

SCHOOL SPIRIT



Monticello Community School District

Dr. Brian Jaeger, Superintendent

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March 2026

NEWS & NOTES

of the Monticello Community School District

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

High School Spring Play Info on page 2!

I hope your March is off to a great start! We are all hoping that weather delays and cancellations are behind us, although March can still bring a few surprises. As a reminder, our district calendar is based on instructional hours rather than days. Students must attend 1,080 hours of school each year, and we intentionally build in extra time to account for a small number of weather-related disruptions.

With our most recent snow day, we have now exceeded the number of hours we can miss and still remain on schedule. To make up that time, we have two possible options:

Extend the school year by moving the last day of school from May 22 to May 26. This would create a three-day weekend followed by one additional day of school after Memorial Day. Realistically, attendance on that final day may be limited given its placement on the calendar.

Add one additional virtual learning day. This option would allow us to keep the last day of school on the Friday before Memorial Day weekend, which appears to be the more practical solution.

We will be discussing these options with our administrative team and the Board of Education in March and will keep you informed as a decision is made.

I also want to share that Shannon Kehoe, our elementary principal, will be retiring at the end of this school year. Over the past several weeks, we have carefully screened applications, interviewed candidates, and selected a finalist for the position. I am pleased to say that we will be recommending a candidate to the Board of Education at the March 4 meeting at 6:00 p.m. in the board room. If approved, we look forward to officially welcoming and celebrating our new elementary principal in our wonderful community.

When we return from Spring Break, we will enter the final two months of the school year. Statewide assessments, the ISASP tests, will take place in early April. We are hopeful that results will be available before June so they can be mailed home. Please take a few moments to talk with your child about the importance of doing their very best on these assessments. While the tests do not directly impact student grades, they provide valuable information about each student's academic progress. We use this data to guide classroom placements, select effective resources, and refine instructional practices. The reports also give families a clear and easy-to-understand snapshot of their child's proficiency in each tested area.

As the weather improves, you will also begin to see more visible progress on the new elementary school. Crews have been completing important infrastructure work, including water lines and drainage. Once temperatures warm up consistently, construction will move much more quickly. We anticipate seeing noticeable progress by June.



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

Sincerely,

Brian Jaeger, Superintendent
brian.jaeger@monticello.k12.ia.us

*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

Tickets available at any school office or can be purchased at the door!

MONTICELLO SCHOOL FOUNDATION



TAILGATE PARTY & ALUMNI REUNION

March 7, 2026

MONTICELLO BERNDIS CENTER

Doors open at 5:30 PM through approx. 9:00 PM

GRAND PRIZE DRAWING

MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN!

\$30/PUBLIC • \$15/TEACHERS & STAFF

Upcoming Concerts:

7-12 Vocal Concert—March 2

7:00pm in the HS Gym

Band Round Up—March 3

The annual Band Round Up Concert will be on Tuesday, March 3 at 7:00 PM in the High School Gym.

This concert will showcase the achievements of our instrumental music program across all grade levels as well as a combined 7-12 piece as the finale. This concert highlights students' musical growth, dedication, and collaboration throughout the year. Families and community members are invited to attend and support our student musicians.

Shannon Elementary Spring Concert—April 28

Join us for some "Springtime Hootenanny" for the Shannon Elementary Concert on April 28 at 6:00pm in the HS Gym.



Join the Monticello High School Drama Department for their production of

Taming the Wild, Wild West in a Dress or... Let's Give the Villain the Slip

on **March 5 & 6** at 7:00pm in the Monticello High School Auditorium. Tickets can be purchased for \$7 in advance on Bound or at the door.

