



School District of Monroe Winter 2023-2024



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#CHEESEMAKERPRIDE

Fall Celebrations and a Focus on Improvement



By *Rodney Figueroa*
Superintendent

Monroe schools had amazing starts in September welcoming students back to school. Since that time, all of the needed routines to help each building run well have been established and our staff is focused on the educational well-being of all our students. The excitement of the start of the school year has faded, but the care, compassion, and commitment our staff have for your children has not. Your children attend a district that truly loves and puts kids first.

The fall term had several exceptional performances in our extracurricular activities. The MHS One Act Play qualified for the top state-level competition for the third time in as many years and will perform in Green Bay on November 17. The Boys and Girls Cross Country teams were the Rock Valley Conference Champions once again and sent two runners to the WIAA State Race in Wisconsin Rapids. Cheesemaker Football earned their third, undefeated, Rock Valley Conference Championship and competed through Level 3 of the WIAA Division 3 playoffs. 11 athletes were named All-Conference or received Honorable Mention.

The Monroe-New Glarus Swim Team had one of their most competitive seasons in recent history, went undefeated in the conference dual season, and earned second at the conference swim meet. They picked up where they left off last season and had 3 relays and 2 individuals qualify for the WIAA Division 1 Swim Meet on Saturday, November 10. Each qualified event posted a personal record at the WIAA Meet! Our Girls Volleyball team found some momentum at the end of the season and placed two athletes on the All-Conference Team. Boys Soccer finished the season competitive and placed two athletes on the All-Conference Team.

The high school building project planning and programming work is nearing completion. The architects from PRA hope to have the community information session in January, more information to follow. Significant engineering and infrastructure planning has been completed with a few needs still in process. Basically, all of the work that no one will see, but is the base and foundation for all of the work to be done on the site as construction begins is being completed now. We will have the HVAC bids for Abraham Lincoln by the time you receive this newsletter and scheduling for the work will be done to least disrupt learning in the building.

The State School Report Cards were released on November 14. Abraham Lincoln and Northside Elementary Schools each rank in the highest category and "Significantly Exceed Expectations". Parkside grew its score with an impressive 10-point increase to the "Exceeds Expectations" category. The Middle School stayed in the "Meets Expectations" category, and the high school made a 6-point improvement over the previous year but is still in the "Meets Few Expectations" category. Several resources have been reallocated through the District and new resources have been put in place at both the middle and high schools to better serve the areas identified as having the greatest need. The 6-point increase at the high school is a significant step in the right direction and a reflection of the work being done on behalf of our students. We know this is an important area of focus for our community and are proud of the remarkable work our students, staff, and administration have done to address issues and build the momentum needed to improve student outcomes. We will continue to analyze our results and review data to assess and adjust our educational programming and delivery to support student success.

Our best for their best, Fig
"Everyone is a teacher if you listen."
Doris Roberts

Job Shadows Connect Students and Community

In 2016, Monroe High School English teacher Ryan Strunz proposed a new elective course at MHS called "Career Communications". At his previous school, the course was a requirement and gave students valuable skills in identifying their career goals and the job-seeking process. Now in its 7th year, Career Communications has become a required course for all MHS juniors.

The course focuses on the speaking and listening learning targets for English which helps students develop the "soft skills" employers find so desirable in the workplace like being able to communicate and collaborate with co-workers, writing professional emails, phone etiquette, and more.

Students are required to complete several major projects during the course to help them better understand the past, present, and future of careers. One project asks students to research an obsolete occupation, like a leech collector or home delivery milkman, or an emerging career like a tele-surgeon or avatar consultant. They also work on creating a resume and writing a cover letter to apply for a job.

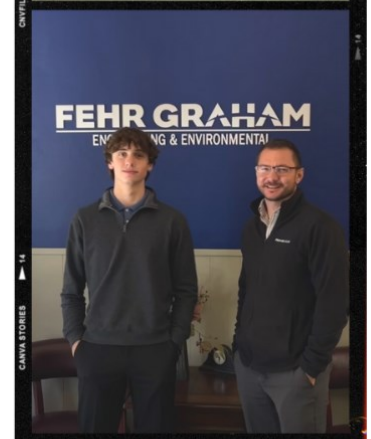
The high point of the class for students is definitely the job shadow. Each student has to contact a business in or related to their area of interest. They then spend several hours at the business speaking with current employees and learning about their day-to-day operations. Mr. Strunz says "Many students who complete it say it is one of the best things they were asked to do as part of their high school experience." Students have job shadowed at a wide variety of businesses including aviation, art, cosmetology, engineering, medical, manufacturing, and more!

For their final exam, students participate in a mock interview where they apply for a fictitious job and are interviewed by a panel of district staff and volunteers from the local business community. The experience definitely sets students up for success in the real world. "The best feedback I get is when students return from a real interview experience knowing they aced it and end up getting the job," says Mr. Strunz.

