

SCHOOL SPIRIT



Monticello Community School District

Dr. Brian Jaeger, Superintendent

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Hello everyone,

We have made it to February of the 2024-2025 school year. I know it is hard to believe but in four months you will be planning cookouts, mowing the grass, buying a new pair of baseball/softball cleats for the kids, and our school year will be coming to an end. The four months will go really fast! Before we all celebrate another successful school year there is a lot to do between now and then.

First, we are working hard to plan for and design an elementary building that we can all be proud of. We have learned a lot from the new middle school and we have relayed what we have learned to the engineers and architects who will be working on the design details of the new elementary school building. We want to do a deep dive into this design process to get the best bang for our buck and land with an incredible building. We have also held programming meetings for the staff, administrative team, school board, and community members to better understand what people would like and dislike about the look and functionality of a new elementary school building. These meetings have been very successful and have given a good starting point for our architects and engineers.

Second, the second semester is underway and we have a lot of learning to do between now and the end of the year. It is so lucky that we have an amazing staff that is moving slowly and systematically through each concept, standard, and lesson. They deliver instruction at a very high level and collect feedback daily on student progress to help adjust to a variety of student learning styles. These lessons are reinforced with a variety of discussions, projects, and other hands-on activities. Miss a day and miss a lot! It is so important to get your kids here every day when they are healthy.

Finally, our spring survey will be coming out in February. I am asking that you take a few minutes and complete this survey when you get it because we really look closely at this information each school year to continue to improve our school district to be the best we can be. Thank you in advance for your thoughts and participation.

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



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.*

February 2025

NEWS & NOTES

of the Monticello Community School District

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

Foundation
Tailgate Party &
Alumni Reunion
info on
page 6!

UPCOMING EVENTS



Band Concert—

February 26

Come out to support the high school band in their "Spring Concert" in the High School Auditorium at 7:00pm. The full band will perform selections along with music from several small ensembles. We hope to see you there!

Looking ahead...

- ⇒ Parent/Teacher Conferences are March 11 & 13
- ⇒ Spring Break is March 17-21
- ⇒ Prom is April 12
- ⇒ Graduation is May 25

PTO NEWS... Thanks to the parents that contributed for the February Cart of Joy. Our next Panther Project work night is Tuesday, February 4, from 6-8pm in the Carpenter Library. The next PTO Meeting is Tuesday, March 4, at 7pm. Be watching the PTO Facebook page for a link asking for Conference Meal donations.



A Night of Jazz—February 27

The Monticello Band Department would like to invite you to a night of Jazz! The middle and high school jazz bands will get your toes tapping as they perform their contest selections at 7:00pm in the high school auditorium.

Summer Driver's Education

Monticello High School will offer one session of summer driver's education. An informational letter and registration form will be available in the middle school and high school offices on Monday, February 10, 2025. 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 7, 2025. The cost is \$320.

The summer session is scheduled to start approximately Monday, June 2, 2025 and will conclude approximately Wednesday, July 2, 2025. Both the start and end dates may be adjusted if there is a change to the school calendar due to adverse winter weather. The class 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.

ICAN presents

FUTURE READY Career & College Fair

Sunday, March 30 • 1 - 3 PM

The Hotel at Kirkwood Center • 7725 Kirkwood Blvd • Cedar Rapids

Find Your Future

Ideal for High School Sophomores, Juniors, & Parents

Explore career pathways and talk with area businesses about the growing career opportunities in Eastern Iowa.

Match your career interests with education & training options through colleges, apprenticeships, industry training, and the military.

Exhibitors Include:

- Colleges from across the US
- Apprenticeship/ Building Trades
- Military contacts
- ICR Business & Industry leaders
- Student Support Organizations

CAMPUS

1ST SEMESTER REPORT CARDS



1st semester report cards are now available electronically within Infinite Campus. Report cards **will not be** printed and mailed out. The link below is a short video on how to access them.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2DFV9PPDmfE>

If you need help with your parent portal, please contact Morgan Murray Zimmerman at 319-320-1132 or morgan.murray@monticello.k12.ia.us. Thank you!

www.ICANsucceed.org/futurereadyfair



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Should Everyone Go to College?

