



The Discovery Connections

A newsletter for parents of Discovery Elementary Students
Spring 2025

A WELCOME MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL-DR. MATHEW NELSON

Thank you for your support of the Discovery Elementary Read-a-Thon event. It was a huge success in promoting literacy and the love for reading, and we also raised over \$10,000. This money will directly impact Discovery students in a positive way by offsetting field trip costs and purchasing additional books, technology, and other items for student use. Thank you again for your continued support of Discovery Elementary!

Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA) testing will again occur later this spring for all students in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade. We often talk about focusing on controlling what we can control and putting forth our best effort in all that we do at Discovery Elementary. The MCAs are no different, and we tell the students that for them, it is a celebration of all their hard work this year. The reality is that people both inside and outside of the community may judge us by our test scores, so it is important for us to control what we can and put forth our best effort in taking this assessment.

Below are the specific dates for the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade MCAs:

- **April 16, 17, 18 – Reading MCA Testing**
- **April 23, 24, 25 – Math MCA Testing**

MCA = My Chance to Amaze ...
... myself! ... my friends!
... my school! ... my parents!

Speaking of preparing our students for the future, AVID is an elementary through postsecondary college and career readiness system designed to increase school-wide learning and performance. On page 3 of this newsletter, you will find a visual of the recently adopted BHM Schools "Portrait of a Graduate", which includes essential skills categorized into Rigorous Academic Preparedness, Opportunity Knowledge, and Student Agency. Discovery Elementary School, along with all BHM schools, is committed to ensuring that all students have these essential skills, experiences, and opportunities upon graduation, regardless of what options they may choose to pursue. At Discovery, we integrate AVID framework philosophy into our mission and culture to provide outstanding learning opportunities for all students. We are excited to continue our learning together so that we can be at our best every day when our best is needed to teach your children

Looking ahead to next year.....it will soon be time to begin the process of placing students in their multiage classrooms for next school year. When placing students, numerous items/factors are considered. We feel all of our teachers are very qualified and accommodating to individual student needs and that students will do well in any classroom. Even though class assignments are the responsibility of the Principal, with input from the teachers, we recognize that there are instances where a parent has a legitimate reason for a request. Normally, we send out a request form to those who request it, but this year, we will adjust, and if you feel you need to make a request, please feel free to reach out directly to me at mnelson@bhmschools.org or call me at 763-682-8426. Your concerns and input will always be considered; however, it may not be possible to accommodate all requests. **The deadline for turning in requests to Dr. Nelson is Friday, March 28th.** After this deadline, we will not be able to make any adjustments to the classroom placements.

Please feel free to contact me if you ever have questions or concerns.

"Together We're Better!"

BETTER
TOGETHER



COURAGE

Family Newsletter

PurposeFULL
People

Courage Overview

We are excited to focus on Courage this month! One way to think about Courage is "choosing what is helpful, right, and kind even when it is hard or scary." Courage can look a little different for everyone. Get ready to explore as a family what Courage means to you!

Courage is 1 of 3 traits we will focus on throughout the year that helps students **Be Strong**. Across grade levels, students will be developing skills like focusing, organizing, and goal-setting.

Conversation Starters



- Can you share or show what it means to have Courage?
- When you practice Courage, how does it make you feel? Why?

PurposeFull Pursuits

Have some fun connecting as a family this month while practicing Courage. Here are 2 "PurposeFull Pursuits" you can complete together!

#1

Remember that Courage is choosing what is helpful, right, and kind even when it is hard or scary.

Reflect, think, and discuss things you would like to do, but find intimidating or scary (individually or as a family). Maybe it's a new hobby, trying a new game, sharing your art or invention with others, or going on an adventure somewhere. Give 1 of these things a try together this month and take a selfie to capture the memory!



#2

We have all demonstrated Courage in our lives. Stories are powerful tools for connecting as a family. Protect time this week to share stories about Courage with each other (you can use the story prompts to get started). At the end of the conversation, think of 1 way you can practice Courage this week.

Story Prompts:

- A time I (or someone else) showed Courage was ____.
- An act of Courage that changed/challenged me was ____.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

MARCH

- **3-4-5 Recorder Finales**- Wednesday, March 19th during student's Music Class
- **K-5 Science Museum in House Presentation**-Thursday, March 20th
- **K-8 Teacher Workshop**- Friday, March 28th- No School
- **Spring Break**- March 31st-April 4th- No School

APRIL

- **Early Release**- Friday, April 11th- 12:15p.m.
- **3-4-5 MCA Reading Testing**- April 15th, 16th & 17th
- **All School Enrichment Hour**- Friday, April 18th (Students get to choose an enrichment class to attend with peers from grades K-5)
- **3-4-5 MCA Math Testing**- April 22nd, 23rd, & 24th
- **School Bus Driver Appreciation Day**- Tuesday, April 22nd
- **Scholastic BOGO Book Fair Week**- April 29th-May 1st (Times TBD)
- **K-2 Minnesota Zoo Field Trip**- Wednesday, April 30th



MAY

- **3-4-5 Choir Concert**-Thursday, May 1st at 6:30p.m.
- **Early Release**- Friday, May 2nd- 12:15p.m.
- **Staff Appreciation Week**-May 5th-9th
- **5th Grade MCA Science Test**- Tuesday, May 6th
- **Memorial Day**- Monday, May 26th-No School
- **5th Grade Track and Field Day**- Friday, May 30th
- **3rd & 4th Grade Feed My Starving Children Field Trip**- Friday, May 30th
- **5th Grade Celebration**- 1:00p.m. in the Auditorium
- **Last Day of School/All School Picnic**- Thursday, June 5th





EXCUSED ABSENCES FOR FAMILY VACATIONS

We understand that time is precious and it might not always work for you to go on a family vacation when school is not in session. We are able to mark family vacations as excused absences if you let us know when they are planned. There is a formal family vacation pre-approval form in the office, or if you email the teacher and copy Dr. Nelson (mnelson@bhmschools.org) into the message that works as well for us to be able to mark those dates as excused.

February "C" Students of the Month - Celebrate





Portrait of a Graduate

Rigorous Academics

Students develop academic skills and can successfully complete rigorous college and career preparatory curriculum and experiences.

Writing

Communicates ideas, demonstrates learning and deepens understanding.

Inquiry

Clarifies, thinks critically, and conducts proficient academic investigation.

Collaboration

Communicates effectively and works effectively and with groups.

Organization

Manages materials, time and thinking with proper tools and prioritization.

Reading

Engages in critical reading to deepen understanding in all texts.

Opportunity Knowledge

Students research opportunities, set goals, make choices that support their long-term aspirations, and successfully navigate to the next level.

Developing Future Readiness

Develops financial literacy and a professional profile, and monitors digital footprint.

Building Career Preparedness

Develops an awareness of personal fit in terms of career selection, and plans education and career path based on personal goals.

Advancing College Preparedness

Explores and plans education path based on personal strengths, skills, interests and goals. These plans are informed by an understanding of college admissions, as well as financial considerations.

Student Agency

Students believe in themselves and act intentionally to build relationships, persist through obstacles, and activate their academic, social, emotional, and professional knowledge and skills to reach their potential.

Building Relationships

Establishes and maintains positive relationships that create a physical and digital network of support.

Persisting Through Obstacles

Monitors progress toward long-term goals, seeks assistance and feedback when necessary, and develops a strong voice to self-advocate.

Activating Knowledge and Skills

Carries a strong sense of identity, develops and employs leadership traits, and thinks critically, behaves safely and participates responsibly in the digital world.