

DISCOVERY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

It's A Great Place to Be!



The Dolphin Digest

Principal's Message

Discovery Elementary School is a great place to be because of the wonderful students, families, and staff who work together to help our students succeed. We had a successful year last year in spite of many challenges, and I am so proud of everyone for working hard, persevering, and doing their best. This year we are a B-rated elementary school, we missed our "A" rating by one point. The entire staff and I are dedicated to working hard to ensure an A-Rating again this year.

I want to welcome you to the 2019-2020 school year. This school year marks the 11th year for Discovery Elementary. There are many exciting activities planned for this year that will motivate and encourage the students to do their best.

I look forward to working in partnership with you to ensure our students have the very best education and experience possible. We welcome your involvement and hope that you feel like Discovery Elementary is your home away from home. It is so important to have high expectations for students, that is what will make all the difference. Expecting nothing less than students best work and behavior is the key to their success. Children will rise to our expectations if we are consistent. They know we act out of love for them and want the best for them.

There are a few procedures that we need to make you aware of and some existing

important ones to remind everyone of before the start of school. I ask you to please read each of the sections that follow so that you are aware of these procedures. Many of them are for student safety, and I truly appreciate your flexibility and cooperation. Security is our number one priority. This will be a fabulous year! If you have any questions or need anything, as always, please feel free to ask me or to call the school at 754-322-9100.

Thank you for all you do to make Discovery Elementary School a great place to be!

Your Proud Principal,
Ms. DeGreeff

ID Badges

To ensure school safety, everyone on campus is required to wear identification badges while in school. Students will be given a photo ID to wear daily. ID's will also contain a scanner code that will be used when students purchase their breakfast and lunch or check out library books. This will eliminate the need to enter their student numbers.

Staff, both school-based and district-based, as well as vendors, must wear an ID badge at all times when on campus.

Any other person, including parents, visitors, volunteers, who is allowed on campus must wear a photo ID badge at all times while on campus. All persons must enter the school through the single point of entry door at the



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front office and check in at the reception desk. All visitor must present photo identification, such as a driver's license, state issued photo ID card, or passport to the receptionist. Your photo ID will be scanned into the STAR System. A quick photo will be taken, and a photo ID badge will be created and given to the visitor to wear. All persons are required by the Jessica Lundsford Act to go through this process and to wear the badge when on campus. Before leaving school the badge should be given to the receptionist, and she will sign you out. Even if we know you well, we are still required to ask for your ID and go through the process. I thank you for your patience.

Arrival

General arrival time is 7:30 a.m. Students eating breakfast may enter the cafeteria at 7:20 a.m. Students who are currently registered in Before Care may arrive at 6:15 a.m.

No supervision is provided except in the before care program, and for students eating breakfast before 7:30 a.m. Students may not be left unsupervised and so may not be on campus before 7:20 a.m. if they are eating breakfast, or 7:30 a.m. if they are going into school.

Dismissal

Please let your child's teacher know, prior to the start of school, what your directions are for dismissal. In elementary

school, we cannot be certain that the student knows the parent's instructions so we must only follow instructions from the parent as to how the student is to be dismissed. If your dismissal instructions change, please notify the teacher or write a note in the student's agenda with the method of dismissal and your signature or you may tell the teacher in person, whichever is more convenient. We cannot change dismissal instructions over the phone as we cannot be sure who is actually speaking. If you need to change dismissal in an emergency, you will be required to send a copy of your driver's license or photo ID to ensure that it is actually the parent asking for the change. We spare no effort to provide that your child is dismissed safely, to the right person, and in the correct method.

Students are dismissed at 2:00 p.m. Students may not leave campus until this time. Teachers will bring students who are going home by car to the front of the school. Each grade level will stand together near the signage for their grade level. Kindergarten is at the front of the line, and grade levels follow in order with Fifth at the end of the line. Older siblings will walk down to younger siblings to be picked up together so that the driver only stops once. We ask that you pull all the way forward to allow others to access the line at the same time. At Open House and in the front office, we will distribute car tags (one per parent.) We ask you to display these as you go through the line to pick up

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your student. This is very helpful in notifying students that you are in line and ensuring that you do not have to wait if your student did not see you. We also ask that we all are mindful of the fact that small children are close to the cars in the pick-up line. Please drive slowly so you can react promptly in case it becomes necessary and be present at the moment as you pick up from the line. Please, no cell phone usage in the line as this can be a hazardous distraction. I thank you for your help.

Teachers will remain outside with students until dismissal ends at 2:20 p.m. Students will be brought inside the school after 2:20 p.m. so that the teachers can prepare for the next day's instruction and conferences. If you are picking up after 2:20 p.m., please go to the front office. The receptionist will ask you for your photo ID, and you may sign your student out.