As with most things in life, there is more than one path to success. College is not for everyone; however, everyone should consider it as one of their many options. Here are post-secondary options that are presented to high school students:

- **College**- a broad term for education after high school (CDL, diploma, certificate, Associate's, Bachelor's, Master's, and other professional degrees)
- **Apprenticeship**- paid to work with benefits while learning job skills
- **Job Corps**- learn job skills and live for free at two locations in Iowa
- **AmeriCorps**- national service organization with education stipend for college
- **Teach for America**- full-time, salaried position with benefits for two years
- **Work**- enter the workforce after graduation. Some students choose a gap year to save money for college and then attend.
- **Military**- service can be active duty or reserves; career-long or one or more enlistments

There are benefits to earning a degree after high school. A study by Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce found that Americans with an Associate's (2 year) degree or higher were much less likely to be unemployed. Earning potential tends to be greater with a post-secondary degree. Wonder what is best for your child or how to support them? Talk to their school counselor!

Free College Planning

Planning for a career and college, applying for financial aid and mastering your financial situation can be confusing and intimidating. Iowa College Access Network (ICAN) works with Iowa students and families to make the transition after high school as smooth as possible.



You will find valuable information under the "Financial Assistance" section. There is notation about scholarships and grants that outlines different opportunities for scholarships. Also in this section are some helpful hints on filling out application materials for financial assistance. Also look for the listing of national databases where students can search for any type of scholarship imaginable. As students are going through the process of seeking financial assistance, encourage them to keep track of where they are applying and the requirements for each of the scholarships they receive. To access the ICAN website, go to icansucceed.org.

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.

National School Counseling Week is February 3-7, 2025

Thank you to **Kathy Larson, Jamie Vroegh, Kristen Bogacz, and Sarah Melsha** for all you do! We appreciate YOU!

Thank You!

SOPHOMORES & JUNIORS!

Sophomores and juniors interested in applying to National Honor Society can pick up applications in the HS office starting Monday, February 17. Applications are due back to the office by 3:15 pm Friday, March 7. Applicants must have a 3.5 GPA or higher, and a minimum of 40 documented community service hours.



Mobile Crisis Outreach

It's been a tough year for students in many ways, and it is more important than ever to focus on mental health. Know a youth in crisis? Our Mobile Crisis Counselors are available to provide immediate support on site, over the phone or via telehealth. All at no cost to you.



Student crisis mental health and substance use response



Transition services after mental health placement



IEP, 504 and other educational plan support for youth and family



Extended student case management to encourage stability

Call us at 319-247-0030 or visit foundation2.org to learn more.

Statewide Voluntary Preschool Programming for Four-Year-Old Children

For the 2025-2026 school year, we are expecting to receive state funding to support preschool programming for four-year-old children. Here are some Frequently Asked Questions to help community members gain a better understanding of what this preschool funding means to Monticello.

Which preschools are partners in the MCSD Program? Little Panthers Preschool (Shannon Elementary) and Sacred Heart Preschool (Sacred Heart School).

How will the funding be used? There are many assurances (i.e., requirements) that need to be met when using preschool funding. Money will be spent to make sure that these assurances are met. The assurances include (but are not limited to):

- Facility requirements including accessibility and playground guidelines
- Costs associated with teacher and paraprofessional professional development and certifications
- Paying staff costs for required instruction, program operation, home visits, family nights, and parent/teacher conferences
- Supplies and Equipment

Which children will this funding support? Funding must be used to support children that turn age four on or before September 15. **Will my four-year-old receive free preschool?** Sacred Heart is a half day programs and is tuition free. Little Panthers is a full day program and has a max tuition of \$135.00. All programs run Monday thru Friday with no preschool on Wednesdays.

Will my four-year-old receive transportation to and from preschool? The school district may be able to provide free transportation using an existing bus route. Check with your preschool provider for more information.

Where can I obtain more information about the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children? You can visit with representatives of the participating preschools and you can visit the Iowa Department of Education web site: <https://educate.iowa.gov/pk-12/early-childhood/swvpp>.

