

DISCOVERY COMMUNITY SCHOOL

PREPARE. ENGAGE. EDUCATE. EMPOWER. INSPIRE.

OCTOBER FAMILY NEWSLETTER

School Hours: 7:30 - 2:00

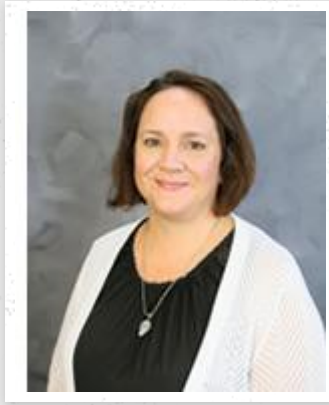
Phone: (320) 370-6180



FROM PRINCIPAL HOLM

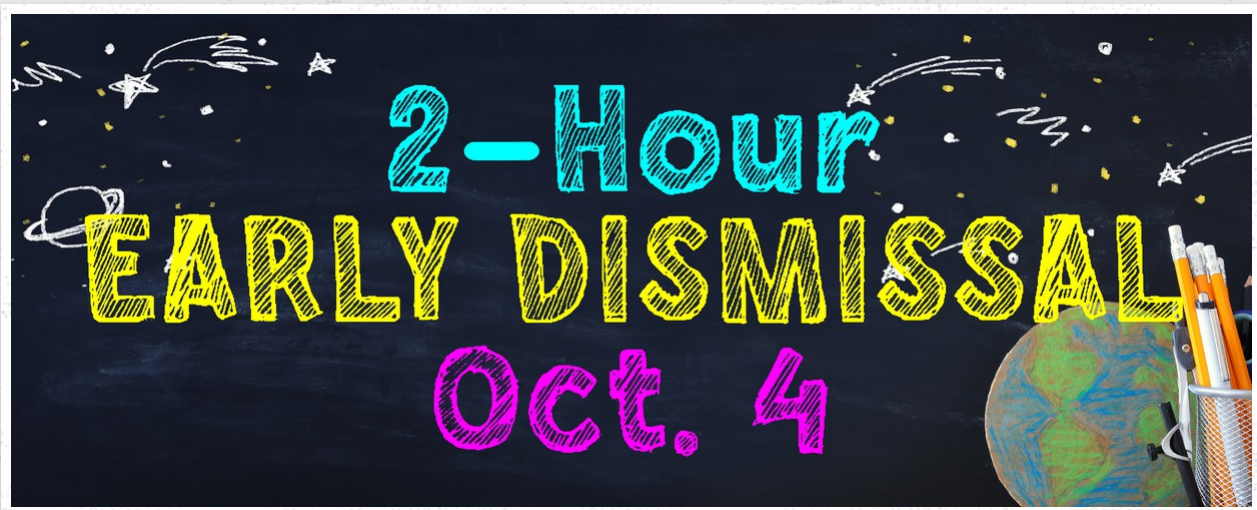
Hi Families,

Welcome back students and families! We are looking forward to an outstanding year of learning. We are proud of the way our students are learning routines, making friends, and challenging themselves in the classroom. At Discovery we recognize the importance of connecting home and school. If you have not had a chance to connect with your child's teacher either at Goal Setting Conferences or by phone, please feel free to reach out to your child's teacher. I have included a link below to find contact information for your child's teacher. We look forward to partnering with you throughout the year!



DATES TO REMEMBER

- **October 4** - 2 Hour Early Dismissal - Students leave at 12:00
- **October 12** - Parent/Teacher Conferences 3:00 - 7:00
- **October 19-20** - MEA - No School
- **October 25** - Walker West parent meeting- 3:30-5:00
- **October 26** - Parent/Teacher Conferences 3:00 - 7:00
- **October 27** - Picture Day
- **October 31**- 3rd Grade family event 11:45-12:45- Join your child in their classroom for learning and fun!
- **November 1** - 2 Hour Early Dismissal - 12:00



CORRECT PHONE NUMBER AND ADDRESS

It is very important that we have your current phone number and address, so if it has changed please let us know at **320/370-6180** as soon as possible. When the school calls, If you're unable to answer we will leave a voicemail message, so please make sure your voicemail is set up to receive messages. Thank you.

