



SCHOOL SPIRIT

February 2021

Hello everyone,

The second semester is underway! We have had several students return to in-person learning with the start of the second semester. We still continuously receive information from the Governor, Health Department, Department of Education, and the athletic associations. That means we continue to evolve each week to make our district stronger and better. We have come a long way from the beginning of the year when one case of COVID-19 in a school would cause 60 people to go into quarantine. Thank you for your continued patience as we keep moving forward during this unprecedented time.



Teachers continue to work very hard every day to balance in-person learning and the development of online lessons. We have dedicated so much time to professional development that supports online learning and our staff continues to get stronger each week. The good news is that in the future, post pandemic, we will have gained several years of technology experience as teachers and learners. When we begin to attend school in a more normal way the use of technology will continue to supplement instruction each day. Our students and staff have navigated the technology waters and both will be stronger because of it.

Summer will be here before you know it. We intend to offer summer school programming to students in grades K-8 that have fallen behind in reading and math. Right now, we are working out the details and should have a better idea of what that looks like by the end of March. We will be inviting all students that have fallen behind their grade level in reading and math to attend.

Spring surveys are just around the corner. We will still be sending out our annual climate survey because we want to continue to move forward as a school district. With the help of previous surveys, we have developed a five-year strategic operating plan. That plan has been paused this year but, in the fall, we will resume our strategic operating plan and continue down a path to get stronger in the areas of school facilities, communication, teaching and learning, and school environment & school climate. We have really come a long way during the last five years and look forward to becoming even better in the next five years. Great organizations continuously look to improve and if we want to be the best district we can be we will keep moving forward.

If you get a chance, please come out and support our winter athletic teams. If you cannot come to a game, please watch our broadcast when we are at home. There is always excitement in the air when the teams are playing well. Our basketball, wrestling, and bowling teams have a chance to do well in the postseason this year. So, wear that Panther gear, jump on the Panther bandwagon, and show your support for our student-athletes. They do appreciate it!

As always, if you have questions please feel free to give me an email or call at any time. Have a great February!

Sincerely,

Dr. Brian Jaeger, Superintendent

Board of Education Corner...

At the monthly Board meetings we ask our Board members "What did we learn at this meeting and what would we want the public to know"?

The Board wanted the public to know that we encourage the community to get involved with the decision on the old middle school building and appreciate the feedback they've gotten so far. They also wanted the public to know that we are very grateful for our first naming rights donor!

If you have any questions, please contact us. Our emails are located on our website at <https://www.monticello.k12.ia.us/district-home/board-of-education/>. Have a great February!



UPCOMING EVENTS



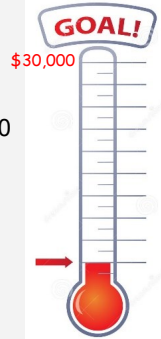
Monticello School Foundation Pep Rally & Class Reunions Going Virtual

The Foundation's biggest fundraiser has been their Pep Rally and Class Reunions which is normally held in March. Their annual fundraiser normally draws in over 200 people and raises approximately \$35,000. This year due to the coronavirus they are not able to hold the fundraiser in person. However, they are working on going virtual in some way and still accepting donations. And they plan on continuing to support our teachers by granting their Wish Lists. More info to come!

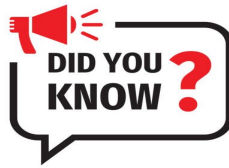
If you would like to donate, simply mail your donation to Monticello School Foundation, PO Box 2, Monticello, IA 52310 or in the near future look for announcements on how you can support the Foundation virtually.

The Monticello School Foundation is a huge supporter of our schools and has donated over \$800,000 to Monticello Community School District projects over the years.

Please consider giving what you can. Your donation is tax deductible and appreciated! Thank you for your continued support of the Monticello School Foundation and the Monticello Community School District!



Help us reach our goal!



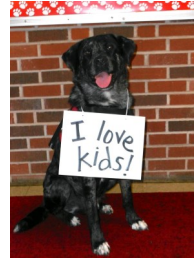
You can watch home high school sporting events LIVE on YouTube—search for *Monticello Sports Live*. Links are posted the day of the event on our website and Facebook page.

Enjoy!

GO PANTHERS!



All good things must come to an end...Champ has passed away:(Nine years is a pretty long time for a dog! Champ has been our elementary therapy dog for nine years and we couldn't have asked for a better dog. **THANK YOU** for your service Champ! Our students & staff will miss you a TON!



