



The Discovery Connections

A newsletter for parents of Discovery Elementary Students
Spring 2026

A WELCOME MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL-DR. MATHEW NELSON

Thank you for your support of the Discovery Elementary Read-a-Thon event. It was a huge success in promoting literacy and the love for reading, and we also raised over \$10,000. This money will directly impact Discovery students in a positive way by offsetting field trip costs and purchasing additional books, technology, and other items for student use. Thank you again for your continued support of Discovery Elementary!

Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA) testing will again occur later this spring for all students in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade. We often talk about focusing on controlling what we can control and putting forth our best effort in all that we do at Discovery Elementary. The MCAs are no different, and we tell the students that for them, it is a celebration of all their hard work this year. The reality is that people both inside and outside of the community may judge us by our test scores, so it is important for us to control what we can and put forth our best effort in taking this assessment.

Below are the specific dates for the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade MCAs:

- **April 14, 15, 16 – Reading MCA Testing**
- **April 21, 22, 23 – Math MCA Testing**

MCA = My Chance to Amaze ...
... myself! ... my friends!
... my school! ... my parents!

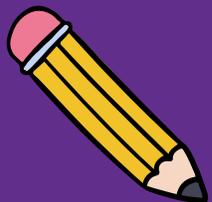
Speaking of preparing our students for the future, AVID is an elementary through postsecondary college and career readiness system designed to increase school-wide learning and performance. On page 5 of this newsletter, you will find a visual of the recently adopted BHM Schools "Portrait of a Graduate", which includes essential skills categorized into Rigorous Academic Preparedness, Opportunity Knowledge, and Student Agency. Discovery Elementary School, along with all BHM schools, is committed to ensuring that all students have these essential skills, experiences, and opportunities upon graduation, regardless of what options they may choose to pursue. At Discovery, we integrate AVID framework philosophy into our mission and culture to provide outstanding learning opportunities for all students. We are excited to continue our learning together so that we can be at our best every day when our best is needed to teach your children

Looking ahead to next year.....it will soon be time to begin the process of placing students in their multiage classrooms for next school year. When placing students, numerous items/factors are considered. We feel all of our teachers are very qualified and accommodating to individual student needs and that students will do well in any classroom. Even though class assignments are the responsibility of the Principal, with input from the teachers, we recognize that there are instances where a parent has a legitimate reason for a request. Normally, we send out a request form to those who request it, but this year, we will adjust, and if you feel you need to make a request, please feel free to reach out directly to me at mnelson@bhmschools.org or call me at 763-682-8426. Your concerns and input will always be considered; however, it may not be possible to accommodate all requests. **The deadline for turning in requests to Dr. Nelson is Friday, April 10th.** After this deadline, we will not be able to make any adjustments to the classroom placements.

Please feel free to contact me if you ever have questions or concerns.

"Together We're Better!"

BETTER
TOGETHER



COURAGE

Family Newsletter

PurposeFULL
People

Courage Overview

We are excited to focus on Courage this month! One way to think about Courage is "choosing what is helpful, right, and kind even when it is hard or scary." Courage can look a little different for everyone. Get ready to explore as a family what Courage means to you!

Courage is 1 of 3 traits we will focus on throughout the year that helps students **Be Strong**. Across grade levels, students will be developing skills like focusing, organizing, and goal-setting.

Conversation Starters



- Can you share or show what it means to have Courage?
- When you practice Courage, how does it make you feel? Why?

PurposeFull Pursuits

Have some fun connecting as a family this month while practicing Courage. Here are 2 "PurposeFull Pursuits" you can complete together!

#1

Remember that Courage is choosing what is helpful, right, and kind even when it is hard or scary.

Reflect, think, and discuss things you would like to do, but find intimidating or scary (individually or as a family). Maybe it's a new hobby, trying a new game, sharing your art or invention with others, or going on an adventure somewhere. Give 1 of these things a try together this month and take a selfie to capture the memory!



