

SCHOOL SPIRIT



Monticello Community School District

Dr. Brian Jaeger, Superintendent

PH 319-465-3000

FAX 319-465-6050

WEB www.monticello.k12.ia.us

Hi everyone,

The 2026–2027 school year is officially underway! There is a unique buzz of excitement and the thrill of new beginnings as our students and staff return to the halls. I often share at this time of year that students only get 13 first days of school, and each one is memorable in its own way—whether it is the first day of kindergarten, transitioning to middle school, entering high school, or embarking on senior year. These milestones are incredibly meaningful. As I reminded our staff, we only get one chance to make a first impression, and we are dedicated to making it a great one!

Navigating the Early Weeks

If you notice your children are exhausted right now, please know this is completely normal. The transition back to a full school schedule takes a toll, but the after-school crashes and early bed-times should wear off in a week or two. In the meantime, please ensure they are eating well and staying hydrated. Establishing consistent evening routines now will help them immensely once homework begins to pick up.

The Power of Reading

I also want to emphasize the vital role reading plays in student success. Reading is a foundational life skill that benefits students far beyond the classroom. You can support this development by modeling the behavior—pick up a book or newspaper and let them see you reading. If your child already loves books, continue to encourage them. If they struggle to find the joy in it, experiment with different genres until something clicks. For younger students, reading aloud together or trading pages is a wonderful way to connect. I fondly remember sharing *Harry Potter* and *the Chamber of Secrets* with my daughter when she was in elementary school, passing the book back and forth each night. That 30-minute routine is a memory I cherish, and I highly encourage you not to miss these small but impactful opportunities with your own children.

Get Involved in Extracurricular Activities

A wide array of student activities is kicking off at both the middle and high school levels. Monticello offers incredible options right now, including Drama, Speech, Marching Band, Volleyball, Football, Cross Country, Cheer, Student Council, National Honor Society (NHS), and Interact Club. Please encourage your child to join an organization or sport. Extensive research shows that students who participate in extracurricular activities develop better organizational skills, earn higher grades, perform better on tests, maintain higher attendance rates, and build stronger relationships with their peers. Getting involved truly makes a world of difference.

Construction Update: The New Elementary School

Our new elementary school building is quickly taking shape! Many of the walls are already up, and the project is moving forward right on schedule with a projected completion date of **June 7, 2027**. It has been thrilling to watch the progress over the summer, and it is even more exciting to think that we will begin the next school year in a brand-new facility. Let's keep our fingers crossed for continued good weather so we can bring this project across the finish line on time and under budget.



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

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.

September 2026

NEWS & NOTES

of the Monticello Community School District

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Upcoming Eventsp. 2

Important Infop. 3-4

Menusp. 6

Calendarp. 7

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

Homecoming
Information on
page 2!

UPCOMING EVENTS

FREE BAND CAR WASH



The Monticello Bands will be hosting a Free Car Wash on **September 12** at various locations around town. Bring your car for our band members to wash between 9:00-2:00! Donations are accepted. If you are a business interested in sponsoring the band program, please contact Ellen Ellis or Tony Butterworth at their school emails. Businesses that donate will receive recognition in each concert program.

SCHOOL PICTURES

- **High School** Pictures are on Thursday, August 27.
- **Middle School** Pictures are on Friday, August 28.
- **Elementary School** Pictures are on Friday, October 2.
- **All retakes** will be on Friday, November 6.



Homecoming 2026 Lineup of Events!



September 14-19, 2026

Monday, 9/14—The Ironman Volleyball game will be at 6pm in the HS Gym. The Powder Puff game will be at 7:30pm at Dean Nelson Field.

Tuesday, 9/15—7th-Varsity Volleyball @ Bellevue, 7/8 Football @ Maquoketa at 4pm

Wednesday, 9/16—Homecoming Parade at 6pm, followed by the Coronation at 6:45pm (*if weather doesn't permit a parade, the coronation will be in the HS Gym at 6:30pm*).

Thursday, 9/17 - 7th-Varsity XC @ Cascade—Fillmore Fairways at 4:30pm

Friday, 9/18 -Pep Rally for MS & HS in the HS Gym at 8:00am, mobile Pep Rally at Elementary Schools to follow. XC team running of the football from West Branch to Monticello with presentation of the game ball to officials at mid-field. Football game vs West Branch, JV at 5:00, Varsity at 7:00 pm.

