



Message from the Superintendent

I trust everyone had a nice Christmas and a Happy New Year. It seems hardly possible that we have now officially entered the second semester and 2009. There are several things that have people excited in the Monroe Central School Corporation. Our building project is moving along quite nicely and we are excited at the state of art facility we will have. It is one that not many small corporations can boast about!

As we strive to improve academic achievement it is important to understand that this will require a tremendous amount of teamwork. From the classroom to the home we will work to keep parents informed. It is important to understand that family involvement is a key ingredient in student success. Many times effective communication is the primary way to increase involvement and we will strive to accomplish this task!

In my short tenure at Monroe Central I have found both the local and school community to be filled with people full of pride and enthusiasm. Come visit us at MCSC to see what tomorrow's future leaders are doing, today!

Sincerely,
Shane Robbins

From the:

Bears Den



(A Quarterly Newsletter from the Superintendent)

Monroe Central High School Named One of the State's Best!

Monroe Central High School was recently named by the Indiana Chamber of Commerce as one of the **10** most efficient schools in the state of Indiana, with the distinction of being labeled; "The Head of the Class." Indiana Chamber of Commerce Vice President, Tom Schuman presented Mr. Adrian Moulton, the Monroe Central Junior Senior High School Principal, with a plaque recognizing the school. Mr. Schuman stated that Monroe Central High School had attained the very highest level of academic achievement for the tax dollars it receives. He further stated that it proves excellence in education is attainable at a reasonable cost.

The study examined 349 public high schools and charter schools. The Indiana Chamber of Commerce developed a total school performance index that utilized ISTEP + pass rates, SAT Participation and average composite scores, as well as the number of students that passed the Advanced Placement tests. The index, which is called the school's *quality index*, is then compared to the other participating schools in order to determine the Indiana best buy list. More stringent screening then screens the list down to the top 10, "Head of the Class" recipients.

Indiana Chamber of Commerce's 2008 "Head of the Class"

1. Batesville High School, Batesville, IN (Ripley)
2. Castle High School, Newburgh, IN ((Warrick)
3. Center Grove High School, Greenwood, IN (Johnson)
4. Hamilton Southeastern High School, Fishers, IN (Hamilton)
5. Hauser High School, Hope, IN (Bartholomew)
6. **MONROE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL, Parker City, IN (Randolph)**
7. North Central High School, Indianapolis, IN (Marion)
8. North Harrison High School, Ramsey, IN (Harrison)
9. Rushville High School, Rushville, IN (Rush)
10. Signature School, Evansville, IN (Vanderburgh)

Meet Some of Our OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

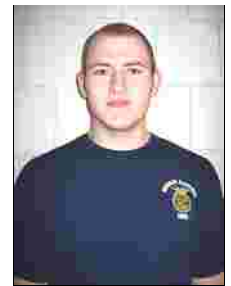
Members of the 6th Grade Class



Alisha Estabrook

Alisha is a senior at Monroe Central. She is very active participating in Winter Guard, Yearbook, National Honor Society, French Club, Anchor Club, Color Guard, Academic Team, Quiz Bowl, FCCLA, Peer Mentoring, Masque and Gavel, Science Club and Newspaper. Alisha currently ranks second in her class with a GPA of 4.09. This winter she had a once in a lifetime opportunity as she headed east to attend the inauguration of President Barack Obama.

Jordan is a senior and is the Chief Financial Officer for the 1st Semester Economics Class, they donated \$700 to Habitat for Humanity. He is also a member of the Golden-Bear Basketball team and Academic Team. Upon graduation from MC he plans on a career in the Air Force.



Jordan Downing



Joshua Wilson

Joshua has mastered all 146 objectives in the fourth grade Math library and he has also mastered all 44 levels of Math Facts in a Flash. He is an Honor Roll student and a hard worker.



-Mr. Mitchell



MCE Sixth Grade Students Give To Angel Tree

This year, the Monroe Central Elementary Sixth Grade students were given a choice about their Christmas gift exchange. They could choose to have a gift exchange between the students in their class, with a maximum gift of \$3, or they could choose to bring in \$3 to contribute to an "Angel Tree" gift for needy children in the community. The vote was cast and the sixth grade chose overwhelmingly to be blessings to those in their own community. The students brought in enough money to support four "angels" from the Angel Tree. Their willingness to give shows that it is truly better to give than to receive!

