

## Policies & Procedures

### POWERSCHOOL

We strongly encourage students and parents to use PowerSchool to access online grades. The link can be found at [www.decorah.k12.ia.us](http://www.decorah.k12.ia.us). Click on PowerSchool under enroll on the menu bar.

### PLANNERS

Each student is provided with a planner. Students are expected to carry this to every class for assignments, study hall sign-out, and as a resource.

### STEPS FOR SUCCESS - FOR STUDENTS

- complete homework on time
- focus on learning, pay attention in class
- review your notes & work regularly
- ask questions
- study for tests several nights before the test
- attend class regularly
- schedule appointments outside of the school day

### ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE

- Football
- Volleyball
- Cheerleading
- Track
- Wrestling
- Basketball
- Baseball
- Softball
- Cross Country
- 7th/8th Grade Plays
- Orchestra
- Band/Jazz Band
- Choir
- Decorah Defenders
- MathCounts



## Service Project

### Tree Planting

Diversity = Stability! Each spring the 8th grade class plants hundreds of trees at various community locations. These trees are planted not only to enhance habitats, but to also provide an opportunity for students to give back to their community.



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Science, Green Team - ext. 1157

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Lego League, Robotics - ext. 1125

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Art - ext. 1106

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Extended Learning Program, NHD,  
Mock Trial, Drama - ext. 1153

Dean Beckman - [dean.beckman@decorah.school](mailto:dean.beckman@decorah.school)  
Chorus, Drama - ext 1122

Danyce Jacobs - [danyce.jacobs@decorah.school](mailto:danyce.jacobs@decorah.school)  
Geometry (1st period)

Email is great way to communicate with us!

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Principal - ext. 1102

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Intervention Specialist - ext. 1166

# 8TH GRADE

## DECORAH MIDDLE SCHOOL



### MISSION STATEMENT

### 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.

405 WINNEBAGO ST.  
DECORAH, IA 52101  
(563)382-8427

[HTTPS://WWW.DECORAH.K12.IA.US](https://www.decorah.k12.ia.us)

# Exploratory Classes:

## ART- MRS. COURTNEY

Art 2D, Art 3D and Community Art build artistic habits through experiments with traditional art techniques, 3D printing, and graphic design. Community Art also focuses on visiting community artists and learning about careers in art related fields as well as creating.

## CTE CONNECTIONS- MR. LARSON

Students will make connections to CTE classes at the high school.

## CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROJECTS- MR. LARSON

Students will build different types of hands-on projects.

## HEALTH- MRS. PIPHO

Discussion about the following topics will be taught: mental health, alcohol/drugs, nutrition/eating disorders, body development and STDs.

## READING- MR. HOGAN

Various reading strategies will be introduced to students that will aid in their reading comprehension.

## CURRENT EVENTS- MR. KNAACK

Students will be knowledgeable and discerning news-seekers and information-processors, while increasing their awareness of current issues and events.

## CODING II- MS. KRUSE

Students will learn computer science/programming concepts using [code.org](http://code.org)

## VIDEO PRODUCTION- MS. KRUSE

Students will enhance their video editing skills while synthesizing their talents and ideas for a Decorah Middle School Student News broadcast.

## GREEN TEAM- MR. ADAMS

Students will learn about ways to become more energy conscious in life, at home, and at school. They will collaborate on issues to create a healthier lifestyle and healthier environment. Students will participate in the school's recycling and composting programs.

## LEGO LEAGUE- MR. LARSON

This class/competition is designed to encourage and assist teams to further develop their innovative solutions to real world problems. Part of this process uses robotic coding.

## ADVANCED ROBOTICS- MR. LARSON

Application of science, technology, engineering and math concepts will be utilized to build and program robots.

## DRAMA- MRS. HOGAN/MR. BECKMAN

Students work in small groups to create scripts and perform Readers Theatre, Mime, Musical Theatre, One-Act Play, as well as learn the basics of Improvisation.

## MOCK TRIAL- MRS. HOGAN

Selected students work in teams to analyze a legal case to present at regional competition.

## YEARBOOK - MRS. OFTEDAHL

Assist is taking pictures of students and student activities to develop the current year's middle school yearbook.

## MENTORS - MR. STOCK

Assist younger students and Crossroads students with academics.

# Core Classes

## LANGUAGE ARTS: MR. HOGAN, MRS. HOGAN

Eighth grade language arts is a combination of both reading and language. Writing, grammar, speaking, and punctuation will be the language emphasis while vocabulary, short stories, plays, novels, poetry, and nonfiction are covered in the reading portion of the class.

## AMERICAN HISTORY: MR. KNAACK

Eighth grade American History studies Early Exploration through the Civil War utilizing primary source documents.



NHD Theme: **Frontiers in History.**  
All students will embark on a research-based history project to be shared at parent's night in December.

## SCIENCE: MR. ADAMS

Students will develop an investigative approach to study life, earth & space, and physical science. Students will be learning through exploration and scientific design in the topics of ecosystems, biological evolution, matter and its interactions, motion and stability, energy, waves, earth systems, earth and human activity while developing engineering practices.



## MATHEMATICS

Eighth grade students will be enrolled in Geometry, Algebra I, or Course 3.

## MATH COURSE 3

Focuses on the study of the following topics: ■ Solving Multi-Step Equations with Rational Numbers ■ Functions, Graphing, and Slope ■ Similarity and Congruence ■ Transformations ■ Volume of various geometric figures

## ALGEBRA

Focuses on the study of the following topics: ■ Solving Linear and Quadratic Equations and Inequalities ■ Functions ■ Graphing Linear, Exponential, Quadratic Equations ■ Polynomials ■ Properties of Exponents ■ Solving Systems of Equations

## GEOMETRY

Focuses on the study of the following topics: ■ Points ■ Lines ■ Planes ■ Angles ■ Congruency ■ Proofs ■ Polygons ■ Perimeter ■ Area ■ Volume

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION:

### MRS. PIPHO & MR. CARLSON

Fitness through activity and sports is the focus of Physical Education. Muscular strength, cardiovascular endurance, muscular endurance and flexibility are stressed and practiced throughout the year. Physical Education is offered every other day at the Middle School.

## CANVAS

Canvas is a Learning Management System (LMS) that the Decorah Community School District has adopted. The LMS is a way to simplify teaching and learning while providing equitable access and instructional continuity to enhance the learning experience for all students. As a parent, Canvas is your one-stop shop to keep current with your child at school.