Early Sign-Out

If a student must leave school early for a doctor's appointment or emergency, they may be signed out from in the front office before 1:30 p.m. No students are signed out after 1:30 p.m. Please remember your photo ID as you will need it to sign out your student.

School Gate Procedures

All school gates must have a person at the gate to monitor traffic into the grounds, or the gate must be locked. To make it as convenient as possible and still comply with these rules, we have hired campus monitors to be stationed at the gate. This will allow us to have a more convenient entry for our parents and visitors. In the very rare event that the monitor has to step away for a brief moment, the gate will be locked. A sign with directions to call the front office and the phone number will be posted, if the gate is closed during a time when it should be open.

The campus monitor is there to ensure everyone's safety. The monitor will be required to take a photo of your ID and car tag. You will be asked what the purpose of your visit is and you will sign a visitor log. Please be assured that this is a step implemented to ensure that only those who should be on campus, come on campus. As a parent you are welcome, and our goal is to make you feel like this is your home. Since we strive to provide only the best for our families, students, and staff, think of your home away from home as a gated community with security. Nothing is more important than knowing you leave your child with people who love them, have their best interest at heart, and are doing everything possible to ensure their safety.

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Entrance Gate Times

The main entrance gate, off of Pine Island Road, will be open from 7:15 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. during this time you may drop off without having to sign-in or show ID. After 8:30 a.m. the gate will be closed and manned by a campus monitor who follows the gate procedures for safety and then gets you inside the grounds quickly. This gate will be locked at 2:30 p.m. for the remainder of the day. All persons who need to access the building outside of the 7:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. time slot will need to use the gate off of Commercial Blvd. This gate will be open from 6:15 a.m. - 7:15 a.m. for our Before-care students and staff. It will remain open until 8:05 a.m. for staff and buses only. Regular student drop-off must be done using the Pine Island Rd. gate.

The Commercial Blvd. gate remains locked during the day and will be open again from 1:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. for afternoon bus dismissal, aftercare pick-up, late student pick-up, club pick-up, staff, and deliveries.

Discovery Staff & SRO

We are pleased to welcome some wonderful new educators to Discovery Elementary:

Ms. Philpart - 5th Grade

Mr. Morales - Music

Ms. Felde - Media

Ms. Wallace Speech & Language

Ms. Darby – ESE Support Facilitator

We are also fortunate to have our favorite School Resource Officer return from the City of Sunrise Police Dept., **Officer Eric Windell.**

Student Birthdays

We want every child to be recognized on their birthday and feel special! As a school, we must balance this with our core work which is academic instruction. For this reason, we have had, for several years, the policy of allowing parents to send in one item to share. This item is usually cupcakes, but could also be cookies or fruit or a small favor, etc. The one allowed shareable item must be commercially prepared and packaged. So you might bring in cupcakes from a bakery or store, but you would not be allowed to bring in homemade cupcakes for the class. The class enjoys the sharable item at the picnic tables just outside the cafeteria. The teacher leads the time and students typically sing happy birthday to the student and make a memorable moment. Parents are welcome to come to school and be a part of the fun for their child's birthday. If you wish to have lunch with your child, you are welcome to come on their birthday. Please check with the teacher to verify the time before the birthday. Although it is rare, times do occasionally change to accommodate

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special events and your child may not be aware of the change.

Lunch with Students

Parents are welcome to have lunch with their child on their child's birthday. We have a particular table for parents and the special birthday student where they are allowed to eat together and have a lovely lunchtime. Parents are not allowed to eat at the class table. Other parents do not have the opportunity to know who is with their students and some do not permit strangers to interact with their child. If your child has a birthday during the summer or when school is not in session, we will be happy to arrange a day that is convenient for you. Parents will be invited in for lunch during National School Lunch Week. Invitations will also go out for special times. For safety reasons, we do not allow other drop-in meals with students.

Uniforms

Discovery Elementary School is a uniform school. Examples of the uniform are in the main office on display. The Unified Dress Code Policy consists of the following:

- Docker style pants/shorts/skorts/jumpers must be lack or khaki.
- Collared, polo-style shirts must be turquoise, white, gray, or black.
- School logo on a collared polo shirt is preferred.

- Jeans/denim material is PROHIBITED except for Fridays when worn with a school spirit t-shirt.
- Baggy pants, sagging pants, and cargo pants are PROHIBITED. (This eliminates distracting or unsafe items as students are less likely to hide things in loose clothing or large pockets.)
- Caps are allowed for P.E., weather conditions, religious reasons, and for medical purposes only.
- Please limit socks and accessories to school colors.

In the event your child comes to school wearing inappropriate attire, you may be contacted and asked to bring appropriate clothing to school.

Uniforms may be purchased at any location; however, Discovery Elementary School partners with InUnison School Apparel. Their location has moved to 4432 North University Drive, Lauderhill, FL. They may be reached by phone at (954) 749-3340.