



Volume XLII Issue 2  
November 2020

# Mustang News

A PUBLICATION OF MONTABELLA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

## WHAT'S INSIDE

**Homecoming 2020**

**Superintendent's Message**

**Mustangs in Action**

**Alumni Spotlight—Alex Allen**

**Changes at Montabella**

**Student Spotlight**

**Student of the Month/Mustang of the Month**

**Winter Calendar for Athletics**



Madison



Lily



Kylei

# Homecoming 2020



Chase



Evan



Ryan

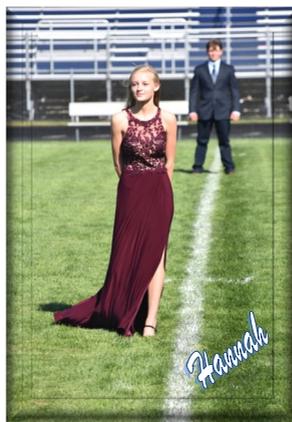


Meach

SOZERS



Gavin



Hannah



Taylor



Mya

SOZERS



Brady

# King & Queen



Parker



Eder

This year's Homecoming celebration was different than most years. However, the student body still worked to make it as much fun as possible. We dressed up for spirit days: Monday was pajama day, Tuesday was color war, Wednesday was twin day, Thursday was throw back Thursday, and Friday was Mustang Spirit day. The students competed in classroom competitions instead of grade level competitions. Most events were held virtually, including a Mustang knowledge Quizizz competition, a seek and find Bingo game, and a TikTok competition. Mrs. Burggren and Mr. Sprau's rooms were the overall winners for the classroom competitions. Instead of a Homecoming assembly in front of the student body, we had a virtual assembly announcing the members of the Homecoming court. At the game on Friday, we were able to have a presentation of the Homecoming Court. The Freshmen representatives were Madison Jordan and Chase Burggren. Sophomore representatives were Lily Lobert and Evan Judge. The representatives of the Junior class were Kylei Willemstein and Ryan Cook. The Queen candidates were: Mya Scott, Taylor Harkness, and Hannah Willis. The King candidates were Eder Lopez-Morales, Parker Burggren, and Gavin Kent. Hannah Willis and Gavin Kent were crowned as Queen and King during the halftime presentation.

## 2020, What a year!



When the clock struck midnight on January 1, 2020 I don't think anyone could have predicted where we would be 10 months later. The only consistent thing throughout this year has been the inconsistency. It has been difficult as a school district to prepare for all the unexpected turns that we have faced during these past 10 months. All things considered, we are off to a pretty good start to the school year.

88% of our students and their families made the choice to attend school in person this fall with different safety processes and procedures in place. This positive start was due to the collaborative efforts from everyone in the school community. We have received a number of compliments from educators and the community of other school districts on our plan and the effectiveness of the plan. Parents, teachers, support staff, administrators and community members have displayed patience and understanding as we worked through new drop off procedures, meal distribution, virtual meetings and many other changes. All of us should be very proud of the combined efforts to allow our students to be back at school in person.

The district continues to look at current COVID-19 data, this is done publicly at each board meeting prior to the board reaffirming how instruction will be offered. The positive cases in our three counties are rising as they are in most counties in the state. The district remains in constant communication with the health department and other districts on the current situation in our county. At this time the health department feels confident that schools are safe to continue with in person instruction for our county. If 2020 has taught us anything it is that things could change quickly so we are trying to be as prepared as possible for the institution to move to remote learning only. Students are bringing Chromebooks and chargers back and forth from home to school on a regular basis, this will allow students technology access from home for remote learning.

