



# DISCOVERY RIDGE ELEMENTARY

## DRE WEEKLY NEWS: SEPTEMBER 23, 2024

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### SPECIAL AREA SCHEDULE

Monday - Day 5  
Tuesday - Day 1  
Wednesday - Day 2  
Thursday - Day 3  
Friday - No School



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### IMPORTANT DATES

9/27

No School, Staff Professional Development Day

PTO Mom's Night Out at The Barn at Lavender Hill, 5 p.m.

9/30

MRA Family Survey Closes

10/03

Boosterthon Kick-Off

10/11

## Academic Calendars (2024-2025, 2025-2026)



# 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.

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## FALL 2025 KINDERGARTEN SCREENINGS



**Does your child start kindergarten next fall?**

**Early intervention is crucial to promote future success!**

**Do you have concerns about your child's development?**

**Register for a kindergarten screening today!**

<https://tinyurl.com/patscreening>



Does your Child Start Kindergarten next fall? If so, you can register them for a Kindergarten screening by scanning the QR Code or by going to <https://tinyurl.com/patscreening>.

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## MEASURABLE RESULTS SURVEY

This September, the WSD will administer a Measurable Results Assessment (MRA) survey to families, students, and staff. This survey helps us identify areas where we can improve and track

our school's overall progress. By understanding your perspectives on leadership, culture, and academics, we can better address specific needs and opportunities to enhance student success.

**Parents and families:** Our DRE personalized survey link is available below and is active September 1-September 30.

**Students:** The survey will be administered at school, September 2-September 30.

**Staff:** A survey link will be sent via the staff newsletter or administered at a staff meeting/PD day.

The District will administer the MRA survey twice this year (once this month and again in April). Starting next year, the WSD will only administer it once annually in April to measure year-to-year progress.

While we may conduct smaller surveys for planning purposes throughout the school year, the MRA is our district's primary focus and channel for feedback. We value your input and appreciate you taking the time to complete the survey.

Learn more about this survey and its purpose [here](#).

## DRE Family MRA Survey

## READING SUCCESS PLANS

**Reading Success Plans** are required by Missouri legislation (Section 167.645, RSMo) for identifying students who have a substantial reading deficiency or are at risk for reading difficulties as early as possible. Once identified, teachers and reading interventionists can provide instructional support targeted to student needs, to monitor student progress and adjust instruction as needed. We are required by the state to collect and submit RSP data every February, beginning in the 23-24 school year and continuing this year.

### Reading Success Plans

Missouri statute Section 167.645, RSMo (2016) requires school districts to conduct a foundational reading assessment as well as a district screening annually. The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has approved Ready as a Missouri Foundational Reading Assessment and district screening tool.

Missouri's Foundational Reading Assessment helps identify students who may have more reading difficulties. Students are assessed in the areas of phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension using Ready. The results of the assessment will help identify students who are in need of a Reading Success Plan (RSP).

If students are identified as at risk or having substantial reading deficits, a Reading Success Plan will be created to identify areas to improve in. This is a plan for students to receive targeted instruction in the area of reading. The plan will be implemented in small intervention groups. Once identified, teachers and reading interventionists can provide customized support targeted to student needs, monitor student progress, and adjust instruction as needed.

Attached is our timeline for the Reading Success Plan process. Families can access all home reading resources at [wvstps.k12.mo.us/Page/10765](https://wvstps.k12.mo.us/Page/10765).



This fall, teachers and reading interventionists will be conducting reading assessments with all students. These assessments help us plan lessons and identify students who might benefit from extra reading support. In addition, our building reading specialists will work with small groups of students. These flexible groupings are not the same as Reading Intervention, families will be contacted directly by their child's teacher if he/she qualifies for Reading Intervention.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to your child's classroom teacher.

