



MAGIC HAPPENINGS

MONTICELLO PUBLIC SCHOOLS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE



Dear Monticello Community,

Our Monticello School District strives to engage all our students in meaningful activities. Feeling valued is the number one way for each one of us to feel connected to our school or place of employment. November is National American Indian Heritage Month and can be a time for us to come together as a community to celebrate the rich culture, history, and contributions of Native Americans in our country. This month provides us with an opportunity to recognize the unique and invaluable role that the first Americans have played in shaping the United States. The origin of National American Indian Heritage Month can be traced back to the efforts of individuals like Dr. Arthur C. Parker, who recognized the importance of setting aside a day to acknowledge and appreciate the contributions of Indigenous people. Over the years, this effort has evolved into a whole month dedicated to this purpose. In our District, we take this time not only to celebrate the achievements of our current Native American students, but also to reflect on the painful chapters in our history, including the injustices that many Native Americans have experienced. One of the most tragic aspects of this history was the systematic targeting of young Native American children for placement in boarding houses across North America. Many Native American children were forcibly separated from their families and communities, enduring harsh conditions and experiencing cultural erasure. It is vital that we remember these injustices and the resilience of Native communities in the face of adversity. History is never brought forward to make anyone feel bad. Instead, we intend to lead learning about the diverse cultures, traditions, and languages of Native Americans, which continue to enrich our Minnesota culture today. Here are some ways in which you can engage in the celebration of National American Indian Heritage Month:

Education and Art: Take time to educate yourself and your children about the history, contributions, and cultures of Native American communities. The [Native American Heritage Month](#) website has a lot of great resources. The Monticello High School's Family & Consumer Science Department did a Culinary Lab in October that highlighted Indigenous Peoples Day with our Culinary I, 2 & 3 classes. Over 200 students cooked a wild rice cake recipe that was inspired by the [Minneapolis Sioux Chef's](#) Indigenous Kitchen Cookbook.



FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE DEPT
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY
CULINARY LAB

Attend Community Events: Both the Minnesota History Center and the Minneapolis Institute of Arts have several Native American galleries on display this month. There is also an Indigenous foods class on Elderberry Syrup and Fire Cider this week in Minneapolis. Visit this [website](#) for more information on these events as they are all excellent opportunities to engage with Native American culture and history. Over the summer, our district was able to showcase a group of Native American Dancers as we kicked off a statewide professional development conference on resilience. The conference included Chief Justice Ann McKeig as our keynote speaker.



Learn the origin of words around MN: For example, MINNESOTA is from the Sioux word meaning "misty water" or "sky-tinted water", deriving its name from the river of the same name. The word MISSISSIPPI means "great river" or "gathering-in of all the waters," sometimes referred to as the "father of waters".

Growing up in Northern Minnesota, my father taught me several activities based on Native American traditions. I have many years of experience in harvesting wild rice and making maple syrup. My dad worked with Native Americans from the Leech Lake Reservation, and I was fortunate to learn from our Native American neighbors. I hope your family takes time to learn and use this month as an opportunity to embrace the shared history and diverse cultures that make our community vibrant. Together, we can build a more knowledgeable and inclusive environment for all.

Eric J. Olson



[LUNCH MENU](#)

Lunch menus are available for the 2023-24 school year!



[2023-24 SCHOOL CALENDAR](#)

The school calendar lists key dates throughout the district.



[ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE](#)

Stay up-to-date on your favorite Magic teams in every season.



[EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES](#)

Numerous positions are available for the 2023-24 school year. Apply today!



[SCHOOL CLOSURES DUE TO WEATHER](#)

Find information on procedures for school closures/delays due to weather.

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL “BEAUTY AND THE BEAST” PERFORMANCES

The high school musical will take place on November 17-19th. Purchase tickets through the links below!