Saturday, 9/19 - Varsity volleyball tournament at Springville @ 8am. Homecoming Dance from 8-10:30pm in the HS Commons.

More info to come soon! Please contact Student Council Sponsor Hanna Lake at hanna.lake@monticello.k12.ia.us with any questions.

LET'S GO PANTHERS!!!

YEARBOOKS: If you ordered a yearbook last year, they are in the HS office and are available for pick up Monday-Friday after 3:15pm. Thank you!



PTO NEWS...Join us for our first PTO meeting! Monday, August 31 at 7:00pm in the Carpenter Library. Meet the PTO officers, share your ideas, and help us plan a great year!

A big THANK YOU to everyone who joined us for PTO Project Night! We got a lot accomplished and helped our teachers get ready for a fantastic school year.



SAVE THE DATE!

Northeast Iowa Family STEM Festival

Come and enjoy a night filled with fun and engaging STEM activities



October 8, 2026
4:00PM - 7:00PM
Youth Development Center,
Monticello

IMPORTANT INFO

Parents of Seniors!



Senior and baby pictures for the yearbook are due **before winter break of senior year**. Submit your Senior's photo and have one thing crossed off the senior to-do list! A free option is available for a yearbook photo on Halverson's school picture day in the fall also. Guidelines are listed below.

GUIDELINES FOR SENIOR PHOTOS FOR YEARBOOK

- 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.marjoua@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 if you wish one. 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!



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!

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.

Be the First to Know!

Are you signed up for texts & emails from your child's school?

TEXTS: Our school utilizes the SchoolMessenger system to deliver text messages, straight to your mobile phone with important information about events, school closings, safety alerts and more. You can participate in this free service just by sending a text message of "Y" or "Yes" to our school's short code number, 67587. SchoolMessenger is compliant with the Student Privacy Pledge, so you can rest assured that your information is safe and will never be given or sold to anyone.

EMAILS: You automatically receive emails from School Messenger once your student is enrolled in our district. The email(s) you provide in Infinite Campus are the emails that these messages are sent to.



If you have any questions or problems with School Messenger or are not receiving our messages, please contact Morgan Murray-Zimmerman, District Help Desk Personnel at 319-320-1132.

Important!!!

The District's phone # is 319-465-3000. This will get you to a menu with the following options:

- District Office—press 1
- High School—press 2
- Middle School—press 3
- Carpenter—press 4
- Shannon—press 5
- Athletic Director—press 6
- Bus Barn—press 7
- Food Service Director—press 8
- Curriculum Director—press 9

You can no longer reach someone with their extension #. Thanks!

Good luck to all the Fall athletes and coaches!

GO PANTHERS!



IMPORTANT INFO



From the Activities Department

We utilize a digital, cashless ticketing system for all middle and high school events. Fans are encouraged to buy online in advance to skip the line and get through the gates faster! Cash payments will be available at the gate for those who prefer it.

High School Events:

\$7 per person (applies to everyone—students, adults, and senior citizens)

Middle School Events:

\$5 for adults

FREE for students and senior citizens (65+)

You can use a virtual 10-punch pass for home events which can be purchased on [BOUND](#). Old punch cards will be accepted.

Also, if you have an athlete, remember to register them on the Bound website and upload their physical & concussion form.

Visit BOUND, for schedules, ticket purchases, and student registration:
<https://www.gobound.com/ia/schools/monticello>. Be sure to bookmark it!

If you have questions, feel free to contact [Tim Lambert](#) or [Alyssa McNally](#) at the High School Office. Thank you!

