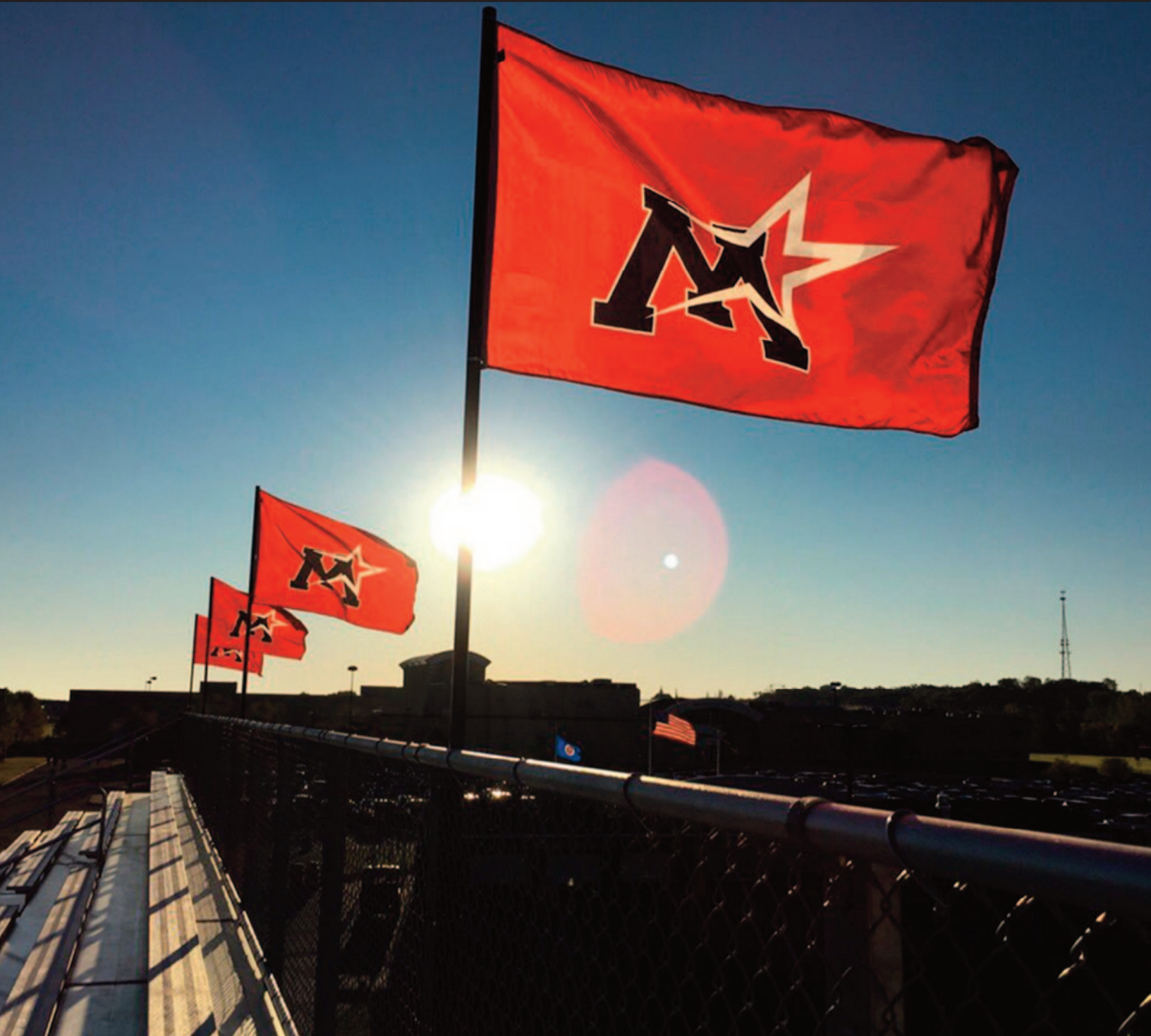




# Safe Return to In-Person Learning 2021-22





## Dear Monticello families,

As we turn our attention to the 2021-22 school year, we have been asked to provide a plan for a Safe Return to In-Person Learning. On the next page, you will find details of exactly how we plan to maintain a safe and healthy culture and environment while educating our kids fully in-person for the 2021-22 school year.

But before you get to those details, I want to take a moment to share some additional thoughts regarding our plans for the upcoming school year and why we expect it to be the best year yet.

