



DISCOVERY RIDGE ELEMENTARY WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 25, 2024

STAR CELEBRATIONS

Congratulations to our Discovery Ridge Elementary School for being recognized as a U.S. World & News Report Best Public School for 2025!

Congratulations to Mrs. Gerson for being named, Discovery Ridge Teacher of the Year!





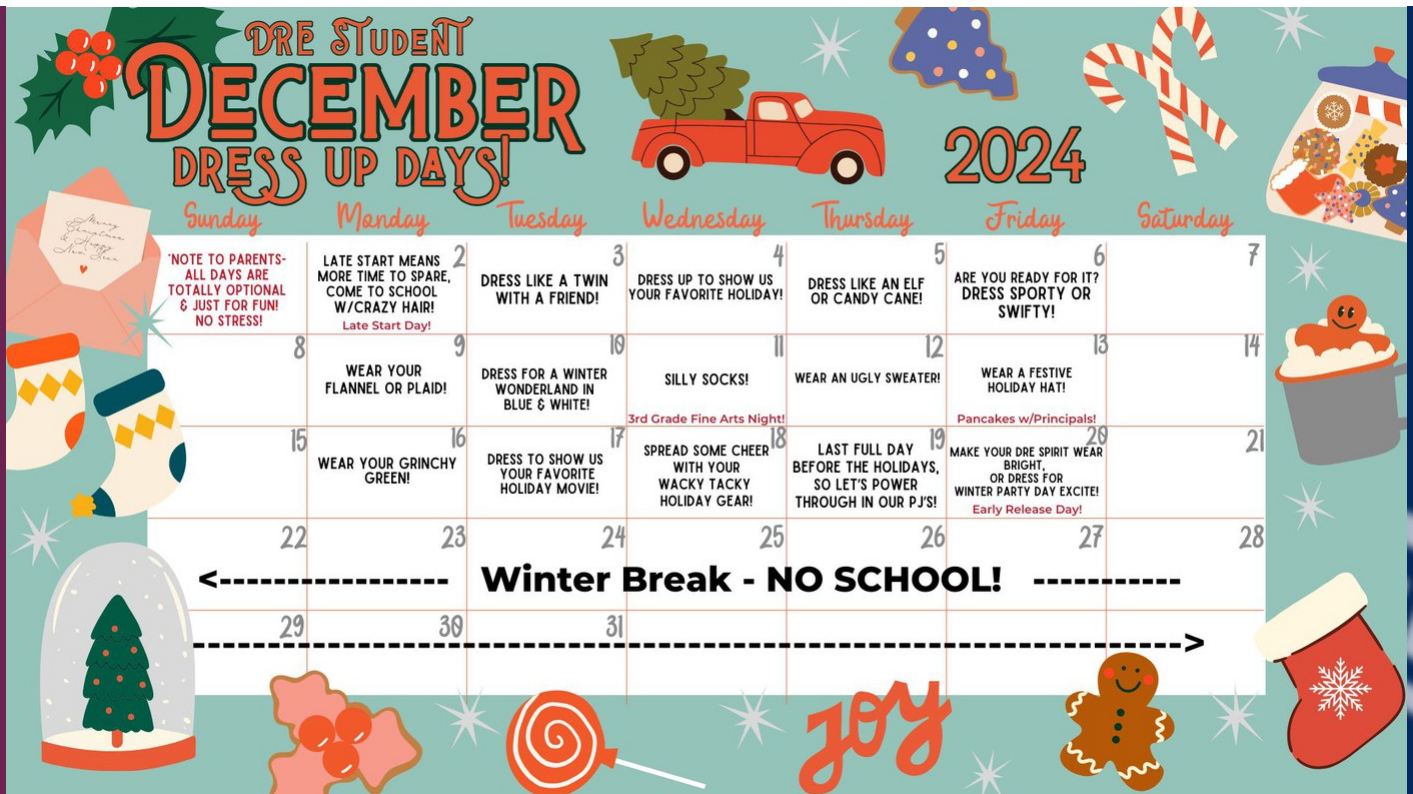
WSD WOW FACTOR AWARD

Nominate a teacher or staff member who has made a significant impact on you or your students' education and life for a Wentzville Wow Factor Award. Your nomination can brighten someone's day!

WSD WOW Factor

DECEMBER DRESS UP DAYS

DRE students are welcome to join staff as we dress up for December!



December 2 Crazy Hair Day

December 3 Dress Like a Twin With a Friend

December 4 Dress Up To Show Your Favorite Holiday

December 5 Dress Like an Elf or Candy Cane

December 6 Dress Sporty or Swifty!

December 9 Wear Flannel or Plaid

December 10 Dress For Winter Wonderland in Blue & White

December 11 Wear Silly Socks

December 12 Wear an Ugly Sweater

December 13 Wear a Festive Hat

December 16 Wear Grinchy Green

December 17 Dress For Your Favorite Holiday Movie

December 18 Wear Wacky Tacky Holiday Gear

December 19 PJ Day

December 20 DRE Spirit Day or Winter Party Dress Up Day

SPECIAL AREA SCHEDULE

Monday - Day 4

Tuesday - Day 5

Wednesday - No School

Thursday - No School Thanksgiving Day!

