

August 8, 2023

Discovery Public School Parents and Guardians,

The staff has begun gearing up to start another school year! We hope everyone has had a safe and fun-filled summer!

NEW THIS YEAR! For two reasons, meals will be free for all students who attend Discovery Public School! The first is because of a new law that was passed in Minnesota, and the second is because of a program we are participating in called CEP! Although lunches will be free this year, we would like to encourage you to still fill out the "Application For Educational Benefits". DPS is still eligible to receive additional state and federal funds based on the number and/or percentage of students enrolled who reside in households that meet established federal income guidelines. The application we use is an "alternate" application for Educational Benefits to collect household information. The application also helps our school qualify for education funds and discounts. ***Please help our school by completing and submitting the form!*** If it is a paper copy, please mail it to: 126 – 8th Street NW, Faribault, MN 55021; Attn: Office Manager, or bring to the school office during regular school hours.

Beginning last school year, we joined the on-line registration generation!! This has been a huge time saver for all! It has helped streamline re-registration and new registration for parents and school staff alike, saving time and paperwork for everyone! There has been a learning curve for us all, but overall, it has been a huge success! Thank you!

IMPORTANT!! You are again asked to re-register your student(s) online in your Parent Portal for the upcoming school year! *Instructions have been attached to this letter, including some illustrations to help you re-register your students prior to the start of the school year!* Please do so, as soon as possible and do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns you may have! As you are also aware, having access to a parent portal also means you will have *immediate* online access to your student's progress in classes, Lunch Account information, and attendance! These are just a few of the things that help the parents and the school work together to help our students succeed!

For the 2023-2024 school year, we will continue our yearlong Freshman Seminar class. Freshman students will explore potential careers and complete the social emotional learning curriculum. In addition, there will also be opportunities for volunteer activities, planning school-wide events, and helping with the yearbook! This class is designed to help students develop stronger internal motivation to earn their diploma and a clearer vision of their future potential!

DPS will also continue to utilize E-Learning Days in the event that we have too many snow days this coming school year. An E-Learning day is a day when students will complete work from home. It will be counted like a regular school day, and attendance will be taken based on students logging in to access the assignments or communicating with their teacher. Our E-Learning Day process will be reviewed with students early in the school year.

At DPS, we feel communication with parents and guardians is a key component to a student's success. With this in mind, we would like you to be aware that you will be contacted via phone or email if your student receives a Discipline Referral (Office Visit). If a student receives 15 Office Visits, there will be a mandatory meeting required with parents, student, and school administration, prior to the student returning to classes. We also encourage you to contact the school office with any information you feel necessary regarding your student.

MORNING ARRIVAL: Safety is always a concern at DPS! Please note, once students are on school property, they are to remain on school property until dismissed at lunch, the end of the day, or signed out in the school office by a responsible party. Please do not drop your student off at school and allow them to walk elsewhere! This is for their safety, and for the security and safety of our school. There will be warnings given. After 3 warnings, suspension may follow. Thank you for helping maintain the safety of our students and our school!

We would like to invite all families and students to join us in kicking off this school year at our **Open House** on **Thursday, August 24th, 2023 from 12:00p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** Come share some of your summer adventures and stories with staff! We highly encourage NEW students and families to visit during this time, but we look forward to seeing ALL students and their families!

At this time, we would also like to remind you that [family involvement improves student achievement!](#) With that in mind, please look closely at the following 6 easy ways to stay involved in your child's education:

As a parent/Guardian, please be sure to:

- 1) Encourage your student to attend school every day. Make school their #1 Priority!
- 2) Model and reinforce positive, respectful behavior.
- 3) Make sure your student is well rested, well fed, and ready to learn!
- 4) Be involved in their education by attending school events such as School Board meetings and Parent/Teacher conferences.
- 5) Have a current/active email address on file with the school office for communication purposes.
- 6) **Update** ALL phone numbers, addresses, and emails as they change, either for yourself or your emergency contacts. It is an easy process! Just log into your PARENT PORTAL to make any needed changes! This is **VITAL** in maintaining good communication and having accurate information in case of an emergency!

School begins PRIOR TO Labor Day this year, on **TUESDAY, August 29th, 2023!** The daily class schedule will be the following:

2023-2024 CLASS SCHEDULE

Breakfast	-	7:55	-	8:10
1 st Hour	-	8:15	-	9:08
2 nd Hour	-	9:10	-	10:03
3 rd Hour	-	10:05	-	10:58
4 th Hour	-	11:00	-	11:53
LUNCH	-	11:53	-	12:20
5 th Hour	-	12:20	-	1:12
6 th Hour	-	1:14	-	2:06
7 th Hour	-	2:08	-	3:00

LUNCH REMINDER!! Although it is always preferred to have your student's lunch prepared/planned prior to the start of the school day, we understand that life happens! Students will still be allowed to have food delivered to the school, but as not to disrupt the learning process of your student or others, it may ONLY be delivered between 11:50 am. and 12:10 pm. For security reasons, students will NOT be allowed to leave the building but may meet their delivery person at the front doors ONLY (door dash, parents, friends, relatives) with the exception of 9th thru 10th graders who have received prior parental consent to leave during their Lunch break. (Asked during registration). If it is delivered at ANY OTHER time, it must be brought to the School Office and appropriately labeled with the student's name and grade. Students will NOT be allowed to leave class to get the lunch prior to being dismissed from their 4th hour class period. This is a privilege and can be taken away from a student or the entire student body if it is abused!

As in past years, breakfast will again be served in the cafeteria from **7:45am–8:10am**. Students need to be in their first hour class by the start of class at **8:15a.m.** All students are expected to be on time and should be prepared for school each day! Students will need to bring a notebook and a writing instrument for each class. A suggested supply list is included with this letter.

MAKE NOTE: We would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that if school is cancelled or delayed for inclement weather, the local TV stations will be notified. Please check Kare11, KSTP, or WCCO to see if Discovery Public School of Faribault is included with any school closings or delays. Furthermore, for the upcoming year, we will continue to notify parents/guardians via our JMC online messaging system of these same school delays and closures via text, voicemail, and/or email. *AGAIN....another important reason to keep all contact information up to date via the parent portal!!*

Again, as in previous years, we would like to inform you that Discovery Public School is trying to do its part in saving our environment for the future generations to come. In doing so, we are not mailing a copy of our Student Handbook. Please read and review a copy of our Student Handbook by visiting the school website at isd4081.org, or by downloading a copy provided during the "online" registration process in the Parent Portal. If you do not have access to the web, or a paper copy is preferred; you or your student may pick up a copy in the school office at any time!

We look forward to a successful 2023-2024 school year! Hope to see everyone at the Open House!

Sincerely,

Dan Weisser
Executive Director
Discovery Public School
507-331-5423