



DISCOVERY RIDGE ELEMENTARY WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Week of November 17, 2025

Be a DRE Attendance H.E.R.O.

Here Everyday Ready On-time!

At Discovery Ridge Elementary, we take pride in our students' excellent attendance! Sharing our weekly attendance is important to us, and it will be a regular feature in our Weekly News. We invite you to join us in celebrating the hard work of our students and their families, ensuring that DRE Stars have the opportunity to attend school every day, all day!



Perfect Attendance (Zero Absence)

231 Students

90/90 Data (Percentage of Students w/90%+ Attendance)

Kdg 90.12%

1st Grade 93.33%

2nd Grade 97.18%

3rd Grade 97.39%

4th Grade 97.73%

5th Grade 90.1%

DRE 90/90 Data 94.44%

DRE SIP 25-26 Goal: DRE will improve the **proportional attendance rate** from 93.4% to 94.3% by the end of the 2025-2026 school year.

DRE 2025-2026 Teacher of the Year



We are fortunate to have such a vibrant community of educators at Discovery Ridge. We truly appreciate the heartfelt words you shared about the many teachers within our school. Our final ballot reflects the top 10 nominations received and accepted by our candidates. Our 2025-2026 Teacher of the Year will be announced on November 21, 2025.

Our ballot closes on Friday, November 14, at 9 pm.

DRE Teacher of the Year Ballot

Save the Date!

November 14

DRE Choir, Dardenne Prairie Tree Lighting, 5:30-6 pm
Texas Roadhouse Gift Card Sales Begin (close 12/1)

November 17

WSD Late Start Day, 10:35 am
No PreK Classes
1st Quarter Student Leadership Assembly

November 18

DRE PTO Dine Out: Texas Roadhouse

November 20

WSD BOE Meeting, 6:30 pm

November 23

Art To Remember Orders Due

November 26-30

No School, Thanksgiving Break

December 1



WSD Late Start Day, 10:35 am
No PreK Classes

December 3
DRE Fine Arts Night, 6:30 pm (DRE Choir and 3rd Grade)

December 6
DRE Choir Christmas Traditions Parade, Main Street St. Charles

December 12
DRE PTO Pancakes With Principals, 6-8 pm
Book Fair Family Shopping Night

December 15
Book Fair Begins
DRE Mobile Dentist (see Nurse Rosemarie's information below)

December 18
Winter Parties, PreK-5th Grade, 2:20-3:20 pm

December 19
Early Release, 1:35 pm
No PreK Classes

January 5
Classes Resume
WSD Late Start Day, 10:35 am
No PreK Classes

[DRE Family Calendar Link \(Google\)](#)

[2025-2026 Academic Calendar](#)

[DRE Family Handbook](#)

Special Area Schedule

Monday
Day 5
Tuesday

Day 1

Wednesday

Day 2

Thursday

Day 3

Friday

Day 4



Grade Level Lunch Times

Preschool-10:35 a.m.

Kindergarten-11:10 a.m.

First Grade-11:25 a.m.

Second Grade-10:50 a.m.

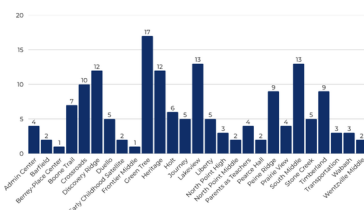
Third Grade-12:30 p.m.

Fourth Grade-12:10 p.m.

Fifth Grade-11:50 a.m.

Breakfast & Lunch Menu

Wentzville WOW Factor Award



Has your child's teacher made a significant impact on their education and life? Do you want to recognize a staff member who goes above and beyond? Let them know with a [Wentzville Wow Factor Award](#); you can submit one at any time throughout the school year to show them that they are making a difference!

[Click to Recognize a Staff Member](#)

DRE Giving Tree, Supporting Christmas Shoppe

Each holiday season our Discovery Ridge community participates in a "Giving Tree" program, offering holiday assistance to families and children in our community. WSD is partnering with Morning Star Church Christmas Shoppe. Christmas Shoppe is an opportunity for WSD families to purchase gifts for their own children at deeply discounted prices. Each year, gifts are donated, and all proceeds from the Christmas Shoppe support the New Hope Resource Center, which assists local families in need year-round.



To support Christmas Shoppe, we have a "Giving Tree" in our main office at Discovery Ridge. Our tree is decorated with QR code gift tags that can be scanned to access gift registry information for Walmart, Target, and Amazon, including suggested donations. If your family would like to donate a gift, please return your Giving Tree form to the office, and we will assist your child in choosing a gift tag from the tree.