*With our transition to Focus, we've heard from families that they're not receiving emails, either because they're going to spam or because they're not being delivered at all. This is due to the multiple email domains that are used based on the type of communication. For example, mass emails and individual communications come from different addresses.*



*We are working with the Focus Support team to address this issue and ensure families receive all district communications. Here are some steps that can be taken by our families:*

- *Mark the emails as "Not Spam"*
- *Adjust spam filters with their email provider or email application*
- *Emails will be delivered from the following email domains*
  - [focusmail.focus-sis.org](mailto:focusmail.focus-sis.org)
  - [focusschoolsoftware.com](mailto:focusschoolsoftware.com)
  - [mg.focus-sis.com](mailto:mg.focus-sis.com)

*Additionally, we are working to simplify this process by using a single email domain for all district communications sent through Focus. We expect this to be implemented within the next 2-3 weeks.*

## Focus School Software Login

## 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

## BREAKFAST & LUNCH THIS WEEK

- Preschool: 12:00-12:30
- Kindergarten: 11:15-11:35
- First Grade: 11:25-11:45
- Second Grade: 10:50-11:10
- Third Grade: 12:40-1:00
- Fourth Grade: 12:15-12:35
- Fifth Grade: 11:50-12:10

*Recess follows lunch for all students, PreK-5th Grade*

16 Mon	17 Tue	18 Wed	19 Thu	20 Fri
Mini Donuts Chocolate Wg	Confetti Pancakes	Glazed Donut Holes	Mini Cinni's - Caramel	Chocolate Donut Holes
Mini Donuts Powdered Wg	Fresh Fruit	Fresh Fruit	Fresh Fruit	Fresh Fruit
Fresh Fruit	Choice of Milk or Juice	Choice of Milk or Juice	Choice of Milk or Juice	Choice of Milk or Juice
Choice of Milk or Juice				

## Breakfast & Lunch Menu

### SOCKTOBER

Give back to our wonderful community by donating a new pair of socks during the month of October.

You can drop them off in a donation basket at DRE located next to the cafeteria.

All donations will help benefit The Christmas Shoppe Program at Morningstar Church.

# SOCKTOBER

Give back to our wonderful community by donating new pairs of socks during the month of October.

## Drop off location:

Discovery Ridge  
Elementary School

A donation basket will be located in the main hallway near the cafeteria.

## All donations benefit:

The Christmas Shoppe Program  
at Morningstar Church

For more information,  
Please contact:

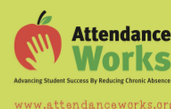
Jane Douglas (x48244)  
Leslie May (x48132) or  
Stacy Browning (x48240)



## ATTENDANCE IN THE EARLY GRADES

### ATTENDANCE in the early grades

Many of our youngest students miss 10 percent of the school year—about 18 days a year or just two days every month. Chronic absenteeism in kindergarten, and even preK, can predict lower test scores, poor attendance and retention in later grades, especially if the problem persists for more than a year. Do you know how many young children are chronically absent in your school or community?



#### Who Is Affected

Kindergarten and 1st grade classes often have absenteeism rates as high as those in high school. Many of these absences are excused, but they still add up to lost time in the classroom.

1 in 10 kids

in kindergarten and 1st grade are chronically absent. In some schools, it's as high as 1 in 4.<sup>1</sup>



2 in 10  
low-income kids  
miss too much  
school. They're also  
more likely to suffer  
academically.<sup>1</sup>



2.5 in 10  
homeless kids  
are chronically  
absent.<sup>2</sup>



4 in 10  
transient kids  
miss too much  
school when  
families move.<sup>2</sup>



#### Why It Matters

If children don't show up for school regularly, they miss out on fundamental reading and math skills and the chance to build a habit of good attendance that will carry them into college and careers.

Preliminary data from a California study found that children who were chronically absent in kindergarten and 1st grade were far less likely to read proficiently at the end of 3rd grade.

#### Who Can Read on Grade Level After 3rd Grade?<sup>3</sup>



64%

of kids with good attendance in K and 1st  
(missed 9 or fewer days both years)



43%

of kids with at-risk attendance  
(missed more than 9 days both years)



41%

of kids chronically absent in K or 1st  
(missed 18 or more days one year)



17%

of kids chronically absent in K and 1st  
(missed 18 or more days both years)

#### What We Can Do



##### Engage Families

Many parents and students don't realize how quickly early absences can add up to academic trouble. Community members and teachers can educate families and build a culture of attendance through early outreach, incentives and attention to data.



##### Fix Transportation

The lack of a reliable car, or simply missing the school bus, can mean some students don't make it to class. Schools, transit agencies and community partners can organize car pools, supply bus passes or find other ways to get kids to school.