[CLICK HERE FOR DISCOVERY STAFF DIRECTORY](#)

2023-24 SCHOOL CALENDAR

[2023-24 School Calendar](#)

**FAMILY ENGAGEMENT SHORT SURVEY-
PLEASE CLICK ON THE LINK FOR
LANGUAGE PREFERENCE**

[CLICK HERE FOR SOMALI](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR SPANISH](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR ENGLISH](#)

DRESS UP DAYS

The following are all school dress-up days to celebrate Unity Week! We are United Against Bullying

■ Monday: October 16th

Dress up as your favorite character

(Must be school-appropriate)

■ Tuesday: October 17th

Sport Day

Dress up like your favorite sports hero (This could be a dance, football player, baseball, soccer, gymnast or any other sport.)

■ Wednesday: October 18th

Orange for Unity Day

United Against Bullying.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Hello Discovery Families,

Please take the time to review this video introducing the Code of Conduct: Rights and Responsibilities handbook with your student. It can also be found on your school website.

<https://youtu.be/rD83Xlh0v9Y>.

Based on the district's Strategic Plan and Core Values, the Code of Conduct clearly defines the expectations we, as a school community, value and honor. By using the Code of Conduct, we continue to develop consistent expectations to ensure that our schools are healthy environments where all students and staff feel welcome, respected and safe.

Your student will discuss the Code of Conduct in advisory and morning meetings at school as well. Everyone in our district— whether it's students, families, teachers, administrators, other staff or community partners—has a very important role to play to provide a positive learning environment for all students.

Thank you for joining us in this effort of understanding and respect.

HELLO FROM KINDERGARTEN!

October:

Hello Kindergarten families!

We have been hard at work practicing school routines and expectations in kindergarten! We have also been learning how to share and work with a partner, practicing our letters and counting, and identifying beginning sounds in words. In math we have started to learn about position words, and in reading we have been talking about how to properly use books, different ways to read a book, and what the parts of a book are.

You will start to see library books and PAKRAT books in their backpacks – these are for you to read at home with your kindergartener and return to school so they can get new ones the following week!

A couple friendly reminders:

1. As the weather starts to get colder, please be sure to send appropriate outdoor clothing. We play outside on the playground every day for recess.
2. Please check your child's blue take home folder (Ms. Koll's class has different colors) every night! Please take out all your child's work from school that day and send their folder back to school empty.

Thank you for your support and involvement in your child's learning!

The Kindergarten Team

1ST GRADE

Happy October!

After being in school for a month, our stamina has been increasing and allowing us to explore our reading time together more and more! We have been exploring new books and reading strategies so we can read more independently at school and at home. Please practice the routine of reading with your student at home every day, it's a great way to connect school to home!

Coming up in reading, we are learning new genres, using our visualizing skills, how to identify the character and setting in a story, and so many phonics skills!

In math, we are focusing on adding and subtracting within 10 and learning many strategies like counting on, counting backwards, number recognition, number ordering, and skip counting. We have been mastering our routines and utilizing math manipulatives to help us show our work when building our number sense skills!

There are so many memories being made and we can't wait to make more with your amazing students!

- Ms. Burau
- Ms. Fagerstrom
- Ms. Strahan
- Ms. Grussendorf

THE SECOND GRADE SCOOP

The Second Grade Scoop

We have been busy second graders working on developing our addition and subtraction skills in math and working with the genres of Realistic Fiction and Fantasy in reading. We are continually working on our short vowel sounds, sight words, and sentence writing.