Monroe Central School Board Goes Paperless

The Monroe Central School Board has gone to paperless board meetings.

in the "Go Green" initiative, but they also have the opportunity to model the importance of the use of technology to the students, faculty, and staff at Monroe Central.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the world population is expanding at a mind-boggling rate. The world reached 1 billion people in 1800; 2 billion by 1922; and over 6 billion by 2000. It is estimated that the population will swell to over 9 billion by 2050. That means that if the world's natural resources were evenly distributed, people in 2050 will only have 25% of the resources per capita that people in 1950 had.

[\(http://gogreeninitiative.org/content/WhyGoGreen/\)](http://gogreeninitiative.org/content/WhyGoGreen/)

"The Monroe Central School Board utilizes a tremendous amount of paper," stated MC Superintendent Shane Robbins. When you look at a resource that we need to do a better job of protecting, it is our paper supplies. It is important to protect our paper supplies, when possible. This is necessary from both a "Green" and "Fiscal" perspective.

The use of laptops at board meetings, in place of the traditional paper packets, has been very valuable for school board members. Not only can they do their part



Randolph County is working hard to maximize resources, the MC School Board has joined the "Go Green" game!

Building Project Moving Along.....

If you have not been to the Monroe Central School Corporation for awhile then you will be happy to know that we are in the middle of a much needed renovation project. Several areas are being upgraded and remodeled in both the

coats. It will also provide a nice look to the building.



Elementary School and the Junior Senior High School. At the high school the students are getting new lockers. The new lockers will provide students with more space for their books and



The science classes are being moved and updated to meet the needs of the 21st Century Science student. Hall gym is receiving a face lift with fresh paint and we are pleased about the new fitness center that will be located above the wrestling room. Additionally, the administrative offices will be completely remodeled and there will be better control measures for visitors entering our facility.

At the elementary school we

were able to completely renovate three classrooms with new paint, carpet, and tile. We re-painted the elementary computer lab to provide an environment that was more conducive to learning. Finally, the office area has been remodeled and it too will have security doors installed to provide better control measures for our students and staff. There are additional projects taking place, but hopefully this provides you with a snapshot. Please visit us soon!



Monroe Central School Corporation

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Monroe Central School Corporation Board of Trustees

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.monroec.k12.in.us

Are We Nearing the End of Textbooks?

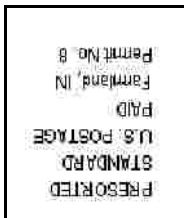
As technology continues to evolve, grow, and become more affordable many educators are asking themselves if they really need to utilize textbooks. First, let's look at the positive aspects of a textbook. Most textbooks have already prepared lesson plans complimented with activities that are associated with the standards and content. All students are provided the same educational material. And finally, publishers must go through a rigorous process to ensure the content and information is correct and factual. These constants provide educational leaders comfort in knowing they are utilizing a good resource for instruction. However, there are negatives to a textbook. Because of the state textbook adoption process when a school corporation purchases textbooks they are locked in for a specific number of years while the cost of the textbook is being recovered. The problem with this is that in some courses the content can become outdated and or obsolete in a just a couple of years. Additionally, students will testify that textbooks are heavy and inconvenient.

Paperless or digital textbooks do not have these problems. They cost significantly less and can be regularly updated online. Many times they incorporate video and other features that cannot be created through a printed page. This addresses learners in a different fashion and assists with student engagement. Most educators will agree that many times the achievement gap could be reduced simply by engaging the struggling learner. There are two big hurdles that must be cleared before a serious attempt to paperless textbooks can evolve in a small rural district. First, the textbook adoption cycle by the state must be flexible enough to allow a transition to digital content. Second, we must possess the technology in the buildings that will accommodate this type of learning environment. When schools renovate buildings some of the issues that exist such as a lack of wiring or power capabilities are being addressed. This will allow older buildings to proceed into the culture of technology that exists in our society.

About the Monroe Central School Corporation.....

The Monroe Central School Corporation, formed in 1956, is a consolidation of Green, Stoney Creek, Parker, and Farmland schools. On Wednesday, April 3, 1974, MC Jr/Sr High School was destroyed by a tornado. The new high school facility, built on the same site as the old high school, was first occupied in April of 1978. The Monroe Central Elementary School opened in 1983. The Jr/Sr high school has been expanded to include the new auxiliary gymnasium and the Millennium Wing that contains several new classrooms and a large meeting room.

Current Resident



Monroe Central School Corporation
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