



Monthly Bulletin

September 2008

Dr. Patrick Michel
Superintendent of Schools

www.monticelloschools.net

From the desk of the Superintendent: Welcome Back!

During the past three years, we have been working diligently to improve our school system and our ability to better serve your children. We realized early on, that our students needed a safe and secure learning environment - so we created one. Now that our schools are safe, we are focusing on academics and making sure that your children have access to the best possible education as a way to prepare them for the Global Economy and success in their future endeavors. This year's theme is "Networking for Student Success." We will be focusing on this for many years to come.

Part of the way we are improving the lives of our students is by establishing links to various groups that give them structure and support. Last year, we created a partnership with two nationally recognized organizations, the Boys and Girls Clubs and the YMCA. Both organizations continue to create programs that give children constructive activities during and after school. We have begun to establish a relationship with the International Baccalaureate (IB) an internationally recognized educational program that will help us prepare our children for the international competition that now exists in the workplace. Chase and Duggan Elementary Schools are working to become part of this organization and we are proud of their efforts and success.

At the middle school level, our 7th and 8th grade teachers will be looping for the first time. This will allow students in 7th grade to have the same team of teachers in 8th grade. This network of caring teachers will be able to better support our middle school children at this very important time in their lives. When we researched looping, we found that schools using this method saw very high academic success.

Our high school continues to reorganize. Our academy structure has expanded into 11th grade and this year, we will be working with our college partners, the business community and teachers to redesign the senior year. We are proud of the new College in the Classroom program and look forward to a very successful year. We hope and expect that more students and parents will take advantage of this program, which is designed to prepare students for success in college.

Our most important partners are our parents. This year, our staff will begin to learn a new computerized student management system. It is our goal that by September 2009, parents will be able to communicate with teachers through our Parent Portal. Presently, parents may contact teachers via e-mail, phone calls and letters. They also have access to teachers through parent/teacher meetings, which can be arranged as needed. Parents are also encouraged to attend the various parent events we will be hosting during the year, as well as continue to support our parent organizations - we have PTAs, a PTO and a new SEPTSA (Special Education Parent Teacher Student Association). Please call your child's school to find out more information about how to join these fine organizations.

We are creating partnerships and networks that support our children - your support of these efforts is very much appreciated. Please keep in touch and as always, my door is open.

Have a great school year!

Don't be left out of the loop - sign up on the district web site for the School News Notifier (SNN) e-mail alert system and be the first to know what's going on!

QuickCLIPS

Sullivan County Boys & Girls Club Open Enrollment

Middle school-aged students from the Monticello School District can register for this free after-school program which runs from 2-6 p.m., Monday-Friday at the St. John Street Education Center in Monticello.

Activities include homework help, health & life skills, sports, fitness & recreation, character & leadership development, education & career development, arts and music. Open Gym is offered on Wednesday and Friday evenings at 6:30 p.m.

For more information or to register your child, call Sullivan County Unit Director Nora Drummond at 794-3080 or visit www.bgcorange.org.

The 2008-09 Monticello School District Calendar is now available in pdf format on our web site. Any date changes, updates or additions to the calendar will be posted on the web site periodically throughout the year.

Athletics Update

Almost 100 students have signed up for Monticello's Modified Football team! Boys & girls alike are planning on making the team's inaugural year one to remember.

For a complete schedule of games for this and all other school sports, please visit: www.monticelloschools.net.

For questions about any athletic program, please contact Athletics Director Doug Murphy at 794-8840, ext. 10995.

Important Dates

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9:

- RJK PTA meeting, 7 p.m., RJK cafeteria

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10:

- Cooke/KLR PTA meeting, 7 p.m. at KLR

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15:

- Monticello Schools' Parent Advisory Group meeting, 7 p.m., RJK cafeteria

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17:

- KLR Book Fair begins (runs through 9/24)
- KLR Fall Open House, 7 p.m.
- Chase PTO meeting, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18:

- Board of Education meeting, 7 p.m., MHS library

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23:

- Cooke Fall Open House, 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24:

- KLR Picture Day
- Cooke Picture Day
- Chase Fall Open House, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25:

- Cooke Picture Day
- RJK Open House, 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 - WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1:

- Rosh Hashanah - NO SCHOOL

Monticello YMCA Wellness Center

Located in the Monticello High School, the Wellness Center is open to all area residents. Monthly memberships are: Adults \$22; Senior Citizens \$20; Family \$35; College \$16. With all memberships, there is a one-time fee of \$25. Hours of Operation: Mon-Fri: 4:30-9 p.m.; Sat-Sun: 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

Fall 2008 youth programs include Pee Wee sports, dance, floor hockey, basketball, soccer and yoga. Adult programs include Pilates, stretching, strength training, ballroom dancing, kick boxing, line dancing and yoga.

For more information, call Ross Miceli at 794-7700, ext. 10975.

FYI: The Village of Monticello Parks & Recreation Department has a new contact person. For their program schedule, contact Pete Tweed at 794-2351.