##### Address Health Needs

Health concerns, particularly asthma and dental problems, are among the leading reasons students miss school in the early grades. Schools and medical professionals can work together to give children and families health care and advice.



##### Track the Right Data

Schools too often overlook chronic absence because they track average attendance or unexcused absences, not how many kids miss too many days for any reason. Attendance Works has free data-tracking tools.

These are a few steps that communities and schools can take. How do you think you can help?

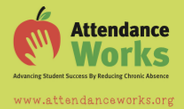
<sup>1</sup> Chang, Hedy; Romero, Marijose, *Present, Engaged and Accounted For: The Critical Importance of Addressing Chronic Absence in the Early Grades*, National Center for Children in Poverty, NY, NY, September 2008.  
<sup>2</sup> *Chronic Absence in Utah*, Utah Education Policy Center at the University of Utah, 2012.

<sup>3</sup> *Attendance in Early Elementary Grades: Association with Student Characteristics, School Readiness and Third Grade Outcomes*, Applied Survey Research, May 2011.

# ASISTENCIA

en los primeros grados

Muchos de nuestros estudiantes más pequeños faltan a la escuela el 10% del año escolar - como 18 días al año o sólo dos días al mes. La ausencia crónica en kinder e incluso en la pre escuela, puede predecir bajas calificaciones en exámenes, mala asistencia escolar y baja retención en los próximos años escolares, especialmente si el problema de ausencia persiste durante más de un año. ¿Sabe usted cuántos niños pequeños están ausentes crónicamente en su escuela y comunidad?



## Quién es Afectado

Los estudiantes de kinder y 1er grado frecuentemente tienen niveles de ausencia tan altos como los de la preparatoria, (high school).

Muchas de estas faltas son justificadas, pero igual, se suman al tiempo perdido en clase.

1 de cada 10 niños

en kinder y 1er grado es crónicamente ausente. En algunas escuelas es tan alto como 1 en cada 4 niños.<sup>1</sup>



2 de cada 10 niños de bajos ingresos

faltan demasiado. También es más probable que tengan problemas académicos.<sup>1</sup>



2.5 de cada 10 niños sin hogar

están ausentes crónicamente.<sup>2</sup>



4 de cada 10 niños migrantes

faltan demasiado cuando la familia se muda.<sup>3</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Chang, Hedy; Romero, Mariajose, Present, Engaged and Accounted For: The Critical Importance of Addressing Chronic Absence in the Early Grades, National Center for Children in Poverty: NY: NY, September 2008.  
<sup>2</sup> Chronic Absence in Utah, Utah Education Policy Center at the University of Utah, 2012.

## Por Qué Importa

Si los niños no asisten regularmente, pierden habilidades fundamentales de lectura y matemáticas y la oportunidad de crear el hábito de buena asistencia, que los conduce a la universidad y una carrera.

Datos preliminares de un estudio en California encontraron que los niños que fueron crónicamente ausentes en kinder y 1er grado tuvieron menos probabilidad de leer a nivel al final del 3er grado.

¿Quién puede leer a nivel después del 3er grado?



64%

de los niños con buena asistencia en kinder y en 1er grado (faltaron 9 días o menos en ambos años)



43%

de los niños con asistencia en riesgo (faltaron más de 9 días en ambos años)



41%

de los niños ausentes crónicamente en kinder y 1er grado (faltaron 18 días o más en ambos años)



17%

de los niños ausentes crónicamente en kinder y 1er grado (faltaron 18 días o más en ambos años)

<sup>3</sup> Attendance in Early Elementary Grades: Association with Student Characteristics, School Readiness and Third Grade Outcomes, Applied Survey Research, May 2011.

## Qué Podemos Hacer



### Involucrar a las Familias

Muchos padres y estudiantes no saben cómo las ausencias en los primeros años pueden aumentar rápidamente los problemas académicos. Miembros comunitarios y maestros pueden educar a las familias, creando una cultura de asistencia escolar, dando información temprana, incentivos y atendiendo estadísticas.



