SCHOOL SPIRIT

Monticello Community School District
Dr. Brian Jaeger, Superintendent
PH 319-465-3000
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November 2026

NEWS & NOTES of the Monticello Community School District

Dear Monticello Families,

I hope your November is off to a great start! It's hard to believe we are already closer to the end of the first semester than the beginning. Time has truly flown by. Below are a few important updates, celebrations, and project milestones as we head into the holiday season.

Important Calendar Dates
To help you plan ahead, here is what to expect for the remainder of the semester:

- **Weekly Early Dismissals:** Routine 1pm early dismissals will continue every Wednesday.
- **Thanksgiving Break:** Schools will be closed for three days during Thanksgiving week (**November 25–27**).
- **End of First Semester:** The semester officially concludes on **Tuesday, December 22**.

Mr. Todd Werner has been named Iowa's "Middle School Principal of the Year."
While we have always known how incredible Mr. Werner is here in Monticello, we are thrilled that the entire state now recognizes his dedication to excellence. Since the new middle school opened in 2020, Mr. Werner has brought boundless energy and created deeply positive relationships with our staff, students, and families. Whether you've seen him at after-school activities or while you were participating in "Shadow a Student Day," his impact is undeniable. Mr. Werner would be the first to say this award reflects the hard work of the entire middle school staff and student body. **Thank you, Mr. Werner** for all of your hard work to make our Middle School a special place to be a staff member or a student. We are incredibly lucky to have you leading our middle school!

Elementary School Project Update
Progress on the elementary school construction is moving right along! If you drive by the site, you will see major changes:

- **Outer Frame:** Metal and block walls are rapidly going up to shape the building.
- **Concrete Pouring:** Crews will continue pouring concrete inside the building, in the parking lot, and throughout the parent pickup areas over the next several weeks.
- **Timeline:** Once the outer shell is complete, work will transition indoors. The project remains fully on schedule for a **June completion**.

A Note of Gratitude
As we enter the Thanksgiving season, I want to express my deep gratitude for our students, families, staff, and community members. Your continued support of the Monticello Community School District makes this a truly special place to learn and grow.



Please never hesitate to reach out by email or phone if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

Sincerely,

Dr. 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.*

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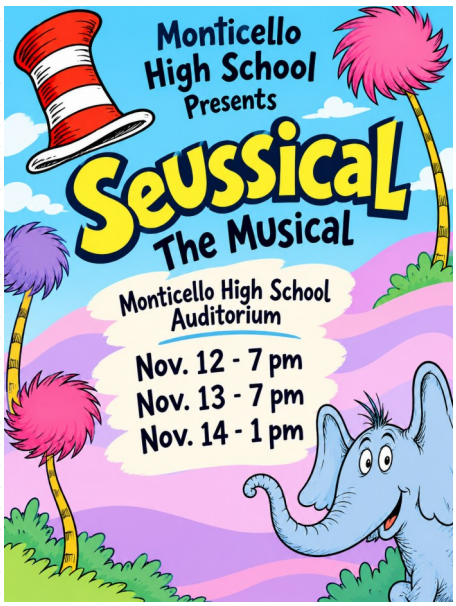
SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

NO SCHOOL!

Thanksgiving Break is November 25-27.

Happy Thanksgiving!

UPCOMING EVENTS



Join the Monticello High School drama department for our production of:

Seussical The Musical

Thursday, November 12 at 7pm
Friday, November 13 at 7pm
Saturday, November 14 at 1pm

Admission is $7. Tickets can be purchased at the door or on BOUND: https://www.gobound.com/ia/schools/monticello/tickets

The Cat in the Hat tells the story of Horton, an elephant who discovers a speck of dust that contains the Whos, including Jojo, a Who child sent off to military school for thinking too many "thinks." Horton faces a double challenge: not only must he protect the Whos from a world of naysayers and dangers, but he must guard an abandoned egg, left in his care by the irresponsible Mayzie La Bird. Although Horton faces ridicule, danger, kidnapping, and a trial, the intrepid Gertrude McFuzz never loses faith in him. Ultimately, the powers of friendship, loyalty, family, and community are challenged and emerge triumphant.