It's hard to be a hero when you're wearing a dress, but young actor Clarence Rawlins manages to do just that (and a lot more!) in this action-packed Western comedy. Clarence and his theatre company head west to Lucky Lady, Nevada, where Clarence discovers that he has misread his distant aunt's handwritten will. Thinking he was inheriting a profitable saloon where his acting career might flourish, he was actually bequeathed the Lucky Lady Salon, a beauty parlor. Flat broke, Clarence has no choice but to raid the costume trunk and transform himself into a down-on-her-luck British aristocrat, Lady Claire Rawl, now head hair-stylist of the small town's only salon. His pal and fellow actor, Roger Gaines, becomes a French stylist, Rogaine. Together with the ladies in the troupe - Heidi Gray, Bobbie Pinz, and Nell Clipper - they re-open the beauty salon to great success. But their good luck runs out when, unbeknownst to them, two crooks plot to acquire Clarence's salon as part of a scheme to rob the bank next door. Filled with hilarious characters and classic Billy St. John puns, you'll 'dye' laughing at this wild western tale. The Old West was never any wilder-or more fun!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Summer Driver's Education

Monticello High School will offer one session of summer driver's education. An informational letter and registration forms are available in the middle school and high school offices. Space may be limited. Applications will be considered on a first come first served basis. Return the registration form to the High School Office by **Friday, March 6, 2026**. The cost is \$340.



The summer session is scheduled to start approximately Tuesday, May 26, 2026 and will conclude approximately Wednesday, June 24, 2026. Both the start and end dates may be adjusted if there is a change to the school calendar due to adverse winter weather. The classwork will be done online. There will be a student/parent meeting in May to sign up for the online class and schedule driving times. Students must have a permit to be enrolled in the class.

Kindergarten Registration for the 2026-2027 school year is open. You can register on our website at www.monticello.k12.ia.us, click on the registration icon on the home page and then kindergarten registration. Mandatory forms can also be found on the website. Students must turn 5 years of age on or before September 15, 2026 to attend Kindergarten.



Shannon & Carpenter Spring pictures are March 27!
Please mark your calendar.



SPRING BREAK

Spring Break is
March 16-20!

Enjoy!

Parent Teacher Conferences

Elementary, MS, and HS Conferences will be held on **March 10 & 12** from 4-8pm.

No School on Friday, March 13.

Watch for more information in your email!

OPEN ENROLLMENT IS NOW AVAILABLE

Applications for students in grades K-12 to apply for open enrollment for the 2026-2027 are now available.



- 319-465-3000
- 850 E Oak St, Monticello
- <https://www.monticello.k12.ia.us/registration/open-enrollment/>

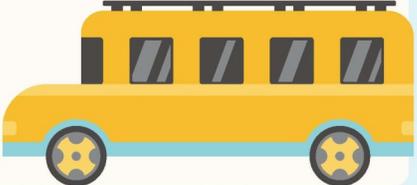
Contact Us Today!

Be a Sponsor for the 8th Grade Canoe Trip

Here's your chance to donate and help sponsor a great field trip and learning experience!

- Choose your sponsor level:
- Paddle level \$10
- Life Preserver level \$20
- Kayak level \$50
- Canoe level \$75
- Floatilla level (6 canoes) \$150
- Sponsor a Class: \$250

To donate: scan the QR code below or bring your donation to the Middle School office

FAFSA Info for SENIORS

The FAFSA process is currently underway. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is an important step in the financial aid process that gives students access to federal student loans, grants, and work-study opportunities in college.

Both student and parent will need to set up a Federal Student Aid ID where you will select a username and password to be used in filling out the FAFSA form. You will use the same FSA ID every year to file the FAFSA form, so be sure to write down your login information.

If you have questions about paying for college, or would like free help in completing the FAFSA, the Iowa College Access Network offers free resources for college planning and financial aid. You can visit their website, www.ICANSucceed.org, to schedule an appointment or call their toll free number, 877-272-4692 to talk to an advisor.



Free mental & behavioral health support

If your child is struggling with mental or behavioral health concerns, help is available.

Foundation 2 Crisis Services provides rapid, caring support where you are, over the phone or via telehealth. All at no cost to you.

