

SCHOOL SPIRIT



Monticello Community School District

Dr. Brian Jaeger, Superintendent

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March 2025

NEWS & NOTES

of the Monticello Community School District

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

High School
Spring Play
Info on page 2!

Hello everyone,

As we move into March, we have a lot going on in the Monticello Community School District. We have had two snow days so far, however, having completed two virtual day's first semester allows us to not add those days on to the end of the school year. So the last day of school is still May 28. Let's keep our fingers crossed that we can avoid snow, ice, extreme cold, etc. for the next month and then, with any luck, we should be near the end of the winter weather season.

Second, we are putting in a substantial amount of time with our elementary school planning team to work on the design of a new elementary school. We are making great progress and if you are interested, OPN Architects will be presenting at each regular board meeting this spring until we have the full design completed. The next board presentation by OPN will be on March 24 at 6pm in the boardroom at the high school. I am very excited to get to the next step which will be for them to prepare the blueprints to go out for bid this spring/summer.

Third, when we return from Spring Break, we will be down to the final two months of the school year. We will have the state standardized tests (ISASP Tests) at the beginning of April. We are hoping to get the results of these tests back before June and mail them home. Please take some time to discuss the importance of "doing your best" with your child before they take these tests in April. Especially with the older students, sometimes they do not understand the importance of these tests because they do not directly impact their grades. The ISASP tests do give us information on the academic progress of each student and we use this information to determine classroom placements, effective resources, and the selection of the best instructional practices for our students. These results are also good for parents because they show each student's proficiency, in each area tested, in an easy-to-understand format.

Finally, I will leave you with something to think about. The state is currently working on a statewide cell phone law that would be implemented in every school district across the state of Iowa. The new law, if approved, would state that at a minimum, cell phones could not be used during instructional time. We all know how distracting cell phones can be for teenagers in particular and if overused they can actually be damaging to our kids physical and social development. The good news is that we do already have rules and procedures in place at our schools to limit cell phone usage on a daily basis. So I think we are a little ahead of the curve on this one and it will not be too hard to change our rules and procedures into a policy if a statewide cell phone law is passed by the state legislature.



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
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

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

**MAKING IT HAPPEN...
OVERDRIVE
In 2025
STARTING AT 5:30
MONTICELLO BERNDEN CENTER**

Parent Teacher Conferences
Elementary, MS, and HS Conferences will be held on **March 11 & 13** from 4-8pm. **No School on Friday, March 14.** Watch for more information in your email!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS & JOIN US ON MARCH 11TH FOR THE

CARPENTER ARTS SHOW

WHAT?
AN ART SHOW SHOWCASING ART WORK FROM MONTICELLO'S 2ND, 3RD, & 4TH GRADE STUDENTS

WHEN?
MARCH 11TH DURING CONFERENCES FROM 4-7 PM

WHERE?
CARPENTER ELEMENTARY GYM

OPEN ENROLLMENT IS NOW AVAILABLE

The application deadline for students in grades 1-12 to apply for open enrollment for the 2025-2026 school year is March 1, 2025.



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

Contact Us Today!


Upcoming Concerts:

HS Band Concert—March 3
Come out to support the high school band in their "Spring Concert" in the High School Auditorium at 7:00pm on March 3. The full band will perform selections along with music from several small ensembles. We hope to see you there!

Grades 7-12 Vocal Concert—March 4
7:00pm in the HS Auditorium

MS Band Concert—March 6
The 5th-8th grade middle school bands will have a concert on Thursday, March 6 at 7:00pm in the High School auditorium. Come enjoy their performances and support their hard work!

Shannon Elementary Spring Concert—April 29
Join us for some "Animal Fun" for the Shannon Elementary Concert on April 29 at 6:00pm in the HS Gym.

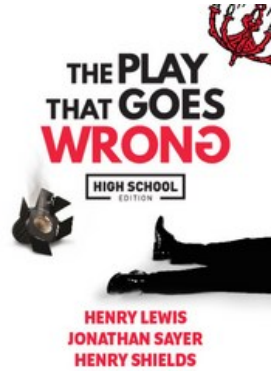


Join the Monticello High School Drama Department for their production of

The Play That Goes Wrong

on March 27 and 28 at 7:00pm in the Monticello High School Auditorium. Admission is \$7 per person.

Welcome to opening night of the Cornley Drama Society's newest production, The Murder at Haversham Manor, where things are quickly going from bad to utterly disastrous. This 1920s whodunit has everything you never wanted in a show—an unconscious leading lady, a corpse that can't play dead, and actors who trip over everything (including their lines). Nevertheless, the accident-prone thespians battle against all odds to make it through to their final curtain call, with hilarious consequences! Part Monty Python, part Sherlock Holmes, this Olivier Award-winning comedy is a global phenomenon that's guaranteed to leave you aching with laughter!



**HENRY LEWIS
JONATHAN SAYER
HENRY SHIELDS**

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.

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.