Please return purchased items, unwrapped with the original tag from the Giving Tree, by Monday, December 1.

Contact the Discovery Ridge Counselors with any questions at (636) 561-2354.

Stacy Browning ext. 48240

Jane Douglas ext. 48244

Texas Roadhouse Gift Card Sales



Packets came home today for our upcoming DRE Texas Roadhouse gift card sales. Orders are due following Thanksgiving break, on December 1 (PreK, please return yours December 2), or sooner. Gift cards will be sent home the week of December 17. DRE earns 10% on every sale.

*Each student who sells **two \$30 gift cards** earns a **Free Kids Meal voucher** and is entered to win a **\$100 Amazon Gift Card**.*

Special Area News: Art to Remember Coming Soon!

[Art To Remember DRE Order Link](#)

Leader In Me: Habit 2, Begin With the End in Mind

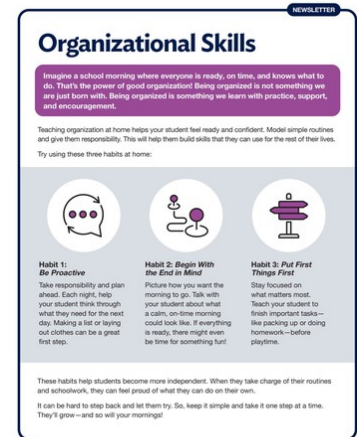
Habit #2 is "Begin With the End in Mind," the second of the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People by Stephen Covey. This habit involves having a clear vision of your destination, values, and goals before taking action to ensure your daily efforts are moving you in the right direction. Key practices include developing a [Personal Mission Statement](#) and creating a blueprint for your life that aligns with your personal, moral, and ethical guidelines.



Organizational Skills

Imagine a school morning where everyone is ready, on time, and knows what to do. That's the power of good organization! Being organized is not something we are just born with. Being organized is something we learn with practice, support, and encouragement.

Teaching organization at home helps your student feel ready and confident. Model simple routines and give them responsibility. This will help them build skills that they can use for the rest of their lives.



LeaderInMe.

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Try using these three habits at home:

Habit 1: Be Proactive: Take responsibility and plan ahead. Each night, help your student think through what they need for the next day. Making a list or laying out clothes can be a great first step.

Habit 2: Begin With the End in Mind: Picture how you want the morning to go. Talk with your student about what a calm, on-time morning could look like. If everything is ready, there might even be time for something fun!

Habit 3: Put First Things First: Stay focused on what matters most. Teach your student to finish important tasks— like packing up or doing homework—before playtime.

These habits help students become more independent. When they take charge of their routines and schoolwork, they can feel proud of what they can do on their own. It can be hard to step back and let them try. So, keep it simple and take it one step at a time. They'll grow—and so will your mornings!

Tips from Nurse Rosemarie



The Importance of Daily Check-Ins with Family

Family schedules can get busy fast. A quick daily check-in helps kids of all ages feel supported and keeps families connected.

stlouischildrens.org

The Mobile Dentist is coming to DRE on December 15

This is an **optional** service for students. If you don't sign up, your child will not be seen.

Forms are being sent home in backpacks this week or you may [sign up here](#). Please reach out if you have any questions, rosemariehamilton@wsdr4.org.



<https://www.myschooldentist.com/Default.aspx>

Vision & Hearing Screenings

Within the Wentzville School District, the well-being and success of your children are of utmost importance to us. To ensure their overall health and academic performance, we are pleased to inform you of our upcoming hearing and vision screening program.

Between Oct. 1 and Nov. 22, we will be conducting hearing and vision screenings in grades pre-K through third grade. These screenings are a crucial part of our commitment to providing a safe and supportive learning environment for all students.

Details of the screenings are as follows:

- **Hearing Screenings:** These screenings will check for any hearing issues that may affect your child's ability to fully engage in their education.
- **Vision Screenings:** These screenings will assess your child's vision, helping to identify any potential visual impairments that might hinder their academic progress.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the hearing and vision screenings, please do not hesitate to contact your child's school nurse. They will be more than happy to provide you with additional information and address any inquiries you may have.

We appreciate your partnership in maintaining the health and well-being of our students. Together, we can ensure that every child in our district has the opportunity to thrive.

Parent Teacher Organization 'PTO' News



Please consider partnering with our school by joining PTO! Our Parent Teacher Organization supports our school community in many ways, made possible by YOU! Each family membership is \$10 annually.