– Tim Lambert, Activities Director

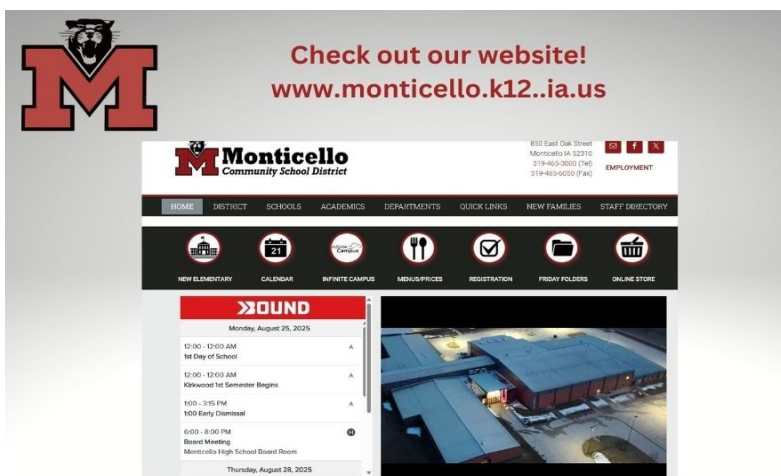
Thank You

- Thank you to **Linda Mardorf, Cindy Plummer, and Diana Jones & family** for the donation of supplies to Carpenter Elementary.
- Thank you **Citizens State Bank, Ohnward Bank, Fareway, and United Church of Monticello** for providing food for our staff on their first few days back.
- Thank you to **Dollar Tree** for their donation of supplies to Shannon & Carpenter.
- Thank you to **The Duffy Family** and to **Greg & Jill Williams** for the donations to Panther Academy.
- Thank you to **Grant Wood AEA** for the donation of backpacks.

Be sure to check out our website!



Click on the *New Elementary* button to keep updated on the progress of our new school!



Stay connected with us by visiting our school website. You'll find important updates, calendars, menus, newsletters, job opportunities, and much, much more!

SUBSTITUTES NEEDED!

We need SUB TEACHERS!

Join Our Team as a Substitute Teacher!

Are you looking for a flexible, rewarding job that makes a difference?

We are hiring Substitute Teachers for all grade levels!

- Choose the days you work
- Make a positive impact in students' lives
- Great opportunity for retirees, college students, or anyone who loves kids and learning
- \$19.00 per hour (starting wage)

Find out more here: <https://www.gwaea.org/administrators/substitute-teaching/>

Become a Substitute Teacher for Monticello CSD!

Join Our Education Team And
Become A Substitute Teacher
For Monticello!



➡ Benefits:

- Starting pay rate is \$19.00 per hour/\$152 per day, and goes to \$181.27 per day after 10 days of subbing in the district.
- You decide the days you'd like to work.
- Help your community when substitute teachers are needed the most!

➡ Substitute Teachers In Iowa Must Have:

- An Iowa teaching license // or substitute teacher license // or paraeducator certification.
- An associate's degree // or a baccalaureate degree // or 60 college credits through a regionally accredited college or university.
- Completed a substitute authorization course*
- At least 18 years of age.

*Those with a teaching license do not need to complete a substitute authorization course.



➡ How Do I Start?

Everything you need to become a substitute teacher can be found at subcentral.vista-iowa.com.

FOOD SERVICE NEWS

BREAKFAST MENU



S
E
P
T
E
M
B
E
R

**MILK served
with all meals.**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	1 Mini donuts Fruit donuts Fruit juice	2 Egg bites Fruit Fruit juice	3 Breakfast pizza Fruit Fruit juice	4 Cereal Pop tart Fruit Fruit juice
7 NO SCHOOL— Labor Day	8 Chocolate muffin Fruit Fruit juice	9 Long John Fruit Fruit juice	10 Breakfast tornado Fruit Fruit juice	11 Cereal Pop tart Fruit Fruit juice
14 Cereal bar Fruit Fruit juice	15 Breakfast burrito Fruit Fruit juice	16 Fruit bagel Fruit Fruit juice	17 Pancake on a stick Fruit Fruit juice	18 Cereal Pop tart Fruit Fruit juice
21 Mini waffles w/ syrup Fruit Fruit juice	22 Mini donuts Fruit Fruit juice	23 Chocolate muffin Fruit Fruit juice	24 Breakfast egg roll Fruit Fruit juice	25 Cereal Pop tart Fruit Fruit juice
28 Long John Fruit Fruit juice	29 Breakfast bagel Fruit Fruit juice	30 Cereal bar Fruit Fruit juice		