We move through each school year with the mindset of continuous improvement, particularly in our pillar areas of: Teaching and Learning, Safe and Healthy Culture, Innovation and Leadership, and Collaborative Connections.

As I study those areas, I find that I keep returning to several themes that will be key to our success in this school year and beyond.

- Meeting Every Kid, Every Day where they are at in their educational journey.
- Keeping students physically and mentally healthy.
- Providing necessary support to our educators to allow them to be at their best day in and day out.

Between programs we have implemented and will be continuing to implement and grow, I believe we are better positioned than ever before to meet these needs. With alternative education options such as Nature Based Education, our K-12 Online Learning Program, and even our Career and Technical Education programs, we truly are ready to provide kids with the education that best suits them. No longer are we offering a one-size-fits-all education model. These dynamic options allow us to truly differentiate for students and to make success more realistic for every single kid in this district. Additionally, we've continued to invest in social emotional resources, as well as health resources, that will allow us to continue to keep kids safe and healthy while they are in our building. Through grants we are exploring the addition of designated rooms at our buildings to allow students to focus on mental health, while also creating outdoor spaces at each building to encourage outdoor time - something we know is a significant factor in producing healthy and happy humans. Lastly, we will continue to focus on bringing in positions of support, ranging from literacy specialists to a new Dean of Students position at MHS that will help to offer structural support to every single educator in this district, allowing them to in turn provide the best possible experience to students.

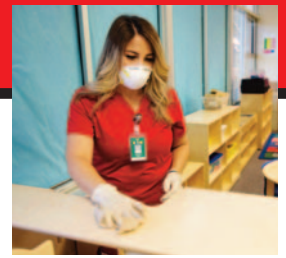
We are fully prepared for, and thrilled about, a return to In-Person Learning in 2021-22. It will be our best year yet.

## Superintendent Eric Olson

### Acknowledgments

The 2021-2022 School Year Planning Guide was created with guidance and input from staff, parents, students, and community in order to keep the school year engaging, safe, and equitable for all.

# Safety Precautions and Mitigation Efforts



**MDE/MDH Guidelines** - We will follow the guidelines from the MN Dept of Health and the MN Dept of Education. Sometimes MDH and MDE require certain actions; sometimes they recommend certain actions.

- If an action is required, you'll see it being carried out in our schools.
- If an action is recommended, you might see it in some places but not others.

**Safe and Healthy Culture** - Administrators and educators will prioritize creating a safe and healthy culture that allows students to be comfortable with their personal and family choices, while encouraging understanding and respect for all.

**Self-check and Self-report of COVID Symptoms** – staff and parents will be required to conduct a daily self check of COVID symptoms and stay home if they are sick or display any symptoms, and not send their children to school if they are sick or display any symptoms. Contact the district nurse assigned to your school if you have any questions.

**Mask Guidance** - At this time, masks are strongly recommended by the CDC and MDH. In accordance with this, we will strongly recommend but not require masks within our public school buildings. This guidance will be constantly evaluated based on school and local data as well as state and federal recommendations. However, masks will be required on all school buses per Federal Executive Order regarding transportation.

**Vaccination and Testing** - Vaccinations are encouraged for all students and staff that are eligible, however they will not be required for any staff or student. We will continue to work with local health officials to create testing and vaccination opportunities and will continue to communicate opportunities to staff and students.

## Safety Precautions

- Hand sanitizing stations will be available throughout buildings.
- Social Distancing will continue to be encouraged when possible, including in school lunchrooms.
- Visitors will only have access to building office areas to start the school year, while we will not have volunteers through the month of September. These protocols will be evaluated throughout the year.
- Students enrolled in MHS Youth Service class will wear masks when volunteering at other buildings. In-district work-based-learning students may also be required to wear masks.
- Classrooms won't use carpet remnants, allowing continuation of routine deep floor cleaning.
- Signs will be posted throughout the buildings to remind everyone of continued proper hygiene and precautions.

**Disinfection and Cleaning Routines** – General building high touch areas will be cleaned and sanitized throughout the school day by custodians and employees of the schools. Classroom routines of deep cleaning and disinfecting will be implemented by all custodial teams in each school building. Classroom teachers will be provided supplies for frequent touch-ups as well.

**Air Quality** - Monticello School District was on the leading edge of combating this airborne virus with its use of Cold Plasma air filtration, a revolutionary hospital grade technology. This system filters out 99% of particles in the air, more than twice that of a traditional system. We have installed it in all our facilities, and our building support team has been vigilant in making sure it is operational at all times the building is open to the public.