Support can include:

- 1 Crisis mental health and substance use response
- 2 Transition services after mental health placement
- 3 IEP, 504 and other educational plan support
- 4 Extended student case management

Call 319-362-2174 or text/call 988 or visit foundation2.org to learn more

SENIORS

Scholarships are beginning to be posted. They will be posted alphabetically by name of scholarship as we post them. When active, the scholarship name will be turned green. Go to the school's website at www.monticello.k12.ia.us and go to the High School page. Click on the Counseling tab, then click on Scholarships on the right. Scroll to the bottom of the page to navigate the local, regional, and national scholarship tabs. They are also located in your student's Google Classroom.

**PLEASE!!
NOTE**

SOPHOMORES & JUNIORS—

Sophomores and juniors interested in applying to National Honor Society can pick up applications in the HS office. Applications are due back to the office by 3:15 pm **Friday, March 6**.

Applicants must have a 3.5 GPA or higher, and a minimum of 40 documented community service hours.



March Mental Health – **Growing with a Growth Mindset**

Spring is a time for growth and new beginnings. Just like plants grow with care and patience, students grow through effort and practice. A growth mindset is believing that skills improve with practice and recognizing that mistakes are part of the learning process.

Try This at Home:

-  Praise effort: "You worked really hard on that!"
-  Talk about mistakes as learning moments.
-  Encourage trying again.
-  Set one small goal for the month.



Remember, small steps lead to BIG growth!



If your student needs additional support, the School Counseling Team is here to help!

THANK YOU

- Thank you to all of the Middle School and District Staff for helping me get familiar with how things are done here. You have a wonderful staff here and a lot to be proud of! - Mr. Dan Beck (*MS long-term substitute*).
- Thank you to **Connie Randolph, Abby & Maren Money Penny, Sherry White, Audrey White & family, Chanda Gassman & family, and Jill Crowley** for the donation to the elementary music room prize box.

ANNUAL NOTICES

Homeless Youth

The Monticello School District Homeless Youth Coordinator is **Shannon Kehoe, Elementary Principal**. **Homeless Coordinator Duties:**

- Locate and identify homeless children or youth within the district, whether or not they are enrolled in school 281—IAC 33.3(1)
- Provide evidence the definition of “homeless” is communicated in staff, parent, and student documents (e.g., newsletters and handbooks) (HCY4)
- Post information, at community shelters and other locations in the district where services or assistance is provided to the homeless, regarding the educational rights of homeless children and youth and encouraging homeless children and youth to enroll in the public school (HCY2). 281—IAC 33.3(2)

Definition of Homeless Youth:

If a student is living in any of the following situations, it is considered to be a homeless situation.

In a shelter, motel, vehicle, or campground; on the street; in an abandoned building, trailer, or other inadequate accommodations, or doubled up with friends or relatives because you cannot find or afford housing,

McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act (as it appears in Monticello Schools parent and student handbooks)

Homeless children have the right to:

- Go to school, no matter where you live or how long you have lived there.
- Continue in the school they attended before you became homeless or the school they last attended, if that is your choice and is feasible.
- Receive transportation to the school they attended before your family became homeless or the school they last attended if you or a guardian requests such transportation.
- Attend a school and participate in school programs with children who are not homeless.
- Enroll in school without giving a permanent address.
- Enroll and attend classes while the school arranges for the transfer of school and immunization records or any other documents required for enrollment.
- Enroll and attend classes in the school of your choice even while the school and you seek to resolve a dispute over enrolling your children.
- Receive the same special programs and services, if needed, as provided to all other children served in these programs.
- Receive transportation to school and to school programs. When you move, you should do the following:
Contact the school district’s local liaison for homeless education (Shannon Kehoe, Shannon and Carpenter School Elementary Principal 319-465-3000) for help in enrolling your child in a new school or arranging for your child to continue in his or her former school. (Or someone at a shelter, social services office, or the school can direct you to the person you need to contact.) Contact the school and provide any information you think will assist the teachers in helping your child adjust to new circumstances. Ask the local liaison for homeless education, the shelter provider, or a social worker for assistance with clothing and supplies, if needed.