LUNCH MENU



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

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	1 BBQ rib/bun Potato wedges Steamed broccoli w/ cheese Pears	2 Walking taco Seasoned rice Black bean & corn salsa Peaches	3 Chicken bacon club/bun Sweet potato fries Corn Grapes	4 Pizza Salad w/ romaine Green beans w/ bacon bits Apple wedges
7 NO SCHOOL— Labor Day	8 Cheeseburger/bun Smile fries Steamed carrots & peas Apple wedges	9 Salisbury steak Mashed potatoes & gravy Mandarin oranges Roll & butter	10 Breaded pork sandwich/ bun French fries Baked beans Mixed fruit	11 Pizza crunchers Lettuce salad w/ romaine Corn Applesauce
14 Pasta w/ meat sauce Lettuce salad w/ ro- maine Pineapple Garlic toast	15 Stuffed cheese sticks w/ sauce Green beans Cucumbers & cherry tomatoes Orange wedges	16 Cheesy hot dog/bun Onion rings Steamed carrots Apple wedges	17 French toast sticks Sausage links Hash brown patty Strawberries & bananas	18 Quesadilla Vegetable medley Celery sticks Watermelon
21 Breaded chicken nug- gets French fries Peas Apple wedges	22 Country fried steak Mashed potatoes & gravy Peaches Roll & butter	23 Deli/bun Baked chips Fresh veggie Watermelon wedge	24 Popcorn chicken Seasoned rice Steamed carrots Mixed fruit Roll & butter (grades 6-12)	25 Garlic cheese bread Tossed salad greens Cauliflower & broccoli Pineapple tidbits
28 Chicken strips Mashed potatoes & gravy Applesauce WG Roll w/ butter	29 Macaroni & cheese Little smokies Peas Grapes Garlic toast	30 Mini corn dogs Smile fries Green beans Peaches		

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

S
E
P
T
E
M
B
E
R

SEPTEMBER 2026

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 9/10/JV VB @ Easton Valley—5:00	2 1:00 Early Dismissal— Prof. Development Athletic Booster Club Meeting —7:00-HS Library	3 JV/V XC —Bob Brown Invitational @ Iowa City Kickers Soccer Complex-4:00 7/8 VB vs Anamosa-4:00 9/10/JV/V VB vs Anamosa—5:45 & 7:00	4 JV/V FB vs Beckman—5:00 & 7:00 	5 V VB Tournament @ Midland—8:30am
7 No School— Labor Day	8 7/8 FB vs Bellevue-4:00 7/8 VB @ Cascade-4:00 9/10/JV/V VB @ Cascade—5:30 & 7:00	9 Board Work Session—6:00	10	11 JV/V FB @ Cascade-5:00 & 7:00	12  Band Car Wash – 9am-2pm JV VB Tournament – Home—8am 7/8 XC—Home-8am V XC—Home-10am
14 HS Musical Auditions—3:30 Ironman Volleyball -6:00 @ HS Gym Powder Puff-7:30 @ Football Field 	15 HS Musical Auditions—3:30  7/8 FB @ Maquoketa—4:00 7/8 VB @ Bellevue—4:00 9/10/JV/V VB @ Bellevue—5:30 & 7:00	16 1:00 Early Dismissal— Prof. Development Homecoming Parade-6:00 Coronation-6:45 @ Football Field 	17  Ag Experience Day 7/8 XC vs Cascade @ Fillmore Fairways-4:30 V XC vs Cascade @ Fillmore Fairways-5:30	18 Pep Rally in HS Gym—8:00am 7th Grade Outdoor Ed Day JV/V FB vs West Branch —5:00 & 7:30 	19 V VB Tournament @ Springville—8:00  Homecoming Dance— 8-10:30pm in HS Commons
 ← Homecoming Week → 					
21	22 7/8 FB vs Beckman @ 4:00 7/8 VB vs Maquoketa -4:00 7/8 XC @ Center Point-Urbana-4:15 9/10/JV/V VB vs Maquoketa—5:45 & 7:00	23 1:00 Early Dismissal— Prof. Development	24 7/8 VB @ Beckman-4:00 9/10/JV/V VB @ Beckman-5:45 & 7:00 	25 JV/V FB @ Bellevue-5:15 & 7:00	26 Panther Dance Show—8:00 V VB @ Marquette—8:00 7/8 XC @ Anamosa-9am V XC @ Anamosa-9am 9/10 VB Tournament @ Cascade—9:00am
28 Board Meeting— 6:00	29 7/8 FB vs Alburnett -4:00 7/8 VB vs Camanche 9/10/JV/V VB vs Camanche—5:45 & 7:00	30 1:00 Early Dismissal— Prof. Development			

Monticello Community School District
850 East Oak Street
Monticello, Iowa 52310

Dr. Brian Jaeger, Superintendent
PH 319-465-3000 FAX 319-465-6050
WEB www.monticello.k12.ia.us

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, todd.werner@monticello.k12.ia.us.