BLOOD DRIVE

Monticello High School

Wednesday, November 18th

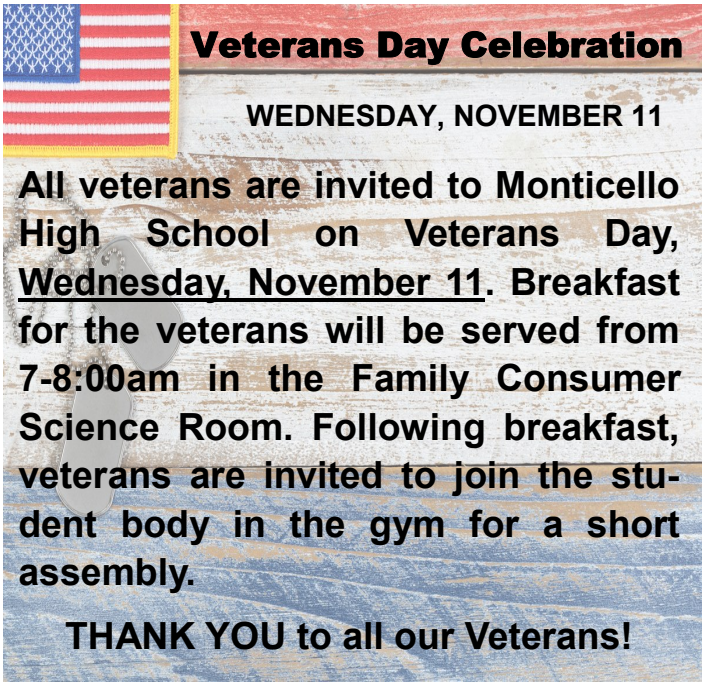
8:00AM-12:00PM

Gym

850 Oak Street

To book appointment, scan QR code, visit bloodcenter.org or call ImpactLife at 800-747-5401.

Group Code: 6346
Last Date to Donate Elsewhere: 9/23/26



UPCOMING EVENTS

PTO News...The next PTO meeting will be on Monday, November 9 at 7pm in the Carpenter library. Join us to help plan the Read Across America Glow Dance Party!

Thank you to everyone that donated to our Fareway Round Up and Walkathon fundraisers! These funds allow us to continue sending all elementary students to see a stage performance at the Heritage Center, support our Grandparents Breakfast, and offer fun new celebrations for students and staff. Thanks to all of the volunteers that helped us at our Walkathon.

Picture retake day for all schools is Friday, November 6.

(don't forget to *bring your other pictures back*)

Mark your calendars!

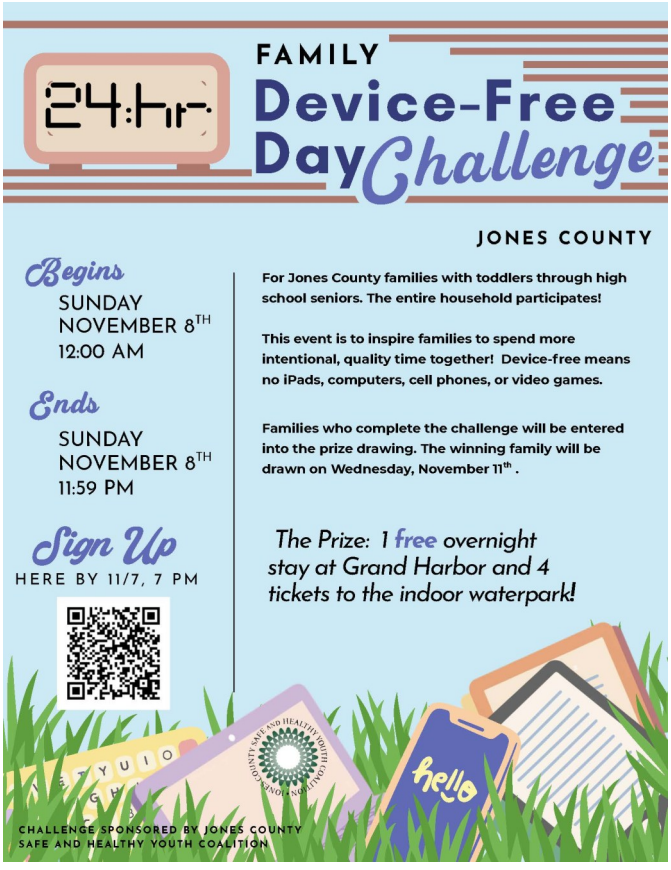
Carpenter Elementary Holiday Concert
Tuesday, December 8 at 6:00pm
in the HS Gym

Community Safety and Support

If you are ever concerned about your child's or another child's safety or well-being, the following resources are available 24/7:

- **Monticello Police**: (319) 465-3526
- **Jones County Non-Emergency**: (319) 462-4371
- **Safe & Sound Iowa** (Anonymous): 1-800-224-6018 or Online
- **988 Lifeline:** Call, text, or chat 988 anytime for confidential support for yourself, friend, or a loved one related to mental or emotional help, alcohol or drug concerns, or when you just need someone to talk to.





