



Monthly Bulletin

June 2009

Dr. Patrick Michel
Superintendent of Schools

www.monticelloschools.net

From the desk of the Superintendent: Thank you for your support

I want to thank you for voting to support our budget. I am extremely proud to be a part of this community. By passing the budget with such a wide margin, the message sent was loud and clear - even in these tough economic times it is important to support our programs and keep our schools open. I am very pleased we are able to do both.

Your continued support has produced many positive results. We recently received our preliminary numbers from the state testing system and overall we have never performed better. With the continued hard work of our students combined with the devoted efforts of our teachers and administrative staff, RJK Middle School will be removed from the state list for poor performance for the first time in eight years. To add to that success, we are also seeing an increasing number of students flourishing in upper level courses.

When I arrived here four years ago, our schools were on five state lists for poor performance. We are now only on one list for math at the high school. There are still challenges we must face. In order to remain off the state lists, we must address the achievement gap that exists within our schools. Even though our graduation rate meets the state standard and is one of the few in the region to increase, it still needs to improve further. Our goal must be to have every student graduate from high school. There is still much work to do, but if we stay on course I know our schools and students will continue to thrive.

Our athletics, extracurricular and music programs are also prospering. This year, student involvement in after-school programs has risen to unprecedented numbers. The response to our new football program was so popular we decided to add a full Junior Varsity program. Music in Monticello was honored once again as one of the Top 100 Music Communities in the nation. Partnerships with the YMCA and the Boys and Girls Clubs have allowed us to offer students of all ages alternative comprehensive after-school programs. The research is definitive - students who participate in positive extracurricular activities succeed academically - our students are living proof.

Though we have secured our financial position for the next school year, we must remain cognizant of the looming state budget issues. Governor Paterson is already talking about a possible mid-year budget cut due to massive deficits on the state level. There are still systemic budgetary issues with which we will have to deal and more financial battles to be fought. I know that if we work together we can continue our successful legacy and ensure the best possible educational opportunities for all our children.

As always, my door is open. I wish you all a happy and healthy summer.

Thank you again for supporting our budget.

The Chase Elementary School PTO has opened its "New To You" Bookstore located in the school's cafeteria. The store is open on Wednesday and Friday mornings 8:15-9:15 a.m. All are welcome. For more information, call 888-2471.

QuickCLIPS

Sports Physicals 2009 Summer Schedule

All students planning to participate in fall, winter or spring sports must get a physical during the summer. Physicals need to be done every year and medical updates are required within 30 days of the first practice of the season. Dates for physicals have been set as follows:

High School

Thursday, August 6, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Monday, August 10, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Monday, August 17, 8 a.m. - noon

Middle School

Friday, August 7, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Tuesday, August 11, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Monday, August 24, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

For questions, please call Athletics Director Doug Murphy at 794-7700, ext. 10995.

Instrument Donations Needed

Monticello's music department welcomes the donation of used instruments for students who want to play an instrument but cannot afford to rent or purchase one. Donated instruments are refurbished and repaired so they can be borrowed by students in need. If you have an instrument to donate and would like to help, please contact Music Director Dr. Kevin Dirth at 794-8840, ext. 10993 or via e-mail at kdirth@k12mcsd.net.

Every Person Influences Children (EPIC)

is a not-for-profit organization with the mission of helping parents, teachers and community members raise children to become responsible adults. EPIC offers workshops, open forums, books, parent manuals, computer games and other products. For more information or to volunteer, call Monticello Schools' EPIC Parent Center program coordinator Robin LaFountain at 796-3058, ext. 20216.

Monticello High School graduation will be streamed live on Sunday, June 28 at 1 p.m.

from the Sullivan County Community College field house. If you cannot attend the graduation, you can still watch it live at <http://totalwebcasting.com/live/monticello>. After the graduation is over, the video will be archived for future viewing. For more information, please contact the high school at 794-8840 or visit the district web site at www.monticelloschools.net.

Important Dates

TUESDAY, JUNE 2:

- Chase Spring Concert, 10 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3:

- Chase Kindergarten Screening
- Duggan Kindergarten Screening
- Cooke/KLR PTA meeting, 7 p.m. at Cooke

THURSDAY, JUNE 4:

- Chase Kindergarten Screening
- MHS & RJK Art Exhibit & Reception, 6 p.m., gym
- Board of Education meeting, 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, JUNE 9:

- Duggan Spring Concert, 1:30 p.m.
- RJK PTA meeting, 7 p.m., cafeteria

FRIDAY, JUNE 12:

- Chase Field Day
- RJK Grade 8 Farewell Dance, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, JUNE 16 - THURSDAY, JUNE 25:

- Regents Exams

THURSDAY, JUNE 18:

- Board of Education meeting, 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 19:

- KLR Field Day (rain date 6/23)
- Red Cross Blood Drive, 1-6 p.m., RJK cafeteria

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24:

- Duggan Field Day (rain date 6/25)

THURSDAY, JUNE 25:

- Cooke Field Day (rain date 6/26)

FRIDAY, JUNE 26:

- Last Official Day of the 2008-09 School Year!

3rd Annual John Spear Memorial Whiffle ball Tournament, Friday, June 12, 4 p.m. in the Monticello High School gymnasium

In January 2007, John Spear, a beloved teacher and coach at Monticello Schools, was killed in a car accident. The tragedy impacted the lives of many people throughout the community including leaving John's family in financial despair. John's wife is undergoing costly cancer treatments which have left her unable to work. The Monticello Teachers Association (MTA) began this tournament as a way to help the family by raising funds through tournament fees, sponsorships and a bake sale. Donations are welcome. Send a check made payable to the "MTA Spear Fund" to: Monticello High School, 39 Breakey Avenue, Monticello, NY 12701 - Att: Sheryl Manz - MTA Spear Fund or for more information, call 794-8840.