Thank you for attending our Second Quarter PTO meeting this week! We hope to see you at our upcoming events. If you missed the meeting and would like more information about how to represent a country for our January Culture Night, please contact:

Mrs. Gerson

sarahgerson@wsdr.org

Ms. Ferguson

cassidyferguson@wsdr4.org

Ms. Hollander

caitlinhollander@wsdr4.org

Our pizza party winners this quarter are Ms. Hollander and Ms. Hasekamp. Congratulations and thank you to all the parents who attended. The second-quarter Amazon Wish List gift card is awarded to Mrs. Cohea. Thank you to all the teachers and staff who attended in person and online.

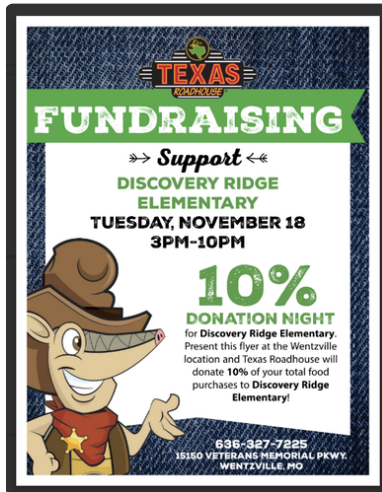


[DRE PTO 2nd Quarter Meeting Slides](#)

[Join PTO](#)

[DRE Spirit Wear Store](#)

DRE PTO Dine To Donate



We look forward to DRE friends and families joining us at Texas Roadhouse on Tuesday, November 18, 3-10 pm for our November dine out. Please have your flyer with you or show them the digital image.

DRE PTO Pancakes with Principals

Join us for Pancakes with Principals Friday, December 12, from 6-8 pm. Discovery Ridge Elementary Pancake Dinner, \$5 Child and \$6 for adults.

Visit with Santa, play games, enjoy holiday music, shop the book fair and make a holiday craft.

Families are welcome to visit with Santa and enjoy other activities free of charge. Come anytime between 6-8 pm.



[Click to Make Reservations](#)

[Click to Volunteer to help with Pancakes with Principals](#)

Community Partnership Presentation Information

Dear Discovery Ridge Elementary Families:

Throughout the duration of the academic year, the Wentzville School District partners with community agencies that specialize in providing students, families, and educators with preventative education. Agency presenters are credentialed, coordinated through the District, and under the supervision of building administrators. Presentation topics are targeted toward specific grade levels. All students will participate in each program unless you choose to opt your child out of the lesson(s). If you are interested in opting your student(s) out of the presentation(s), please click the appropriate link(s) below.

[Kindergarten Opt-Out Form](#)

[First Grade Opt-Out Form](#)

[Second Grade Opt-Out Form](#)

[Third Grade Opt-Out Form](#)

[Fourth Grade Opt-Out Form](#)

[Fifth Grade Opt-Out Form](#)

If you have additional questions, please reach out directly to your student's guidance counselor.

Thank you,

Mrs. Kelly Stratman, Principal

Mr. Ben Tracy, Assistant Principal

Mrs. Stacy Browning, 1-3 Counselor

Mrs. Jane Douglas, K, 4-5 Counselor

Mrs. Sarah Holcomb, Education Support Counselor

Each new school year brings opportunities for academic growth and growth in all areas of development. Although children must be knowledgeable when they graduate, they must also be healthy, engaged, responsible, and caring people.

We're grateful you're here at our school and we're excited to partner with you and your child. As a *Leader in Me* School, we believe that every member of your family has greatness and we can't wait to learn and grow from you! *Leader in Me* (LiM) is an evidence-based, comprehensive school-improvement model—developed in partnership with educators and FranklinCovey—that empowers students with the leadership and life skills they need to thrive in a global community.

Our school has chosen to operate through a uniquely different lens. *Leader in Me* is about empowering your child to reach their full potential while ultimately finding their voice. As a school, the staff in this building have made five core commitments to your child. We call these our Core Paradigms. In these paradigms you will find the belief and way we view all students. At this school we see that:

- Everyone is a leader.
- Everyone has genius.
- Change starts with me.

- We empower students to lead their own learning.
- Educators and families partner to develop the whole person.

Not only do these paradigms apply to your student, they apply to all of us!

Leader in Me provides our school with the vision and language to lead the school in a way that addresses all areas of development. As each child discovers and develops their unique gifts and talents, they are given opportunities to lead.

As leaders, they become active, engaged partners in their own education, and their self-confidence, responsibility, and initiative grows. The children quickly understand the benefits of different gifts and talents; they learn to listen to new ideas, work together to achieve results, and motivate one another to be the best.

We hope your school enjoys sharing these new opportunities. Together, we will see each child grow throughout the year.

Mrs. Kelly J. Stratman, Principal

Mr. Ben Tracy, Assistant Principal



Discovery Ridge Elementary



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