IMPORTANT INFO

From the Activities Department

Winter sports are right around the corner. If you have a student that is interested in a winter sport, you need to go to Bound and register them. If you've already registered, you still have to select the winter sport but you don't have to upload the physical form or the concussion form. If you haven't registered for a sport this school year, you will need to upload those forms.

Coaches will communicate with athletes and parents through **BOUND Messenger**, so please make sure to provide a valid email address and mobile phone number during registration. Under your athlete's profile, enter your athlete's contact information (not the parent's). Under the parent section, enter your own contact information.

Admission prices:

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. Visit BOUND, for schedules, ticket purchases, and student registration: https://www.gobound.com/ia/schools/monticello. 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*

Good luck to all our winter athletes and coaches!

GO PANTHERS!

Thank You

- Thank you to **Chanda Gassman & family** for the donation of prizes for the elementary music prize box.
- Thank you to **HyVee** for the donuts for our staff.
- Thank you to **Hall Heritage Farms/Steve & Steph Isaac** for the donation of pumpkins for students to decorate for the Monticello Nursing & Rehabilitation Center.
- Thank you to **Bard Concrete** for the donation for the high school greenhouse.
- Thank you to the following for their donations for our 7th Grade Outdoor Ed Day: **Monticello River Rentals, Karde's, and Anamosa Bow Hunters.**
- Thank you to the **Monticello PTO** for their donation of an iPevo camera, bracelets for the walk-a-thon, and for the donation for the Shannon & Carpenter field trips.
- Thank you to **Theisen's** for donating popcorn for our October PBIS Popcorn Paw-ty at Shannon and Carpenter. Also, thank you to the **PTO volunteers** for helping pass out popcorn.



PARENTS! PARENTS! PARENTS!

It is vital that the school district has current & updated information on students. Please remember to log into your Infinite Campus account to 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.

IMPORTANT INFO

American Education Week November 16-20

Americans nationwide will join the National Education Association in raising awareness about the need to provide every child with a quality public education. The celebration highlights the importance of bringing together educators, parents, students, and communities in a unified effort to build great public schools. Please join us as we thank all of our educators, staff, parents, students, and community. Thanks for all you do to make the Monticello Community School District what it is today!



WINTER is coming...

Please be certain your children are properly attired for colder temperatures with a winter coat, hat, and gloves. Thank you!

Elementary parents/ guardians: If you need assistance with outfitting your students in winter gear, the nurse has a lot of coats and stocking caps available! Some snow pants, boots, and gloves too. Contact your school nurse's office or Nurse Heinrich.

Parents/Guardians: Are you receiving our text messages?

If not, text Y or YES to 67587

Also, if you are not getting our emails, make sure your email is correct in Infinite Campus. We use School Messenger to send out our delays, cancellations, and important messages. Thank you!



Food Pantry– Items Needed!

Carpenter Elementary Music 22nd Annual Food & Essentials Drive



Benefiting the Monticello Food Pantry

We're excited to announce that the Carpenter Elementary Music program will be collecting non-perishable food and essential items for the Monticello Food Pantry! Donations will be accepted in the music room from **November 2 through December 8.**

Our Goal: Collect 1,000 items! If we reach our goal, all grade levels will earn an extra recess as a thank-you for your generosity!

Volunteers Needed:
We are looking for volunteers to help deliver the collected items to the food pantry on December 10. If you're available to assist, please contact Mr. Thumma at nick.thumma@monticello.k12.ia.us.

Thank you for supporting our school and community!

— Mr. Thumma, K-4 Music Teacher

2026 Certified Enrollment—Each year our District has to certify our enrollment to the Iowa Department of Education by October 15. See below for enrollment data for this year and last year.

