



**MONTICELLO PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
Independent School District No. 882

302 Washington Street  
Monticello, MN 55362  
www.monticello.k12.mn.us

Phone (763) 272-2000  
Fax (763) 272-2009

October 1, 2020

Superintendent Olson introduces an exciting new district wellness tool, plus a COVID-19 update

**Good afternoon Monticello families,**

I have something that I'm really excited to share with families today. However, first I wanted to provide a quick COVID-19 update.

As we continue to move forward with this school year, we want to be clear that our instructional models depend strongly on a blend of not just county information but specific school district data, as well. To help paint that picture, we want to start sharing numbers regarding COVID-19 in our district. These numbers, combined with the county numbers, help inform our ongoing instructional model decisions. Since September 8, we've had a total of four students test positive for COVID-19 out of 4,186 students in Monticello School District. Out of 606 staff members, we've had just one test positive since the start of the school year. We are grateful for the job that our students, staff, and families have done to prioritize their health and the health of those around them. Meanwhile, our most recent county COVID numbers (cases per 10,000) are 11.98. Combined, these numbers allow us to continue our current instructional models (in-person at the elementary and hybrid at the secondary).

Now, on to an exciting new tool we wanted to provide to students, staff, and families. We all understand that life can be overwhelming as we all navigate a pandemic, putting us in circumstances that are new to all of us. We as a district believe strongly that the more tools that people have for self care, the better off we will be as individuals and a community.

With that in mind, Monticello School District has designed a [Virtual Calming Room](#) to assist in locating different strategies, tools, and resources for managing emotions. This is designed with tools for staff, families, and students of all ages. Within the website, you will find quick links to calming sounds, visual relaxation, puzzles, games, coloring, journaling, brain break videos, guided meditation, community resources, mental health resources, calming strategies, and more. There are pages designed specifically for parents/guardians, students, and educators. We ask that all families please take a few minutes to check the Virtual Calming Room website out. We hope these tools will provide helpful outlets and practices for when life gets tough.

In addition to the aforementioned link, the Virtual Calming Room can be found on the front page of the district website and each building website.

Thank you all for a great first month in Monticello School District. Together, we can and will continue to do great things!

**Sincerely,**

**Superintendent Eric Olson**