Summer Driver's Ed

Monticello High School will offer one session of summer driver's education. The summer session is scheduled to start approximately Wednesday, June 2, 2021 and will conclude approximately Wednesday, June 30, 2021. Both the start and end dates may be adjusted if there is a change to the school calendar due to adverse winter weather. The cost is \$320. An informational letter and registration form will be available in the middle school and high school offices on Monday, February 15, 2021. 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, February 26, 2021.

A Night of Jazz—February 25



The Monticello Bands would like to invite you to a night of jazz! Come and hear the music of Duke Ellington and other great big band composers. The middle school and high school jazz bands will be having their night of swing music on February 25 at 7 pm in the high school auditorium. This event will also be live-streamed on the Monticello Bands YouTube page.

Open Enrollment Timelines

Parents/guardians considering the use of the open enrollment option to enroll their child/ren in a public school district in the State of Iowa other than their district of residence should be aware of the following dates: **March 1, 2021**—Last date for regular open enrollment requests for the 2021-22 school year. **September 1, 2021**- Last date for open enrollment request for entering kindergarten students. In order to qualify for open enrollment *after* the March 1st deadline, the student must meet the "good cause" definition for the 2021-22 school year. Good cause relates to: (1) There is a change in district of residence due to: family move, change in marital status, guardianship or custody proceeding, foster care, or adoption; (2) Participation in foreign exchange program; (3) Failure of negotiations for reorganization or whole grade sharing; (4) Loss of accreditation or revocation of a private or charter school; (5) Pervasive harassment; (6) severe health need (determined by the district). If these circumstances occur after March 1, a parent or guardian may file a "late" open enrollment application. Transportation assistance is available for those who qualify according to income guidelines between contiguous districts. This may be in the form of actual transportation or in the form of a reimbursement. Parents should be aware that open enrollment may result in the loss of athletic eligibility for students in grades 9-12 for varsity competitions for the first 90 school days of transfer. Children will remain on open enrollment status unless the parent/guardian decides to cancel it or the agreement is terminated as a result of the parent/guardian moving, by not sending the child to the requested district or any other circumstance that results in the pupil no longer attending the receiving district. For more information on open enrollment please view the Iowa Department of Education website at: <https://educateiowa.gov/pk-12/options-educational-choice/open-enrollment>.

REGISTER NOW!

Little Panthers Preschool

For 2021-22, we will have openings in the Little Panthers Preschool. If you are interested in registering your 4-year-old, please register your four-year-old in one of the following ways:

1. **Download and print the forms.** Forms are located on our website: <https://www.monticello.k12.ia.us/>. Go to Schools, click on Shannon Elementary, click on Downloads, and then download Little Panthers Preschool Application & Questionnaire. Mail the completed application & questionnaire to Shannon Elementary, 321 W South St. Monticello, IA 52310
 2. **Complete the application & questionnaire electronically by clicking on the Little Panthers Preschool Application & Questionnaire Link.** The link is located on our website: <https://www.monticello.k12.ia.us/>. Go to Schools, click on Shannon Elementary, click on Downloads, and then click on Little Panthers Preschool Application & Questionnaire Link.
 3. **The application & questionnaire can be mailed to you by calling Shannon Elementary Office at 319-465-3000, ext. 4114.**
- Applications are available on January 4 and due February 26.
 - 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 Thursday) for students of all needs. Our program offers:

- A certified teacher and paraprofessional
- Large and small group instruction
- Learning Centers
- Developmentally appropriate schedule and activities
- Thematic instruction
- Social Skills Curriculum
- Breakfast, lunch, milk, and snacks



Statewide Voluntary Preschool Programming for Four-Year-Old Children

For 2021-22, 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), Mother Goose Preschool (St. Matthew Lutheran Church), 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 certifications and professional development
- 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 15th.

Will my four-year-old receive free preschool? Mother Goose and Sacred Heart are half day programs and are tuition free. Little Panthers Preschool is a full day program and has a max tuition of \$135.00. Assuming we have moved beyond COVID-19, all three programs run Monday through Thursday.

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://www.educateiowa.gov/pk-12/early-childhood/statewide-voluntary-preschool-program-four-year-old-children>

REMINDER!

If your child turns 5 on or before September 15, please register for Kindergarten for the 2021-22 school year by visiting our website: <https://www.monticello.k12.ia.us/shannon-elementary/shannon-downloads/>. Any questions, please call Sandy at 319-465-3000, ext. 4114.

From the High School Counselor's Office...