[Friday Performance - Nov 17, 2023 at 7:00 PM](#)

[Saturday Performance - Nov 18, 2023 at 7:00 PM](#)

[Sunday Performance- Nov 19, 2023 at 3:00 PM](#)



CAREER PATHWAYS



Mr. Derby, educator from the MHS Industrial Tech department, took his classes (approximately 50 students) to the UMC Open House on Oct. 10th. The purpose was to provide students with relevant experiences and exposure to industries around our community. Check out this short [video](#) that summarizes our Pathway Program from the Industrial Tech Department’s perspective. Additionally, MHS staff had the opportunity to present at the Manufacturer's Breakfast at the Community Center on Oct. 12. The presentation promoted academics, programs, and opportunities available at MHS. They also made connections to industry leaders to generate awareness and support for MHS programs, including the internship and apprenticeship pathways. These programs are key to setting our students up for success once they graduate. Way to go MHS!



MHS INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY

UPCOMING KEY DATES

Nov 17-19 - High School Musical Performances

Nov 20 - City Administrator, Rachel Leonard, will provide a Monticello city update at our regular school board meeting at 6 p.m.

Nov 22-24 - No School, Thanksgiving Break



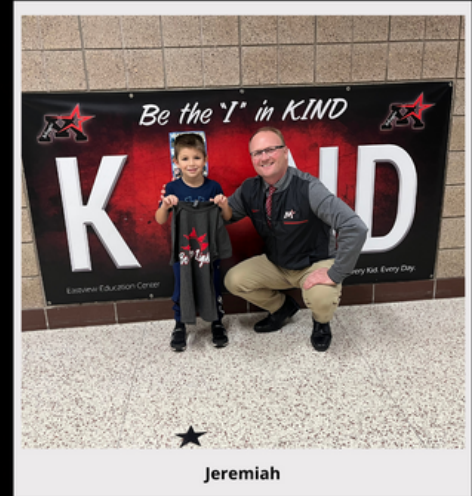
Our Monticello School District, in partnership with Just Drive, is delighted to recognize our November *Be the Light* honorees: Cohen (12th grade), Hunter (11th grade), Santiago (7th grade), Sutton (5th Grade), Calista (1st grade), Madison (Kindergarten), and Jeremiah (Pre-K). Students are nominated by school district staff for displaying positive attributes, such as integrity, kindness, responsibility, and more!

Cohen displays a positive attitude and work ethic at school every single day. In addition to these things, he treats people with respect. Hunter is very considerate and goes out of his way to do things he doesn't need to do. He displays leadership at school every day. Santiago is kind, caring, and thoughtful. He even helped a fellow student get the help that they needed during a difficult situation. Sutton is a class leader and a fantastic role model for all students. In the words of his teacher, Sutton “has that natural ability to look for the good in others and be there to help when it's needed.” Calista is responsible and kind - she is always helping others and cleaning the classroom without being asked. She inspires her fellow peers to help as well. Madison is kind to everyone, helps others, and ensures that everyone is included. Her teacher said, “Madison is always ready to learn, do her best, make safe choices, and care for ALL!” Jeremiah is a very caring and helpful preschooler who does his best every day. He is welcoming to everyone and never leaves friends out!

Congratulations to our November *Be the Light* honorees! Students like you are the reason why our schools are warm and welcoming places. You are all reflections of integrity and awesome role models for all students!



Hunter



Jeremiah



Calista



Madison



Santiago



Sutton

BE THE LIGHT WITH INTEGRITY



Cohen

SCHOOL DISTRICT STAFF HIGHLIGHTS



From left to right: Jessie Tieglund, Shelly Nikolas, Kari Green, Ana Dominguez, Georgia Docherty.

On October 25th, we celebrated five amazing Monticello professionals who were recognized as this year's Leaders in Educational Excellence. Congratulations Jessie Tieglund, Shelly Nikolas, Kari Green, Ana Dominguez, and Georgia Docherty! This annual event is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of outstanding educational leaders who go above and beyond in their work responsibilities, possess thorough knowledge of subject matter and leadership in curriculum development, and portray a positive role model for students, staff, and the community. We are so proud to have such amazing leaders in our schools and grateful for the work that they do every single day!

THANK YOU
FOR EVERYTHING!

