



DISCOVERY RIDGE ELEMENTARY WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 13, 2025

SPECIAL AREA SCHEDULE



Monday - Day 1

Tuesday - Day 2

Wednesday - Day 3

Thursday - Day 4

Friday - Day 5

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

IMPORTANT DATES

1/12

PTO Fun Day at Little Bits Gym from 1:30 pm-4 pm

1/14

DRE 2025-2026 Kindergarten Registration, Berrey Place, 8:30-12:30, 3:15-7:30 (See Flyer Below)

1/15

FMS Band/Choir Visit for 5th Grade Students

1/16

DRE Spelling Bee

WSD BOE Meeting, 6:30 pm

1/17

5th Grade Yearbook Contest submissions due to Ms. McCarty

1/18

DRE Singing Stars Perform at STL Ambush

1/17-1/20

PTO At Home Movie Night

1/20

No School, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

1/22-24

Child Center Body & Online Safety Presentations, Grades 1, 4, 5

1/23

(Make Up Date) DRE Spelling Bee

DRE PTO Dines out at Twisted Sugar from 4 pm-9 pm

1/27

Child Center Body & Online Safety, K-2

Child Center Body Safety, PreK

1/31

DRE PTO Passport Night, 6-8 pm

Academic Calendars (2024-2025, 2025-2026)

AMI DAYS

Thank you to all of our families and staff for their flexibility as we experienced two traditional snow days and three AMI days together last week! Should we experience additional school closure days, the next two will be AMI days before transitioning back to "traditional" snow 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](#).

2025 KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION & SCREENING

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!

All children who will turn five before August 1, 2025, are eligible to attend kindergarten. To register your child for kindergarten, follow the steps below:

- Complete a kindergarten screening. If your child has not been screened at their preschool, daycare, or at the Parents as Teachers office you may sign up for a screening [here](#). Children who have not been screened yet will complete their screening at the registration event. Appointment required for screening.
- Attend registration event between 8:30 am-12:30 pm and 3:15-7:30 pm at Berrey-Place Center, One Campus Drive, Wentzville, MO 63385. Come prepared with the [required items](#) including proof of residency, immunization record, birth certificate, parent/guardian photo ID, and documentation regarding legal guardianship (if applicable). No appointment necessary.



Registration Event Dates:

Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2025 | Discovery Ridge

Thursday, Jan. 16, 2025 | Boone Trail

Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2025 | Wabash

Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2025 | Heritage

Thursday, Jan. 30, 2025 | Stone Creek
Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2025 | Peine Ridge
Thursday, Feb. 6, 2025 | Green Tree
Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2025 | Lakeview
Thursday, Feb. 13, 2025 | Prairie View
Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2025 | Journey
Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2025 | Duello
Thursday, Feb. 27, 2025 | Crossroads
March 4, 6, 11, 13, & 18 | Make-up date if needed

- Check your address with our [boundary locator](#) to see which elementary school your child will attend.
- Create an account (or login) on [Focus School Software](#), complete the online application process, and submit the required items within Focus School Software.
- Get excited and stay tuned for updates from your child's school as we gear up for the upcoming school year!

Schedule Your Child's Kindergarten Screening

FOCUS Sign In/Out Kiosk

You may have used our new FOCUS Kiosk in the office lobby if you've stopped by school recently. This will make the check-in/check-out process much faster for you and your students. Now is a great time to become familiar with the FOCUS app if you haven't explored it yet. This will allow you to scan your child's student barcode to sign in and out.

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

*When signing your child out early, a paper pass is printed 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.



YEARBOOK COVER DESIGN CONTEST

Are you a 5th Grader who would like to design the cover of the DRE Yearbook? If so, please follow the steps below to enter your artwork.

Yearbook Cover Requirements

Size- 8.5 x11" on white paper only (Vertical/Portrait layout only)

Theme- "Discover the Stars" Outer Space theme

Must Contain- School Name and 2024-2025

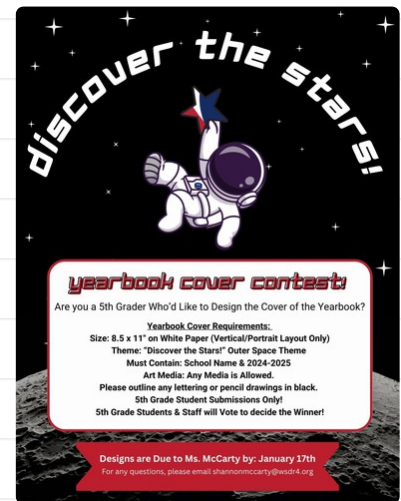
Art Media- Any Media is allowed

Please outline any lettering or pencil drawing in black.

5th Grade student submissions only!

5th Grade students and staff will vote to decide the winner!

All submissions are due to Ms. McCarty by January 17!



DRE SINGING STARS

This year, our DRE Singing Stars will perform the National Anthem at the STL Ambush game. Our game date is Saturday, January 18, 2025, and our singers will perform at 5:00 p.m. We would love to have you join us to support our singers. You can purchase tickets through the link below or via the QR code on the attached flyer.

