

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
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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.

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

Computer Basics • Digital Projects • Internet Safety

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.