

The Monti Navigator

Be Greater than the Average



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HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!! As the clock stuck midnight on Jan. 1, many of you probably set some New Year's resolutions to make positive changes to your lives over the course of 2017. A new year represents a fresh start with endless possibilities. As a school district, we celebrate our own "new year" every September with the same sense of excitement, and of course, with new resolutions to help our students thrive and succeed. By Jan. 1, we're already three months into moving towards our **BOLD** goals for the school year.



Reaching a goal is an intentional and continuous process. As the lottery slogan goes: all you need is a dollar and a dream. The truth of the matter is, you can dream all you want, but unless you actually play the game, your chances of winning are non-existent. Educators are armed with the tools needed to help kids find success, but tools alone are not enough. We must actually **PLAY** the game, always keeping our goals in mind to reach our resolutions.

According to Forbes, only eight percent of folks who make New Year's resolutions achieve their goals. People give up as they hit roadblocks on their journey. They blame their own lack of self-determination and willpower as the reason but in many cases, they were already doomed to fail. They had the dream, but didn't want to spend the dollar. The eight percent of people who do achieve their New Year's resolutions don't do so by accident, they do so with intention and with a clear system of planning, accountability and support.

First and foremost, they have a tangible, clearly-stated goal. You can't plan a road map without knowing your destination.

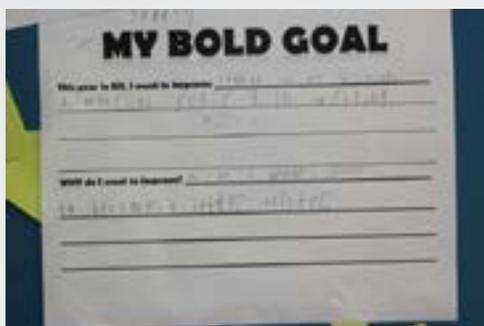
Our BOLD goals:

87% Graduation Rate

65% Lexile Proficiency (on level for reading) K-11

65% Writing Proficiency (3-12)

65% Math Proficiency (K-12)



Successful goal-getters also have a system of assessment where they can periodically check in and ensure with hard numbers and data that they are constantly progressing. Here in Monticello we use numerous tools to continuously evaluate how our students are growing academically so that we can pinpoint any challenges and quickly adjust our actions to allow for heightened success.

- Our Grad Grid keeps us up to date on each student's graduation potential, enabling kiddos to turn their failures into successes and ensuring that we are intervening before a brick becomes a stumbling block
- We use SuperKids, NWEA and READ 180 to track the reading level of our students in grades K-11.
- Our 3-5 writing checkpoints, 6-8 LFA (Literacy for All initiative) and our 9-12 MontiWrites program all help us track our students' writing proficiency stats.
- Our NWEA math exams give us our K-8 stats. Our success rates on math Regents exams, including first-time pass rates in Algebra as well as math perseverance rates (taking Regents math courses beyond Algebra and Geometry) helps us to track our math competency for grades 9-12.

But, no game plan is worth its salt without **INSPIRATION!**



As we enter into 2017, and into our second month of **INSPIRED** thinking, let's remember to truly focus on what it means to be **INSPIRED**. Many believe that **INSPIRATION** is merely a feel-good, warm and fuzzy moment. However, true **INSPIRATION** is not a moment, but a process. It begins with discomfort – the moment when you realize (whether on your own or at the coaching of another) that you are in need of improvement. Step two is the acceptance of that realization and the **CHOICE** to not explain your current situation away through excuses and reasoning-- that will only stunt potential for growth. The

next step is laying out the facts – and nothing but the facts – regarding your target and your current standing so that you can access where you are, where you want to go, and how you plan on getting there. The final step is finding your support system – a mentor of sorts who will continuously inspire you to do great things, and who will not allow you to give up – **EVER!!**

- Pick someone who will reason you away from making poor decisions.
- Pick someone who will find creative solutions to steer you around any roadblocks and who will press you to discover new ways to jump over any hurdles.
- Pick someone who believes in you and believes that you can do more than you think you can.
- Pick someone who will be your cheerleader and who will help you to ignore all the negative noise, banter and clatter – the world can be cruel when you are striving towards (and achieving) success.
- Pick someone who will help you redirect all of your energy away from smokescreens and nonsense and into what is truly relevant to your goals.
- Finally, pick someone who genuinely wants to uplift the world around them. Someone who does not act for personal gain or accolades in the mentoring they give but rather is motivated by the impact their work has on the world, and on the success of those around them.

TOGETHER WE CAN!

OUR CURRENT STATS:

- The Grad Grid currently shows that if we are as successful as we were last year with the students at a level 1, 2 or 3 on the grid, we will reach 80%. How can we be MORE successful than last year to come closer to our goal of 87%?
- In grades K-5, we currently have 23% of our students on grade level for reading. How can we move that number to 35% in order to get closer to our goal of 65%? What action steps must be taken?
- In grades 6-8, we currently have 32% of our students on grade level for reading. How can we increase that by 10% by year's end to get closer to our goal of 65%?
- In grades 3-5, we currently have 11% of our 3rd graders on grade level for writing, 15% of our 4th graders on grade level for writing and 29% of our 5th graders on grade level for writing. Let's grow by 10% in each grade!
- LFA and MontiWrites data will be reported for 6-8 and 9-12 in the March Navigator for 6-12 writing proficiency.
- Math NWEA projected proficiency for grades 2-8 currently sits at 18%. How do we boost the number of proficient kiddos by 10% by year's end?



Now, plunk down that dollar and get in the game!
Our goals are **BOLD** and we know where we stand, so let's **GO!**