High School Scheduling Dates

The following dates are of note for 8-11th grade students in regards to scheduling high school credit and college credit classes for next year:

- Tuesday, February 5: High School & Kirkwood registration sheets due to HS Office
- Tuesday, February 9: 8th grade registration papers due to Mrs. Larson
- Thursday, February 11: 9-11th grades request classes in PowerSchool
- Friday, February 12: 8th graders request classes in PowerSchool
- Thursday, March 25: 9th Grade Virtual Orientation for 8th grade students & parents at 5:30 pm via Google Meet

If your child misses any of the dates above, please remind them to stop in the high school office as soon as possible so they do not miss opportunities for next year.

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! Sign up for pointers on how to talk to your child about their future [here](https://www.sp3.org/welcome) (https://www.sp3.org/welcome).

SENIORS considering college next year are reminded to complete the FAFSA, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, ASAP! Learn more [here](https://tinyurl.com/yxosmqbl) (https://tinyurl.com/yxosmqbl).

SOPHOMORES & JUNIORS—National Honor Society applications will be available on March 1. Sophomores and Juniors can apply. You must have a 3.5 GPA and 40 hours of community service to apply. **Applications are due March 12 at 3:15pm.**



Free Career and College Planning Assistance for Sophomores, Juniors, and Parents

The high school counseling office has invited a representative from the Iowa College Access Network (ICAN) to provide a free virtual presentation on career and college planning for sophomores, juniors, and their parents on March 3, 2021. **College & Career Planning at 5:30pm** (link: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/2816100288395/WN_IAH1wiUIRi-0pWXs-kXyQg) and **Understanding Financial Aid at 6:30pm** (link: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/8416100290121/WN_68QIAHnwSiaemCfWfvZ-iQ).

Topics will include: Career Exploration and Assessment, Academic Preparation and Requirements, Admission Process and Requirements, College Selection & Campus Visits, Application Process, Understanding Costs – Cost of Attendance, Scholarships, and Successful Transitions. Please contact HS Counselor Carmen Stenger at carmen.stenger@monticello.k12.ia.us with any questions. Thank you!

Silver Service/Community Service Opportunity

Animal Welfare Friends has silver service/community service opportunities available. Contact cindy@oakstreetmfg.com or at 319-480-1125 if you'd like to help out. Duties include:

- Monthly van maintenance: keep track of oil changes, check tires and windshield wipers, cleaning of van.
- Create YouTube videos: Welcome to AWF for shelter visitors and volunteers; How to walk a dog.
- Pamphlet creation featuring Monticello businesses shelter visitors can visit while in the area.
- Inserting letters for upcoming donation campaign (can be completed off site).
- Cat socialization.
- Dog walking and grooming.
- Dog morning and or evening dog chores
- Cat morning and or evening cat chores

Food Service News

February Breakfast Menu				
<i>Milk served with meal.</i>				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	2	3	4	5
Long john	Cereal bar		Breakfast pizza	Poptart
Fruit	Fruit bar	Grab and Go	Fruit	Fruit
Fruit juice	Fruit juice		Fruit juice	Fruit juice
Milk	Milk		Milk	Milk
8	9	10	11	12
Mini donuts	Pancake on a stick		Dutch waffle	Poptart
Fruit	Fruit	Grab and Go	Fruit	Fruit
Fruit juice	Fruit juice		Fruit juice	Fruit juice
Milk	Milk		Milk	Milk
15	16	17	18	19
Long john	Cereal bar		Blueberry muffin	Poptart
Fruit	Fruit	Grab and Go	Fruit	Fruit
Fruit juice	Fruit juice		Fruit juice	Fruit juice
Milk	Milk		Milk	Milk
22	23	24	25	26
Mini donuts	Pancake on stick		Chocolate muffin	Poptart
Fruit	Fruit	Grab and Go	Fruit	Fruit
Fruit juice	Fruit juice		Fruit juice	Fruit juice
Milk	Milk		Milk	Milk

FREE Breakfast & Lunch

The USDA has announced that school meals will be FREE to all students 18 and under. This will last until the end of the school year. So tell your kids to grab a school breakfast or lunch. This is a great opportunity for our community and it also helps ensure that our students are eating and ready to learn without the worry of money in their accounts. Thank you!
 Pat Kelly, Food Service Director,
pat.kelly@monticello.k12.va.us

