



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

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September 24, 2020

## **County Cases Move in the Right Direction; Focus on Safety Continues**

### **Good afternoon!**

In today's communication, I wanted to focus on one of ISD 882's four strategic priorities. As a district, we take our responsibility of emphasizing Teaching and Learning, Collaborative Connections, Innovation and Leadership, and Safe and Healthy Culture seriously. We work to weave these strategic priorities into everything that we do. I'll use this school year to address each of the priorities in communication at different times, but I believe the first month of the school year is a great time to remember that student safety is the first step in ensuring that every child is ready to learn. As superintendent, I have been thinking a lot about our Monticello Safe Schools Plan and trying to build the best environment for students and staff.

While we have put a major focus on COVID-19 and it constantly remains on my mind, it's important to remember that there are several other factors to creating a safe and healthy culture and learning environment for our students and staff. I ask each of you to please continue to be a school partner and have healthy conversations with your children about the following keys to a safe and healthy culture:

- Be kind and respect ALL people. Our job as humans is not to judge, but to learn about others in order to create a better future for all PEOPLE.
- Even though students are in face masks, there have already been tobacco and vaping violations. Using harmful substances at an early age can be habit forming and increase the chances of serious illness now and in the future.
- Before coming to school, make sure that pockets, backpacks, and vehicles are free from dangerous weapons. While we live in an area where hunting, camping, and outdoor recreation is a large part of our lives, we must be mindful of never bringing a dangerous item or weapon to school.
- Be a problem-solver, but don't be afraid to seek help. If we stick together and work through challenging situations, we can always help each other. We are here to support emotional, physical, and financial needs through our connections to valuable resources. Teachers, principals, social workers, counselors, and district administration have your child's best interests at heart.

Lastly, as always, I wanted to provide a quick COVID-19 update. Our current county COVID numbers (cases per 10,000) are 12.96. These numbers move us in the right direction and allow us to continue our current instructional models (in-person at the elementary and hybrid at the secondary). Please continue to focus your attention on health as a family. We will continue our focus on creating a Safe and Healthy Culture as a school system, but we expect that every family is doing daily symptom checks and keeping students home when they are not feeling well.

Together we can continue to make this a great school year!

**Sincerely,**

**Superintendent Eric Olson**