



# Discovery News

Discovery Middle School [www.fargo.k12.nd.us/discovery](http://www.fargo.k12.nd.us/discovery) 1717 40<sup>th</sup> Ave. S, Fargo, ND 58104

Volume 25

February, 2019

Issue 7

## Discovery Middle School Administrators



**Mr. Vincent Williams**  
Principal  
Grade 6



**Mrs. Amy Herrick**  
Assistant Principal  
Grade 7



**Mr. Dan Shultis**  
Assistant Principal  
Activities Coordinator  
Grade 8

Happy February! We are already well underway into the spring semester of the school year. Our students have just finished taking the Measures of Academic Progress, or MAP test for Math and English.

- **What is MAP?** The website, [NWEA.org](http://NWEA.org), gives a lot of information about the MAP test. It states, “MAP is a computer adaptive test, which means every student gets a unique set of test questions based on responses to previous questions. As the student answers correctly, questions get harder. If the student answers incorrectly, the questions get easier. MAP can follow students wherever they are starting from, regardless of the grade they are in. For instance, if a third grader is actually reading at the fifth-grade level, MAP will be able to identify that. Or, if a fifth grader is doing math at the third-grade level, MAP will identify that. Both situations are incredibly important for a teacher to know, so that they can plan instruction efficiently. MAP covers reading, language usage, and math. When students finish, they receive a score – a number – called a RIT score. This score represents a student’s achievement level at the given moment in the school year when the test is given. Taken over time, the scores can compute a student’s academic growth.”
- **How is it used to determine course placement?** Fargo Public Schools has both Math and English pathways used to determine course placement. If a student score falls at 40% or above on the MAP test for English or Math, they will be recommended by our computer system for their grade level course. If a student score falls at 39% or below on the MAP test for English or Math, then they will take an additional assessment in either Math (Math Inventory) or English (Reading Inventory or Phonics Inventory) to determine if they qualify for our middle level intervention course of Math 180, Read 180, or System 44. Grade level teachers also make course recommendations, so if they disagree with the system recommendation, they will make notes as to why. As an administrator, I look at each child’s system recommendation and teacher recommendation before I select what course the child should be placed in for the upcoming year. If the child receives English Language Services (EL) or Special Education Services (SPED) the case managers of that child are also consulted.
- **What if my child is recommended to take the additional assessment?** Families will be informed by letter if their child has been recommended to take the Reading Inventory, Math Inventory, or Phonics Inventory. I will visit with the students who are recommended for the testing as well. Letters will be sent out in early February (for students who are on IEP’s) and early March (for students not on IEP’s) explaining the assessments. Please feel free to contact me at 701.446.3305 if you have any questions about this process.
- **How will I know if my child is recommended for an intervention course?** Once students are tested for intervention courses, counselors will contact that student’s family to discuss how this will impact the child’s 2019-2020 schedule. This will happen about mid-May. Again, if you have any questions about this after you have talked to your child’s counselor, please feel free to contact me at 701.446.3305.

Mrs. Amy Herrick  
Assistant Principal

## **SCHOOL ATTENDANCE REVIEW BOARD (SARB)**

Every year, one of our goals is to ensure that every student attends school regularly. Just showing up for school has a huge impact on a student's academic success. As kids start kindergarten and continue through high school where students become more independent, families play a key role in making sure students get to school safely every day. Attendance is so important for success in school and life. We realize some absences are unavoidable due to health problems or other circumstances, but when students miss too much school, regardless of the reason, it can cause them to fall behind academically. Your child is less likely to succeed if he or she is chronically absent, which means missing 18 or more days over the course of the school year.

The School Attendance Review Board is a panel of school and community representatives who meet regularly to combine their expertise and maximize their resources in an effort to develop solutions to persistent school attendance concerns. North Dakota Century Code 15.1-20-01 states: Any person having responsibility for a child between the ages of seven and sixteen years shall ensure that the child is in attendance at a public school for the duration of each school year. The School Attendance Review Board (SARB) aims to work cooperatively with students and families to alleviate the factors that interfere with regular school attendance. For further information on the Fargo Public School SARB, contact Jennifer Olson, Assistant Principal, Ben Franklin Middle School.