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



Thank You *Thank You* *Thank You*

- Thank you to the following volunteers for sharing their experiences in the 8th grade careers class during the first semester. We greatly appreciate their time helping prepare students for their future success. **Alicia Beanblossom** (RN, Nurse Recruitment & Retention-Iowa City VA Medical Center), **Carrie Helgeson** (Administrative Support Manager-Collins Aerospace), **Jaime Phelps** (Regional Operations Manager-Plunketts/Varment Guard), **Jennifer Rickard** (MD MPH FACS FCS(ECSA), Associate Professor of Surgery-Univ. of Minnesota), **Mike Visnapuu** (Maintenance Tech Leadman-Dubuque Stamping & Manufacturing), and **Amy Wright** (MSN RN, Maternal Child Services-MercyOne)
- Thank you to **Kylie Nagel** for donating winter coats to the MS.
- Thank you to the **Animal Welfare Friends** (Paxtyn Keleher) for the donation of hand sanitizer to the MS.
- Thank you to **Marcy Gillmore** and **Kathy Larson** for their donations to the HS Nurse's office.

Summer Driver's Education

Monticello High School will offer one session of summer driver's education. An informational letter and registration form 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 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.

Kindergarten Registration for the 2025-2026 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, 2025 to attend Kindergarten.



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, 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, 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, 860 East Oak Street, Monticello, Iowa 52310, 319-465-3000, 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). Inquires 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)

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.

FOOD SERVICE NEWS



Help celebrate **National School Breakfast Week** **March 3-7!**

Studies show that students 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!

BREAKFAST MENU

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 Pop tart Cereal 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 NO SCHOOL
17 NO SCHOOL — Spring Break	18 NO SCHOOL — Spring Break	19 NO SCHOOL — Spring Break	20 NO SCHOOL — Spring Break	21 NO SCHOOL — Spring Break
24 Blueberry muffin Fruit Fruit juice	25 Pancake sausage bites Fruit Fruit juice	26 Mini sugar donuts Fruit Fruit juice	27 Yogurt cup/granola Watermelon Fruit juice	28 Pop tart Cereal Fruit Fruit juice
31 Long John Fruit Fruit juice		MILK served with all meals		

LUNCH MENU

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


MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
3 Stuffed crust pizza Tossed salad w/ greens Steamed broccoli Pineapple tidbits	4 Hamburger/bun French fries Vegetable medley Tropical fruit	5 Pizza crunchers Three bean salad Steamed corn Fresh melon	6 Chili w/ crackers String cheese Applesauce Cinnamon roll	7 Macaroni & cheese Little smokies Peas & carrots Diced pears Roll & butter (grades 6-12)
10 Breaded chicken sandwich Sweet potato fries Baked beans Apple wedges	11 Philly beef/bun Waffle fries Mixed vegetables Peaches	12 Deli/Bun Fresh baby carrots Baked chips Orange wedges Rice Krispie treat	13 Breaded pork/bun Wedge fries Steamed broccoli Fruit cup	14 NO SCHOOL
17 NO SCHOOL — Spring Break	18 NO SCHOOL — Spring Break	19 NO SCHOOL — Spring Break	20 NO SCHOOL — Spring Break	21 NO SCHOOL — Spring Break
24 Breaded chicken drummies Seasoned potatoes Steamed carrots Tropical fruit Roll & butter	25 BBQ rib/bun French fries Baked beans Orange wedges	26 Salisbury steak Mashed potatoes & gravy Steamed broccoli Applesauce Roll & butter	27 Hot dog w /bun Wedge fries Corn Apple wedges	28 Cheese pizza Lettuce salad w/ greens Green beans Fresh melon (Sack lunches for Shannon)
31 Pasta w/ meat sauce Tossed salad w/ greens Vegetable medley Pears Garlic twist (grades 6-12)		MILK served with all meals	Choose a salad as an alternate lunch daily (HS & MS only)	

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MARCH 2025



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 District Individual Speech—TBD Monticello School Foundation Pep Rally & Alumni Reunion-5:30pm @ Berndes Center
3 HS Spring Band Concert—7:00 @ HS Auditorium <i>National School Breakfast Week</i>	4 Grades 7-12 Vocal Concert—7:00 @ HS Auditorium	5 1:00 Early Dismissal- Prof. Development	6 5th-8th Band Concert —7:00 @ HS Auditorium	7 NHS Applications due at 3:15 today!	8 NEIBA District Jazz Festival @ Union HS FFA District Convention @ Waterloo
10 B V Track Meet @ UNI Dome— 2:00	11 Carpenter Art Show —4-7pm @ Carpenter Gym Elem/MS/HS Parent/Teacher Conferences 4-8pm	12	13 Elem/MS/HS Parent/Teacher Conferences 4-8pm	14 NO SCHOOL	15 State Individual Speech
17  NO SCHOOL — Spring Break	18 NO SCHOOL — Spring Break	19 NO SCHOOL — Spring Break	20 NO SCHOOL — Spring Break	21 NO SCHOOL — Spring Break	22
24 Board Meeting—6:00	25 G/B V Track Conference Meet @ U of Dbq Indoor Track—3:30	26 1:00 Early Dismissal-Prof. Development	27 HS Spring Play- 7:00pm	28 HS Spring Play- 7:00pm	29 G/B V Track Meet @ Iowa City West HS—10:30
31 All State Speech—TBD V G Golf vs Maquoketa—4:00 V B Golf @ Maquoketa -4:00 B V Track @ Benton Community-4:30 FFA Banquet @ Youth Development center-6:15			 Shannon & Carpenter Spring pictures are April 4! Please mark your calendar.		

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 Schlarman
- 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). Inquires 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