I anticipate that the last 2 months of 2020 might be as unpredictable as the first 10 months. The rolling of the calendar over to 2021 will not end the unpredictability. This might be our reality for quite some time. We are all trying to be as prepared as possible but sometimes it still takes some time and patience to work through unpredictable changes. I hope that we can all continue to work together as a community. #MustangPride

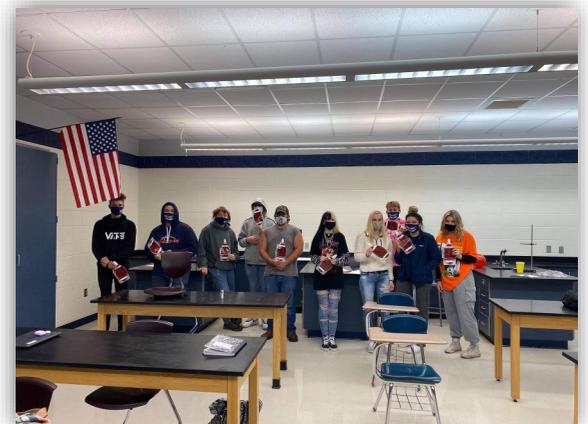


Please remember, if your student(s) is enrolled in virtual learning they are eligible for "virtual meals" for scheduled days of school. Montabella Food Service offers food pick-up at the elementary on Wednesdays from 1-1:30 PM. If you have not signed up for food pick-up, we encourage you to reach out to Lisa Hicks—lhicks@montabella.com or call 1-989-427-5149 ext 660.



Montabella Food Service, as well as the students, are very happy that we are serving breakfast through our breakfast cart. With things being so different this year, students and staff are enjoying seeing each other as they come to the cart.

Mrs. Burggren's class won football water bottles for having one of the best-decorated doors during Homecoming week.





## SOCIAL DISTANCING TAG

WITH MRS. CROWLEY

Students tried a new game in 8th grade health/PE using pool noodles for social distancing tag. There were a lot of giggles and the class stayed active while having fun.



## Middle School Science

Students were able to examine sheep brain as part of the nervous system unit in Mrs. Cook's eighth grade science classes. They were able to touch them and identify the three major parts of the brain. Most of the students enjoyed the activity, but some of them thought it was gross!

Montabella Community Schools



*Stay up-to-date at  
www.montabella.com, or  
download our app "Montabella  
Community Schools"*  
**Find us on Facebook: Montabella  
Community Schools & Montabella  
Elementary**

## MVT

Makenna Jensen recently honored Mr. Urbanawiz with the Most Valuable Teacher award for helping her succeed at Montabella.

\*Football seniors will present their awards during basketball season.





## Alumni Spotlight: Alex Allen

We would like to take a moment to recognize Montabella alumni, Alex Allen, who has been a tremendous support to Montabella since the beginning of COVID-19. Alex currently works in Denver Colorado, for Zoom, a video/web conferencing platform. With a sudden transition to remote learning back in March, Alex reached out to us and immediately offered to help us stay connected with our students with an educational account through Zoom. Some of us were unfamiliar with the program and he graciously offered a crash course in Zoom 101 to help make sure we were up and running. Numerous emails with questions and concerns never went unanswered, even if it meant meeting via Zoom at 10:30 PM. Because of Alex, we are able to keep the lines of communication open between staff and students.

**Thank you, Alex, for all of your help! You are a great representation of Mustang Pride!**

We always enjoy hearing from alumni, so we asked him a few questions about life after Montabella, below are his responses in blue.

What did you do after you graduated high school?

**I attended Michigan State University and received a degree in Communication with a Minor in Sales.**

Suggestion to current students, as it relates to plans after high school:

**Start thinking about your plan early and often. Work with your parents, school counselors, teachers, etc, to identify what you want to be, or do, after high school. By no means do you have to have a detailed plan, but having a next step is important, whether that is community college, a university, technical school or a job lined up after high school.**

**If you don't know what you want to do, ask your peers, coaches, parents, etc. what they think you may be good at! You'd be surprised by just asking.**

**Also: If you do want to go to college, but are worried about college debt, stop worrying! There are plenty of student loans and grants you can get to help pay for college. You won't regret getting a degree, as that degree will pay off overtime.**

How did you end up at Zoom? What is your most favorite part about your job?