All Monticello preschool programs are currently taking applications for the 2025-26 school year:

- Little Panthers Preschool—Please see registration information at the bottom of this page.
- Sacred Heart Preschool— Call Sacred Heart at (319) 465-4605.

REGISTER NOW!



2025-2026 Little Panthers Preschool

If you are interested in registering our 4-year old for the Little Panthers Preschool for the 2025-2026 school year, please do so in one of the following ways:

1. Download and print the application.

The application is available on our website: www.monticello.k12.ia.us, click on the registration icon and then Little Panthers Preschool. Mail the completed application to Shannon Elementary, 321 W South St. Monticello, IA 52310.

2. Complete the application electronically by clicking on the Little Panthers Preschool Application Link.

The link is located on our website: www.monticello.k12.ia.us, click on the registration icon and then Little Panthers Preschool.

3. The application can be picked up at Shannon or mailed to you by calling Shannon Elementary Office at 319-465-3000, press 5 and then 2.

Applications will be available on January 3 and are due February 7. Preschool openings are filled through a lottery method. Head Start slots and Empowerment grants are available. This preschool is an inclusive, full-day program Monday through Friday with no preschool on Wednesdays for students of all needs. Our program offers:

- A certified teacher & paraprofessional
- Learning centers
- Thematic instruction
- Breakfast, lunch, milk, and snack
- Large & small group instruction
- Developmentally appropriate schedule and activities
- Social Skills curriculum

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Kindergarten Registration for the 2025-2026 school year will be ready on January 1st. Kindergarten Registration is for students entering Kindergarten in the Fall of 2025. Kindergarten registration is done all online. 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. These forms need to be turned in by the first day of school.

Students must turn 5 years of age on or before September 15, 2025 to attend Kindergarten. Contact Morgan Murray-Zimmerman at morgan.murray@monticello.k12.ia.us with any questions regarding your Parent Infinite Campus account.

Completed immunizations, physical, and a dental exam are required by law for all students entering Kindergarten. Some of the series of vaccines take six (6) months to complete. Start now to make sure all needed immunizations are completed before your child starts school in the Fall 2025!

There are some forms that you will need to download, fill out, and turn into Shannon Elementary by the time your child starts school. Forms include: IDPH Dental Screen, IDPH Vision Screen, Iowan Migrant Parents Form (*everyone must fill out*), Home Language Survey, and a physical form with LEAD screening date. These forms are located on the Kindergarten registration page on our [website](#) under *Registration*.

You may drop them off at Shannon Elementary, email them to sandy.hinrichs@monticello.k12.ia.us (in the subject give the full name of your child), or mail them to: Shannon Elementary School, 321 W South St., Monticello, IA 52310. Thank you!



Thank You

- Thank you to **Brad Roe** for his donation to our lunch program.
- Thank you to the **Monticello Eagles Auxiliary** for their donation to our health fund.
- Thank you to **Curtis & Karen Barnhart** for their donation to our Industrial Arts Department.
- Thank you to the **Steve & Kim Carlson Family Foundation** for their donation to the speech & drama department.
- Thank you to **Kevin & Annette Smith** for their donation of winter coats to Shannon & Carpenter.

EMPLOYMENT



WE'RE HIRING!
JOIN OUR TEAM

APPLY NOW!

HIRING FOR:

- **Panther Academy Associate**
- **Middle School Special Education Associate**

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



Foundation Annual Tailgate Party & Alumni Reunion - March 1, 2025

Get your tickets today! Tickets are available from any Foundation Board Member or at any Monticello School Office.



FOUNDATION BOARD

- Jon Kyte – President
- Carrie Yates – Vice President
- Annette Smith
- Charlie Becker - Honorary
- Chris Brokaw
- Marcia Fisher
- Dan Goodyear
- Phil Hanna
- Dave Kehoe
- Kris Riley
- Audrey Savage
- Terry Smothers
- Julie Welter
- Ex-Officio**
- Brian Jaeger
- Brian Gogel
- Robyn Ponder

**MONTICELLO SCHOOL FOUNDATION
20TH ANNUAL TAILGATE PARTY &
ALUMNI REUNION
MARCH 1, 2025**



**STARTING AT 5:30
MONTICELLO BERNDES CENTER**

The Monticello School Foundation is excited for our annual Tailgate Party & Alumni Reunion. Our theme this year is "Making it Happen...Overdrive in 2025." The event is a celebration of the strength of our school, the resiliency of our community and the drive to ensure our children have the best opportunities possible!