Career Communications is a win-win for the community as well. Students learn what types of careers are available locally and some have even been hired based on their job shadow experience!

Here are some of the businesses where students have completed job shadows:

- Colony Brands Inc.
- Badger State Ethanol
- Fehr Graham
- SSM Health Monroe
- Faith Engineering
- Monroe Truck Equipment
- Monroe Arts Center
- Fowler Dentistry
- Bartholf Law Offices
- Exit Realty
- Avenues Counseling
- McIntosh Accounting
- Precision Drive and Control (PDC)
- Lafayette County Courthouse
- Schultz Hometown Pharmacy
- Art and Soul Tattoo
- Green County Historical Museum
- Touch and Go Aviation
- Yerkes Observatory
- Figi Insurance and Financial Services
- Monroe Veterinary Clinic
- Studio GWA





Sub Superheroes Support our Schools Every Day!

“Super Sub” Chris Sachs has done it all in his 27 years as a substitute for the School District of Monroe. He has worked with students at all age levels and in every school building. From doing one-day substitute teaching jobs, to subbing long-term in classrooms, to working one-on-one with special needs students, Chris has always been willing to take on a new challenge. We asked Chris a few questions about what makes being a sub so rewarding.

What do you like about being a substitute?

Obviously, choosing when and where to work is a big plus and it gives me a little more spending money. I like being around the students - helps to keep me feeling young - although when you realize it's been almost 50 years since you graduated high school yourself, that feeling doesn't last long. Since I sub at different grade levels, it's fun seeing and watching the kids grow and mature. I like it when I bump into a former student years later and they tell me I was their favorite sub... or that I played a little part in their formative years. I also joke that I keep subbing so I stay connected to the shop classes, particularly welding, in the High School. They have repaired my lawnmower a couple of times and fabricated some things for me.

How often do you sub?

I could work practically every day but nowadays, usually 3 - 5 times a pay period.

What class is the most fun to sub for?

I really like subbing for Juniors and Seniors. As they are maturing and approaching adulthood, it's fun talking to/with them about their future and the dreams they have and hopefully imparting some helpful wisdom based on my life experiences, particularly as a retired Naval Officer and former business owner.



MHS Math Teacher Matt Bordner and Sub Chris Sachs for the “twin”!

DID YOU KNOW?

- Teacher substitutes require an associate's degree or higher
- Teacher sub pay is \$140 a day and the rate increases to \$257.48 a day if you spend 10 or more consecutive school days in the same assignment.
- If you need to complete sub training before joining our sub pool, the District will reimburse your \$39.95 class fee and your \$125.00 sub-license fee once you have subbed for us at least 10 times.
- Sub positions for aides, secretaries, custodians, and food service require a high school diploma or GED and pay is \$18 an hour.

What would you say to someone who is considering being a sub?

If you like making your own schedule and work when you want to, subbing is a great way to go. Of course, you have to like working with and being around kids/young adults. If you like working with a certain age group, you can easily do that by just working at either the elementary, middle, or high school level. Many subs do that.

Thank you to all our teaching and support staff substitutes who make a difference in our schools each day!

WE WANT

YOU

If you are interested in the flexibility and fun being a sub provides, please contact Alexis Reitinger at 608-328-7236 or email her at alexisreitinger@monroe.k12.wi.us for more information on how to apply.

School District of Monroe

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School Closings and Early Dismissals

The School District of Monroe’s school closing information is posted to the district webpage and district Facebook page minutes after a decision to close or dismiss early is made. Parents and guardians of current students will also receive an automated phone call from our Skylert messaging system.

The district contacts the following TV and radio stations when these events occur:

RADIO

WBGR FM 93.7 (Monroe)
WEKZ FM 95.5/AM 1260 (Monroe)

TELEVISION

WISC CBS 3 (Madison)
WMTV NBC 15 (Madison)
WKOW ABC 27 (Madison)

School District of Monroe Calendar

Nov 22nd-24th	Thanksgiving Break	January 10th	District Annual Spelling Bee at MMS
November 27th	No School - Teacher Inservice	January 15th	No School
Dec 15th and 16th	MHS/MMS "A Holiday Extravaganza" Concert 7pm in the MHS PAC	January 31st	MHS Course Information Night 5:30-7:30pm
December 18th	Parkside 2nd and 3rd Grade Concert 6:30pm in MHS PAC	February 23rd-25th	MHS Musical "The Addams Family" in the MHS PAC
Dec 25th - Jan 1st	Winter Break	Feb 29th-March 2nd	MMS Musical "The Spongebob Musical: Youth Edition" in MMS Auditorium



ATTENTION NON-RESIDENTS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MONROE

This newsletter is provided to all residents of the School District of Monroe. The most affordable process used to circulate this newsletter throughout the district is to use saturation mailing. It is costly to avoid a few non-residents from receiving our newsletter. We apologize for your inconvenience but wish to provide important information to all residents. Thank you.