Our students are continually using good reading habits. **Remember to read at home EVERY day for at least 20 minutes.**

READING: Reading this month our essential question is "How do friends depend on each other?" Our stories will focus on this question and our students will be working on identifying key details of characters and events in stories through fantasy texts.

MATH: In math, we will be working on learning addition and subtraction strategies. From here, our next chapter in math will be solving one-step word problems. Students will be learning lots of new math games in class!

We encourage you to have students practice math and reading skills after school, be it through Lexia, XtraMath, and/or assignments sent through Seesaw. While we cover so much in school, practicing at home is just as important and encouraged so you can see first hand what your children are learning. Celebrate the areas they are strong in and continue to encourage them to practice those skills that may be weaker in. WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER!

Ms. Smith, Ms Street, Mr. Burrer, and Ms. Aden

3RD GRADE

Dear Discovery 3rd Grade Families,

We've had a wonderful start to the school year thus far. Students have been learning and practicing their new routines in all subjects along with getting to know their new classmates.

In reading, students have been building their stamina when it comes to reading independently. This is a skill you can have your student practice at home. Make sure they are in a quiet spot and focusing on the book they are reading for 10 or more minutes. Our goal is that every 3rd grader will be able to read independently for 20 minutes. This will help them in the classroom as we have independent reading every day during the school year.

Teachers and students have been excited to use our new math program, IReady. Students are learning the try it, discuss it, and connect routine which encourages collaboration in math class. The first unit focuses on place value. You can practice this at home by asking your child to name the value of the digits of the ones, tens, hundreds or thousands place.

-The Third Grade Team

4TH GRADE

Dear Fourth Grade Parents:

The first month of school is behind us! We have been busy starting our new math curriculum, iReady. Students are doing very well with this change, and they are really enjoying learning new methods.

We have started our first unit in Wonders, and we have been learning about nonfiction text.

To help your child be successful in school, please ensure that they are getting a good night's rest and that they're present and on time. With cooler weather upon on, make sure that your child is dressed for the weather. We recommend reading at home at least twenty minutes each night, and practicing basic math facts.

Thank you!
-The Fourth Grade Team

5TH GRADE

Welcome to 5th Grade!

We are very excited to start your student's final year here at Discovery. As we are preparing for students to go on to Middle School next year, we are focusing on building strong routines and habits at the start of the year. This includes using our planners everyday. Students will be writing down what we are doing each day in their planners. **We encourage you to take a look at these planners each night to see what we did in class that day.**

Math: We started the year by asking the question, "How did we grow our math brains today?" This was important to start with because it allowed students to understand why we do partner work, math games, and have discussions in math class. We are now moving into our new iReady curriculum and focusing on our first unit, volume.

Language Arts: Our first story we looked at was nonfiction. Students read about President Theodore Roosevelt and how he appreciated nature and worked to preserve it. Students are also encouraged to read for 20 minutes at home each evening, choosing a Good Fit book that works for them.

Social Studies: We began the year focusing on geography. We looked at how maps were created and used in the past and how they have changed over time. Students were able to practice reading a map and what features a map has before creating their own.

Science: Students have been working with Ms. Walz in the STEAM lab on physical properties and will continue to work on awesome science projects throughout the year.

As the weather starts to cool down, please have students pack a light jacket for recess in the mornings. Thank you!

The 5th Grade Team
Ms. Fernelius, Ms. Hacker, and Ms. Schroll

PHY ED

Hello everyone!

It is October and we are having a wonderful month of weather. The students in Physical Education have been outside learning about cardiovascular health and football skills. Your students have been learning how to use hand-to-eye coordination to catch a thrown ball from a partner. This is a crucial skill for your child to develop because catching is used every day at home and school. Catching will also help confidence in sports, activities, and life.

