Night 4:15-7pm G V Golf @ Ca- manche-4:00 B V Golf vs Ca- manche-4:00 G/B V Soccer vs Beckman-5:00	18 Prom Grand March –3:30pm-High School Auditorium Prom Dance—8- 10pm @ MS Gym Post Prom 10:30pm- 1:00am –High School & MS 
20 B V Golf vs Ana- mosa-4:00 G V Golf @ Ana- mosa-4:00 G V Track @ Maq. Valley-4:30	21 G/B V Soccer @ Mar- quette Catholic-3:45 & 5:15 B 7/8 Track @ West Delaware--4:00 B V Track @ Tipton- 4:30	22 B V Golf @ Beckman -10:00  <b>1:00 Early Dismissal-Prof. Development</b>	23 G V Golf @ Glynn's Creek Golf Course- 12:00 G/B 7/8 Track @ Maq. Valley- 4:00 G/B V Track—Home- 4:00	24 Drake Relays  G V Soccer vs Northeast-5:00 B V Soccer vs Prince of Peace – 7:00	25 Drake Relays
27 G V Golf vs Cascade- 4:00 B V Golf @ Cascade- 4:00 G 7/8 Track –Home-4:00 G/B V Soccer @ Belle- vue-5:00 & 7:00 <b>Board Meeting— 6:00</b>	28 B 7/8 Track @ Cas- cade-4:00 G 7/8 Track @ Maquo- keta-4:00 G/B V Track @ Ana- mosa-4:00  Shannon Elementary Spring Concert—6:00 @ HS Gym	29 B V Golf—Home-10:00  <b>1:00 Early Dismissal-Prof. Development</b>	30 B 7/8 Track Home- 4:00 B V Track @ Clear Creek Amana-4:45 G/B V Soccer @ Tip- ton—5:00 & 7:00		

**Monticello Community School District**  
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**Board of Education**  
Craig Stadtmueller  
Mandy Norton  
John Schlarman  
Tony Amsler  
Creighton Randolph

*NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION-It is the policy of the Monticello Community School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status (for programs) in its education programs or employment practices. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy please contact the District's Equity Coordinator, Todd Werner, 860 East Oak Street, Monticello, Iowa 52310, 319-465-3000 ex2101, [todd.werner@monticello.k12.ia.us](mailto:todd.werner@monticello.k12.ia.us).*