# Health Protocols and Quarantine Guidelines

**Positive COVID Case (Parent Procedure)** - Parents must notify the district of a positive case. Please notify your building nurse.

**Lab Confirmed Positive Case Management** – Monticello School District will follow guidelines produced by the Minnesota Department of Education and Minnesota Department of Health for reporting positive cases.

**Quarantine Guidance** - IF you are sick please stay home! This is one of the strongest, most reliable and effective mitigation strategies.

Staff and parents need to notify the School District if there is a lab-confirmed positive COVID case in your household. Please call the District nurse or Health Office in your school:

- Eastview Education Center/Nature Based Education: 763-272-2920
- Little Mountain Elementary: 763-272-2620
- Pinewood Elementary: 763-272-2421
- Monticello Middle School: 763-272-2121
- Monticello High School: 763-272-3020

When the District becomes aware of a lab-confirmed positive COVID case we are required to report to MDH through the RedCap Survey. MDH will contact lab-confirmed cases and advise on how to respond.

**Students and Staff that are identified as lab-confirmed positive** - Please contact the District nurse or health office immediately.

- Must stay home 10 days from symptom onset and may return after this so long as they have been symptom free for a minimum of 24 hours. If asymptomatic, individuals may return 10 days after their COVID test date.
- If there is a lab confirmed case in your household, all members of the household must quarantine for 14 days from the end of the positive persons contagious period UNLESS they are vaccinated or have had COVID-19 in the past 90 days.
- District nurses will advise families on any unique circumstances or possible quarantine exemptions.

The District will also follow procedures to determine if any close contacts can be identified at school.

Close contact is determined through proximity and duration of exposure to a lab-confirmed positive case. Close contact for COVID 19 and variants is defined as someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.

Once the District determines that a student or staff has been identified as a close contact to a lab-confirmed positive case the District will notify the parent or staff member of their close contact status.

If you are identified as a close contact, the District nurses will use the MDH decision tree to advise parents and staff of how to proceed. Close contacts do not have to automatically quarantine. You must call the District nurse at your building to discuss and determine if quarantine is warranted.

# Additional Resources

**Academic Expectations During Quarantine** - Students will not join online classrooms during quarantine and will instead follow traditional make-up methods for coursework, unless otherwise instructed by their teacher. All students must complete required coursework to meet expectations put forth in handbook and course syllabus guidelines.

**Activities and Athletics** - Activities and Athletics will follow Mississippi 8 and MSHSL guidelines. Those guidelines will be added to this place once finalized.

**COVID Dashboard** - Monticello School District will track all reported cases of COVID-19 in students and staff on a COVID 19 Dashboard on the district website. This dashboard will be used not just to monitor real-time situations, but to evaluate the effectiveness of mitigation strategies by continually comparing this year's dashboard to last year's numbers.

**COVID Website** - Monticello School District will maintain a COVID website to provide updates, information, and education regarding COVID-19.

**Monticello 882 Online** - Monticello School District will offer Monticello 882 Online, an optional and full-time online learning program, for students in K-12 this year. Please view the program guide to learn more and to register!

**Food Service** - Monticello School District is prepared to return to normal food service operations in 2021-22, highlighted by free meals for all students through the continuation of federal programming. Families are urged to continue to fill out Free and Reduced applications (found here).

**Magic Adventures** - Programs are fully open to begin the school year. Please visit the Monticello Community Education website to learn more.

**Updated Guidance** - This guidance will be constantly evaluated based on school and local data as well as state and federal recommendations. Monticello School District may increase mitigation efforts at any time if current data trends show that the mitigation strategies in place are not working and more are needed to ensure safety and in-person learning for all. All updates to this document will be posted to the COVID-19 page on our Monticello website ([www.monticello.k12.mn.us](http://www.monticello.k12.mn.us)).

**Additional Mitigation Strategies** - The additional strategies that may be implemented if necessary to continue safe in-person learning:

- Increase physical distancing at lunch
- Encourage physical distancing during passing time and in other common spaces
- Increase frequent cleaning of high-touch surfaces
- Increase physical distancing in classrooms and potential assigned seating in all K-12 classrooms
- Review and revise quarantine guidelines as necessary
- Review mask guidelines for students in K-12 as necessary at classroom, grade-level, or building level