
MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL – Dr. Mathew Nelson

Welcome back to Discovery Elementary! I hope everyone had a great summer and now find yourself excited to be starting the school year. There is such an awesome excitement in the air here, brought in by the students and staff as we begin another school year together at Discovery! This summer was a busy one at Discovery, as many of our classrooms received updated flooring and furniture, and our lighting in all classrooms was upgraded to LED. A special thanks goes to Candice Rozeske, Jim Hulet and our custodial staff for all their work in helping us get the entire school ready for another school year. We all work so hard to make Discovery a positive place for kids, and it's nice that we are continuing to take steps from a physical standpoint to have our spaces look as warm and inviting as the staff and students that reside in them.

As I have said many times in the past and every year in this introduction newsletter, there is just something special about Discovery Elementary. When we are in the middle of the school year and working so hard for the students we serve, we do not often take time to reflect on and appreciate all the great things about our school family and culture, but we have a GREAT thing going here! I appreciate our amazing team and our strong commitment to doing what is best for our students. It is hard to pinpoint exactly what it is that makes us so different and special, however I do believe the quote below really gets at the core of what we are all about in what we strive to do for kids every day.

They may forget what you said, but they will never forget how you made them feel.

~Carl W. Buechner

“Together we’re better!” continues to resonate in my mind whenever I think about the great school community we have at Discovery Elementary. It is clear that we all work together to establish a positive school culture with a focus on the Community C’s as character education and education of the whole child are at the core of mission at Discovery Elementary School. Our Community “C’s” are: Care, Cooperate, Contribute, Celebrate, Collaborate, Cheerful, Considerate, Courageous, and Creative. We believe it is important to emphasize these skills and help students understand what it looks like to demonstrate these important character skills.

We look forward to a great 2022-2023 school year together!



Changes to End of Day Transportation

Please call the school office at 763-682-8400 with any changes to end of day transportation plans for your child. You may get in the habit of letting the teacher know, but our teachers are not regularly able to check their email while teaching, so it is **best to call the office if there are ever changes** to where your child should go after school and we will get a note to your child's classroom so they get to the correct location.

Family FUN Night is Thursday, October 6th!!!



Discovery Elementary Family Fun Night is Thursday, October 6th, from 5:00-7:00 at the Discovery Elementary School. This event, which is **open to all**, includes a Discovery field trip support raffle, inflatables, bingo, and tons of fun games such as bouncy houses, temporary tattoos, minnow races, duck pull, ring toss, basketball shoot, crazy hair, and other carnival style games. The goal of Family Fun Night is for everyone to have FUN, and the staff will be adding to the fun by running the individual games!



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July 22, 2022

Dear Parents:

As we approach a new school year, I am once again asking everyone (parents, guardians, schools, teachers, social workers) for their support and assistance in reducing truancy. The last couple of years with COVID-19, distance learning and transitioning back to in-person education has presented many challenges for our school districts, families and students causing escalated truancy rates last year. Prior to the problems associated with COVID-19, we have all made a concerted effort, over the last several years, to reduce truancy and were making progress. Your support and assistance in reducing the truancy rate was greatly appreciated. It was truly a team effort. As we resume in-person learning, let's continue working together to get our children in school and reduce truancy.

I believe all children deserve a solid education to prepare them for the challenges of today's world. Likewise, I firmly believe parents want their children to receive the best possible education. Unfortunately, truancy robs many children of their chance to obtain an education. If this letter does not pertain to you, I apologize. However, from my perspective the issue of truancy is important enough that I wanted to share with you some of my thoughts and concerns.

As the Wright County Attorney, I have supported open communication with our schools and have given many talks to various schools regarding the criminal justice system, the opportunities our great country offers, what it takes to be a good citizen and the need for an education. I also believe that to the best of our collective ability our children need to get an education without fearing drugs or violence. That is why I choose to sit on a number of Safe School Committees throughout the County. One of the issues raised in those committees is truancy. I have made the truancy issue a priority within my office. Ten years ago, my office participated in creating a truancy program by collaborating with schools, Social Services, Court Services and the Courts to assist families facing truancy issues. The goal of the truancy program is to help families facilitate successful completion of their children's education. The program is a success. Over ¾ of all families referred to the program in the last several years, excluding the difficult last couple of years, have been able to correct the truancy problem before court involvement.