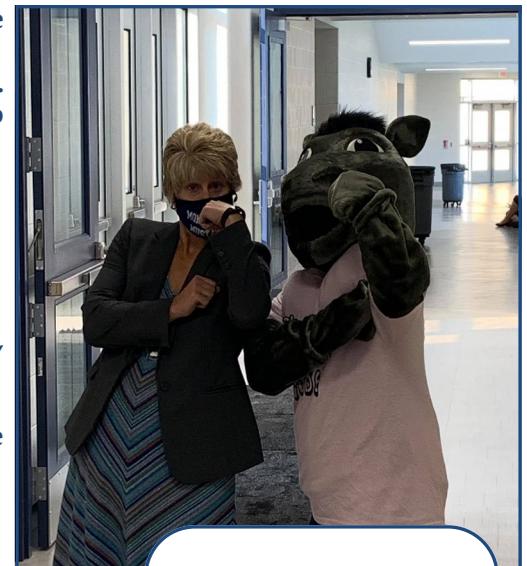
**I wanted to live in Denver because I love to ski and I had heard great things about the city. So I started to hit up my friends who I knew lived out here. I had a friend in Florida at my first company who was working for Zoom, so I asked her to refer me into the company. I didn't know much about the company (because we weren't that popular 4 years ago) so I took a chance. I guess you could say I got lucky :)**

**My favorite part is working with my clients to help them with their technology challenges. Being in sales is like solving problems. I love to find clients who don't have a good video conferencing tool because they are always in "awe" once they see how powerful Zoom is.**

Advice to share:

- **Be Kind and Treat Others The Way You Want To Be Treated**
- **Good things happen to good people.**
- **Be Yourself**
- **Be true to who you are because at the end of the day, you need to make yourself happy first, not others.**
- **Work Hard**
- **There are no handouts given after high school, so the harder you work at a young age, the less you have to work when you are older.**

**#OnceAMustangAlwaysAMustang**



MUSTANG STRONG

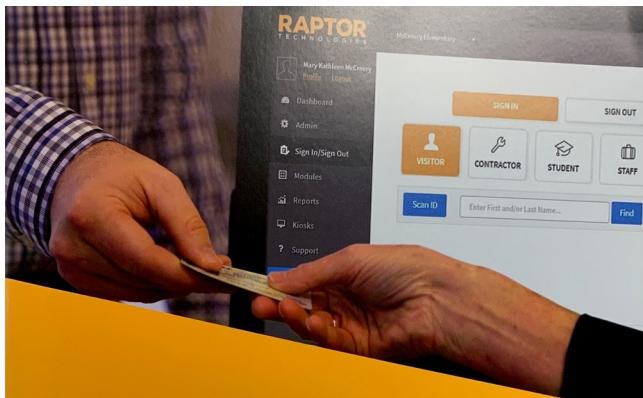
# Changes at Montabella

Growing stronger, together

Montabella Athletics recently had two Pixellot cameras installed: one at the Football stadium and one in the Elementary Gym. These cameras are fully automated, programmed to follow the action of the game, with a clear resolution picture. By having these cameras, Montabella Community Schools becomes part of the NFHS Network. Any home game played on the football field and in the elementary gym will be broadcast live, and in most cases, available by video on demand. To view these live streamed events, you need to create an account at [www.nfhsnetwork.com](http://www.nfhsnetwork.com) and then chose a subscription plan. There are two plans: monthly (\$10.99) or annually (\$69.99). During your subscription time, you can watch any game broadcast through the NFHS Network, and if other schools we play also have this ability, you can watch away games, as well. One other perk of having these cameras, is the ability to live stream academic events (at no charge) that take place in these two locations. For example, Graduation takes place in the elementary gym, we have the ability to live stream this event, as well as many others. This can be done at no charge. We are excited for this opportunity and ability to allow community members not able to make an event in person, the ability to watch it in real time.



PIXELLOT



**WELCOME VISITORS**

**Please report directly to the main office.**  
In order to better protect our students, visitors and staff, all visitors will be required to show a valid, government-issued ID.  
Thank you for your cooperation.

