

DISCOVERY DIGEST



DISCOVERY MIDDLE SCHOOL

601 WOODBURY ROAD
ORLANDO, FL 32828

407-384-1555

MONDAY-FRIDAY
7:30 AM TO 4:30 PM



ISSUE 3 • AUGUST 2017

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

I am Dr. Fernandez, proud principal of "A" rated Discovery Middle School. It is my distinct honor to serve our community's stakeholders. At Discovery Middle School we strive each day to embody the goals of Orange County Public Schools by maintaining a(n):

- Intense Focus on Student Achievement
- High-Performing and Dedicated Team
- Safe Learning and Working Environment
- Efficient Operations
- Sustained Community Engagement

Our intense focus on student achievement has resulted in our school's "A" rating for the 17th consecutive year. Discovery has a legacy of academic excellence thanks to the diligence and dedication of our teachers, staff, administration, and community. As we embark upon the 2017-2017 school year, we will continue to be vigilant providing a quality education to our students while partnering with our community to ensure all stakeholders can fully participate in our evolving school community and continued success as a school. We encourage all parents and stakeholders to get involved in our School Advisory Committee (SAC) and our Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA). We also encourage neighboring businesses to become our Partners in Education (PIE).

We are passionate about our children and we believe in providing a safe learning and working environment so that all students can take advantage of the many educational opportunities we have to offer. By encouraging students to take rigorous courses and encouraging them

continued on next page...

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ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Gloria Fernández, *Principal & 7th Grade Administrator*

Mr. Sanjay Brown, *8th Grade Assistant Principal*

Ms. Kamille Leptz, *6th Grade Assistant Principal*

Mr. Ramiro Borja, *Administrative Dean*

Mr. John Peters, *Administrative Dean*

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

...continued from cover

to have a growth mindset, we will foster a sense of accomplishment in our students as they are prepared for success as they matriculate to high school, college and career.

Our students thrive in highly regarded programs such as: Computer Technology Education (CTE) and Science Technology Engineering Math (STEM) programs, Calculus Project program, Performing Arts programs, and the many sports, clubs and activities available to all students. Our Explorers are currently the Orange County Battle of the Books Champions, emerging CHESS Champions, earning 3rd place in our district competition, and we have several National BETA Champions for Convention Invention while taking 4th place in the nation for Book Battle.

We at Discovery believe that "We Prevail in Excellence!" We look forward to continuing our commitment and partnership to develop strong, resilient, and diligent young men and women who are prepared to become tomorrow's leaders.

Students, remember to always make wise decisions, treat everyone with respect and dignity and act with integrity every time the opportunity presents itself. You will never regret it. I look forward to another year of continuing our partnership to help our young men and women to "Prevail in Excellence!"

Sincerely,
Dr. Gloria E. Fernandez
 Principal

CALENDAR

Monday-Friday	August 7-11, 2017	Pre-planning for teachers (Aug. 9 is Professional Development day.)
Monday	August 14, 2017	First day of school
Monday	September 4, 2017	Labor Day Holiday (Schools and district offices are closed.)
Friday	October 13, 2017	End of 1st Marking Period
Monday	October 16, 2017	Student Holiday/Teacher Workday
Tuesday	October 17, 2017	Begin 2nd Marking Period
Friday	October 27, 2017	Student Holiday/Teacher Professional day/ Teacher non-workday
Saturday	November 11, 2017	Walk for Autism
Monday-Friday	November 20-24, 2017	Thanksgiving Break

SCHOOL SUPPLY LISTS

School supply lists have been posted to the DMS website homepage:

<https://discoveryms.ocps.net/>



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2017 SUMMER READING REMINDER

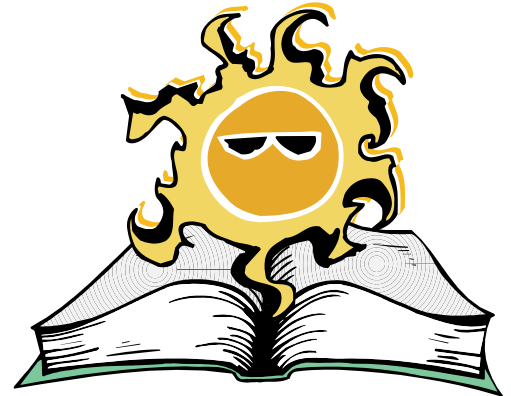
Each grade level has 3 books to read and three assignments to complete over the summer. Electronic versions of the assignments are available below. Hard copies will be available in the school's front office throughout the summer. Assignments are due Friday, September 8.

For more information and a list of books, go to the DMS website at https://discoveryms.ocps.net/parents/summer_reading_2017.

DMS Summer Reading Book Swap

There will be a book swap set up in the front office for summer reading, starting the week of June. 13 All you have to do is put a book in good condition from your child's summer reading list into the box and then you can choose another title. You will need to fill in the paper work to show what title you put in and what title you take out.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Mrs. Ann Holman, Instructional Coach (ann.holman@ocps.net).



BETA NATIONAL CONVENTION

We are very proud to tell you that Kristina Kelley, Selene Hsu, Ian Sutphin and Timo Moegling took 4th place in the nation for Book Battle at the Beta National Convention. The same 4 students are also the National Champions for DMS in the Convention Invention competition. They represented DMS with respect and had a lot of fun. Congratulations!

