From Principal Holm

Happy New Year!

I hope everyone had a wonderful winter break. It has been fantastic seeing all of our students back in the building learning and having fun. I am looking forward to a productive year in 2023.
IMPORTANT!

Dear Discovery Families,

One of our top priorities at Discovery is to provide a safe, caring climate and culture. Today I am asking for your assistance in meeting this goal. Please, take a few moments to talk with your child about Board Policy 501 which can be found HERE. Board Policy 501 prohibits weapons on school grounds, including replica or look alike weapons.

These items have the potential to cause harm to others and disrupt the learning environment, and we take any incident that involves school safety very seriously. Weapons and look-alike weapons, including gel blasters, BB guns, and airsoft/pellet guns, may not be brought to school under any circumstance. Consequences for bringing weapons, whether real, replicas or toys, range from out-of-school suspension to expulsion from St. Cloud Area Schools.

Together we can keep our school environment positive and focused on learning. Thank you for your continued support for our safe, healthy schools.

Principal Holm

DATES TO REMEMBER

January 9th, Monday - District 742 District Middle School & Elementary Spelling Bee

January 16 - No School - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

WE ARE A PEANUT FREE SCHOOL
Please do not send food with any peanut ingredients to school. We have students with severe peanut allergies.

**Appointment pick-ups**

When you are picking up your child for an appointment, please let the teacher or office know **ahead of time** if possible.

**Going home information**

If your child **will not** be going home the usual way, please let the office (**320-370-6180**) know by **1:30 p.m.** so we have time to inform the teachers.

**Student Birthdays**

Please do not bring any balloons, flowers, etc. for student birthdays. Some children are allergic to these items. Teachers celebrate student birthdays in class so all students feel special. There is no need to bring birthday treats. However, if you decide your student should have birthday treats at school, they must be store bought. We can't accept any homemade food items.

**Lost And Found!!!!**

Parents, we have a lot of lost and found clothing, coats, hats, gloves, etc. If your child is missing an article of clothing, please come in to look over the lost and found items. Also, labeling your child's clothing on the tag with initials or last name is very helpful. We will retain lost and found items until the end of December.

**Attendance is very important for your child’s success! Regular attendance is directly related to successful academic achievement.**

Please let the Discovery office know **as soon as possible** whenever your child is absent or will be late and the reason. Discovery's phone number is (**320)370-6180**. If you leave a voicemail message, please indicate the reason for your child's absence.

A student is considered truant (**3 full-day unexcused absences**) when we do not know the reason for their absence. When a student has 3 truant days, a letter is sent home to the parent and the County. At 5 truant days, a letter is again sent to the parents and the County.

When a student has 7 truant days, the school requests a “Truancy/Educational Neglect Petition” to be filed with the County for screening, assessment, and investigation.
Hello from 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 after winter break, we will work on learning our teen numbers, and then working on numbers to 100! This is 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. 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 questions!

Kindergarten Teachers

1st GRADE

Hello 1st grade families,

Happy New Year!

We will be starting the month off with a lot of addition and subtraction practice. We will be reading word problems and solving equations. Look in your child's take home folder to see what we are working on each day.

In reading, we are working on sounding out words and understanding what we read. Ask your child about Sunday. They are working very hard during Sunday phonics time!

Please make sure you send your child with snow gear! Recess is more fun when they are dressed appropriately.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Burau, Mrs. Brookins, Ms. Grussendorf, Mrs. Kamenick

The Second Grade Scoop

We hope you had a wonderful, relaxing winter break! We're happy to have our students back at school!

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. After reading, have your child tell you about the characters, setting, problem, and solution in the story. If the book is interesting, ask them how they think the story will end.
READING: We have been studying animals and their life cycles. We are now learning about fables and what these stories can teach us. At the end of the month, we will be reading and writing poems.

MATH: After winter break, we will start a new unit in Math where students will be adding two-digit numbers. We will be doing a lot of regrouping and working with a variety of strategies. Practicing addition facts up to 20 at home will help them significantly with this skill.

SWIMMING: This month the 2nd grade classes will be going swimming at the YMCA for 3 days. They will be learning about water safety. The students are so excited!

We appreciate all the work you do at home to help your child! We’re ready for a busy month of learning and new experiences!

Second Grade Teachers
Ms. Smith, Mrs. Brown, Mr. Burrer, and Ms. Aden

3rd GRADE
Hello 3rd Grade Families!

It is hard to believe it is the new year already! Your students have been working very hard and should all be proud of their growth thus far. In reading, we will begin studying historical fiction stories and poems. If you have a favorite poem at home, this would be a great time to share it with your student. We will continue to multiply and begin division soon. An easy way to have your student work on their math skills at home is by having them cook with you and measure the ingredients.

Please continue to send warm winter gear with your student, as it is going to be cold and we will go outside for recess when we can! We also encourage your students to play. Children develop many social skills while playing, whether that is a board game with adults or creative playtime with other children. Finally, congratulations to Ms. Klatt and Ms. Ewaysi's classes for winning the door decorating contest before winter break! Your creations were impressive and beautiful.

Warm Wishes,
The 3rd Grade Team

4th GRADE
Fourth grade has been working on performing plays to their peers. In math we have been solving division problems in math! We are celebrating going on break by playing minute to win it games, drinking hot chocolate, and celebrating our accomplishments.

-4th Grade Team
Greetings from fifth grade! With cold weather in full swing, we want to remind you to please send your child to school with boots, snowpants, a coat, hat and gloves. We do go outdoors for recess if it’s above zero degrees. In reading we have worked on folktales and poetry, and we are so engaged with these unfamiliar genres. We’ve learned about rhyme scheme, figurative language, poetry elements, theme, and characteristics of folktales. In math we have worked hard on division and decimals, and are quickly moving on to algebra. Please make sure to have your child read at home for at least 20 minutes per night, and practice math facts. This will help your child become more successful with academics at school.

Thanks!
-Your Fifth Grade Team

T. D. A. S.- Talent Development Accelerated Services

STEM

January 2023

Happy New Year Scientists! Hope everyone had a restful break and are ready for a new year. While the weather is cold and frozen the STEAM lab is ready to be full of life again! This month we are ready to try lots of new things. Kindergarten will be starting their terrariums and watching life grow. First graders are working to meet a new science standard about the first engineers of our area, and making model wigwams out of recycled materials. Second graders are learning about habitats and how researching and sharing are all parts of being a good scientist. Third grade is learning about light and how it can help us. In fourth grade we are starting to dig into a pilot curriculum and learn about animals in a whole new way. Lastly, fifth grade is about to get into their chemistry unit, something we look forward to all year!

Look forward to hearing about scientist of the month from Discovery students! We are hoping to work together to do a video to share out about science, news, and more! Happy January!

School Counselor Corner

January 2023

2023 is here. Take time to commit to yourself.

- Be Kind!!!!! Speak only kind words about yourself and treat yourself with respect. Being positive about yourself is the key to attracting more positivity to your life.
• Be Beautifully Human!!! Don't be too hard on yourself. You will make mistakes or miss goals. Remind yourself it is okay to be human and learn from your mistakes.

• You BE You!!! Do not allow yourself to be defined by a label. Instead of thinking and speaking of yourself as overweight, anxious, depressed, etc., say, “I am a work in progress, and I will continue to progress.”

• Understand that everyone has a path to take. Sometimes there are great forests to navigate or large boulders to climb, but no path is easy, yet all paths are beautiful.

"Compassion is not a virtue—it is a commitment. It’s not something we have or don’t have—it’s something we choose to practice,"

Brené Brown~