## **Fargo Public Schools Kindergarten Registration**

Kindergarten Registration for Fall 2019 opened online at [www.fargo.k12.nd.us/registration](http://www.fargo.k12.nd.us/registration) on February 1, 2019. Child must be age 5 by July 31, 2019 to attend school in the fall.

Registration is a two-step process: online registration and document submission.

**STEP ONE:** Registration can be completed at home online anytime or at computer kiosks in the office at each Fargo Public elementary school building on the following dates with extended office hours:

- **February 25, 27, and March 1** – 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- **February 26, 28, and March 4** – 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**STEP TWO:** *Once online registration has been completed, families MUST bring the following documents to the school their child will attend to finalize their child's registration:*

- Child's certified birth certificate
- Child's current immunization record
- Document (i.e. current city utility bill or bank statement) that includes parent/guardian name and address to verify the correct neighborhood school

If you do not know which school your child will attend, call 701.446.1043 or check online at [www.fargo.k12.nd.us/boundarymaps](http://www.fargo.k12.nd.us/boundarymaps).

## **8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE REGISTRATION FOR HIGH SCHOOL MEETING**

**REMINDER!** We are going to have an individual meeting with all 8th grade students and their parents to discuss transitioning to high school and to register for 9th grade classes. Please register for a meeting time that will work for you and your student. To register, please complete the following steps:

- Go to the Fargo Public Schools website ([www.fargo.k12.nd.us](http://www.fargo.k12.nd.us))
- Click on Our Schools
- Click on Discovery (Middle School 6-8)
- Click on Counseling Center
- Under your student's Counselors Name, click on "Transition to HS Meeting Signup"
  - Check the sign-up box next to a time that works for you and click "submit and sign-up"
- A reminder email will be sent to you a couple of days before your scheduled meeting

**LOCATION:** These meetings will be held at **Discovery Middle School** in the Student Services Office.


## **PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE DATES**

Parent-Teacher conferences at Discovery will be held from 4:15-8:15 p.m. on February 12<sup>th</sup>, and **3:45-5:45** on February 14<sup>th</sup>. To accommodate parents' schedules, conferences will be on a drop-in basis instead of pre-scheduled. Feel free to stop by to visit with your student(s)' teachers on one of the three scheduled nights. When you arrive, teachers will be stationed in their classrooms for conferences. If you'd like, you can follow your student(s)' daily schedule to visit with teachers.

## **DISCOVERY ART CLUB**

We have had a great year in art club so far. The students have made paper weaving, pumpkin art, holiday cards, and tie-dyed t-shirts. Art Club members also helped make lollipop ghosts and masks at the Courts Plus Halloween Carnival and clay snowmen, candy cane ornaments, and face painting at the Courts Plus Winter Party. Many more fun projects coming up! All 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are free to join at any time during the year. Mrs. Lykken is looking forward to a fun spring semester of Art Club!

## **MUSIC DEPARTMENT – BAND**

 Congratulations to the following students that were selected to the NDNBA JH All-State Band: Ethan Blesie, bassoon; Teegan Lee, tenor saxophone; Charlie Wilcox, trumpet; Connor Huffman, french horn; Oliver Lucht, percussion; and alternate Annika Van Peurse, alto saxophone. The students will be traveling to Mandan on March 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> to work with conductor, Tracy Wright.

PRIMO! will begin the second semester rehearsal/performance schedule for any 6<sup>th</sup> grader who is interested in some extra band time and performances. Information will be passed out to the students in March. Our first rehearsal will be March 21<sup>st</sup>.

The BFF (Band Festival O' Fun) is scheduled for March 19<sup>th</sup>. Interested 6<sup>th</sup> grade students from Discovery, Carl Ben Eielson and Ben Franklin have already prepared an audition and submitted an application for the event. The selected students will be notified and will come together at 1:00 pm on March 19<sup>th</sup> to form a band. They will rehearse together and celebrate their progress in a public performance at 6:00 pm in the Discovery Auditorium.