Your students have also been working on what their body does while running. This is crucial to the understanding of how our body responds to exercise and why our body may feel that way. Catching, throwing, and running are great exercises and skills for students to develop. The best part about learning these skills is brain development. Properly learning and using these skills helps a person to use both sides of the brain, make connections, aid in memory retention, and brain cell growth. Crossing the midline of the body helps with reading and writing.

The third, fourth, and fifth graders have also spent a good amount of time outside preparing and running the Mile. The Mile Run is a fitness test used to see how our student's cardiovascular fitness levels compare to students of their own age around the United States. It gives teachers an idea for planning and training cardiovascular skills throughout the winter. The time will give the students a chance to set goals and plan to run a faster mile in the spring. The goal for the students to run the mile is 20 minutes. In the spring the expectation will be 18 minutes. If the student does not complete the mile run in the expected time, the child will rerun the following week until he/she passes.

The third, fourth and fifth graders will be moving into learning how to ride bikes. It is an interesting experience. Most of the students at Discovery have not had an opportunity to learn how to ride bikes and it is great to see all the willing learners. The students just want to get up and move!

During the bike unit in October, we are also talking to all students K-5 about cross walk safety. We practiced in the month of September in the back of the school. This month we will be taking the students to the front of the school to the crosswalk and practicing there. This is an important lifelong skill to understand the importance of.

October is also Fire Safety Month. The K, 1, and 2 students are currently working on Stop, Drop, and Roll skills along with driving fire trucks and putting out fires! The students love to push, drive, and pretend to be firefighters! Make sure to talk to your students about exit plans and safe places to go if your home catches on fire.

Mr. Thoreson
Mr. Richmond
Discovery Physical Education

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

October 2023

School Counselor Corner

Student Honors and rewards

We are raising the minds of the future.

At Discovery, we believe in PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Support). (PBIS) is an evidence-based, tiered framework for supporting students' behavioral, academic, social, emotional, and mental health.

Besides having the honor of being a School Counselor, I am part of our PBIS team. We have many honors your children can earn.

You Counts:

These are known as dolphin tickets and when staff notices positive behavior, a student receives a You Count. They then write their name on it, and at the end of the week, we have a class drawing for a prize.

Bus Bucks:

A student can earn these for good behavior on the bus. We do a separate drawing once a week for each grade.

Student of the Month:

For this award, the teachers look at who has been an outstanding student each month, and at the end of the month, they get to have Pizza with the Principal and receive a certificate.

House Cup:

During the trimester, both houses, ***Apollo Eagles*** (grades 1, 3, and 5) and Tech Tigers (Kindergarten, 2nd, and 4th grades), save ALL their YouCounts, then we see who has the most and the House with the most winners in the **House Cup!!**

Please review all the possible awards with your child and encourage them to work hard to earn Dolphin tickets, bus bucks, and more. Check-in with them regularly to see if they have earned any. Working together, parents and the school helps your child realize we are all working together to help them be the best student they can be.

The following are all school Dress-up days to celebrate Unity Week! Because we are United Against Bullying.

■ Monday: October 16th

Dress up as your favorite character.

Remember, it MUST be school-appropriate.

■ Tuesday: October 17th

Sport Day

Dress up like your favorite sports hero (This could be a dance, football player, baseball, soccer, gymnast or any other sport.)

■ Wednesday: October 18th

Orange for Unity Day

United Against Bullying.

■ Thursday and Friday, October 19th and 20th

there is NO school.

Joanie Hauck LSC

320-370-6256

joan.hauck@isd742.org

HAPPY 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR SCIENTISTS!

This year our STEAM Lab has moved rooms and we are taking extra time to know our routine and where things are moved to. We are building our science skills by practicing using our skills of observation, questioning, creativity, and collaboration. We know 'Why' is at the core of scientific thinking, and simple questions like, "Why do leaves change color?" leads to great learning.

As the seasons change, take time with your student to enjoy and observe the changes outdoors. Welcome back, I'm looking forward to an amazing year!

Mrs. Walz (extension 6233)

