

# Chalk Talk

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Linden A. Moore, Ph.D.

Superintendent, Montrose Community Schools

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It is with great pride that I submit my first Chalk Talk representing Montrose Community Schools. For those of you that may not know this, I am a lifelong resident of Montrose and take great pride in being a Ram! I look forward to utilizing this space to share the successes, lessons, and interesting stories that come from working in this wonderful community.

Throughout July and August, I often imagined my first day of school with students as the superintendent. I saw myself greeting seniors who entered the school for their “last first day”. I give them a subtle nod of my head and quietly say, “good morning” and they return the greeting barely audible because they are polite, but are very focused on looking cool for the first day.

My imagination took me down to the middle school where students from 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grade wake up with more energy than I would have after ten espressos! Middle school students that are excited to see who is in their class, excited to use their new lockers, excited to go to the lunchroom, excited about life! I pictured myself getting no less than 400 high fives as the students entered the building, because if you are ever in need of a high five, the middle school is the place to go. KHMS Students never “leave you hanging”.

Of course I was most excited about my visit to Carter Elementary school. Given I was a high school principal, I never had the opportunity to see my children off on the first day of school. This was my year to have a front row view of their experience. My mind’s eye created scene where energetic children walked tall and proud into a school where they could discover their incredible potential. I imagined a few tear filled eyes from both students and parents as one last hug is given, a hand is squeezed, and a final word of encouragement is shared before a mother or father sends the most important thing in their life to a trusted teacher, classroom aide, or principal.

Yes, I imagined my first day as a superintendent to be nothing short of incredible which is why I can honestly say, I never thought in my wildest dreams we would start with a “boil water advisory” on the first day of school!

There is no doubt I will not forget my first day with students as superintendent and after looking back on that day, I still think it was incredible. I didn’t get to do all of the things I imagined in each building. I got to see something better. I was shown how our entire staff was able to be flexible and come together to solve a temporary inconvenience. I greatly appreciate their patience and flexibility. I know how hard the City of Montrose worked to get things back up and running and I am thankful for that.

This is just one of the reasons I have Ram Pride and I hope you do too. I look forward to seeing all current, former and honorary Rams for Homecoming week which is scheduled for September 24-28. The high school student council has multiple activities for that week including dress-up days, a powder-puff game, pep assemblies, and a Homecoming parade which will lead up to our Homecoming football game on Friday, September 28 starting at 7 p.m.

Homecoming is a wonderful sign that the school year is in full swing. As such, this Monday marks the start of the 4<sup>th</sup> week of the school year. I encourage all parents and students to start monitoring grades and attendance now. If you are parent, you should have a ParentVUE account. If you are a student, you should have a StudentVUE account. If you do not have one of these accounts, contact your child’s school to find out how to get one. One of the greatest indicators of success is knowing how you (or your child) is doing in every class.

All of us at Montrose Community Schools believe in providing a safe and collaborative environment that has high expectations for our students and staff. We are thankful to have a community that is supportive and passionate about the success of our school and its students. I look forward to an excellent school year!

Go Rams!

Linden A. Moore, Ph.D.

Superintendent