In the State of Minnesota, all children should attend school until the age of 18 and **must** attend school until the age of 17. Minn. Stat. §120A.22, Subd. 8. **Continuing Truant**...means a child who is under 17 years who is absent from attendance at school without lawful excuse for three days if the child is in elementary school or for three or more class periods on three days if the child is in middle school, junior high or high school. Minn. Stat. §260A.02, Subd. 3. **Habitual truant**...means a child under the age of 17 years who is absent from attendance at school without lawful excuse for seven school days if the child is in elementary school or for one or more class periods on seven school days if the child is in middle school, junior high or high school, or the above or the child is 17 years old and has not lawfully withdrawn from school. Minn. Stat. §260A.007, Subd. 19. Children who are truant can end up before a judge on a CHIPS (Children in Need of Protection or Services) Petition. It is the hope that through the truancy program, families who have a concern over truancy can be provided help to address the problem before a petition is filed.

There are many reasons why a child does not attend school: illness, family emergency, mental health issues, funeral, religious holiday, bullying at school, parent forgot to wake their child, parent did not know school schedule, child missed the bus and there was no back-up plan for transportation, child overslept, lack of awareness of the importance of an education, child didn't feel like going to school, child was sleepy, child thinks school is boring, and the parents did not understand their child's school attendance policy. Some of the above reasons are considered lawful excuses but many of the above are considered unlawful excuses.

The following are some tips for improving school attendance:

- Make your children's education a family priority.
- Tell your children how important their education is to them and you.
- Insist that your children attend school and do their homework.
- Understand your children's school attendance policy.
- Make sure your children obey curfew laws and get plenty of sleep at night.
- Buy your children an alarm clock.
- Tell your children that you love them and give them hugs on a regular basis.
- Praise your children's effort that they put forth.
- If possible, help them with their homework if they request.
- Do not enable your children by calling the school to cover illegal absences.
- If your child does not want to attend school, find out why. Talk to your child and listen for an answer. If there is a problem, try to solve it together.
- If your child refuses to go to school, do not be afraid to ask for help. Talk to school staff to find out if your child has a problem and what resources are available to you.
- Advocate for your children in the school system

Regular school attendance is one of the most reliable predictors of academic achievement. Research shows that children who do not attend school do not learn at the same rate as children who do attend school. Also, in law enforcement circles, truancy is widely regarded as a gateway to crime. Research confirms that missing school is a key factor in predicting future delinquency and criminal behavior. Keeping children in school does not only promote educational success, but is also a key crime prevention strategy.

Let us work together to reduce the truancy rate in Wright County. We owe it to our children. I ask for your help. I ask for your support. I thank you for your time and effort.

It is my sincere wish that our children's 2022-2023 school year is safe, productive and enjoyable. Have a great year!

Sincerely,



Brian A. Lutes
County Attorney



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August 1, 2022

Dear Parents:

In 2007, the Wright County Attorney's Office participated in creating the Truancy Program by collaborating with Wright County schools, Social Services, Court Services and the Courts to assist families facing truancy issues. The goal of the Truancy Program is to help families facilitate successful completion of their children's education. The program has been a success, reducing the amount of truancy cases filed with the Court in Wright County by 75%, with the exception of the last couple of years, due to challenges presented by COVID-19 and distance learning.

If your child has been identified by his or her school as a truant, you will be asked to participate in the Wright County Truancy Program. This program is designed to present information to parents and children about the effects of truancy on the child's future, what can happen if the child remains truant and services that can be offered to help ensure that your child gets the education he or she deserves.

The Wright County Truancy Program is held at the Wright County Justice Center and generally occurs at 5:00 p.m. on the last Monday of the month from September to June, excluding holidays. If your son or daughter has been identified as a truant, you will receive an invitation to meet with representatives of the County during one of these meetings.

In the State of Minnesota, all children should attend school until the age of 18 and **must** attend school until the age of 17. *Minn. Stat. §120A.22, subd. 8.* **Continuing Truant** means a child who is under 17 years old who is absent from attendance at school without lawful excuse for three days if the child is in elementary school or for three or more class periods on three days if the child is in middle school, junior high or high school. *Minn. Stat. §260A.02, subd. 3.* **Habitual Truant** means a child under the age of 17 years old who is absent from attendance at school without lawful excuse for seven school days if the child is in elementary school or for one or more class periods on seven school days if the child is in middle school, junior high or high school, or the above or the child is 17 years old and has not lawfully withdrawn from school. *Minn. Stat. §260C.007, subd. 19.*

It is important to understand that a CHIPS (Child in Need of Protective Services) Truancy Petition may be filed after the meeting if your child continues to be absent from school without lawful excuse. If you have any questions about your child's attendance, please contact your child's school.

Let us work together to reduce the truancy rate in Wright County. We owe it to our children. I ask for your help. I ask for your support. I thank you for your time and effort.

Sincerely,

Brian A. Lutes
Wright County Attorney