

# Welcome to 5th Grade at DMS!

Learning - Thriving - Creating Our Legacy

## Contacts at DMS:

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## Decorah Middle School Mission Statement:

Decorah Middle School, in partnership with its parents and community, will strive to instill in its students high standards for learning, integrity, leadership, and citizenship.

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



## Monitoring Student Learning

Oral and written feedback is shared in a variety of methods throughout lessons, activities, and projects. Additionally, progress is given through PowerSchool.

The link for PowerSchool can be found at [www.decorah.k12.ia.us](http://www.decorah.k12.ia.us).

Please contact the school office for your password or any other additional information.

## Communication

Canvas is a Learning Management System (LMS) used by the Decorah Community School District. 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.

## PrimeTime

PrimeTime lasts for 30 minutes every Wednesday morning. Goals are:

- Build teacher/student rapport
- Social-emotional educational opportunities
- Organization
- Developing positive self-esteem and growth mindset

## Curriculum

Our curriculum is driven by the Iowa Core State Standards. You may find more information at <http://www.educateiowa.gov>.

## Reading

Curricular resource: *Into Reading*

- Comprehension strategies
- Reading fluency
- Vocabulary development
- Collaborative discussions

## Language

- Writing for a variety of audiences
- Grammar & usage
- Language conventions
- Word study
- Multimedia presentations

## Math

Curricular resource: *Clear Math*

- Whole Numbers
- Measurement
- Decimals
- Data Analysis
- Algebra
- Fractions
- Geometry
- Problem Solving

## Social Studies

Curricular resource: *Social Studies Alive*

- U.S. history
- Founding documents of the U.S.
- Inquiry
- Geography
- Civics
- Iowa history

## Science

- Matter and Its Interactions
- Energy and Ecosystems
- From Molecules to Organisms
- Earth's Place in the Universe
- Earth and Human Activity
- Engineering Design

## Exploratories

Classes rotate in the following order  
(once every two days):

### Art

Observe connections between art, science, math and language • Build artistic habits • Explore new materials and limitations

### Applied Digital Skills

Keyboarding • Computer Basics • Projects with Productivity Software • Internet Safety/Privacy • Scratch Coding

### Guidance

Social relationships • Academics • Career goals • Healthy choices in life

### Library

Acclimating to a larger library • Reading promotion, time to read, and guidance selecting books • Curiosity project to develop questioning techniques, finding credible sources, paraphrasing, and citing sources

### Music

Elements of music: timbre (sound), melody, harmony, rhythm, and form • Studying melody and rhythm through singing

### Band/Orchestra/Chorus

Students have the option to participate • See separate music brochure for more information

### Physical Education

(two or three days each week) • Fitness through activity and sports • Muscular strength • Cardiovascular endurance • Muscular endurance • Flexibility

### Other information for parents

- The handbook is located in the front of the planner.
- Please get a visitor's pass to enter the building.
- It is appreciated when you request homework during student absences.