LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

We are looking forward to having all students in attendance January 3rd! Your students are doing a fabulous job at Discovery and showing positive growth in Reading, Math, Science and Social Studies.

Students have finished taking their STAR assessments in Reading and Math and teachers will share growth, progress and student goals with parents at Conferences in February. English Language students will take the Access 2.0 language proficiency tests beginning January 31st. We are so proud of all our multi-lingual students and their amazing progress toward English proficiency and high academic success.

We are preparing for a wonderful trimester of learning, challenges and fun in our classrooms and can’t wait to share them with you at our Parent Drop In’s and newsletters.

You can also follow what's happening at Discovery on Instagram at: discoveryprincipal

JANUARY 10TH: 2:15-5:15 PM

Attention parents of 4 and 5 year olds! You are invited to Kindergarten Registration Night Monday, January 10th at Discovery. We will hold registration in our lobby and have bilingual staff ready to support multi-lingual families! We can’t wait to meet our future Dolphins!!

UPCOMING DATES

SCHOOL CALENDAR UPDATE 2021 – 2022

DECEMBER 20 – DECEMBER 31 - NO SCHOOL
MONDAY, JANUARY 3 – BACK TO SCHOOL
Our Classrooms

MONDAY, JANUARY 10th - KINDERGARTEN 2022 REGISTRATION NIGHT
MONDAY, JANUARY 17 - NO SCHOOL (Martin Luther King Day)
TUESDAY, JANUARY 18 - BACK TO SCHOOL

Monday, February 21 – NO SCHOOL (President’s Day)
March 7 – 11 – MID-WINTER BREAK
Friday, April 15 – NO SCHOOL (Spring Break)
Monday, May 2 – NO SCHOOL
Monday May 31 – NO SCHOOL (Memorial Day)

Friday, June 3 – LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

IMPORTANT CO-VID FAMILY UPDATES

The Minnesota Department of Education and Minnesota Department of Health are in the process of reviewing these recommendations and have promised updated guidance for school districts on January 12, 2022. Until we receive this information, St. Cloud Area School District 742 will follow current protocols.

2021-22 Decision Tree (3).pdf

Download
240.6 KB

OUR CLASSROOMS
KINDERGARTEN

We are going to have so much fun in kindergarten this January! In reading we have been exploring books about community and how we can be good neighbors. As we are reading these texts we will be working on identifying the characters, setting, and events. You can help your student practice these skills by reading with them at home and finding the characters, setting, and events in those books. We will also be reading informational texts and practice identifying the elements of informational texts. Ask your student what makes an informational text and read informational texts together. The local library has many different informational texts that are at a kindergarten level. Taking a trip to the local library can be a fun way for your student to apply their learning and it’s a great way to spend the day as a family.

Right before winter break we finished learning our teen numbers. In January we will be working on numbers to 100! This a big step for many kids and is an exciting time in math. Create counting opportunities for your student at home to help them practice counting those numbers beyond 20. Have them count groups of small objects like coins or pasta. Send them on a counting scavenger hunt and have them count things around the house (How many cabinet doors are in our house? How many shoes are in our house? etc.). We will also be working on number combinations to 10 (for example, 5 and 2 make 7, 3 and 6 make 9, etc.). Practice these combinations at home with your student. Every student has access to IXL on their iPad, a math app we use everyday. Students can practice numbers combinations on IXL. Sit alongside them and help them practice this new skill.

We are so excited to play and learn this month! Please reach out to your student’s teacher if you have any question!

Kindergarten Teachers
1ST GRADE

Happy New Year! We are so happy to be back together and thrilled to continue learning new things!

In reading, we will be learning all about our community! We are practicing the strategy of making and confirming our predictions in a text. We are also working on our comprehension skills of determining the stories elements like characters, setting, and events that take place.

In math, we are continuing to learn about subtraction strategies with numbers up to 20. We will also be working on place value where students will learn the value of a digit when it is in its one place, tens place, or hundreds place. For example, in the number 248, the 8 has a value of 8, the 4 has a value of 40, and the 2 has a value of 200. Continue to work on math facts (both addition and subtraction) to build fluency!

Thank you for all you do!

Sydney Grussendorf
Discovery Community School
1st Grade Teacher
Can you believe we are already \( \frac{1}{3} \) of the way done with the school year?! Trimester 1 was complete as of December 3rd. Your teacher has been busy entering grades for report cards—which will be sent out soon!

Coming in January we will be reassessing our students to measure their progress in reading. Please keep encouraging your child to read at home EVERY day for at least 20 minutes. That could include their library books, their iPads (RAZ Kids or Lexia), or books you have at home. After reading, have your child tell you about the characters, setting, problem, and solution in the story. If the book is informational, have students share facts they learned after reading.

READING: We have been studying animals and their life cycles. When we come back in January, our essential question will be: What can animals in stories teach us? Your child will be able to tell you what a fable is.