Friday - No School



IMPORTANT DATES

11/25

WSD Board Candidate Informational Meeting, WSD Administrative Center 6-7:30 pm

11/27-11/29

Thanksgiving Break

12/2

Late Start at 10:35, student arrival begins at 10:20

12/3

Compass Classroom Presentations Grades K-2

12/5

Big Smiles

12/7

DRE Singing Stars St. Charles Main Street Christmas Traditions Parade

12/13

PTO Pancakes With Principals 6-8 pm

12/20

Early Release at 1:35 pm

Winter Parties (check with your child's teacher for times)

12/23-1/3

Winter Break No School

1/6

Late Start at 10:35, student arrival begins at 10:20

Academic Calendars (2024-2025, 2025-2026)

NEW SIGN IN/OUT KIOSK

Our Focus Kiosk has finally been installed in our lobby. This will make the check In/Out process much faster for you and your students. Please check your student's backpack the yellow flyer sent home this week for more information about how to use the Focus Kios.

*When checking your child in after the school day has started, the receipt that prints out your child will take to their teacher. That is their new school arrival pass.

*When signing your child out early, a paper pass prints out. Please bring the slip into the office and we will record the reason for their early dismissal. Your child will meet you back in the lobby for dismissal.



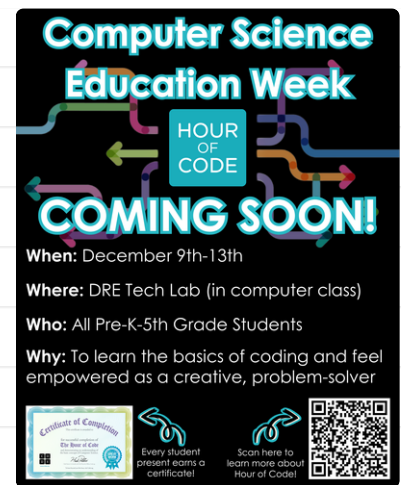
Our guaranteed holiday ordering closed yesterday, November 24, but items can be ordered all year long! Thank you for supporting our DRE art department!

Website: <https://arttoremember.com/school/QQ9SR9>



COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION WEEK: HOUR OF CODE

December 9th-13th is Computer Science Education Week! All PreK-5th grade students will learn the basics of coding. For more information scan the QR code on the flyer.



BIG SMILES MISSOURI

Great news! The Big Smiles in-school dentist is coming to our school. Even better, dental care is usually at no cost to you. All insurance is accepted including Medicaid and CHIP. Keep your child healthy, in-school and learning. Sign up online NOW at www.myschooldentist.com



Dear Parent,

Great news! Our school has partnered with Big Smiles to offer dental care right at school. [CLICK HERE](#) to sign up your child today.

No Cost to You

Even better, dental care is usually at no cost to you. All insurance is accepted including Medicaid and CHIP. A low cost self-pay option is available for those without insurance.

Convenient and comfortable

Our in-school dental program saves you time and provides a safe and comfortable place for your child to receive gentle dental care from licensed local professionals. Dental care includes a complete dental exam, x-rays, cleaning, fluoride and sealants when necessary, as well as restorative care such as fillings.

Dental care for a healthy life

Children who see a dentist regularly may have fewer health issues like:

- Early tooth loss due to dental decay
- Gum disease
- Heart disease
- Impaired speech development
- Help keep your child healthy, in school and learning.

[SIMPLY CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP ONLINE](#)

THANK YOU CARD DESIGN CONTEST

The WSD is looking for creative students to design an official "Thank You" card to be given to teachers who present at the WSD Share Fair! Please submit your designs to Ms. McCarty or Mrs. Ladymon by December 9.



AMI DAYS

Inclement Weather Procedures and Alternative Methods of Instruction (AMI) Days Explained

As we approach the colder months, we want to re-share the [District Communication](#) that has information regarding the WSD's inclement weather procedures for the 2024-25 school year. This year, snow days one and two will be traditional snow days. After our second snow day this year, we will switch to AMI (alternative methods of instruction) for snow days three through seven. Read more on what to expect this winter [here](#). View AMI assignments [here](#).

LUNCH TIMES BY GRADE LEVEL

Kindergarten- 11:15 am
1st Grade- 11:25 am
2nd Grade- 10:50 am
3rd Grade- 12:40 pm
4th Grade- 12:15 pm
5th Grade- 11:50 am

[Breakfast & Lunch Menu](#)

PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION 'PTO' NEWS

[Join PTO](#)

[DRE Spirit Wear Store](#)

PTO BOARD ELECTION 25-26

We are seeking new members to serve on our amazing PTO Board. It is such a fun way to become involved in your child's school and gives you a voice in future events while building your relationship with the DRE community. You will serve on the PTO Board for three years. The current board will still be active around school and events to support you! Please fill out this form if you are interested in being on the PTO board!

