

# Welcome to 6th Grade at DMS!

## Learning - Thriving - Creating Our Legacy

### Steps for Student Success

- Complete all assignments on time with quality effort.
- Write all assignments in your planner and check the weekly sixth grade assignment chart linked in Classlink.
- Take home materials that are needed to complete your assignment.
- Be responsible for work missed when absent.
- Respect all people and property.
- Be responsible to attend school punctually and regularly.
- Focus on learning and pay attention in class.
- Demonstrate honesty with no plagiarism, copying, or cheating.

### Contacts at DMS:

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### 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.

**Decorah Middle School**  
405 Winnebago Street  
Decorah, Iowa 52101  
563-382-8427



### Canvas

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

### Powerschool

The Powerschool program enables you to monitor your child's grades and school attendance.

- Go to [www.decorah.k12.ia.us](http://www.decorah.k12.ia.us)
- Click on Powerschool under Enroll on the menu bar.
- Create an account or complete the parent sign-in.
- Contact the office for your password or any other information.

### PrimeTime

Primetime lasts for 30 minutes every Wednesday morning. Goals are:

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

### Expectations for Parents

Make sure your child comes to school every day, on time, and prepared to learn. Demonstrate the value of reading and learning. Reinforce the importance of school. Provide a quiet and dependable area for studying. Encourage, motivate, and support your child to complete his or her assignments independently.

# Core Classes

## Language Arts

- Create and deliver presentations for various purposes
- Write a variety of genres
- Engage in the writing process
- Understand and utilize the conventions of grammar in speech and writing

## Reading

- Explore literature by means of guided reading, novel units, book projects, and short stories
- Engage in reading multiple genres
- Cite textual evidence
- Analyze parts of text and text structure

## Science

- Molecules to Organisms: Structure and Processes
- Earth and Human Activity
- Engineering Design
- Matter and its Interactions
- Earth Systems

## Mathematics

- Factors and Multiples
- Area, Volume, Surface Area
- Decimal Operations
- Ratios and Rates
- Percents
- Expressions and Equations
- Signed Numbers
- Data Analysis

## Social Studies

- Inquiry
- Geography
- Past civilizations and importance
- Cultures

# Exploratories

## Art

Build the studio habits of an independent artist. create artwork with personal meaning. Explore a variety of art media. Analyze historical artwork, contemporary artists, and peer feedback.

## Social Media Literacy

Continue to build on their basic computer skills including work in keyboarding, projects with productivity software, internet safety/privacy, and beginner computer science concepts.

## Guidance

Read parts of the book *7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens* and discuss it in class. Will address the topics of social relationships, healthy choices in life, and setting goals for the future.

## Library

Complete a short research project to practice developing research questions, taking notes,,finding credible sources, and avoiding copyright and plagiarism. Learn methods to fact-check sources/claims and identify misinformation.

## Music

Continue to explore music through a variety of topics including reading and notating music (especially focusing on rhythm), improvising simple melodies, beginning ear training, and an introduction to musical composition and Dictation. Two additional topics will be studying musical theatre and a brief glimpse at some important composers and their most historical compositions.

## Band/Orchestra/Chorus

Students have the option to participate.

See separate music brochure for more information.

## Physical Education

Students will explore fitness through activity and sports with a focus in muscular strength, cardiovascular endurance, muscular endurance and flexibility.