Upcoming concerts:

March 7, 5:30 pm..... 6<sup>th</sup> grade Ensemble Concert  
March 7, 6:45 pm..... 7<sup>th</sup> grade Ensemble Concert  
March 7, 7:45 pm..... 8<sup>th</sup> grade Ensemble Concert  
April 25, 7:30 pm..... Jazz & Honor Band Concert

Please continue to check the Discovery Band website for updated information.

## **GEOGRAPHY BEE**

Congratulations to all the team winners who competed in the National Geographic School Geography Bee final. The top three finishers were: in third place, Savannah Wuitshick from Phoenix, second place was Rena Weintraub from Aquila, and the school winner is Ursa Minor's Griffin Terras who will now try to qualify for the State Bee in Bismarck. Other team winners were Ryan Hamilton (Apollo), Jayden Bittner (Pioneer), Camdyn Sem (Explorers), Nels Jorgenson (Lynx), Noelle Mund (Tucana), and Keeton Schaff (Ursa Major). Discovery wishes Griffin good luck as he moves on to the next round of competition!

## **DISCOVERY SPELLING BEE WINNERS ADVANCE TO CASS COUNTY SPELLING BEE**

Congratulations to Discovery's verbal spelling bee winners. Bruce Lin captured the first place title by spelling kelpies. That's k - e - l - p - i - e - s. In case you were wondering, kelpies are water spirits in Scottish folklore. The other place winners were Savannah Wuitschick, Lauren Standifer, Zoe Bundy, and Bayley Scott. All will represent Discovery at the Cass County Spelling Bee February 19. Great job!

## **NURSES CORNER: How can I protect my child against influenza?**

Get a seasonal flu vaccine for yourself and your child to protect against influenza. Take everyday steps to prevent the spread of all flu viruses. This includes:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. If soap and water are not available, alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Germs spread this way. Teach your child to take these actions too.
- Try to keep your child from having close contact (about 6 feet) with sick people, including anyone in the household who is sick.
- Keep surfaces like tables, surfaces in the bathroom, kitchen counters, and toys for children clean by wiping them down with a household disinfectant according to directions on the product label.

If your child does get influenza, here are some facts:

- The symptoms include fever, headache, chills, body aches, tiredness, dry cough, sore throat and nasal congestions. If brought into the clinic in the first two days, an antiviral can be given.
- Remember the flu is contagious! The flu is spread when the person who has the flu coughs, sneezes, or speaks and sends the flu virus into the air.
- Drink plenty of fluids and rest.
- Stay home from school or any activity during the first days of the illness when the symptoms are the most severe and the infection is contagious.
- Children can return to school when the symptoms are improving and no fever for 24 hours.

## **AUTHOR PETER FANE VISITS 7TH GRADE ENGLISH CLASSES**

#1 Amazon best-selling fantasy author Peter Fane will be visiting seventh-grade English classes February 21, 2019. Peter will be sharing his adventures building worlds, crafting heroes, exploring the stars, and much more. In addition to discussing epic tales, Peter will also share piles concept art, his bag of tricks of the trade, and how you really tame a dragon . . . .

## **DON'T MISS THE OPPORTUNITY TO BOND OVER BOOKS!**

**Bonding over Books** is a reading incentive program sponsored by the Discovery Library, PTA, and local businesses. Discovery students read a book with an adult family member/guardian or another special adult in their lives. Although your students can find a book for the program anytime or anywhere, selecting and checking out a book at the Discovery Library **during conferences February 5, 7, or 12** is convenient! Once finished with the book, students visit the library and pick up a treat for reading partners to enjoy while discussing and bonding over the book. Sign up in the library starting Tuesday, February 5.

Click here on this [Bonding over Books Flyer](#) for more information about this reading incentive program.

## **THE IMPORTANCE OF DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP**

“All students need digital citizenship skills to participate fully in their communities and make smart choices online and in life” (Common Sense Media). Through the library program, students are given opportunities to learn, discuss, and utilize digital skills. Students are asked to think critically about their use of digital media. The following lessons are embedded into your child’s curriculum throughout the year:

- 6th Grade - Digital Life 101, Cyberbullying, A Creator’s Responsibility, Website Evaluation
- 7th Grade - Safe Online Talk, Oops, I Broadcast it on the Internet, Website Evaluation
- 8th Grade - Digital Footprint, Risky Online Relationships, Website Evaluation

## **EARBUDS**

Please ensure your student has earbuds or headphones in school, as many audio options are available and used for learning.

