



Monticello Central School District

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Dr. Patrick Michel, Superintendent

Mrs. Alyce C. Van Etten, President - Board of Education

Dr. Patrick Michel, Superintendent
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Building Excellence Through Trust

August 2009

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 1, 2009**. 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 Alyce Van Etten. Representatives from the Monticello Teachers' Association, Monticello Administrators' Association, and local officials will have an opportunity to greet the audience. 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 is at the last stage of being approved to become our first International Baccalaureate (IB) school. Duggan Elementary School will be submitting its application this year. Rutherford Elementary School continues to have the highest ELA and Math scores in the district on the state assessments and will begin IB training this year. More than 85% of our fifth graders are now entering sixth grade and are scoring proficiency or higher on the state exams (that's up from 45% just a few years ago).

I am very pleased to inform you that RJK Middle School will be officially off the state list for poor academic performance as of the end of August. After eight years of hard work and redesign, we are very proud of our administrators and staff for this accomplishment.

At the high school level, our teachers have been working out the details for the twelfth grade 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 tenth grade teachers have been reviewing their data and making changes to improve the tenth grade academy experience. After much consideration and faculty input, we have modified our academy structure into Pathways. This structure has proven to better prepare students for college level course work and the work place. In eleventh grade, students may continue within their Pathways and will also have the opportunity 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 future expansion.

All of these changes are rooted in research and best practices. It is our goal during the next four 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