#2

We have all demonstrated Courage in our lives. Stories are powerful tools for connecting as a family. Protect time this week to share stories about Courage with each other (you can use the story prompts to get started). At the end of the conversation, think of 1 way you can practice Courage this week.

Story Prompts:

- A time I (or someone else) showed Courage was ____.
- An act of Courage that changed/challenged me was ____.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

MARCH

- **3-4-5 MN History Center Field Trip**-Thursday, March 19th
- **3-4-5 Energy Education Assembly**- Thursday, March 26th
- **K-8 Teacher Workshop**- Friday, March 27th- No School
- **Spring Break**- March 30th-April 3rd- No School

APRIL

- **Early Release**- Friday, April 10th- 12:15p.m.
- **3-4-5 MCA Reading Testing**- April 14th, 15th & 16th
- **3-4-5 MCA Math Testing**- April 21st, 22nd, & 23rd
- **Scholastic BOGO Book Fair Week**- April 27th-May 1st (Times TBD)



MAY

- **3-4-5 Choir Concert**-Thursday, April 30th at 6:30p.m.
- **Beach Day Lunch with Nutrition Services**- Friday, May 1st
- **Early Release**- Friday, May 1st- 12:15p.m.
- **Staff Appreciation Week**-May 4th-8th
- **5th Grade MCA Science Test**- Tuesday, May 5th
- **K-2 Amaze'n Farmyard Field Trip**- Tuesday, May 19th
- **5th Grade Patrol Trip to Target Field**- Wednesday, May 20th
- **Memorial Day**- Monday, May 25th-No School
- **5th Grade Track & Field Day**-Date TBA
- **5th Grade Celebration**- Wednesday, June 3rd at 1:00p.m. in the Auditorium
- **Last Day of School/All School Picnic**- Thursday, June 4th



More dates to follow...



RECYCLING PROJECT UPDATE

We've been successful in earning a TREX bench for Discovery!

This spring, Discovery students will vote on where it will be placed. The collection boxes have been removed at the Discovery location.

Even though the boxes will no longer be at Discovery, you can still drop off plastic at the following **locations**:

- **Cub Foods** and **Walmart** (mixed plastic collections)
- **Whirltronics** (208 Centennial Dr, Buffalo) – best for larger amounts
- **Buffalo Community Center** (plastic bags are used to weave mats that are distributed to individuals experiencing homelessness)

Thank you for your help in making this a success!



February "C" Students of the Month – Cheerful





Portrait of a Graduate

Rigorous Academics

Students develop academic skills and can successfully complete rigorous college and career preparatory curriculum and experiences.

Writing

Communicates ideas, demonstrates learning and deepens understanding.

Inquiry

Clarifies, thinks critically, and conducts proficient academic investigation.

Collaboration

Communicates effectively and works effectively and with groups.

Organization

Manages materials, time and thinking with proper tools and prioritization.

Reading

Engages in critical reading to deepen understanding in all texts.

Opportunity Knowledge

Students research opportunities, set goals, make choices that support their long-term aspirations, and successfully navigate to the next level.

Developing Future Readiness

Develops financial literacy and a professional profile, and monitors digital footprint.

Building Career Preparedness

Develops an awareness of personal fit in terms of career selection, and plans education and career path based on personal goals.

Advancing College Preparedness

Explores and plans education path based on personal strengths, skills, interests and goals. These plans are informed by an understanding of college admissions, as well as financial considerations.

Student Agency

Students believe in themselves and act intentionally to build relationships, persist through obstacles, and activate their academic, social, emotional, and professional knowledge and skills to reach their potential.

Building Relationships

Establishes and maintains positive relationships that create a physical and digital network of support.

Persisting Through Obstacles

Monitors progress toward long-term goals, seeks assistance and feedback when necessary, and develops a strong voice to self-advocate.

Activating Knowledge and Skills

Carries a strong sense of identity, develops and employs leadership traits, and thinks critically, behaves safely and participates responsibly in the digital world.