



Monticello Central School District

237 Forestburgh Road • Monticello, New York 12701

845.794.7700 (o) • 845.794.7710 (f) • WWW.MONTICELLOSCHOOLS.NET

Dr. Patrick Michel, Superintendent

Mr. Robert Stewart, President - Board of Education

Dr. Patrick Michel, Superintendent
PMichel@k12mcsd.net

Building Excellence Through Trust

August 12, 2008

Dear Community Members,

We are building on our success in the Monticello Central School District and would like to share our excitement by having you attend our **Opening Day Ceremony on Tuesday, September 2, 2008**. You are invited to join the festivities which will begin with light refreshments at 7:30 a.m. in the Monticello High School cafeteria. At 8:30 a.m. in the high school auditorium, the ceremony will begin with a special greeting from Board of Education President Robert Stewart. Representatives from the Monticello Teachers' Association, Monticello Administrators' Association, Sullivan County Community College and the Sullivan County Partnership will speak, as well. As part of the day's events, I will give a presentation about this year's plans and goals for our schools.

It has been a very productive summer. Our staff has been working diligently to implement the redesign of our program structure. At the elementary level, Chase Elementary School has successfully applied for the first phase of the International Baccalaureate (IB). Duggan Elementary School is now in training to be our next IB school. Last year, Rutherford Elementary School redesigned its program and as a result produced the highest ELA and Math scores in the district on state assessments. More than 80% of our 5th graders are now entering 6th grade scoring proficiency or higher on the state exams (that's up from 45% just a few years ago). RJK Middle School continues its reorganization and has also made significant progress on the state tests. Our redesigned 6th grade better supports the needs of students with the implementation of the new Camp Panther, a restructuring of the reading program and improvements to the enrichment program. Our 7th and 8th grade teachers began looping this school year - which means that the team of teachers a child has in 7th grade will follow him/her to the 8th grade. At the high school level, our teachers have been working out the details for the 11th grade academy experience. The Freshman Academy was a huge success last year and teachers had an opportunity to review data to help them implement improvements to the program. Our 10th grade teachers have been reviewing their data and making changes to improve the 10th grade academy experience. At the end of last year, we created three new academic academies that are now available to students beginning in 10th grade. They are the Fine Arts Academy, Entrepreneurship for the 21st Century Academy, and the Liberal Arts and Science Academy. In the academy structure, students have a common team of teachers from whom they take introductory course work. They then take classes within their specialty subject area. This structure has proven to better prepare students for college level course work and the work place. In 11th grade, students continue within their academies and will also be able to take many more college level courses through the College in the Classroom program. We are proud to say that we have doubled the number of students taking college level courses and have laid the groundwork for further expansion in the future.

All of these changes are rooted in research and best practices. It is our goal during the next five years to completely convert from a school district preparing students for an industrial-based economy to one that gives students a competitive edge towards success in today's Global Economy.

To learn more about these changes and to see how they will affect the community as a whole, please accept my invitation to this event. I look forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely,
Dr. Patrick Michel
Superintendent of Schools