A Message From Our Principal:

It is hard to believe we are already into October. I have enjoyed getting to know the students, staff and families here at Monte Cristo Elementary. You may have heard by now about our school rules identified through the Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS). Our morning announcement from students includes our rules as well as the students call out: “We are safe! We are responsible! We are respectful and kind! Go Miners!” All of our staff members hand out a “Miner’s Gold” award to catch students following these rules in and around school. A handful of students are randomly selected to come down to the office to get a prize. Each week, rewards are returned to the students to keep at school or take home. Classrooms receive awards as well when the entire class is recognized for following school rules. We also added “Problem Solving Wheels” throughout the school to help students identify different strategies to solve problems. Options on the wheel include: Walk away and let it go. Tell them to stop. Go to another activity. Rock, paper, scissors, go. Use an “I” message. Apologize. Talk it out. Ignore it. Wait and cool off.

We are off to a great start and I am seeing responsible, respectful, safe and kind Miners often throughout the day. I am so very proud of our Monte Cristo students and am pleased to get to be their principal.

Mrs. Thaut

Student Drop Off and Pick Up Kudos

Thank you for adhering to our parking lot drop off and pick up plan. Whenever possible, an adult from school is out there in the morning to help supervise. On behalf of the families and daycares driving kids to and from school, we appreciate that you are following the process for easier traffic flow. Thank you so very much!

For those who park, please avoid the “Reserved” parking spaces. These were set up some time ago for our itinerate staff that work here partial days. They often have large or bulky items to transfer to and from school throughout the day. On their behalf, thank you for avoiding those parking spaces.
Mentor Program

The mentor program is looking for male mentors! We have several students that are on the waiting list. The primary role of a mentor is to promote positive self-esteem and success in school. A mentor is a role model that listens, encourages, and guides. You are there to be a friend! Please think about spending no more than 45 minutes a week with a student. It is very rewarding and fun and a great way to give back to your community! Contact Kayla Lehman at either 360-283-4353 or klehman@gfalls.wednet.edu for more information.

Morning Visitors Concern

We are getting several visitors to the classroom in the morning. Now that school is underway and routines are established, we ask that parents avoid going to the classrooms in the morning. If you have items to drop off, please bring them to the office. We will make sure they get to your child’s classroom. As a teacher, this is among the most difficult time to meet. Their full attention needs to be on the classroom and getting the educational day started. The best communication is via email or phone. You may also set up an appointment to meet with the teacher during non-student contact time. Our formal conferences will be in November. If you have items to bring to your child, please drop them off at the office. We appreciate your understanding.

Highly Capable Program

This is to notify parents and community members that students may be nominated by parents, peers and members of the community to qualify for the District’s Highly Capable program. Nominators will complete a behavioral characteristics questionnaire, and teachers will provide information that includes classroom performance and general achievement levels. The District will screen each nominee using reading and math measures to identify students who qualify for further assessment. Prior to conducting the assessment, the principal or designee shall obtain written parental permission. Nominees identified through the screening process will be assessed using multiple criteria from a variety of sources and data, including tests that measure cognitive ability, academic achievement and evidence of exceptional creativity. Test results shall be recorded in the student’s cumulative file.

The students selected for participation in the program will be determined by a multidisciplinary committee which includes a classroom teacher or if possible, a highly capable teacher, the program director, a psychologist or other individual who can interpret cognitive and achievement test results, and other professionals as deemed desirable. The multidisciplinary committee will review data of nominated students. They will select those students who meet the criteria and would benefit the most from the program. The District will:

- Notify parents of their child's involvement in the program. Parents shall receive a full explanation of the procedures for identification, program options and the appeal process,
- Obtain parental permission to provide services and programs

The Highly Capable Program is accepting nominations! Please contact the Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment, Karin Manns, for more information at 360.691.7717.