A monetary donation or an item for the silent or live auction is instrumental in raising additional funds to purchase computers to support the 1:1 initiative and enrich our K-6 English Language Arts curriculum and music department. Your donation will facilitate students' virtual travel to places around the world while still in their classrooms! Your donation, no matter how large or small, makes an incredible difference in the Monticello educational environment. Please show your support for the kids and teachers by donating and attending. It's a way to help the school and a great way to promote your business.

Come enjoy a relaxing evening in your red and black and help us raise funds for the future of Monticello Community Schools. There will be plenty of opportunities to help support Monticello schools. There is a silent and live auction and we are continuing the popular Teacher's Wish List put together by the teaching staff of items they would like to use in their classrooms but are not in the school's budget to purchase.

Thank you, in advance, for your generous donation, but equally important, thank you for your endless support of the Monticello Community School District, the Monticello School Foundation and all the teachers and students. Your daily contributions to our community do not go unnoticed.

Tickets for the evening can be purchased individually for \$30 or a table of 8 can be purchased for \$240. Every \$500 donation will receive up to 8 tickets and every \$1000 donation will receive up to 16 tickets. Individuals and/or businesses can be a sponsor for the event as well. Every sponsor will be recognized during the evening. Sustaining sponsorships are \$100, Foundation sponsorships are \$250, Major sponsorships are \$500 and Visionary Sponsorships are \$1000.

So gather your friends, dust off your Panther gear and make plans to join us March 1. Thanks again for your support!

- Monticello School Foundation Board



f Find us on Facebook

Please contact any board member, or the Superintendent's Office 319-465-3000, option 1

- I would like to donate an auction item.
Date it may be picked up _____.
- I would like to be a sponsor –
 - Sustaining (\$100)
 - Foundation (\$250)
 - Major (\$500, includes up to 8 tickets)
 - Visionary (\$1000, includes up to 16 tickets)
 - Other _____
- I would like to come and enjoy the evening.
_____ number of tickets @ \$30
- Current teachers & staff can enjoy the evening for \$15
_____ number of tickets @ \$15

You may also donate on PayPal.

- 1) https://paypal.me/MonticelloSchoolFoun?country.x=US&locale.x=en_US
- 2) Search on PayPal to give @MonticelloSchoolFoun

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____



Please return to – Monticello School Foundation
PO Box 2, Monticello, IA 52310-0002
The Monticello School District Foundation is a
501(c)3. EIN #42-1313635

FOOD SERVICE NEWS

BREAKFAST MENU



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MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
3 Breakfast bagel Fruit Fruit juice	4 Yogurt cup/granola Fruit Fruit juice	5 Egg & cheese biscuit Fruit Fruit juice	6 Long John donut Fruit Fruit juice	7 Cereal Pop tart Fruit Fruit juice
10 Waffles Fruit Fruit juice	11 Breakfast pizza Fruit Fruit juice	12 Chocolate muffin Fruit Fruit juice	13 Cereal bar Fruit Fruit juice	14 Cereal Pop tart Fruit Fruit juice
17 Mini donuts Fruit Fruit juice	18 Breakfast burrito Fruit Fruit juice	19 Cereal bar Fruit Fruit juice	20 Cheese omelet Fruit Fruit juice	21 Cereal Pop tart Fruit Fruit juice
24 Blueberry muffin Fruit Fruit juice	25 Pancake sausage bites Fruit Fruit juice	26 Long John donut Fruit Fruit juice	27 Yogurt cup/granola Watermelon Fruit juice	28 Cereal Pop tart Fruit Fruit juice



USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer
Menus are subject to change. **MILK served with all meals.**

