

August 7, 2024

Discovery Public School Parents/Guardians;

Another school year is fast approaching! We hope everyone has had a safe and fun-filled summer! The staff has begun preparing for the 24-25 school year and they are excited to see students again in ONLY a few weeks!

SCHOOL MEAL APPLICATIONS: Meals will again be free for all students who attend Discovery Public School! Last year, a new Minnesota law was passed which entitles every student to a free breakfast and lunch during days that school is in session. Although lunches will be free again this year, we strongly encourage you to fill out the “Application for Educational Benefits”!! DPS is eligible to receive additional state and federal funds AND discounts, based on the 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. ***Please help our school by completing and submitting the form!*** The application can be found in the parent portal under the enrollment tab, or if you prefer, a hard copy is also available in the school office during regular office hours! Anyone who completes a paper copy of the application can either mail it to the school office at: 126 – 8th Street NW, Faribault, MN 55021; Attn: Office Manager, or bring it to the school office during regular business hours.

REGISTRATION: Two years ago, 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, both 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 for your efforts and your patience! Never hesitate to call the school office with any questions!

IMPORTANT!! If your student is a returning student, we need you 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! **IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT** for all contact and medical information to be updated prior to the start of a new school year!

As you are also aware, having access to a parent portal also means you 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 students succeed!

For the 2024-2025 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.

PICK UP AND DROP OFF SAFETY PROCEDURES:

If your child is being dropped off at school, please DO NOT STOP in the road to let them out!

- PLEASE pull up to the curb in front of the school, or into a parking spot!

Also extremely important: Once your student(s) 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, a suspension may follow!!

Thank you for helping to maintain the safety of our students and our school!

WELCOME:

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 22nd, 2024 from 12:00p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** Come share some of your summer adventures/stories with staff! We highly encourage NEW students and their 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 again this year! It begins on **MONDAY, August 26th, 2024!**

The daily class schedule will be as follows:

2024-2025 CLASS SCHEDULE

Breakfast	-	7:50	-	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 again be allowed to have food delivered to the school, but only in a manner that does not disrupt teaching or the learning process of students! 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 (with the exception of the 9th thru 12th graders who have received prior parental consent, via the parent portal, to leave during their Lunch period) but may meet their delivery person (door dash, parents, or relatives) between the specified timeslot. 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 for lunch. 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 **7:50am–8:10am**. Students need to be in their first hour class by **8:15a.m!** *All students are expected to be on time and 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.

INCLEMENT WEATHER: 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 of these closures via text, voicemail, and/or email using our JMC online messaging system!!! 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 2024-2025 school year! Hope to see everyone at the Open House on Thursday, August 22nd!

Sincerely,

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