Notice of Nondiscrimination

The Monticello Community School District offers career and technical programs in the following areas of study: Agricultural Education, Business Education, Family and Consumer Science Education, Industrial Education. 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) its education programs 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.

PARENTS! PARENTS! PARENTS!

It is vital that the school district has current and updated information on students. Please remember to log into your Infinite Campus account and make sure everything is current, including your cell phone #'s, home phone #'s, email addresses, mailing address, emergency contacts, etc. This is very important, especially for emergency situations. If you need assistance, please feel free to call Morgan Murray-Zimmerman at 319-320-1132.



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.

Check it out!

CELEBRATIONS

We are incredibly proud to announce that **Dylan Shaffer** has been named the 2026 Northeast STEM Region Teacher Award Recipient!

Currently in his eighth year at Monticello Community School District, Dylan teaches science and Intro to STEM. He is known for his extraordinary passion and his ability to build strong, inspiring relationships with his students, making science and technology both challenging and memorable. This prestigious award, sponsored by Google and the Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council, recognizes just six outstanding educators across the state for their dedication to shaping Iowa's future STEM workforce. Congratulations Mr. Shaffer!

#IowaSTEM #STEMTeacherAward #MonticelloPride #EducationExcellence #GoogleSTEM #FutureOfSTEM

Congratulations
Dylan Shaffer!
2026 Northeast STEM Region Teacher
Award Recipient!

#IowaSTEM #STEMTeacherAward #MonticelloPride #EducationExcellence #GoogleSTEM #FutureOfSTEM



EMPLOYMENT

WE'RE HIRING!
JOIN OUR TEAM

APPLY NOW!

HIRING FOR:

- Custodian @ Carpenter
- Food Service Employees
- Assistant Baseball Coach
- Assistant Softball Coach
- 7/8 Softball Coach

For 2026-2027 School Year:

- District Wide Talented and Gifted (TAG) Teacher
- HS Special Education Teacher
- Head Varsity Football Coach
- Assistant Football Coach
- 7/8 Volleyball Coach

apply online at: www.monticello.k12.ia.us

FOOD SERVICE NEWS



BREAKFAST MENU

Help celebrate **National School Breakfast Week** **March 2-6!**

Did you know children who eat school breakfast are more likely to:

- Reach higher levels of achievement in reading & math
- Score higher on standardized tests
- Have better concentration and memory
- Be more alert and maintain a healthy weight

But when the school week gets busy, it's easy for students to rush out the door in the morning without having a nutritious meal. That's why school breakfast is such a great option!

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
2 Mini waffles w/ syrup Fruit Fruit cup Fruit juice	3 Mini donuts Fruit Fruit juice	4 Pancake sausage bites Fruit Fruit juice	5 Breakfast pizza Fruit Fruit juice	6 Pop tart Cereal Fruit Fruit juice
9 Breakfast bagel Fruit Fruit juice	10 Long John Fruit Fruit juice	11 Chocolate muffin Fruit Fruit juice	12 Sausage biscuit Fruit Fruit juice	13 NO SCHOOL
16 NO SCHOOL — Spring Break	17 NO SCHOOL — Spring Break	18 NO SCHOOL — Spring Break	19 NO SCHOOL — Spring Break	20 NO SCHOOL — Spring Break
23 Chocolate chip French toast Fruit Fruit juice	24 Cereal bar Fruit Fruit juice	25 Pancake on a stick Fruit Fruit juice	26 Scrambled egg bake Fruit Fruit juice	27 Pop tart Cereal Fruit Fruit juice
30 Breakfast pizza Fruit Fruit juice	31 Mini donuts Fruit Fruit juice	MILK served with all meals		