[Click to Apply for the DRE PTO Board](#)

PTO PANCAKES WITH PRINCIPALS

Pancake sales close on December 4, please be sure to make your reservation, today!

We are raffling a "Gift Card/Lotto Tree" with proceeds supporting some of our building's Student Service Learning Projects. We are asking for ANY gift cards of \$5 or more or Lotto Scratch-Off Tickets.

You can sign up to donate for either of these by clicking on the flyer and scanning the QR Code or by clicking the button below!



[Donate Gift Cards/Lotto Tickets](#)

Pancakes with Principals Volunteer Opportunities

Pancakes with Principals Dinner Reservations

SPIRIT WEAR AMBASSADOR

Happy Holidays from all of us at Alphabet Soup. We are reaching out today as we are looking for ONE representative from each school to be a Spirit Wear Ambassador. We would love if you could share the following information with your families.

Attention Families:

We are on the hunt for Spirit Wear Ambassadors/Representatives! Are you a fan of your school or team's spirit wear? Love showing off your pride? Then this is your chance to join us! We're looking for one representative from each school and team that currently has a webstore with us.



What's in it for you?

- Free and discounted products as a thank-you for spreading the word!
- The more you promote, the better your rewards will be!

What do we need from you?

- Help promote your school or team's spirit wear by sharing posts on social media, emailing flyers, or simply wearing our gear to school and team events.

Ready to rep your team and get some amazing perks?

Message us for more details, to get more information, and to sign up!

FALL 2025 KINDERGARTEN SCREENINGS

Does your Child Start Kindergarten next fall? If your answered, yes, you may register them for a Kindergarten screening by scanning the QR Code or selecting the button below!



Kindergarten Screening

COUNSELORS' CORNER



10 Tips for Parenting Anxious Kids - Child Mind Institute

How to support children who are anxious. Protecting them from things they fear makes anxiety worse. Instead, express confidence that they can handle it.

childmind.org

COMMUNITY AGENCY PRESENTATIONS

Dear Discovery Ridge Elementary Family,

Throughout the duration of the academic year, the Wentzville School District partners with community agencies that specialize in providing students, families, and educators with preventative education. Agency presenters are credentialed, coordinated through the District, and under the supervision of building administrators. Presentation topics are targeted toward specific grade levels. All students will participate in each program unless you choose to opt your child out of the lesson(s). If you are interested in opting your student(s) out of the presentation(s), please click the appropriate link(s) below.

[Kindergarten Opt-Out Form](#)

[First Grade Opt-Out Form](#)

[Second Grade Opt-Out Form](#)

[Third Grade Opt-Out Form](#)

[Fourth Grade Opt-Out Form](#)

[Fifth Grade Opt-Out Form](#)

If you have additional questions, please reach out directly to your student's guidance counselor.

Thank you,

Mrs. Kelly Stratman, Principal

Dr. Lindsay Burkemper, Assistant Principal

Mrs. Stacy Browning, K-2 Counselor

Mrs. Jane Douglas, 3-5 Counselor

Mrs. Sarah Holcomb, Education Support Counselor



Welcome to *Leader in Me*

Each new school year brings opportunities for academic growth and growth in all areas of development. Although children must be knowledgeable when they graduate, they must also be healthy, engaged, responsible, and caring people.

We're grateful you're here at our school and we're excited to partner with you and your child. As a *Leader in Me* School, we believe that every member of your family has greatness and we can't wait to learn and grow from you! *Leader in Me* (LiM) is an evidence-based, comprehensive school-improvement model—developed in partnership with educators and FranklinCovey—that empowers students with the leadership and life skills they need to thrive in a global community.

Our school has chosen to operate through a uniquely different lens. *Leader in Me* is about empowering your child to reach their full potential while ultimately finding their voice. As a school, the staff in this building have made five core commitments to your child. We call these our Core Paradigms. In these paradigms you will find the belief and way we view all students. At this school we see that:

- Everyone is a leader.
- Everyone has genius.
- Change starts with me.
- We empower students to lead their own learning.
- Educators and families partner to develop the whole person.

Not only do these paradigms apply to your student, they apply to all of us!

Leader in Me provides our school with the vision and language to lead the school in a way that addresses all areas of development. As each child discovers and develops their unique gifts and talents, they are given opportunities to lead.

As leaders, they become active, engaged partners in their own education, and their self-confidence, responsibility, and initiative grows. The children quickly understand the benefits of different gifts and talents; they learn to listen to new ideas, work together to achieve results, and motivate one another to be the best.

We hope your school enjoys sharing these new opportunities. Together, we will see each child grow throughout the year.

Mrs. Kelly J. Stratman, Principal

Dr. Lindsay Burkemper, Assistant Principal



Discovery Ridge Elementary



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