



## Monticello Central School District

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Dr. Patrick Michel, Superintendent  
Mr. Robert Stewart, President - Board of Education

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PMichel@k12mcsd.net

*Building Excellence Through Trust*

June 4, 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I am writing to inform you of an alleged incident between a Monticello High School teacher and student that was brought to the District administration's attention yesterday.

The high school Principal received information that a student had reported various incidents of inappropriate behavior by a teacher. District administrators were immediately called in and launched an investigation. The Monticello Police Department was also contacted.

It was reported that the teacher had engaged in inappropriate behavior with a 17 year-old female high school student this past weekend.

Student safety is our paramount concern. We do not tolerate behavior of the type that has been alleged by any professional staff member.

As required by State law, I have reported this allegation to the Professional Conduct Officer for the New York State Education Department, which is the agency responsible for determining what appropriate action should be taken.

As with all employees who interact with students, it is our standard practice to conduct an extensive pre-employment investigation before hiring – and this procedure was followed in this case, including a background check for a criminal record, multiple professional and personal references, a series of interviews and fingerprinting.

In-school counselors have been made available to students but it is still important that you be available for your child if he/she should have questions. There are a number of resources on the web for parents that you may find helpful, such as [www.childlures.com](http://www.childlures.com) and [www.safechild.org](http://www.safechild.org).

This is a terrible shock to all of us in this community and I cannot fully express how saddened we are by these reported allegations. I want to reiterate that providing a safe learning environment for your child is our primary objective. If you have any concerns, please contact me directly at 794-7700, ext. 70910.

Sincerely,

Dr. Patrick Michel  
Superintendent of Schools