Discovery Digest

August 2017

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Pragnesh H. Patel, M.D.
Jose R. Arias, Jr, M.D.
Andrew S. Bagg, M.D.
Andrew J. Cooke, M.D.
Sonya R. Saini, PA-C
Ilana L. Stone, ARNP

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UBREAKIFIX

FROM THE BOOKKEEPER

EXCITING NEWS – Discovery's accounts have gone digital! All payments will go through School Pay, no cash or checks will be accepted. For each event held during the school year (i.e. field trips, lost books, fundraisers, etc.), there will be a school pay link created for you to access and make the payment online.

GREETINGS FROM THE ELA DEPARTMENT!

Just a reminder that Summer Reading Requirements and Assignments are available on the DMS website. Each grade level has selected books for ELA, Science, and Social Studies and developed accompanying written assignments that support the standards that will be taught during the first grading period. Copies of the required texts and assignments are available in the Main Office. The deadline for Summer Reading submissions is Friday, September 8, 2017.

Your English Language Arts Department also has many exciting plans for the 2017-2018 school year. Our newest initiative is the implementation of iReady in both ELA and Mathematics. For ELA, this program offers a comprehensive diagnostic screening of each student which will afford teachers the opportunity to create differentiated learning activities for all our students. iReady is being implemented countywide at the middle school level and, along with standards-based literary and informational text instruction, provides enrichment lessons for those students who have mastered specific standards. Be sure to look for additional information regarding iReady from your student's ELA teacher.

Welcome back, Explorers! We're looking forward to an exciting learning experience in the 2017-2018 school year!



Discovery Middle School
MEET THE TEACHER 2017

Thursday, August 10, 2017
Sixth Grade - 9-11 a.m.
Seventh & Eighth Grade - 1-3 p.m.

Pick-up schedules in the gym
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7TH GRADE STUDENTS AND ICIVICS

Welcome to 7th grade Civics! There's a terrific website that will definitely help you with this class. It's free and no registration is necessary. You can access this site at icivics.org. Click on PLAY on the left side. You'll see a big listing of civics games. Feel free to try all of them! Our first unit is about citizenship so if you want to get a head start, make sure you can master Immigration Nation. If you don't see it in the big list, click on VIEW ALL GAMES.

We're looking forward to meeting you!
Ms. Brown, Mr. Roberts, and Ms. Sievert



FROM THE MATH DEPARTMENT

Here are some hints at some things that might be coming your way from the Math Department!

The FSA math scores were awesome. Lots of students had great gains or went up to the next level! Good work! You helped Discovery be awarded its 'A' grade! Have you heard of I-Ready? It is coming to Discovery and some students will be using it to get caught up on Math skills. I-Ready will be replacing another program, which we used for 2 years, called Think Through Math. Some students will be very happy about this change. I know the math teachers are looking forward to it. So, get those spiral notebooks, pencils and pens ready for the start of the year. It is just around the right angle, and we are looking forward to meeting all our new students. Hard work is worth it! See you soon!

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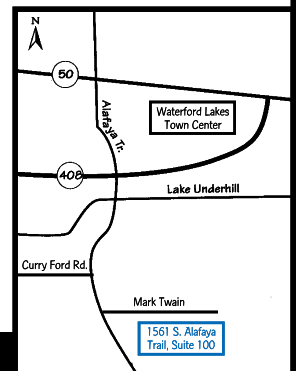
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MRS. CAYO ATTENDS SUMMER INSTITUTE

Mrs. Cayo, one of Discovery's 7th grade Earth Space Science teachers, attended a 2 week workshop called Earth Systems and Climate 2017 Professional Development Summer Institute. Through the workshop, Mrs. Cayo earned a subscription for one year to MyStemKits. MyStemKits developed a curriculum for standard-driven instruction and 3D-printable manipulative to create an end-to-end STEM solutions. It is designed to promote hands on learning and conceptual understanding so students are equipped to succeed in the 21st Century. Mrs. Cayo will also be using a 3-D printer in her classroom.

Below is a group of teachers using the 3-D manipulatives to work on hands-on science labs. 7th grade science teachers will be doing this lab with our students.



The 3-D printer in this pictured with a 3-D printed skull.



Mrs. Cayo and Ms. Doan (8th grade science teacher at Discovery) both attended the session.

We need spots filled...



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7TH GRADE IMMUNIZATIONS

Parents of 7th graders - From the Florida Department of Health:

“Additional Immunization Requirements for 7th Grade Entry

Effective with 2009–2010 school year (then an additional grade is added each year thereafter), in addition to compliance with all other immunization requirements, children entering, attending, or transferring to the seventh grade in Florida schools must complete the following:

One Tetanus-diphtheria-acellular pertussis (Tdap).”

For more information go to the Florida Department of Health immunizations page: <https://goo.gl/WNwLoz>

SPORTS PHYSICALS

The sports physical forms are now available online. Athletic physicals are valid for one calendar year.

Go to <https://discoveryms.ocps.net> and click on the “ATHLETICS” tab for more information.

