



MONTICELLO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Independent School District No. 882

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October 13, 2020

Sending families into MEA Break with a Request for Continued Healthy Practices, and some Additional Levy Information

Good evening Monticello families,

With Fall Break coming up this week, I wanted to get my weekly communication out to you a couple of days early.

While this means we do not have the latest COVID data yet, we do have intel from our local officials that numbers in the area are rising. While we are doing everything in our power to continue bringing students into our buildings to provide them the education they deserve, we are very concerned about the trends we are seeing locally and across our state.

I completely understand the feelings of COVID fatigue that many of us are experiencing. This is a new challenge for all of us. However, the need to follow proper protocols and take all reasonable safety measures continues. As numbers in our county appear to be on the rise again, it is more important now than it has been at any point during this pandemic to follow the recommendations of health experts by wearing masks, washing hands, and practicing social distancing.

I know families may have plans over this long weekend, and it is vitally important to be active and do things we enjoy - but I want to urge you to take precautions and make smart decisions while going about your life. If we want our kids to continue being able to come to school, to play sports, to perform music, we need to work together to minimize the community spread of COVID-19.

We have no current plans to change instructional models, however it is a reality of this pandemic that if trends continue in the wrong direction, we will likely have to change to hybrid at all levels and possibly even to distance learning sometime in the future. We want to continue to welcome students into the building as often as possible, but we will always prioritize the health and safety of our students, staff, and community. Please continue to stay informed with our weekly communication.

If you'd like more information regarding how we can work together to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our community, please check out [this video](#) from CentraCare.

Before I leave you to prepare for your well-deserved Fall Break, I wanted to share the latest piece of [referendum information](#). This updated fact sheet breaks down where levy dollars would go in Monticello School District. I know this has been an oft-asked question this fall, and we hope this helps complete the picture of understanding regarding the 2020 Monticello Referendum. If you have further questions, I encourage you to plan to join my Virtual Coffee Chat on Saturday, Oct. 24 at 9 a.m. I will send a link in next week's communication!

I want to end with a big thank you. While county numbers are going in the wrong direction, and require the attention of each and every one of us, I also want to note that our school numbers have continued to stay very low so far this year. I greatly appreciate the care that all of our families are taking to not just keep their family healthy but also keeping kids home when sick and helping to prevent community spread in our schools. You are allowing us to have an awesome school year thus far. Thank you!

Please have a happy, healthy, and safe Fall Break.

We got this!

Superintendent Eric Olson