LUNCH MENU



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

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
3 Stuffed crust pizza Tossed salad w/ greens Steamed broccoli Pineapple tidbits	4 Hamburger/bun French fries Carrots Tropical fruit	5 Mandarin orange chicken Seasoned rice Oriental vegetables Mandarin oranges Roll & butter (grades 6 -12)	6 Chili w/ crackers String cheese Applesauce Cinnamon roll	7 Pizza crunchers Three bean salad Steamed corn Fresh melon
10 Breaded chix drummies Seasoned potatoes Steamed carrots Tropical fruit	11 BBQ rib/bun Waffle fries Steamed broccoli Peaches	12 Salisbury steak Mashed potatoes & gravy Green beans Applesauce Roll & butter	13 Grilled chicken/bun Wedge fries Baked beans Fruit cup	14 French toast sticks Sausage links HB patty Strawberries & bana- nas Grape tomatoes
17 Pasta w/ meat sauce Tossed salad w/ greens Vegetable medley Pears Garlic twist (grades 6-12)	18 Popcorn chicken Garlic mashed potatoes Broccoli Peaches	19 Philly beef/bun/ peppers French fries Baked beans Apple wedges	20 Beef taco/veggies/shell Potato cubes Corn Mixed vegetables	21 Sausage pizza Lettuce salad w/ greens Green beans Fresh melon
24 Breaded chicken sandwich Sweet potato fries Baked beans Apple wedges	25 Meatball sub Seasoned potatoes Green beans Orange wedges	26 Deli/croissant Fresh baby carrots Baked chips Orange wedges	27 Teriyaki chicken Seasoned rice Oriental vegetables Mandarin oranges Roll & butter (grades 6- 12)	28 Cheese quesadilla Tossed salad w/ greens Broccoli & cauliflower Strawberries & grapes



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FEBRUARY 2025

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 JV/V Boys Wr @ West Liberty-9:00 Knowledge Bowl Meet @ Home—9:00 JV/V BBB vs West Delaware—2:00 & 3:30
3 7/8 Girls Wr @ Bellevue—4:00 7 BBB @ Beckman—4:00 8 BBB vs Beckman—4:00	4 JV/V GBB vs Maquoketa—4:00 & 6:30 JV/V BBB vs Maquoketa—5:15 & 8:00 PTO Projects Night @ Carpenter Library—6-8pm	5 1:00pm Early Dismissal- Prof. Development	6 7/8 BBB vs Camanche-4:00 V G/B Bowling vs Benton -4:00	7 JV/V GBB @ Northeast—4:30 & 6:00 JV/V BBB @ Northeast—4:30 & 7:30	8 V Boys Wr @ AG-WSR High School-10:00 JV/V BBB @ CPU—2:00 & 3:30 
National School Counseling Week					
10 7 BBB @ Northeast—4:00 8 BBB vs Northeast—4:00 7/8 G Wr @ West Liberty-4:00 G/B V Bowling vs Camanche-4:00 JV/V GBB vs Maquoketa Valley—6:00 & 7:00	11 JV/V GBB vs Camanche—4:00 & 6:30 JV/V BBB vs Camanche—5:15 & 8:00	12 1:00pm Early Dismissal- Prof. Development Board Work Session 6:00pm	13 HS Band Solo & Ensemble Night—HS Auditorium—3:30-7:00pm 7 BBB vs Maquoketa -4:00 8 BBB @ Maquoketa -5:00	14 G/B V Bowling @ Timber Lanes-10:00 	15
National FFA Week					
17	18 7 BBB @ Maquoketa - 4:00 8 BBB vs Maquoketa - 4:00 7/8 Girls Wr @ Midland-4:30	19 1:00pm Early Dismissal-Prof. Development	20 7 BBB @ Bellevue-4:00 8 BBB vs Bellevue-5:15 UNI Tallcorn Jazz Festival Coe College MS Jazz Band Summit	21 Middle School Dance—6-8pm @ MS Gym	22
24 FFA Sub Districts 7/8 BBB @ Anamosa-4:00 Varsity Individual Conference Speech @ Wilton-4:30 Board Meeting—6:00	25	26 1:00pm Early Dismissal-Prof. Development	27 7/8 BBB vs Cascade -4:00 MS/HS Jazz Concert—HS Auditorium -7:00pm	28 Coe College HS Jazz Band Summit	

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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