MONTROSE
SCHOOL DISTRICT 43-2
309 South Church Avenue • Montrose, South Dakota 57048
(605) 363-5025 • Fax (605) 363-3513 • montrose.k12.sd.us

DAN AAKER
Superintendent / Secondary Principal

SHAWNYA MCGREGOR
K-8 Principal / Curriculum Director

MAKENZI MILES
Business Manager

Dear Montrose School District Families,

I hope you have had a wonderful summer and have had the opportunity to spend quality time with family and friends. As we are preparing to begin another exciting school year, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone back to the Montrose School District.

For those I have not yet had the pleasure of meeting, my name is **Dan Aaker**, and I am honored to serve as the new Superintendent of Montrose School District. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity and look forward to partnering with our students, families, staff, and community members. Over the past several weeks, I have enjoyed meeting many members of our school family, and I am excited to continue building relationships throughout the school year.

My goal is simple: to ensure that every student has the opportunity to learn, grow, and succeed in a safe, supportive, and welcoming environment. I believe that strong schools are built through positive relationships, open communication, and a shared commitment to putting students first. I look forward to working alongside our dedicated staff and supportive community as we continue the tradition of excellence at Montrose School District.

Our **Fall Open House** is scheduled for **Tuesday, August 18, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** The National Guard will once again be serving a meal from **5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.** We encourage all parents and students to attend this important event. Please be on the lookout for the pre-registration form that will be coming out in the next few days.

During Open House:

- Students and families will have the opportunity to meet teachers and become familiar with classrooms and schedules.
- **Sixth-grade students and their parents** are invited to attend an orientation at **5:30 p.m. in the high school gym** to help prepare for the transition to middle school.
- A **PK-12 parent meeting** will be held at **6:00 p.m. in the high school gym** to discuss important updates, procedures, and information for the upcoming school year.
- Several beginning-of-the-year payment stations will be available in the commons area, including lunch accounts, activity tickets, computer insurance, band instrument rental, and yearbooks.
- Middle school and high school students may pick up class schedules, locker assignments, and combinations.
- Elementary students are encouraged to bring their school supplies, meet their teacher, and get their classroom organized before the first day of school.

MONTROSE
SCHOOL DISTRICT 43-2

309 South Church Avenue • Montrose, South Dakota 57048
(605) 363-5025 • Fax (605) 363-3513 • montrose.k12.sd.us

DAN AAKER
Superintendent / Secondary Principal

SHAWNYA MCGREGOR
K-8 Principal / Curriculum Director

MAKENZI MILES
Business Manager

The **first day of school is Thursday, August 20.** The first bell rings at **8:22 a.m.**, classes begin at **8:25 a.m.**, and students will be dismissed at **3:30 p.m.** School pictures are scheduled for **September 22**.

Enclosed you will find information regarding the **Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)**. Please review the eligibility information carefully. Families with children already eligible for Medicaid should complete and return the enclosed form to the Cornbelt Educational Cooperative. This program can benefit both families and the school district by helping offset certain special education service costs.

Also enclosed is the **Free and Reduced-Price Meal Application**. Families who believe they may qualify are encouraged to complete the application. Even if you qualified last year, a new application must be submitted for the current school year. If you need assistance completing the application, please contact **Makenzi Miles**. The grace period for last year's meal benefits ends **September 18th.**

For families who do not qualify for free or reduced meals, we encourage meal payments to be made in advance whenever possible. Current meal prices are:

- Breakfast (JK-12): **$2.00**
- Lunch JK-5: **$3.10**
- Lunch 6-12: **$3.50**
- Extra milk: **$0.60**
- Second entrée: JK-5 **$1.50** | Grades 6-12 **$1.75**

To simplify payments, families may choose to deposit approximately **$62 per month for JK-5 students** or **$70 per month for students in grades 6-12**.

Students in grades 6-12 must purchase **computer insurance** before receiving their school-issued device. Insurance costs **$20 per family** and includes a **$50 deductible** per incident for accidental damage.

Students planning to participate in athletics must have a current **athletic physical** on file before participating in practices or competitions. Physical forms are available in the school office and on the district website.

Our **Homecoming celebration** is scheduled for **September 18**. The parade will begin at **2:00 p.m.**, and students will be dismissed following the completion and cleanup of the floats.

Families wishing to utilize school bus transportation should contact the school office at **(605) 363-5025** with your address and the names of your children who will be riding the bus by **Friday**

MONTROSE
SCHOOL DISTRICT 43-2

309 South Church Avenue • Montrose, South Dakota 57048
(605) 363-5025 • Fax (605) 363-3513 • montrose.k12.sd.us

DAN AAKER
Superintendent / Secondary Principal

SHAWNYA MCGREGOR
K-8 Principal / Curriculum Director

MAKENZI MILES
Business Manager

August 7th. Our transportation staff will ensure you are added to the appropriate route, and your bus driver will contact you with pickup information before school begins.

As we are preparing for another school year, I want to thank you for entrusting us with the education of your children. It is truly a privilege to serve the Montrose community. Together, I know we can provide an outstanding educational experience where every student feels valued, challenged, and supported.

I am looking forward to meeting many more of you at Open House and throughout the school year. Please don't hesitate to stop by, introduce yourself, or reach out if there is ever anything I can do to support your family.

Enjoy the remaining days of summer, and I look forward to seeing everyone soon!

Sincerely,

Dan Aaker
Superintendent
Montrose School District #43-2