We would like to recognize our recent and upcoming retiring staff. Al Witschen (retired 10/31), Annette Kasper (retired 11/1), Kris Hickman (retiring 11/17), and Janice Holthaus (retiring 11/24). Thank you all for your many years of dedication to Monticello Schools!

Happy Retirement!



We have had a blast at the past three *Monti on the Move* events this school year! Superintendent Olson joined students and families at football, cross-country, and swim practices in September, and enjoyed tennis, pickleball, and wiffle ball with attendees at the middle school tennis courts last month. Our next *Monti on the Move* event is at the [Beauty and the Beast Inspired Character Breakfast](#) on Saturday, November 11th. There will be several stations for participants to visit, including theater games, face painting, chalk art, and more! For more information and to sign up, click [here](#). Please note that the Monti on the Move portion of this event is free, but if you are attending the breakfast as well, please [purchase tickets](#) in advance or at the door on the day of the event. We can't wait to see you there!

**MONTI ON
THE MOVE**

**WITH
SUPERINTENDENT
OLSON**



**FAMILY
ENGAGEMENT
OPPORTUNITIES**

STUDENT IMMUNIZATIONS REMINDER

We would like to remind families of the required vaccinations for students. Please review this information and be sure to get your child vaccinated.

Immunization records should be sent to your child's school health office. Stay healthy!

Preschool

DTaP (series of 4)
IPV (series of 3)
HBV (series of 3)
MMR (1st dose)
Varicella (1st dose)
Hep A (1 dose)
HIB (1 dose)

Kindergarten through 5th grade:

DTaP (series of 5)
IPV (series of 4)
HBV (series of 3)
MMR (series of 2)
Varicella (series of 2)

7th Grade

Tdap
Meningococcal (1st dose)

12th Grade

Meningococcal (2nd dose)



To honor Veterans Day, our schools will have Veterans Day programs this week and will be welcoming guest speakers to share their motivational stories and the reasons why we have our freedoms today. For example, the featured guests speaking at the Little Mountain school assembly are the parents of two LME students. Specialist Aubrey Sufka was active duty Army stationed overseas in Japan from 2011-2014. Staff Sergeant Kyle Sufka was active duty Army overseas in Japan from 2011-2014, and active duty in Germany from 2014-2018. He was also deployed to the Middle East, Qatar 2019-2020. We are honored to have these distinguished Veterans and others at our schools to share their stories.

Monticello Public Schools thanks our Veterans for their service to our country!

DISTRICT STRATEGIC UPDATE: READING COACHES PROVIDE SUPPORT WITH NEW CURRICULUM AND NEW LITERACY TOOLS

Our elementary literacy curriculum adoption has been a very comprehensive process. Elementary teachers across the district are working diligently to implement these new resources with fidelity. Behind the scenes, our district reading coaches have been providing a wealth of knowledge and support to our staff. Their dedication to literacy instruction is an amazing asset to our district. Meet the reading coaches below!



Stephanie Hamilton

Stephanie Hamilton is new to the Monticello School District this year and joins us with 19 years of experience in elementary education. Her collaborative personality provides tremendous support to teachers. She can often be found modeling lessons in classrooms, creating resources for teachers and students, and is also co-leading LME's student council.



Ashley Kock

Ashley Kock is also new to the Monticello School District this year. Ashley comes to us from Excell Academy in Brooklyn Park. She has 13 years of experience in elementary education bringing expertise in intervention, data collection, best practice instruction, co-teaching, and modeling best practices. We are excited to have her on board, and we anticipate that her experience will greatly benefit our school community.



Rose Johnson

This is Rose Johnson's second year with Monticello Public Schools. She has taken on several leadership roles, including leading PLCs, engaging in the Language Arts curriculum review process, creating resources for teachers, and designing grade level timelines, assessments, and schedules. Rose was recently nominated by her coworkers for her outstanding work as a reading specialist at Eastview Education Center. Her fellow teachers describe her as "a breath of fresh air", "fun to work with", and "so incredibly knowledgeable about everything reading".