**Preséntense a la oficina principal.**  
Con el fin de proteger mejor a nuestros estudiantes, visitantes y personal, todos los visitantes deben mostrar un documento de identidad válido emitido por el gobierno.  
Gracias por su cooperación.

**Photo ID required.**

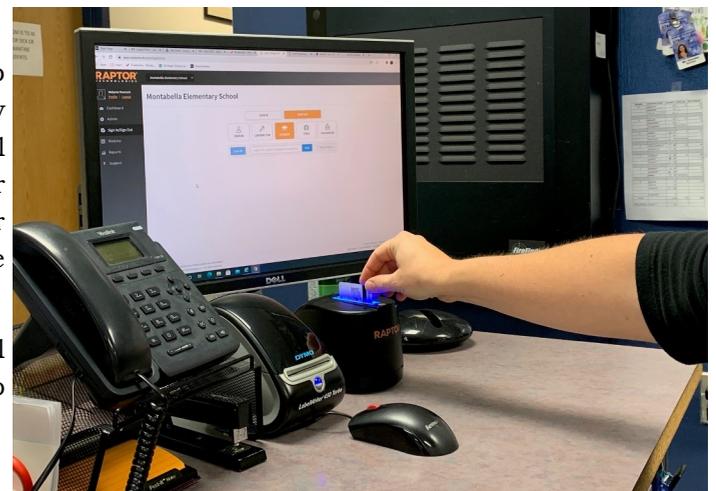


GCOM (Great Commission Outreach Ministries of Six Lakes) recently donated money to help Montabella Elementary purchase our new Raptor Technologies Reunification System. This system is adding another element of security for our students and staff.

Anyone who is picking up a student will be asked to show a photo ID that we now scan and save in our database as an approved pick-up. If it is a one-time pickup, we will ask for a photo ID for each visit. Guardians that are approved to sign a student out will all be attached to the student(s). This system syncs with our PowerSchool, so when changes are made in PowerSchool it will automatically update our Raptor system.

All visitors will be required to show a photo ID when they enter the building and will then be entered into our database ensuring another level of security within the building.

Thank you GCOM and all others who continue to support Montabella Schools!





Waylon King



Oakley Bandfield



Olivia Bogart



Mila VanBuskirk



Emma Kieff



Janson Swarts



Jase Wood



Lance Crawford



Jackson James



Ema Dood



Liam Harvell



Chase Miller



Noah Barber



Ella Scherzer



Liam Sheldon



Makaylynn Wood



Adrian Terrell



Lia Dood



Joslynn Smith



Lydia Eldred



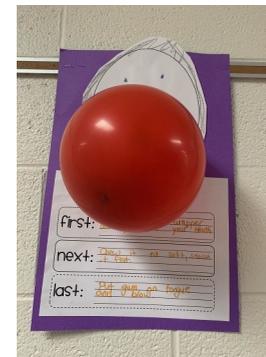
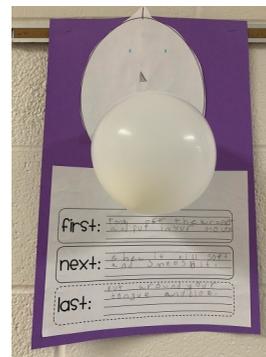
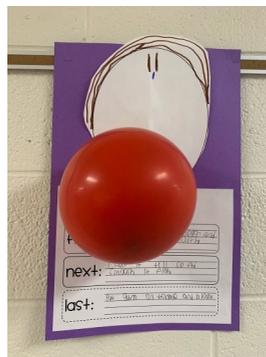
Braleigh Fulke



Mrs. Snyder's class investigated pumpkins. They measured them and counted the seeds in groups of five!

## How To Blow A Bubble

Mrs. Dawson's class practiced blowing bubbles and then wrote down the steps to help others learn how to blow bubbles as well!



