

The Monti Navigator

Be Greater than the Average



Tammy Mangus, Superintendent of Schools

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tHiNk:

thoughtful, helpful, inspiring, necessary, kind



Dear Monticello Community Member:

Last month we looked at THINK as a whole and delved into the true meaning of each simple statement found within the acronym. At the surface, the simplicity of the message might seem a bit cheeky, but as I said last month, a THINKing world does not need to be one filled with sunshine and complacency-forming rainbows. A world that THINKs is critical, yet graceful and diplomatic. We know that we need to be a THINKing educational system, one that seeks to move beyond mediocrity to grow towards greatness. Last month our focus was on the REAL meaning of truthfulness.

True truth seeking involves the pondering of multiple viewpoints. The viewpoint that is fastest and easiest to get, is usually the furthest thing from the whole truth and, more often than not, has the trustworthiness of one of those used car salesmen from the 1970's that we see caricaturized in films.

This month we focus on the letters H and N, helpfulness and necessity. We know from last month's navigator that to be Helpful, we must get to the purpose, our WHY. There are plenty of nice things to be done in our world, but if we strive to be helpful, our actions must be centered around a powerful purpose. Necessity goes hand and hand with that powerful WHY. It helps us zero in on our outcome expectations and target each action we take.

I think daily about the importance of H and N in my life. As the mother of a 15 year old, I think about her future each and every day right along with the futures of the 2900 students in this school district. This is what I know:

- I want her to be free.
- I want her to never feel the weight of oppression.
- I want her to have opportunities that I never had.
 - I want her to have choices.
 - I want her to be resilient.

In order to fulfill these next generation dreams, the call to flip helpfulness away from the world's typical surface level, cheap, feel good action is so very important. To achieve these lofty goals, we must take necessary and truly helpful actions that seek to ensure that these kids have the chance to peer into greatness. To that effect know this:

- To achieve the items listed above, our kids must be able to read multiple media sources in order to gather information, analyze information, formulate new thoughts and ideas based on that information and write and speak with authority regarding those ideas.
- Aside from winning the lottery or being discovered as the next American Idol or Voice, these skills will be the determining factor in their future successes.
- If any child does not possess these skills at mastery level, we need to make sure that we make them top priority and take intentional, necessary steps to ensure that they learn these skills in order to be truly helpful to them in

their plight to clinch a prosperous future.

- **When the question is raised, “Can this child do this?” in line with the life ready skills listed above, and the answer is no, the only thing that matters is what our truly helpful, intentional plan will be to make sure that each of them can, because we know that their future and our future will be compromised if our kids can’t do those life ready things listed above.**
- **Think education (not grades or grade level promotion, but true education around the skills listed above) doesn’t matter as much as I say it does? THINK about this and help yourself out: education = opportunity. It is the one, true equalizer.**
- **Want to change the future? Truly educate our children. Take necessary action to help them grow in these skills - help them succeed!**
 - **Want a better more enlightened future for yourself? Practice and grow these skills in yourself as well.**

Be well, and make it a great month!

**Tammy Mangus
Superintendent of Schools**