February Lunch Menu

*Milk served with meal. Menus are subject to change. Choose a salad as an alternate lunch daily (HS & MS only).
 USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	2	3	4	5
Hot ham & cheese/bun	Popcorn chicken		Hot dog w/ bun	Pizza cruncher
Hash brown patty	Seasoned rice	Grab and Go	French fries	Lettuce w/ dressing
Baked beans	Steamed broccoli w/ cheese		Green beans	Assorted vegetables
Orange wedges	Pears		Mixed fruit	Apple slices
8	9	10	11	12
Salisbury steak	Breaded chicken / bun		Pasta w/ meat sauce	Sausage pizza
Mashed potatoes & gravy	French fries	Grab and Go	Lettuce w/ dressing	Lettuce w/ dressing
Mandarin oranges	Corn		Apple sauce	Assorted vegetables
Roll & butter	Pineapple tidbits		Garlic toast	Diced peaches
15	16	17	18	19
Deli sandwich	Corn dogs		Pulled pork / bun	Garlic Cheese bread
Sun chips	Sweet potato waves	Grab and Go	Cheesy potatoes	Lettuce w/ dressing
Baby carrots	Vegetable medley		Corn	Fresh broccoli
Fruit	Diced pears		Jello w/ fruit	Peaches
22	23	24	25	26
Bacon cheeseburger	Country fried steak		Chicken & noodles	Breaded cheese sticks
Waffle fries	Mashed potatoes & gravy	Grab and Go	Green beans	Lettuce w/ dressing
Seasoned green beans	Mandarin oranges/pineapple		Mixed fruit	Assorted vegetables
Mixed fruit	Roll & butter		Frosted cinnamon roll	Fruit

THANK YOU TO:

- Kraus Plumbing & Heating LLC and Superior Appliance for their donation of a new washer & dryer to Shannon Elementary.
- Connie Randolph for her donation of books to Mrs. Ryan's classroom.
- Fidelity Bank & Trust for donating their "Wear Jeans to Work" money to the speech and drama department.

PARENTS! PARENTS! PARENTS!

It is vital that the school district has current and updated information on students. Please remember to log in to your PowerSchool 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 319-465-3000, ext. 2030.



February 2021

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 7/8 BBB vs N. Cedar—4:15	2 V G/B Bowling @ May City Bowl-3:00 JV GBB @ Northeast— 4:30 JV BBB @ Northeast- 4:30 9/10 BBB @ Northeast— 5:45 V GBB @ Northeast- 6:30 V BBB @ Northeast-8:15	3 ONLINE LEARNING DAY FFA NE District Degree & Profi- ciency Review @ Decorah	4 7/8 BBB vs Anamosa-4:15	5 V G/B Bowling vs Independence-4:00 JV GBB vs Cascade – 4:00 JV BBB vs Cascade- 5:15 V GBB vs Cascade- 6:30 V BBB vs Cascade- 8:15	6 State Large Group Speech @ CR Kennedy-8:00 
8 HS State Jazz Choir Contest V G/B Bowling vs Ca- manche @ Imperial Lanes-4:00 7 BBB vs Northeast— 4:15 8 BBB @ Northeast— 4:15 9/10 BBB @ Ed-Co (Edgewood) - 6:00 JV GBB @ Benton Com- munity-6:00 V GBB @ Benton Com- munity-7:30	9 JV BBB @ Camanche—6:00 V BBB @ Camanche-7:30	10 ONLINE LEARNING DAY Board Work Session 6:00 pm	11 V G/B Conference Bowling - TBD 	12 7/8 BBB vs Camanche—4:15 JV BBB @ West Branch—6:00 V BBB @ West Branch—7:30	13 V GBB Regional— 7:00—@ TBD 
15	16 V G/B Bowling State Qualifier—8:30 7/8 BBB @ Bellevue—4:15	17 ONLINE LEARNING DAY V GBB Regional— 7:00—@ TBD	18 State Wrestling Tallcorn HS Jazz Festival 7/8 BBB @ Cascade- 4:15	19 State Wrestling 	20 State Wrestling Large Group All-State Speech @ Iowa State Center, Ames V GBB Regional Final— 7:00—@ TBD
22 7/8 BBB vs Maquoketa— 4:15 V BBB Districts—7:00 @ TBD Board Meeting— 6:00 pm	23 FFA Sub-Dist. CDEs @ Alburnett ← National FFA Week	24 ONLINE LEARNING DAY	25 V BBB Districts—TBD State Bowling @ Ca- dillac Lanes—10:00 7/8 BBB @ N. Cedar- Standwood-4:15 MS/HS Jazz Concert- 7:00	26 Coe College Jazz Summit 	27 Individual District Speech @ TBD

Monticello Community School District
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Monticello, Iowa 52310

Dr. Brian Jaeger, Superintendent
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Fax: 319-465-6050
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Board of Education

Craig Stadtmueller
Mandy Norton
John Schlarmann
Amanda Brenneman
Debbie McDermott

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 of 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