The Why

Empower Learning was created to build and bridge stronger school, community and diverse family connections. Empowering our school families to support their children is key. Parents are given a voice; topics are based on parent suggestion.

Research shows students are more successful in school and the community when their families are involved; including at-risk students.

Higher levels of family involvement correspond to lower dropout rates as well as increased student-personal competence, engagement, and beliefs in the importance of education supporting a successful future.

Parents Speak Out...

After surveying parents who participated in our past Empower Learning program, our findings were:

- Increased connection and relationships across various cultural families 45 to 94%
- A higher sense of awareness of how to support their student with homework, technology, as well as behaviors or mental health 43 to 95%
- A better connection and understanding of school or community resources available to them 37 to 91%

Schedule

Parents are required to attend the parent programming at 3:45 p.m. for students to participate.

- 2:00 p.m. Students join KIDSTOP for snack and attendance
- 2:30-2:45 p.m. Student hands-on activities:
  - STEM
  - GREAT Theatre
  - Social Emotional
- 3:45 p.m. Parents arrive for parent program and students then join KIDSTOP
- 4:45 p.m. Families reunite with a community building activity
- 5:00 p.m. Dinner provided by the YES! Network. Take-home activity
- 5:30 p.m. Farewells

All of EMPOWER Learning is at no cost to our families.

Dinner, under-school-age childcare and transportation (if needed) can be arranged ahead of time.

Check the school calendar for dates.
How Can I Help Support My Child?

Families are invited to participate in creating a tighter bond with their child, community and school.

We provide no-cost childcare for families with children who are not of school age. This allows parents to get the full experience from their parent engagement class. Additionally, transportation can also be arranged and translators are provided.

Parent class topics have included:
- Mental health support in our school and community
- Conscious Discipline- being a positive role model
- Technology support
- Community resources
- Special education

How Our Community Can Support EMPOWER Learning

- Donate your time. Teach a parent or student portion of the class. We have a wealth of knowledge in our community!
- If you can’t donate your time, a monetary donation would help pay for class materials, snacks, take-home activities, parent transportation and translators.

We cannot thank those enough who have been able to donate time or funds to our program.

Thank you to KIDSTOP/Boys & Girls Club of Central Minnesota, The YES Network, United Way of Central Minnesota, Lead United and District 742 equity services for your contributions. We couldn’t do it without your support!

Fall and Spring Sessions

EMPOWER Learning is offered two times a school year in the fall and spring. Each session provides families with three classes. Each class provides various parent/student topics.

Sessions are carefully planned to make the most impact for our families. Depending upon presenter availability and parent suggestions, the fall and spring session topics may vary.

Why Our Students Enjoy It

Students in grades K-5 are engaged in multiple organized experiences brought forth from our own Discovery staff, District 742 and the community.

Students are able to participate in interesting learning experiences where they are able to practice social skills.

Student Activities
- Hands-on STEM activities enhance interest in the areas of science, technology, engineering and math.
- GREAT Theatre provides experiences in theater and arts.
- Games, sports and various teamwork activities provide peer relationship-building opportunities.