

Welcome to 8th Grade at DMS!

Learning - Thriving - Creating Our Legacy

Steps for Student Success

- 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.

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



8th Grade Team

Ryan Hogan ryan.hogan@decorah.school
English Language Arts, Reading - ext. 1151

Wes Knaack wes.knaack@decorah.school
Am. History, NHD, Current Events - ext. 1152

Jesse Halweg jesse.halweg@decorah.school
Math Course 2-3, Algebra - ext. 1155

Gene Adams gene.adams@decorah.school
Science, Green Team - ext. 1157

Danyelle Kruse danyelle.kruse@decorah.school
Coding, Video Production - ext. 1159

Amy Piphon amy.piphon@decorah.school
Physical Education, health - ext. 1118 & 1163

Jonathan Carlson jonathan.carlson@decorah.school
Physical Education - ext. 1117

Steve Larson steve.larson@decorah.school
Career Technical Educ., Lego League, Robotics - ext. 1125

Amy Courtney amy.courtney@decorah.school
Art - ext. 1106

Dana Hogan dana.hogan@decorah.school
Extended Learning Prog., NHD, Mock Trial, Drama - ext. 1153

Dean Beckman dean.beckman@decorah.school
Chorus, Drama - ext 1122

Dustin Bliven dustin.bliven@decorah.school
Band, Rock Band - ext 1119

Danyce Jacobs danyce.jacobs@decorah.school

Email is a great way to communicate with us!

Principal: Justin Albers
justin.albers@decorah.school

Associate Principal/Activities Director: Jake Nimrod
jake.nimrod@decorah.school

Guidance Counselor: Lee Stock
lee.stock@decorah.school

Intervention Specialist: Matt Kuempel
matt.kuempel@decorah.school

PowerSchool

We strongly encourage students and parents to use PowerSchool to access online grades.

- www.decorah.k12.ia.us - Enroll - PowerSchool - Parent Sign In
- Username and password can be obtained from the DMS office

Canvas

Canvas is a Learning Management System (LMS) used 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.

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.

Service Project - Tree Planting

Diversity = Stability! Each spring the 8th grade class plants hundreds of trees at various community locations. These trees are planted to enhance habitats, as well as provide an opportunity for students to give back to their community.

Activities

Football	Basketball
Wrestling	7th/8th Grade Plays
Cross Country	Math Counts
Orchestra	Pops Concert
Band/Jazz Band	Mock Trial
Chorus	Cheerleading
Volleyball	Track
Softball	Baseball



Core Classes

Language Arts:

Mr. Hogan, Mrs. Hogan

Eighth grade language arts is a combination reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Grammar, writing, 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.

Mathematics

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

Course 3 - Mr. Halweg, Mr. Lyon and Mrs. Farley

- Solving Multi-Step Equations with Rational Numbers
- Functions, Graphing, and Slope
- Similarity and Congruence
- Transformations
- Volume of various Geometric figures

Algebra - Mr. Halweg

- Solving Linear and Quadratic Equations and Inequalities Functions
- Graphing Linear, Exponential, Quadratic Equations
- Polynomials
- Properties of Exponents
- Solving Systems of Equations

Geometry - Ms. Jacobs

- Points
- Lines
- Planes
- Angles
- Congruency
- Proofs
- Polygons
- Perimeter
- Area
- Volume

American History: Mr. Knaack

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



NHD Theme: *Rights and Responsibilities*. 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.

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 in 8th grade.

8th Grade Exploratories

Advanced Robotics - Mr. Larson

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

Art - Mrs. Courtney

Graphic Design, 3D Design and Animation cover a wide range of art experiments. Students will design planner covers, build 3D models on the 3D printer, create ceramics, carve linoleum, use Adobe Photoshop/Animate and develop skills to think creatively.

CTE Projects - Mr. Larson

Students will build different types of hands-on Career TEchnical Education projects.

CTE Connections - Mr. Larson

Students will make connections to CTE classes at DHS.

Coding II - Ms. Kruse

Students will continue to learn computer science concepts using Code.Org.

Current Events - Mr. Knaack

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

Drama - Mrs. Hogan/Mr. Beckman

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

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.

Health - Mrs. Piphon

Discussions about the following topics will be taught: mental health, alcohol/drugs, nutrition/eating disorders, body development and STD's.

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.

Mentors - Mr. Stock

Assist younger students and Crossroads students with academics.

Mock Trial - Mrs. Hogan

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

Reading - Mr. Hogan

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

Yearbook - Mrs. Oftedahl

Assist in taking pictures of students and student activities to develop the current year's DMS yearbook.

Video Production - Ms. Kruse

Students will learn video production techniques to create an episode featured in the DMS Student News.