Description	2025	2026	Change
Resident Public Students Attending your District	892.3	854.4	-37.90
Resident Public Students Attending another Iowa Public School District	59.50	68.30	8.80
Non Public Shared Time and CPI Students Dual Enrolled for District Classes	0.43	0.54	0.11
Non Public Shared Time and CPI Students Dual Enrolled for PSEO Classes	0.00	0.00	0.00
Residential Facility Students Enrolled for District Classes	0.00	0.00	0.00
Actual Enrollment	**952.23**	**923.24**	**-28.99**
Non-Resident Public Students Attending your District	73.00	75.10	2.10
PK Students Attending your Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program	24.50	27.50	3.00
Total School Age Students Provided Instructional Programs/Services by your District	965.73	930.04	-35.69
Limited English Proficient Weighting	2.56	0.68	-1.88
ESA Funded Students	42.00	38.00	-4.00

SUBSTITUTES NEEDED!

We can also use sub associates, sub bus drivers, & sub food service employees!

Substitute Special Education Associates

- Starting wage $11.00 per hour
- On call, as needed basis
- Provide one-on-one or small group assistance to special needs students
- Previous healthcare or working with children preferred

Substitute Bus Route Driver

- Starting wage $19.50 per hour
- Must have a Class B license with school bus passenger and air brake endorsements
- Will train
- On call, as needed basis

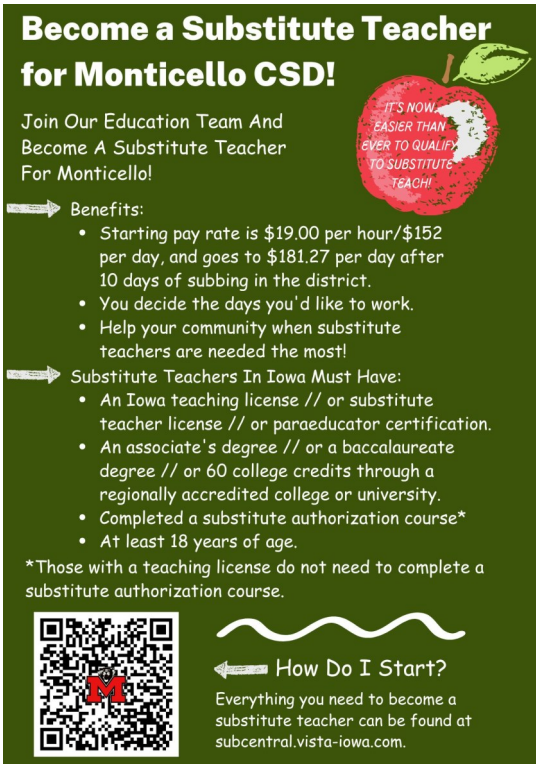
Substitute Food Service

- Starting wage $13.00 per hour
- On call, as needed basis

After 10 days of subbing in our District, the sub will get the base pay for that position. Applicants must have a high school diploma or equivalent and pass a background check.

Apply online via our website at: https://www.applitrack.com/Monticello/onlineapp/

For questions or more information, please contact Brooke Holmes at 319-465-3000, option 1 or brooke.holmes@monticello.k12.ia.us. EEO.





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 from Halverson's school picture day in the fall. 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!

FOOD SERVICE NEWS

NOVEMBER



BREAKFAST MENU

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
2 Mini blueberry waffles w/ syrup Fruit Fruit juice	3 Mini donuts Fruit Fruit juice	4 Pancake sausage bites Fruit Fruit juice	5 Breakfast pizza Fruit Fruit juice	6 Cereal Pop tart Fruit Fruit juice
9 Chocolate muffins Fruit Fruit juice	10 Breakfast egg roll Fruit Fruit juice	11 Long John or cereal Fruit Fruit juice	12 Breakfast tornado Fruit Fruit juice	13 Cereal Pop tart Fruit Fruit juice
16 Cereal bar Fruit Fruit juice	17 Breakfast burrito Fruit Fruit juice	18 Fruit bagel Fruit Fruit juice	19 Egg bites Fruit Fruit juice	20 Cereal Pop tart Fruit Fruit juice
23 Mini waffles w/ syrup Fruit Fruit juice	24 Mini donuts Fruit Fruit juice	25 **NO SCHOOL**	26 **NO SCHOOL**	27 **NO SCHOOL**
30 Long John Fruit Fruit juice		***MILK served with all meals.***		