#LearningIsFun



# JR/SR Student of the Month Recipients

Colin Vanas (7), Rebekah Mayer (9), Ella Kotenko (10), Sierra Luedtke (11), Kennen Huber (12)

## Spirit Week Fun



### September Mustang of the Month Dakota Dykhuis

#### Cross Country



Grade: 10  
Age: 15

Dakota ran 17:52 at the Ottawa Hills invitational. In only his second race, Dakota's time ranks him ties for the 12th fastest Montabella time ever.

His coach said, "Dakota has done the impossible double of football and cross-country. Despite this difficult double, Dakota has juggled both sports while still maintaining high grades. Dakota finished 5th at our league at Sacred Heart losing only to four all-staters." Great work Dakota!

### September Mustang of the Month Kyle Russell

#### Football



Grade: 12  
Age: 18

1 game -  
85 passing yards  
1 Touchdown

His coach said, "Kyle has been an outstanding leader during this shortened football season. He has worked very hard to perfect his craft and has improved greatly the past few months. He also serves as a peer mentor and does a great job helping students with their academic work." Great work Kyle!

## 2020-2021 1st Six Weeks

### R.E.A.L. Mustang Pride Honor Roll

#### Respect--Explore--Achieve--Lead

These students have a "C" or better grade in all classes and have not had any discipline referrals for the 1st six weeks.

#### 7th Grade

Ashlyn Binge  
Addyson Bouwkamp  
Conner Cluley  
Isabell Darling  
Annaliese Harris  
Hayden Helmer  
Aleceya Hernandez  
Kenzie Karcher  
Chase Keller  
Brady Kieff  
Natalie Ludwig  
Aubrey Pant  
Brooke Pant  
Dominique Ramos-Champlin  
Tuff Rood  
Jordan Row  
Jareth Shappee  
Gavin Simmons  
Jaxson Stockwell  
Colin Vanas  
Leia Webb  
Braydon Williamson  
Harmony Wood

#### 8th Grade

Keion Adams  
Alayna Foster  
Justin James  
Tyler Koons  
McKenna McCormick  
Jaylie Newcombe  
Addyson Strohl  
Nathanyal Voorhees  
Peyton Webb  
Gavin Willis

#### 9th Grade

Kalia Adams  
Kaydenn Aggas  
Keyien Alzamora  
Cooper Bolton  
Morgan Bondie  
Sydney Boyer  
Kaylee Cook  
Austin Foster  
Amber Friedrich  
Mersadies Geister  
Genika Gray  
Zaylee Huntoon  
Madison Jordan  
Madison Knapp  
Landin Lindenbusch  
Rebekah Mayer  
Emma Murray  
Jairen Olger  
Kylie Pifer  
Katie Spohn  
Savannah White

#### 10th Grade

Sydney Adgate  
Ryan Binge  
Ayden Capobianco  
Jacob Chaney  
Dakota Dykhuis  
Stanley Fitzgerald  
Jonathon Hubble  
Kase Jerome  
Alexis Jordan  
Andrew Kelsey  
Ella Kotenko  
Lily Lobert  
Logan Nelson  
Jac Papendick  
Chloe Petersen  
Sadie Quackenbush  
Payton Sheldon  
Justin Smith  
Ryan Wright

#### 11th Grade

Ethan Buccieri  
Ryan Cook  
Sara Courser  
Riley Daily  
MaLinda Johnston  
Sierra Luedtke  
Hailee McElhaney  
Eva Nemetz  
Trista Perkins  
Zachary Peters  
Julie Spohn  
Riley Walkington  
Madison Wood

#### 12th Grade

Clara Baumans  
Kendall Bolton  
Madison Burggren  
Parker Burggren  
Conner Byrne  
Eric Chaffee  
Maycee Chaney  
Megan Collins  
Ashley Davis  
Jonathan Gormley  
Abigail Hadley  
Emma Hatton  
Kennen Huber  
Brenna Hunt  
Makenna Jensen  
Gavin Kent  
Eder Lopez-Morales  
Natalie Lutz  
Roman Nickerson  
Cole Quackenbush  
Camron Renne  
Kyle Russell  
Mya Scott  
Helena Snyder  
Nolan Wilkinson  
Hannah Willis  
Xavier Wood