### Hacer Arreglos para Llegar a la Escuela

La falta de un carro o perder el bus escolar causan que algunos niños no vayan a clase. Las escuelas, agencias de transporte y miembros comunitarios pueden organizar viajes compartidos en carro, proveer pases para el bus u otras maneras para que lleguen a la escuela.



### Atender las Necesidades de Salud

Problemas de salud infantil, particularmente el asma y los problemas dentales, son de las principales causas de ausentismo escolar durante los primeros años. Escuelas y médicos pueden trabajar juntos y proveer atención médica y recomendaciones a los niños y las familias.



### Monitorear los Datos Correctos

Con frecuencia las escuelas ignoran las ausencias crónicas ya que monitorean el promedio de asistencia o ausencias sin excusa, y no cuántos niños faltan muchos días por cualquier razón. Attendance Works tiene herramientas sin costo, para dar seguimiento a estos datos.

Estos son algunos pasos que las comunidades y escuelas pueden tomar. ¿Cómo puede ayudar usted?

Para obtener una copia de esta gráfica informativa, por favor visite [www.attendanceworks.org](http://www.attendanceworks.org).

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## DRE SUMMER MyPath CHALLENGE

Thank you to everyone who participated in the DRE Summer MyPath Challenge for Reading and Math!! We are working to calculate all the minutes and lessons now and hope to announce our winners soon! We are so proud of all of our STARS who kept learning and growing this summer!!

## PEDAL THE CAUSE

Five school districts in St. Charles County are collaborating with Pedal the Cause to fight cancer. Pedal the Cause is offering a \$10 registration discount for students who attend one of the St. Charles County schools. [Learn more.](#)



## PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION 'PTO' NEWS

Please consider partnering with our school by joining PTO! Our Parent Teacher Organization supports our school community in many ways, made possible by YOU! Each family membership is \$10 annually.



We're excited to welcome the return of Room Parents at DRE! This process will be organized through PTO. More information will be coming home soon. Please add our first meeting to your calendars, Wednesday, September 11, at 6 p.m. in our DRE library.

Many thanks once again for the generosity of DRE friends and families for our Fall 2023 fundraiser allowing us to install two shade canopies on the playground.



[Join PTO](#)

[DRE Spirit Wear Store](#)

#### September 17

DRE Dines Out at Chick-Fil-A, from 4pm-8pm at the Lake St. Louis location

#### September 27

Mom's Night Out The Barn at Lavender Hill

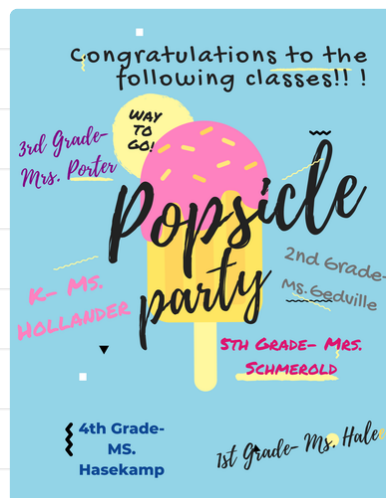
#### October 3

Boosterthon Kick Off



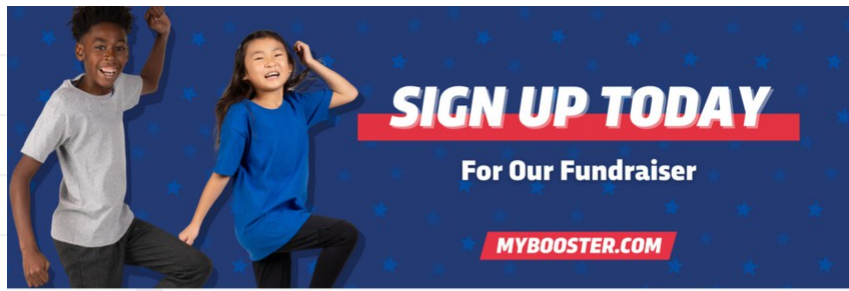
#### Congratulations to the following classes for winning the Popsicle Party!

K- Ms. Hollander  
1st Grade- Hale  
2nd Grade- Gedville  
3rd Grade- Porter  
4th Grade- Hasekamp  
5th Grade- Schmerold





PTO Mom's Night Out on September 27 th, starts at 5 PM at The Barn at Lavender Hill. Please RSVP by 9/20 on the link provided on the DRE PTO Facebook page.



