
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.

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

Communication

Canvas is a Learning Management System (LMS) that the Decorah Community School District has adopted. The LMS is a way to simplify teaching and learning while providing equitable access and instructional continuity to enhance the learning experience for all students. As a parent, Canvas is your one-stop shop to keep current with your child at school.

Our 5th-grade newsletters are emailed at the end of each week. Paper copies are available upon request.

Primetime

Primetime lasts for 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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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:

Art

- Observe connections between art, science, math, and language
- Build artistic habits
- Explore new materials and limitations

Computer

- Keyboarding
- Computer Basics
- Projects with Productivity Software
- Internet Safety/Privacy
- Scratch Coding

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