Meetings held Third Monday of the Month  
 JR/SR High School Cafeteria  
 1390 North County Line Rd. Blanchard, MI 49310  
 989-427-5148 (p) 989-427-3828 (f)

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Jann LaPointe ..... *President*  
 Scott Parks ..... *Vice President*  
 Ivan Renne ..... *Secretary*  
 Eylie Foster ..... *Treasurer*  
 Mike Rasmussen ..... *Trustee*  
 Katie Ludwig ..... *Trustee*  
 Shaila Powell ..... *Trustee*



# Mustang News

A PUBLICATION OF MONTABELLA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

**Non-Profit Org.**  
**U.S. Postage PAID**  
**Edmore, MI 48829**  
**Permit No. 1**



As always, we thank the Sons of the American Legion Post 240, from Blanchard, for making sure we have flags to fly at the Central Office, Jr/Sr High and our Elementary.

**School Closing Information**

In the event that school is closed or delayed due to inclement weather, the information will be broadcast to the following television and radio stations

**TV Stations**

WOOD TV8 Grand Rapids  
 WWWTV 9&10 Cadillac  
 WJRT TV12 Flint  
 WZZM TV13 Grand Rapids

**Radio Station**

WCFX 95.3FM Mt. Pleasant  
 WGLM 106.3FM Greenville  
 WCUZ 1230AM/105.7FM Grand Rapids  
 WCZY 104.3FM Mt. Pleasant

## MONTABELLA JR/SR HIGH

ALL SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

JV/VAR BOYS BASKETBALL				
Thur.	12/10	Ashley	A	6:00 PM
Tue.	12/15	Vestaburg	H	6:00 PM
Thur.	12/17	Breckenridge	H	6:00 PM
Tue.	1/5	Coleman	A	6:00 PM
Tue.	1/12	St. Charles	H	6:00 PM
Thur.	1/14	Sacred Heart Academy	A	6:00 PM
Wed.	1/20	Chippewa Hills	A	5:30 PM
Fri.	1/22	Merrill	A	6:00 PM
Wed.	1/27	Carson City-Crystal	A	6:00 PM
Fri.	1/29	Ashley	H	6:00 PM
Wed.	2/3	Vestaburg	A	6:00 PM
Fri.	2/5	Breckenridge	A	6:00 PM
Mon.	2/8	Fulton	H	6:00 PM
Wed.	2/10	Coleman	H	6:00 PM
Wed.	2/17	St. Charles	A	6:00 PM
Fri.	2/19	Sacred Heart Academy	H	6:00 PM
Wed.	2/24	Beaverton	A	6:00 PM
Fri.	2/26	Merrill	H	6:00 PM
Tue.	3/2	Belding	A	5:30 PM
Thur.	3/4	Carson City-Crystal	H	6:00 PM
Mon.	3/8	Districts @ Ithaca	A	TBA

WRESTLING				
Wed.	12/9	Michigan Lutheran Seminary	A	6:00 PM
Sat.	12/12	Big Rapids	A	9:00 AM
Wed.	12/16	Mio/Beaverton	H	6:00 PM
Sat.	12/19	Mustang Round Robin	H	9:00 AM
Sat.	1/2	Holton	A	9:00 AM
Wed.	1/6	St. Charles	A	6:00 PM
Sat.	1/9	Meridian	A	9:00 AM
Wed.	1/13	St. Charles/B-ridge/TBD Quad	H	6:00 PM
Sat.	1/16	Carson City-Crystal	A	9:00 AM
Wed.	1/20	Carson City-Crystal	A	6:00 PM
Sat.	1/23	Mustang Duals	H	9:00 AM
Sat.	1/30	Montague	A	9:00 AM
Sat.	2/6	MSAC Tournament	H	9:00 AM