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

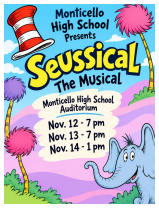
LUNCH MENU

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
2 BBQ rib/bun French fries Green beans Orange wedges	3 Walking taco Seasoned rice Fiesta beans Peaches	4 Mini corn dogs Potato wedges Pears Fresh veggies	5 Breaded chicken/bun Sweet potato fries Steamed broccoli Grapes	6 Pizza Caesar salad Baby carrots Apple wedges
9 Mandarin orange chicken Seasoned rice Steamed broccoli Diced peaches Roll & butter (grades 6-12)	10 Bacon cheeseburger Smile fries Baked beans Applesauce	11 Deli/bun Baked chips Green beans Orange wedges Cookie	12 Macaroni & cheese Little smokies Steamed carrots Apple wedges Roll & butter (grades 6-12)	13 Pizza crunchers Lettuce salad w/ romaine Corn Watermelon
16 Breaded chicken drummies French fries Fresh veggie Grapes Roll & butter (grades 6-12)	17 Stuffed cheese sticks Broccoli & cauliflower Steamed carrots Orange wedges	18 Hot dog/bun Onion rings Baked beans Mixed fruit	19 Chili Cheese stick Applesauce WG cinnamon roll	20 Pepperoni boat Lettuce salad w/ romaine Celery sticks Fresh melon
23 Sloppy Joe/Bun Wedge fries Blushing pears Cookie	24 French toast sticks Sausage links Hash brown patty Strawberries & bananas	25 **NO SCHOOL**	26 **NO SCHOOL**	27 **NO SCHOOL**
30 Mashed potatoes & gravy Green beans Tropical fruit Roll & butter (grades 6-12)				

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

NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER 2026

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 7 GBB @ Cascade-4:00	3 ***Election Day!*** *Polls open 7am-8pm* 	4 **1:00 Early Dismissal– Prof. Development** Athletic Booster Club Meeting-7:00pm— HS Library	5 MS & HS RVC Band Festival @ Camanche—12:00pm	6 **All Schools—Picture Retake Day!** 7 GBB vs Anamosa-4:00	7 Stack the Stands Dance Competition HS Band & Choir Mattress Fundraiser-9-5
9 7 GBB vs Lisbon-4:00 XC Banquet—7:00 in HS Commons PTO Meeting @ Carpenter Library –7:00pm	10 7/8 Boys WR @ Maq. Valley-4:30 FFA Fall Fest @ Youth Development Center—6:00	11 ***Veterans Day!*** Veterans Day breakfast – 7-8:00am @ HS **1:00 Early Dismissal– Prof. Development** **Board Work Session—6pm**	12 **Fall Musical—— *Seussical* 7:00pm**	13 **Fall Musical—— *Seussical* 7:00pm** 	14 **Fall Musical– *Seussical* 1:00pm**
16 7 GBB @ Northeast-4:00 7/8 Boys WR-Home-4:00 V Girls WR @ Camanche-5:30	17 V G Bowling vs Marion- @ CR Bowling Center–3:00 JV/V GBB vs Lisbon-6:00 & 7:15	18 **Blood Drive @ HS Gym - 8am-Noon** **1:00 Early Dismissal– Prof. Development**	19 All State Music Festival @ Ames-8:00 7 GBB vs Alburnett-4:00 7/8 Boys WR @ Midland-4:30	20 All State Music Festival @ Ames-8:00	21 All-State Music Festival @ Ames-8:00 V Girls WR @ Wilton-9:00
23 7 GBB @ Lisbon-4:00 7/8 Boys WR @ West Branch-4:00 **Board Meeting—6:00**	24 V Girls WR @ Midland-3:30 JV/V GBB vs Anamosa-6:00 & 7:30	25 **No School Thanksgiving Break**	26 **No School Thanksgiving Break** 	27 **No School Thanksgiving Break**	28
30 V B Bowling vs Marion @ CR Bowling Center-3:00 7/8 Boys WR @ Bellevue-4:00 7 GBB @ Anamosa-4:00 V Girls WR @ West Liberty –5:30 V Boys WR @ Springville-6:00					

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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.