### Discovery Ridge Elementary Families!

The day is here! You can now sign up for our DRE Fun Run! Our goal is to raise \$25,000 for Digital Marquee. Signing up is easy and free!

★ Sign Up Today On **MYBOOSTER.COM** ★



Thank you for working with us to make our school stronger. We are grateful for your support!

#### Key dates to remember:

Sign Up Online OPEN at **MYBOOSTER.COM**  
Start TODAY!

Fundraiser Kickoff Day in school  
10/03/2024

Event Day  
10/11/2024

Follow our social pages for updates on our fundraiser.

To sign your child up for the Boosterthon, go to [MYBOOSTER.com](https://mybooster.com). The fundraiser kickoff is on 10/03 and the fun run will take place on 10/11. All money raised will go towards a Digital Marquee!

## Friday, October 18th

Gates open at 5:15pm  
for trunks and close  
promptly at 5:55pm.  
Event 6-8pm

Lots of Candy!!



Live DJ  
sponsored by  
Bankhead!



Food Trucks



Prizes



Photo Booth



Please bring a large bag of  
candy or trinkets!



[Sign Up Here](#)

[Volunteer Here](#)



DRE Trunk or Treat will be October 18th from 6 pm-8 pm. Click the link below or scan the QR Codes to Sign up or Volunteer!

[Click to Sign Up](#)

[Click to Volunteer](#)

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## WELCOME SIGNS



New families if you still have your DRE welcome sign, please drop it off at the front office. We will need them for next year to welcome more new families to our amazing school!

-Thank you,  
DRE PTO

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## MORNING ARRIVAL REMINDERS

Please help your children arrive no sooner than 8:20 a.m. when arriving as bike riders or walkers. All students in the car rider line are expected to remain in their cars and not wait by the doors until the morning arrival bell rings.

If you are parking and walking your child to the main entrance, please be sure to use a crosswalk. Students are not to be dropped off on Sommers Road or from within the parking lot.



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## DAILY SIGN IN AND SIGN OUT



When your child arrives after the start of the school day, they need to be signed in by an adult in the office. When signing our child out early, please do your best to arrive no later than 3:15 p.m. to allow us to properly notify your child's teacher and have your child ready for early dismissal.

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## PM TRANSPORTATION CHANGES

Please include Kelly Griffin and Jessica Carpenter for any change in your child's dismissal. If your child attends Chautauqua and they will not be attending, please remember to notify Chautauqua and the office of their dismissal change. We want to make sure all students are dismissed and arrive home safely!

[kellygriffin@wsdr4.org](mailto:kellygriffin@wsdr4.org)

[jessicacarpenter@wsdr4.org](mailto:jessicacarpenter@wsdr4.org)

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## STUDENT WALKERS-BIKE RIDERS

If your child is ineligible for a bus and will be dismissed as a walker or bike rider, we will dismiss as two separate groups: students who live north of DRE (gym side of school) and students who live south of DRE (playground side of school). We ask that parents wait at the corner of the property for each side. We will not walk students across the exits and entrances of the parking. Each side has a bike rack and crosswalk supervised by school staff.



Walkers and bike riders should use the sidewalk along the fence on the gym side or walk through the grass along the fence on the playground side on each side for morning arrival. Please do not cross the parking lot entrances and exits. We are unable to staff the new City of O'Fallon crosswalk. As a family, if you choose to walk with your child using this crosswalk, you may walk with them through the parking lot, however, students are only permitted when walking independently to walk alongside the north and south entrances along the white fences.

Please refrain from reporting your child as a walker and parking in nearby neighborhoods to pick them up.

The safety of your children and our staff remains our highest priority!

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## BUILDING VISITORS

All visitors entering during school hours are required to present government-issued identification. All district buildings utilize Raptor for screening guests before entry. There are events across the

year that allow us to preregister guests (Booster-thon, Assemblies, Field Day, etc.). Be sure to stop by the office to scan your ID into our Raptor system for advanced registration this school year.

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**Discovery Ridge Elementary**



2523 Sommers Road  
O'Fallon, MO 63368  
636.561.2354