
Monitoring Student Learning:

Oral and written feedback is shared in a variety of methods throughout lessons, activities, and projects. Additionally, progress is given through PowerSchool, our district's electronic management system.

The link for PowerSchool can be found at <http://www.decorah.k12.ia.us>. Click on PowerSchool under technology on the menu bar. Please contact the school office for your password or any other additional information.

Communication:

You can find daily assignments, important websites, and weekly newsletters at dms5.weebly.com or on Canvas. Our newsletters are emailed at the end of each week. Paper copies are available upon request.

Primetime:

(30 minutes every Wednesday morning)

- Build teacher/student rapport
- Social-emotional educational opportunities
- Organization
- Developing positive self-esteem
- Developing a growth mindset

Curriculum:

Our curriculum is driven by the Iowa Core State Standards. You may find more information at <http://www.educateiowa.gov>.

Contacts at DMS:

Principal

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Associate Principal/Activities Director

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Guidance Counselor

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Intervention Specialist

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Nurse

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Teachers:

Mr. Amundson - Language Arts
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Mrs. Nowack - Reading
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Mr. Peterson - Science
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Mrs. Suhr - Social Studies
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Mr. Bouska - Special Education
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Mrs. Oftedahl - Special Education
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Mrs. Sand - Extended Learning Program
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Welcome To 5th Grade at DMS!



Decorah Middle School Mission

Statement: Decorah Middle School, in partnership with its parents and community, will strive to instill in its students high standards for learning, integrity, leadership, and citizenship.

DMS Safe School Rules:

1. We will not bully others.
2. We will help students who are bullied.
3. We will include students who are left out.
4. If we know somebody is being bullied, we will tell an adult at school and an adult at home.

Reading

- Comprehension strategies
- Reading fluency
- Vocabulary development
- Collaborative discussions

Language

- Writing for a variety of purposes
- Grammar & usage
- Language conventions
- Word study & spelling
- Multimedia presentations

Math

Curricular resource: *Zearn Math*

- Whole Numbers
- Measurement
- Decimals
- Data Analysis
- Algebra
- Fractions
- Geometry
- Problem Solving

Band/Orchestra/Chorus

- Students have the option to participate
- See separate music brochure for more information

Social Studies

Curricular resource: *Social Studies Alive*

- U.S. history
- Founding documents of the United States
- Inquiry
- Geography
- Civics
- Iowa history

Science

- Matter and Its Interactions
- Energy and Ecosystems
- From Molecules to Organisms
- Earth's Place in the Universe
- Earth and Human Activity
- Engineering Design

Physical Education

(two or three days each week)

- Fitness through activity and sports
- Muscular strength
- Cardiovascular endurance
- Muscular endurance
- Flexibility

Other information for parents:

The handbook is located in the front of the planner.

- Friday folders are used for important information – such as teacher newsletters, classwork, spelling lists, etc...
- Please get a visitor's pass to enter the building.
- It is appreciated when you request homework during student absences.

Exploratories

Classes rotate in the following order (once every two days):

Art

- Studio habits of an independent artist
- Creating artwork with personal meaning
- Exploring a variety of art media
- Analyzing historical artwork, contemporary artists, and peer feedback

Computer

- Keyboarding
- Presentation software
- Proper use of the internet
- Storing documents
- Explore creative sites for classroom projects

Guidance

- Social relationships
- Academics
- Career goals
- Healthy choices in life

Library

- Acclimating to a larger library
- Reading promotion, time to read, and guidance selecting books
- Curiosity project to develop questioning techniques, finding credible sources, paraphrasing, and citing sources

Music

- Elements of music: timbre (sound), melody, harmony, rhythm, and form
- Studying melody and rhythm through singing