Letter from Principal Estrada

Welcome back students and families! We are looking forward to a fantastic year of learning and teaching. As we move into the Month of October we are proud of the way our students are learning routines, making friends, challenging themselves in the classroom and making good decisions. 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 make a virtual appointment with your child's teacher. We look forward to partnering with you this year!

~Be Well,
Principal Estrada

At Home Learning Day This Friday, October 1st.

Students will not report to school, they will learn from their device with their teachers at home. Students should plan to log in to SeeSaw at 9:00am using their school-issued device to complete assignments. Further directions will be provided to students in SeeSaw. Additional information can also be found in last weekend's newsletter and on our school and district websites.

Note: If your family needs a hotspot for at home learning please call our Discovery office to check out a device. Discovery school office: 320-370-6180

Upcoming Dates
Our Classrooms

October 1/Friday - Student Digital Learning Day - from home
October 13/Wednesday - Picture Day
October 21/Thursday - NO SCHOOL
October 22/ Friday - NO SCHOOL

School Picture Day!
Wednesday, Oct 13th

Menu Links
Breakfast:
Lunch:
https://isd742.nutrislice.com/menu/discovery/lunch

Please remember that due to safety of all students and allergies of individual students, families may not bring food to school to share (...birthdays and celebrations etc.)

Our Classrooms

Kindergarten
Hello from Kindergarten!
We have been so busy playing and making friends here in kindergarten! We are learning each day how to be kind to our friends and share. We are even using some of our playtime to learn important things like letters and numbers. So far, we have learned letters A-J and numbers 0-5! We have the rest of the alphabet coming up, along with numbers up to 10. We have also been working so hard on our routines at school! We are learning how to sit in our carpet spots, be ready in our chairs, walk in the hallways quietly, all while growing our brains with all our learning!
We can’t wait to learn about the season of Fall!”
Greetings from 1st Grade!

In math, we are working on building number sense through counting forward, counting backward, number recognition, number ordering, and skip counting. We have also just begun our new math chapter on adding numbers to 10.

In reading, we are building our reading stamina and forming good reading habits. These good habits include using the pictures, sounding words out, using ALL parts of the word, and thinking to ourselves, “Does it make sense?”

Encourage your child to use these good habits when reading at home, especially as our PAKRAT program begins!

Thanks,
First Grade Teachers
3rd Grade

Dear Third Grade Families,

Happy September! Third grade is settling into a new year at Discovery. We kicked the new year off with healthy protocols, classroom routines and we are continuously working on creating a positive learning environment.

In reading, we have been working on our first 20 days of habits of a good reader. Some examples are: stamina of reading to self, reading with expression and fluency, as well as comprehension. Please have your child read to a family member or themself for 20 minutes every night! Asking your child about their favorite parts or characters and why is a great conversation!

We are getting started in our math curriculum, and are focused on place value with numbers into the 100,000's. A great way to practice with your child is to have them read and write numbers for you! We have also been focused on comparing numbers using greater than and less than. There are many card games to practice this skill as well.

IPADS are going home nightly. We have discussed expectations for home and school with your child. Some of the expectations that we have discussed to continue at home are:

1. NO eating or drinking while using the devices
2. IPADS come back fully charged EVERY day
3. NO stickers on cases
4. Only school allowed sites- if it isn't something that is allowed at school to watch or use, it is not allowed at home. We are able to see student history and if it is misused consequences can occur.

We are happy to see each of your child's smiling faces (even if hidden behind a mask) each day! Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Love,
The 3rd Grade Team
4th Grade
Hello fourth grade families!

We have had a great start of the school year so far! In September, we have been working on reading and math routines for learning. Students have reviewed school and bus expectations this past month. Moving forward we will be working on the following skills:

**Literacy:** We will be focusing on informational text and realistic fiction during our reading instruction. Some skills students will be working on in reading will be making inferences and predictions along with reading for comprehension. Please make sure your student is reading at least 20 minutes every night at home. We will be working on writing personal narratives and opinion essays this month. Students should start using Lexia, an online based reading program, this month at school to build literacy skills as well. Students are welcome to use Lexia at home!

**Math:** In the beginning of the year we worked on place value, addition, and subtraction. In October, our focus will be multiplication and division skills. These skills are very important in fourth grade, and we will be working on them for a long time. Your student can be practicing their math facts at home along with completing any homework assigned by their teacher. Students should start using IXL, and online based math program, this month at school to build their math skills as well. Students are welcome to use IXL at home!

**Science/Social Studies/Health:** Students worked on water concepts with Mrs. Walz in our STEM lab at school in September. We will continue to introduce science and social studies topics this month.

Please make sure your student is dressed for the weather as it gets colder outside in the mornings.

5th Grade
Fifth graders at last! The oldest students in the building... wow, how did that happen? As fifth grade teachers, we are dedicated to encouraging our students to be role models for all of the younger students.

Our math unit starts with place value concepts, and we are going through the Reading Launch for the first few weeks of school. Students are learning and reviewing what it means to be a good reader: choosing good-for-me books, having stamina, and improving our reading fluency and comprehension. As fifth grade teachers, we encourage all students to read at home and to practice math facts. Thank you!

-Ms. Miller, Ms. Ewaysi and Ms. Dingman
Discovery has a new Science Lab!

Ms Kunz's Class in Science Lab

Water and Surface Tension Lesson

Ms Walz creating a Love of Science!
The School Counselor's Corner

Discovery Celebrates:
Here at Discovery, we are incredibly lucky to have this BEAUTIFUL, diverse, amazing school family. Our hearts are full because of the beauty we all see in the other person.

Our students and families and staff are amazing! In the past few years students, staff and families have gone through overwhelming changes. Some adjustments we are making:

- Online learning all last year and now having to adjust to in-person learning while wearing a mask.
- Working with people who are not part of their immediate family or culture.
- Finding the positives in our vastly diverse Discovery Family.
- Celebrating our differences.
- Noticing our similarities.

In October we will be celebrating Unity Day. On October 20th we ask your students to wear orange if possible. The Orange celebrates the changing of seasons, safety and standing up against the unkind. Unity Day is our way of saying we are UNITED against bullying and any hurtful words or acts.

Unity Day Video 3 minutes

Help us spread ACCEPTANCE by pointing out the beauty in every human!
No one should be made to feel “less than”.

I also know that with change is hard and with change comes anxious feelings.
Here is our Elementary Virtual Calming Room for 742 students.

Joanie Hauck and Ellen Jahnke
Hello everyone!

It is October and we are having a wonderful month of weather. The students in Physical Education have been outside learning soccer 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 worked on kicking soccer balls. Kicking involves foot-to-eye coordination. Catching, throwing, and kicking are great exercises and skills for students to develop. The best part about learning these skills is brain development. Properly learning and using the 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 grades 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 with 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 17 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 are currently learning to use rollerblades and ride bikes. It is an interesting experience. Most of the students at Discovery have never put on rollerblades and few have ridden bikes. It is great to see all the willing learners. The students just want to get up and move!

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

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