LUNCH MENU

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

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
2 BBQ rib patty/bun Potato wedges Baked beans Pineapple/mandarin oranges M&M cookie	3 Breaded drumstick Mashed potatoes & gravy Green beans Applesauce Roll & butter (grades 6-12)	4 Deli/bun Baked chips Fresh veggies Orange wedges Side kick/frozen juice	5 Chicken nuggets Mashed potatoes & gravy Cheesy broccoli Mixed fruit Roll & butter (grades 6-12)	6 Pizza dippers w/ sauce Romaine salad Corn Strawberries & grapes
9 Corn dog Sweet potato waffle fries Baked asparagus Banana Ice cream cup	10 Cheeseburger/bun Smiley fries Peas & carrots Applesauce	11 Walking taco Spanish rice Refried beans Peaches	12 Pepperoni boat Tossed salad w/ dressing Fresh broccoli w/ dip Orange wedges	13 NO SCHOOL
16 NO SCHOOL — Spring Break	17 NO SCHOOL — Spring Break	18 NO SCHOOL — Spring Break	19 NO SCHOOL — Spring Break	20 NO SCHOOL — Spring Break
23 Breaded drummies Mashed potatoes & gravy Green beans w/ bacon Mandarin oranges Roll & butter	24 Popcorn chicken Seasoned rice Steamed vegetable Pears	25 Breaded cheese stick Romaine salad Fresh veggies Apple wedges	26 BBQ pork/bun baked potato wedges Baked beans Mixed fruit	27 Cheese pizza Corn Steamed broccoli Orange wedges
30 Hot ham & cheese/ bun French fries Mixed vegetables Applesauce	31 French toast sticks Sausage links Hash brown patty Strawberries & bananas	MILK served with all meals		
			Choose a salad as an alternate lunch daily (HS & MS only)	

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MARCH 2026



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 Grades 7-12 Vocal Concert—7:00 @ HS Gym <i>National School Breakfast Week</i>	3 Band Round Up—7:00 @ HS Gym PTO Meeting –7:00	4 1:00 Early Dismissal- Prof. Development Board Meeting—6:00 Athletic Booster Club Meeting –7:00 –HS Library	5 HS Spring Play-7:00pm	6 HS Spring Play-7:00pm NHS Applications due at 3:15 today!	7 FFFA District Convention @ East Buchanan NEIBA District Jazz Fest Monticello School Foundation Pep Rally & Alumni Reunion-5:30pm @ Berndes Center
9 B V Track @ UNI Dome-2:00	10 Elem/MS/HS Parent/Teacher Conferences 4-8pm	11	12 Elem/MS/HS Parent/Teacher Conferences 4-8pm	13 NO SCHOOL	14 State Individual Speech @ Vinton Shellsburg—8:00
16 NO SCHOOL— Spring Break B V Track Meet @ Mt. Vernon– 2:30	17 NO SCHOOL— Spring Break 	18 NO SCHOOL— Spring Break	19 NO SCHOOL— Spring Break	20 NO SCHOOL— Spring Break	21
23 Board Meeting—6:00	24 G/B V Track Conference Meet @ U of Dbq Indoor Track—3:30	25 1:00 Early Dismissal-Prof. Development	26 B V Track—Steve Roth Relays @ Case Field—Washington-2:30	27 Shannon & Carpenter Spring Pictures! B V Golf @ Anamosa-4:00 B V Soccer vs Highland-5:30	28
30 FFA Banquet @ Jones County Youth Development Center All State Individual Speech @ UNI-8:00 G V Golf @ Maquoketa-4:00 B V Golf vs Maquoketa-4:00 B V Track @ Benton Community-4:30	31 G V Track Conference Meet @ Tipton—3:30				

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Monticello, Iowa 52310

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Board of Education

Craig Stadtmueller
Mandy Norton
John Schlarmann
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.