



Monthly Bulletin

June 2010

Dr. Patrick Michel
Superintendent of Schools

www.monticelloschools.net

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

It is with true gratitude that I write this letter. Faced with unprecedented state aid cuts, staff reductions and the closure of one of our elementary schools, our citizens voted in record numbers to support our budget and our mission. Throughout New York, voter turnout was extremely high as was the number of school budgets that passed (92 percent). All the negativity and predictions of mass budget defeats were wrong. This clearly indicates that the public as a whole is looking to the future and not dwelling on the pain of the present.

In Monticello, we recognize the shared sacrifice our community is making to support our programs and the direction in which our district is going. This year's budgetary process was extremely difficult. The Board of Education and central administration were faced with some very tough choices. We now need to take this opportunity to begin the healing process. It is imperative that we continue to work together to ensure that all our plans for the future are put into place and that our children receive the best possible education we can provide.

Presently, we have been working to complete the reorganization of our elementary schools. Thanks to the hard work of our elementary principals, EPIC Parent Center, PTA and PTO leadership, I am pleased to report that the transition process for our children is moving in a very positive direction and our efforts have received support and constructive feedback from staff, parents and students. Each school will continue to provide families with opportunities to visit and get the information they need to make the transition process as smooth as possible.

The restructuring of our high school is also moving forward. Three major studies will be finished by the end of the school year and with that information we will be able to address the needs of our students more effectively and improve our graduation rate. We anticipate the high school restructuring will allow for considerable academic student growth and will improve the opportunities available to all children.

Our sports programs are growing and succeeding and we look forward to our first varsity football game this fall. Monticello was once again chosen as one of the Top 100 Music Communities in the country. The Project Lead the Way and International Baccalaureate programs are successfully moving forward, as well. During the summer, we will feature a detailed summary of these two programs on the district website. The middle school continues to improve and remains in good standing with the state.

Throughout our district we are making great strides in academic achievement. We thank our community for supporting our programs, our budget and our mission as we continue to work hard to improve our school system so that our students will be prepared for the world they will be entering.

Enjoy the rest of the school year and have a happy and prosperous summer.

Musical 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 the Director of Music, Dr. Kevin Dirth, at 794-8840, ext. 10993 or via e-mail at kdirth@k12mcsd.net.

QuickCLIPS

Sports Physicals & Medical Updates

All students planning to participate in fall, winter or spring sports must get a physical. During the month of June, students who do not have a family physician can get a physical from the school doctor. To participate in any sport, a Medical Update, signed by a parent or guardian, must be submitted within 30 days of the first practice of the season. For fall sports, high school and middle school Medical Updates and Physical Forms must be submitted as follows:

Last name begins with A-G: August 3, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Last name begins with H-M: August 10, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Last name begins with N-Z: August 12, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

For questions, please call Athletics Director Douglas Murphy at 794-8840, ext. 10995.

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 EPIC Parent Center Coordinator Robin LaFountain at 796-3058, ext. 20216.

The YMCA of Sullivan County is offering all district residents a FREE one-week membership to its Wellness Center, located on the 2nd floor of Monticello High School

For more info, call Ross Miceli at 344-9622, ext. 241.

Monticello High School graduation will be streamed live on Sunday, June 27 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 www.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 1

- Snow Day Give-back - NO SCHOOL

THURSDAY, JUNE 3

- Board of Education meeting

FRIDAY, JUNE 4

- Grade 5 Math Bowl
- Senior Sports Banquet

MONDAY, JUNE 7

- President's Education Awards, 7 p.m. in the high school auditorium

TUESDAY, JUNE 15 - THURSDAY, JUNE 24

- Regents Exams

THURSDAY, JUNE 17

- Grade 5 Orientation Picnic, 11:45 a.m.
- Board of Education meeting

FRIDAY, JUNE 18

- RJK Grade 8 Farewell Dance, 7-9:30 p.m.

MONDAY, JUNE 21

- RJK 8th Grade Moving Up Ceremony, 12 p.m., in the high school auditorium

FRIDAY, JUNE 25

- Conference Day - NO SCHOOL

SUNDAY, JUNE 27

- Monticello High School Graduation, 1 p.m. at SCCC

Project Recognition diploma program for veterans available in Monticello

Initiated in 2005, the Project Recognition program entitles veterans of World War II and the Korean and Vietnam wars to a high school diploma from any New York State public school. Monticello School officials created an easy procedure for veterans who would like to get a diploma from Monticello High School. Earlier this year, local businessman and Vietnam veteran, Eugene Dalpiaz, realized his dream and utilized the program to become the first person to get a diploma from Monticello through Project Recognition. If you're a veteran or you know someone who may be interested in this program, please call Pupil Personnel Services Director Dr. Edward Escobar at 794-0128. A diploma may be issued posthumously.