Please let me know if you have any questions!

To Purchase Tickets:

<https://www.stlambush.com/discovery-ridge-elementary>



COUNSELORS CORNER

DRE Families,

With great sadness, we share with you the passing of our beloved bus driver, Mr. Duke. Mr. Duke has driven for Discovery Ridge nearly every year since we opened in 2011.

We know many students will be impacted by this sad loss. When we return to school in person, we will have staff available for anyone who needs extra support after learning that Mr. Duke is no longer with us.

We know that a loss like this can impact children in different ways. When a child is grieving, it's important to be compassionate and understanding. We can help children deal with grief and loss by:

- Listening: Listen without judgment and encourage them to share their feelings.
- Being honest: Answer their questions honestly and in language they can understand.

- Validating feelings: Let them know that it's okay to feel sad, angry, or scared, and that there's no right or wrong way to feel.
- Creating outlets: Provide opportunities for them to express their grief through art, writing, music, or spending time with friends.
- Reading books: Read books together to gently introduce the topic of grief and loss.
- Remembering the loved one: Talk about and remember the person who died.
- Modeling calmness: Try to stay calm when talking about death.
- Being developmentally appropriate: Don't overwhelm them with too much information.

Accepting differences: Recognize that children grieve differently and that it's okay for them to play and have fun.

Our counseling staff is available to support you and your children in times of grief and loss.

Stacy Browning (K-2)- stacybrowning@wsdr4.org

Jane Douglas (3-5)- janedouglas@wsdr4.org

Sarah Holcomb, LCSW (ESC) - sarahholcomb@wsdr4.org

DRE PASSPORT NIGHT

DRE families are invited to spotlight their culture and countries at our upcoming DRE Passport/Culture Night! This event will take place Friday, January 31 from 6-8 pm. If your family would like to represent your individuality, heritage, and educate our DRE community by hosting a table at this event. To express interest, please send an email to Mrs. Gerson and Ms. Ferguson, or scan the QR code on the flyer.

Mrs. Gerson- sarahgerson@wsdr4.org

Ms. Ferguson- cassidyferguson@wsdr4.org



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

PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION 'PTO' News

[Join PTO](#)

[DRE Spirit Wear Store](#)

DRE 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](#)

DRE PTO PLAY TIME

DRE PTO Play Time will be held at LittleBits Gym on Sunday, January 12, from 1:30 to 4:00 pm. It's only \$10 per child, and 50% of the proceeds benefit DRE PTO!



[Click to Register!](#)

Discovery Ridge Elementary PTO

AT HOME MOVIE NIGHT WEEKEND

GET YOUR FAMILY
TOGETHER TO WATCH A
MOVIE YOU HAVE NOT
SEEN BEFORE!

JANUARY 17-20

REGISTER YOUR FAMILY FOR A CHANCE
TO WIN A MOVIE PRIZE PACK THAT
WILL BE DELIVERED TO YOUR HOUSE
THAT WEEKEND.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER TO WIN!](#)



DRE PTO DINES OUT

Enjoy Twisted Sugar on January 23 from 4-9 pm and benefit DRE!
10% of all sales will go back to PTO. So come out, grab a sweet
treat, and help support our DRE PTO!

Discovery Ridge PTO Presents
Dine & Donate
AT



January 23rd
4-9 PM

10% of Sales will be donated back to the school.
Bring this flyer to the location at:
7429 State Rt N, Dardenne Prairie, MO 63368



DRE PTO FAMILY DANCE NIGHT

Join us February 8, from 6-8 pm for a Family Dance Night at DRE. This event is at no cost and will
include dancing, face painting, a photo booth, and fun for all! Cash only concessions available.

This is a family event and children must be accompanied by an adult.

Use the QR code on the flyer to sign up, registration closes, February 5, 2025.



DRE PTO FAMILY NIGHT AT THE MAGIC HOUSE

Family night at The Magic House! Bring the whole family to The Magic House on February 16 from 6pm-8pm and enjoy all of the fun things it has to offer, It's \$20 per family! Click the button below to sign your family up so you don't miss out. You can pay via Venmo @DRE-PTO or Check payable to DRE PTO, make sure to include on the memo line Magic House and last name.



[Click to Sign Up!](#)

SAVE THE DATE DRE PTO TRIVIA NIGHT

Save the date March 7th for our DRE PTO Trivia Night, 6 pm-10 pm at Trigg Banquet Center. It's \$30 per person/ \$240 per table of 8. Snacks and table decor welcome! Find out more information on the DRE PTO Facebook page!



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

The logo for Leader in Me, featuring the words "Leader in Me" in a sans-serif font. "Leader" is in red, "in" is in green, and "Me" is in blue.

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

A NATIONAL SCHOOL OF CHARACTER

DISCOVERY RIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

welcome to

DISCOVERY RIDGE ELEMENTARY

RESPECT | RESPONSIBILITY | CARING



Discovery Ridge Elementary



2523 Sommers Road
O'Fallon, MO 63368
636.561.2354