## **LEGO ROBOTICS REGIONAL RESULTS**

Discovery's two Lego Robotics teams, Eagle Lego and Eagle Lego 2, competed in the regional competition at NDSU. The teams presented their research on identifying a problem faced by humans on long space flights and provided a viable conclusion. Eagle Lego tackled boredom and Eagle Lego 2 researched bone loss in astronauts, earning first place in research. Coach Dahl and Coach Fisher are proud of the efforts of both teams and look forward to next year's competition.

## **Liz's Closet:**

### ***A Discreet, Free Resource for Discovery Students in Need***

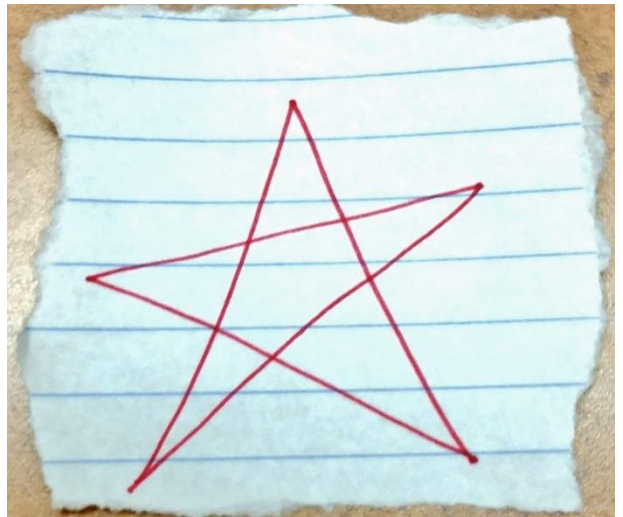
**What:** Discovery strives as a team to meet the needs of all students as part of our mission to build a foundation for success. Liz's Closet, a free resource at Discovery, aligns with this mission by providing students in need with items such as clothing, hygiene products, non-perishable food items, etc.

At Discovery, we hope to provide developmentally appropriate support to students in need by offering a means to obtain basic food and hygiene products in a discreet manner. Students utilizing Liz's Closet will have access to reusable bags, so items are less visible as students are leaving the building.

**Where:** Liz's Closet is located in Student Services. The cupboards being used as Liz's Closet are accessible through a trusted adult in the building (teachers, counselors, administrators, paraprofessionals, designated staff).

**Who:** Any student in need of these items is welcome to take what he/she needs with the help of a trusted adult. This includes but is not limited to students who receive free/reduced lunch, students whose families have experienced a loss of their home or serious illness, students who are new to the U.S., etc.

**How:** There are 3 ways students can access Liz's Closet. **1)** Students are welcome to directly ask a trusted adult at Discovery to use Liz's Closet who will then bring the to Student Services or notify Student Services that the student will be coming **2)** To maintain privacy as best as possible, a student can simply draw a star on a sheet of paper and bring it to a trusted adult. The adult will then instruct the student as to when he/she can go to Student Services to collect what is needed. If this adult does not have a time that works for him/her, the adult will notify the appropriate counselor or staff member to be expecting this student sometime within the school day. Once in Student Services, the student will be escorted to the closet and can take what is needed. **3)** A parent can call to notify Student Services, and the student will be asked to stop by during a time that works for him/her to collect items.



If you know of anyone who may want to utilize this resource, please do not hesitate to contact a teacher, counselor, staff member, or administrator. For questions, please contact the Student Services office at 701-446-3311.

# Written Notification of Interactive Dashboard (School District Report Card)

Dear Parent/Guardian,

North Dakota has launched a new website designed to help communities across the state access important information about K-12 districts and schools. [NDInsights](#) features easy-to-read reports on multiple measures of school success, including:

- Test scores
- Graduation rates
- English Learner progress
- Student attendance.

