



Decorah Middle School

Learning-Thriving-Creating Our Legacy

At Decorah Community School District we embrace student learning and well-being as our fundamental purpose; we will, in partnership with our students, families, and community, make the world a better place.

Welcome to 6th grade!



*Justin Albers, Principal
justin.albers@decorah.school*

*Jake Nimrod, Assoc. Principal/A.D.
jake.nimrod@decorah.school*

Contact Information

Scott Boylen - Science
scott.boylen@decorah.school
phone extension: #1136

Kelly Farley - Math
kelly.farley@decorah.school
Phone extension: #1131

Taylor Amundson- Reading
taylor.amundson@decorah.school
phone extension: #1133

Lisa Witzke - Social Studies
lisa.witzke@decorah.school
phone extension: #1134

Grace Syverson - Language Arts
grace.syverson@decorah.school
Phone extension: #1135

Lee Stock - Guidance Counselor
lee.stock@decorah.school
phone extension: #1110

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 Information

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

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

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 page on Canvas or 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.

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.

Primetime

- The intent of Primetime or the advisor/advisee program is to build teacher/student relationships.
- A teacher is assigned a group of students who meet each week. Primetime will meet every Wednesday morning for 30 minutes.

Core Classes

Language Arts

Students will...

Speaking and Listening

create and deliver presentations for various purposes; use appropriate verbal and nonverbal techniques; use visual aids when appropriate to enhance presentation.
engage in class discussions and presentations.

Writing

write a variety of genres over both extended and shorter time frames.
plan, write, revise, and edit writing. produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. identify a research topic, gather and paraphrase information from various resources, avoid plagiarism, create reports and presentations, and provide basic bibliographic information.

Language

Understand and utilize the conventions of grammar, usage, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling in speech and writing.
identify and write a variety of sentence patterns.
use knowledge of language to maintain consistent style and tone in writing, speaking, and listening.

Reading

Students will...

explore literature by means of guided reading, novel units, book projects, and a variety of short stories.
focus on reading units involving various skills and strategies within multiple genre.
practice citing textual evidence, analyzing parts of text and text structure, and developing vocabulary.

Science

The Next Generation Science Standards

Students will focus on...

Molecules to Organisms: Structure and Processes
Earth and Human Activity
Engineering Design Matter and Its Interactions
Earth Systems Heredity

Mathematics

Students will...

connect ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems.
complete the understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, including negative numbers.
work on writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations.
develop an understanding of statistical thinking.

Social Studies

Students will...

describe, examine and explain how and where different groups of people live, their relationships, and institutions.
learn why we study history and develop knowledge of past civilizations and why these are important.
develop an appreciation of other cultures and the importance of being an active citizen now and in the future.
study areas including geography themes and skills relating to India, Iraq, Egypt, China, Greece, and Italy.

Exploratories

Art

Students will...

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

Students will...

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

Students will...

use the book, 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens, as the basis for the class.
read parts of the books and discuss it in class.
will learn to deal with the topics of social relationships, healthy choices in life, and setting goals for the future.

Library

Students will...

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

Students will...

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.

Physical Education

Students will...

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