MIDDLE SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL				
Mon.	1/18	Vestaburg	A	4:30 PM
Tue.	1/19	Carson City-Crystal	H	4:30 PM
Thur.	1/21	Sacred Heart Academy	A	4:30 PM
Mon.	1/25	Breckenridge	A	4:30 PM
Wed.	1/27	Merrill	H	4:30 PM
Mon.	2/1	Coleman	A	4:30 PM
Mon.	2/8	Ashley	A	4:30 PM
Wed.	2/10	Carson City-Crystal	A	4:30 PM
Mon.	2/15	Sacred Heart Academy	H	4:30 PM
Wed.	2/17	Vestaburg	H	4:30 PM
Mon.	2/22	Ashley	H	4:30 PM
Wed.	2/24	Coleman	H	4:30 PM

MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL				
Mon.	11/9	Vestaburg	A	4:30 PM
Wed.	11/11	Carson City-Crystal	H	4:30 PM
Thur.	11/12	Sacred Heart Academy	H	4:30 PM
Mon.	11/16	Breckenridge	H	4:30 PM
Wed.	11/18	Merrill	H	4:30 PM
Mon.	11/23	Coleman	H	4:30 PM
Wed.	12/2	Carson City-Crystal	A	4:30 PM
Mon.	12/7	Sacred Heart Academy	A	4:30 PM
Wed.	12/9	Vestaburg	H	4:30 PM
Wed.	12/16	Coleman	A	4:30 PM

**MIDDLE SCHOOL WRESTLING**  
 Schedule To be Determined

JV/VAR GIRLS BASKETBALL				
Tue.	12/1	Lakeview	H	6:00 PM
Fri.	12/4	Carson City-Crystal	A	6:00 PM
Tue.	12/8	Beal City	H	6:00 PM
Fri.	12/11	Ashley	H	6:00 PM
Wed.	12/16	Vestaburg	A	6:00 PM
Fri.	12/18	Breckenridge	A	6:00 PM
Wed.	1/6	Coleman	H	6:00 PM
Wed.	1/13	St. Charles	A	6:00 PM
Fri.	1/15	Sacred Heart Academy	H	6:00 PM
Wed.	1/20	Chippewa Hills	H	6:00 PM
Thur.	1/21	Merrill	H	6:00 PM
Tue.	1/26	Carson City-Crystal	H	6:00 PM
Thur.	1/28	Ashley	A	6:00 PM
Tue.	2/2	Vestaburg	H	6:00 PM
Thur.	2/4	Breckenridge	H	6:00 PM
Tue.	2/9	Coleman	A	6:00 PM
Tue.	2/16	St. Charles	H	6:00 PM
Thur.	2/18	Sacred Heart Academy	A	6:00 PM
Tue.	2/23	Farwell	A	6:00 PM
Thur.	2/25	Merrill	A	6:00 PM
Mon.	3/1	Districts @ Merrill	A	TBA

**BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION**  
 EARN CASH FOR YOUR SCHOOL WHEN YOU...

**BUY IN STORE**  
 BUY Box Tops Products  
 SCAN your store receipt  
 EARN Box Tops for your school

**BUY ONLINE**  
 1 SIGN UP on the app or at BTFE.com  
 2 SHOP online  
 3 FORWARD your digital receipt  
 4 EARN Box Tops for your school

**Box Tops**  
 Scan your store receipt, find participating products and instantly add cash to your school's earnings online.

**Coca-Cola GIVE**

Don't forget to save your coke product caps. Send them to any office at Montabella Community Schools. Coke donates a nickel for each cap we enter!

**Coke Gives**  
 Don't forget to save your coke product caps. Send them to any office at Montabella Community Schools. Coke donates a nickel for each cap we enter!

**MUSTANG ATHLETICS**  
**2020-2021**  
**WINTER SPORTS SCHEDULES**  
[www.montabellamustangs.com](http://www.montabellamustangs.com)

**GO MUSTANGS!**