MATH: In math, we have been working hard understanding place value for numbers up to 1000. For example, in the number 539 there are five hundreds, three tens, and nine ones. We are representing numbers in different ways and comparing numbers also. From here, our next chapter in Math will be adding two-digit numbers.

We appreciate the families that have been helping their children with Lexia, IXL, XtraMath, and Seesaw at home! Keep it up!

Second Grade Teachers
3RD GRADE

Third Grade is bustling with the season. We have just completed subtraction and multiplication. We will begin division before we go on winter break. Remember that we will not have school December 20th, 21st, and 22nd. A new school calendar should have come home with those vacation days added.

In reading, we just learned about voting and how our constitution came about. Now, we are beginning to talk about immigration. This will take us until we go on our winter break as well.

We have also been practicing writing friendly letters. We finally got a chance to write a letter to one of our friends.

We are sad to say that one of our third grade teachers will be retiring on December 17th. We will miss Mrs. Fleegel and wish her well in her new adventures. We welcome Ms. Klatt to our team.

Have a safe and healthy winter break and we'll see you in the new year!

Third Grade Teachers
Hello fourth grade families!

Welcome to the new year! We are excited to get busy with learning after our break from school. We have a lot to get done in the next few months of fourth grade. In December, we spent time working on reading informational text, multiplication, division, and working in the STEM lab with Mrs. Walz.

**Literacy:** We will be finishing our second unit of Wonders, our literacy instruction tool, and students will move into the third unit this month. We will be reading poetry to start the month and move into realistic fiction and biographies. Students have been working on taking Wonders unit assessments online this year! Ask your student about how the assessments have been going! Please make sure your student is reading at least 20 minutes every night at home. We would love to see our students get their PAKRAT calendars signed nightly! Students should continue 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 January, students are going to continue to grow their multiplication and division skills. We will work on patterns and sequences in math before moving into fractions later this month. Patterns and sequences include nonnumeric and numeric patterns. We will also be coming up with addition/subtraction rules and multiplication/division rules for different problems. Students should start using IXL, an 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:** Every class is working on various science and social studies topics in January. Some classes will continue to work on regions of the United States in social studies. Some classes are focusing on electromagnetism or water topics in science. Ask your student what he or she is doing during their social studies time!

Please make sure your student is dressed for the weather now that the mornings are very cold!

Thank you,
The Fourth Grade Team
Greetings and hello from the fifth grade team! With the frosty weather and glistening snow upon us, we would like to remind families to please send students to school in winter gear (boots, snow pants, coats, hats and gloves), as we do go outside for recess if the temperature is above zero.

We have wrapped up our division unit in math, and we are moving on to adding and subtracting decimals. We encourage students to continue building upon skills that have previously been taught, and we recommend practicing multiplication and division skills for 15-20 minutes per night at home. This can be done by writing facts on blank sheets of paper, responding aloud to verbal facts when they're said, or using flashcards.

We will be learning about poetry in one of our reading units! Ask your child about some memorable poems that have been read in class. At the end of December, your child was sent home with their Units 1 and 2 reading workbook. This is a great thing to have at home! Your child can re-read stories that have already been read, and review previously learned skills. We also recommend reading at least 15-20 minutes per night at home.

5th Grade Teachers

MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

Get to know our Mental Health Services and Community Partners in ISD742. You will hear from a School Counselor at every level, Greater Minnesota Partners, and many more. We are all here to make life a little better and to guide your student to a better understanding of self and a brighter future.


Joanie Hauck
Licensed School Counselor
PBIS/SEL Building Coach
Discovery Community Elementary School
Office: 320-370-6256

Library: All classes have been learning about Native American Culture. Students have been able to see and touch authentic Native American creations that have been made from resources that were available to them. The books that have been read talk about traditions
and lessons that have been passed down from generation to generation. A few weeks ago, the district set up a Tipi to go along with all of the learning that we have done.

**EXCITING NEWS!** Each student received a brand new book that they are able to KEEP! Mrs. Martini and Mrs. Barkley worked together at the District to purchase over 5,000 books to give to all PreK-5th grade students in the district! We hope that you enjoy them over winter break!

Devices: Just a reminder that water bottles should not be put into backpacks. Books and devices have been damaged due to the water leaking.

Over winter break, it is very important to remind students of how we use and take care of our devices. Please do not travel with them. In the past, we have had families bring them with to see relatives and then the devices either get broken or lost. Remember that these are for academic purposes and for school use only. When they are not being used, please place them in a safe location.

Sarah Jean Mathiason
Discovery Community School
Media Specialist
320-370-6205

Ext. 6205

**Discovery Community Elementary**
700 7th Street South
Waite Park, MN 56387

**Phone:** 320-370-6180
**Fax:** 320-370-6329