[NDInsights](#), or more commonly referred to as the “Dashboard,” is part of North Dakota’s new accountability system. It is the next step in a series of major shifts in public education that have raised the bar for student learning, transformed testing, and placed the focus on equity for all students. To learn more about the state’s accountability and continuous improvement, visit [North Dakota’s ESSA website](#).

To find out more information about our school, visit [NDInsights](#), select “Find My School,” and search alphabetically for our school.

## **Why a new system and new tool?**

North Dakota is committed to informing communities about how well our schools are doing. North Dakota’s future success depends on tapping into the potential of all students, so they graduate choice ready with the knowledge, skills and disposition to be successful. For schools to reach this goal, teachers, parents, and the community need clear and useful measures of progress. As an accountability tool, the Dashboard will help the state identify schools receiving additional support and assistance.

## **What is different?**

In the past, the accountability system for districts and schools relied heavily on test scores. But one test taken on one particular day does not provide a complete picture of all the ways schools are helping students succeed. The Dashboard continues to provide information on different aspects of student performance, but also includes information on school growth and other factors reflecting a more comprehensive view. The Dashboard replaces the former School District Report Card and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) reports.

Please note, the data made available to the public masks or hides data for groups with 10 or fewer students to protect confidential information about individual students.

## **What’s next for our district?**

We have strong plans for working to improve the educational programs at our school. We would like you and your child(ren) to continue to be active participants in our educational system. Please help support our high expectations for student achievement by participating in the school educational initiatives, offering input and support in our endeavors to raise student achievement, or volunteering at the school. Meeting our school’s goals will take a united effort, and I look forward to working with our families to ensure success for each student.

## **School Support under ESSA**

All schools engage in continuous improvement for general support; therefore, our school will complete an AdvancED Continuous Improvement Plan annually.

Discovery Middle School is not a participating Title I school, with a student membership count of 1047. If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact the school at 1717 South 40th Avenue or 701-446-3300.

Thank you,  
Vince Williams

## UPCOMING EVENTS

<b>February 12</b>	<b>Mid-Quarter 3</b>
<b>February 12</b>	<b>Parent Teacher Conferences 4:15-8:15</b>
<b>February 14</b>	<b>Parent Teacher Conferences 3:45-5:45</b>
<b>February 18</b>	<b>No Classes – Staff PD</b>
<b>March 4</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys &amp; Girls Basketball begins</b>
<b>March 11-15</b>	<b>Spring Break – No Classes</b>
<b>March 22</b>	<b>End of Quarter 3</b>
<b>March 25</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> &amp; 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Track Begins</b>

The Fargo Public Schools is an Equal Opportunity Employer who fully and actively supports equal access for all people regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, veteran status, disability, genetic information, marital status, public assistance status, sexual orientation, gender expression/identity, or participation in lawful activity off the employer's premises during non-working hours which is not in direct conflict with the essential business-related interests of the employer in its education/activities and employment practices. The Fargo Public Schools seek to provide access to all its programs for those interested persons who might have differing levels of ability. This includes those with impaired vision and hearing loss. Furthermore, Fargo Schools' district policy 5060 assures that the district and its employees will not retaliate against any persons who file a complaint, orally or in writing, to the employer or the government, or against any individuals who assist or participate in the investigation of any complaint or otherwise oppose discrimination regarding these or any other OCR enforced statutes. Additionally, the School District will discipline any individual who retaliates or takes adverse action against any person who reports alleged discrimination and/or harassment or who testifies, assists, or participates in any investigation relating to a discrimination and/or harassment complaint. If you have concerns or need information regarding the existence and location of services, activities, and facilities that are accessible, please contact the 504 Coordinator, David Burkman, Principal, Woodrow Wilson High School at (701)446-1000. For more information regarding Title IX compliance call, Brad Franklin, Principal, Jefferson Elementary School or Patricia Cummings, Director of Special Education, District Office at (701) 446-1000. You may also write to the coordinators at Fargo Public Schools, 415 N 4th Street, Fargo, ND 58102. Fargo Public Schools also acknowledges your right to file a discrimination complaint at any time with: U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, Chicago Office, Citigroup Center, 500 W. Madison Street, Suite 1475, Chicago, IL 60661-4544.