

BACK TO SCHOOL PARENT GUIDE

This is your unofficial comprehensive guide to attending Discovery Charter School. This guide is a great resource to help you navigate your way and become informed about events inside and outside of the classroom.

THE MAGICAL CARLINE

PICKING UP AND DROPPING OFF:

RULES OF THE ROAD

[VIEW DIAGRAM AND RULES](#)

DROP OFF: 7:30-45a.m. the gym opens starting August 22nd, 7:45-8:00 a.m. building opens.

Do Not Drop Off Before 7:30A.M. Please pull all the way to the first spot to keep traffic moving smoothly. Turn engine OFF when waiting to drop off.

No idling!

PICK UP: You may line up no earlier than 2:30p.m. and on the first Wednesday of each month line up will start at 1p.m.

Each car should have a sign with their carpool name in the window that is easily visible to the person calling the names in. Please be sure to move to the first spot to keep traffic moving smoothly. Turn engine off when waiting to pick up. **No idling!**

If you arrive before 2:30 p.m. visit the Indiana Dunes, go to the library, or better yet, come in and volunteer!

SNACK IN PEACE

FOOD SAFETY AND ALLERGIES

We have students with allergies so we must keep the classrooms peanut and tree nut free. Your child's lunch may have peanut/tree nut products. Snacks to be eaten in the classroom must be nut free. Please see the peanut/tree nut free food list and abide by the specific types and brands listed. Teachers will monitor the snacks to make sure they are in compliance with the list. If they are on the list, the student may eat their snacks. If they are not on the list, your child will not be able to eat their snack. This is to keep all students safe. However; snacks should NOT be packed inside of home lunches, due to cross-contamination of allergens.

For more information on the snack list, click below:

SNACK LIST

SUIT UP & BUNDLE UP!

BE SURE TO HAVE THE APPROPRIATE CLOTHING FOR RECESS AND P.E.

All students must be dressed appropriately for the weather because they go outside for recess when the temperature is above 20°.

In the winter be sure to bring snowsuits, boots, waterproof mittens/gloves, and any other warm gear your child may need for playing outdoors in cold/snowy weather. Also, students go on hikes so be sure to have appropriate shoes for those days and waterproof/rain boots and rain gear for those wet days. **EVERY THING should be labeled.** PAC sells Discovery reusable bags which work well to keep everything together. Email discoveryuniforms@gmail.com to purchase your \$5/bag.

LET'S GET DIGITAL

FACEBOOK

Official Facebook page: Discovery Charter School

Unofficial Facebook page: Discovery Charter School Families

For this page you will have to be approved. Please provide your student's name and class for approval. Only parents or legal guardians will be granted access due to the sharing of information.

REMINDE TEXT MESSAGING:

Stay up-to-date with DCS events and updates.

To opt in, text @dcsfamily to 81010 or if you have the Remind app - you can join using the class code: dcsfamily

SCHOOL WEBSITE:

www.discoverycharter.org

POWERSCHOOL

PowerSchool is Discovery's way to keep up on your child's grades. You will get an access code sent home at the beginning of the year. It is important to check your child's grades often and not wait for the end of the grading period. You can set alerts through PowerSchool as to when your child has a missing assignment, etc.

POWERSCHOOL



IT'S NOT A FIELD TRIP IT'S A **LEARNING** **EXPERIENCE**

Multiple learning experiences take place throughout the year-different for different grades. Chaperones will be picked randomly and the teachers are awesome at making sure everyone has a turn.

It is imperative that parents who are not picked do not "show up" on learning experiences. It is disruptive to the day because the students often want to hang with mom or dad and not follow the curriculum of the day. Siblings are not allowed to attend learning experiences.

Please adhere to this process to not jeopardize future learning experiences. All volunteers/chaperones must have a background check completed at the time of the learning experience.

If you have further questions, reach out to your grade chair or teacher.



A BADGE OF HONOR

OUR UNIFORMS

All students must wear a Discovery shirt (tshirt, sweatshirt, or long sleeve shirt) which only may be purchased through our vendor. You cannot make your own shirts with iron on decals, etc. Shirts must not be tie dyed either. The only acceptable tie dyed shirts are the ones that are done at Fall Fest or for other school related activities.

Specialty shirts (and colors) will be available for special events, clubs, etc. and will only be available for a limited time. All orders will be taken online, no cash or checks.

[BUY UNIFORMS](#)

BIRTHDAYS & HOLIDAYS!

HOLIDAYS: Your grade chair or room liaison will keep you informed of when and what will happen, and what is needed for the holiday celebrations. Volunteers are always needed. You must have a current background check on file. Parents will be asked to contribute to the party. If you wish to do so, please only get the specific brand of treats on the list. **ABSOLUTELY NO HOMEMADE FOOD ALLOWED.**

BIRTHDAYS: Birthday announcements are made in the office in the morning and the student is given a special treat from the school. Students may dress up or down in school appropriate clothes for their birthday. No class parties and no treats are to be sent in to the classroom. If you are having a birthday party for your child and want to send invitations to school, you must have enough invitations to invite the entire class.

LOST & FOUND (LABEL EVERYTHING)

Lost & Found is cleaned out and organized by volunteers several times per week. If a student loses something it can easily find its way back to them if it is properly labeled with first and last name and grade.

Be sure to include last name and first initial, written clearly, on every item brought to school - lunch bags, book bags, water bottles, coats, gloves (both), shoes, boots, snow gear, sweaters, etc.

Items that are not labeled and left in lost and found will be cleaned out and donated on the first of every month. Bottom line, label everything.

Check out mableslabels.com, click on support fundraiser and search Discovery PAC (Porter). We receive 20% back on all orders.



JOIN IN THE FUN CLUBS, SPORTS & EXTRACURRICULARS

Included but not limited to:
Cross Country, Run Club, musical, chess, robotics, 4H, Art club, basketball (5th through 8th), girls volleyball, beekeeping, choir, comic book club, Girls on the Run, newspaper, outdoor skills club and archery. Piano, Spanish, and Young Rembrandts are paid classes that are after school.

ATHLETICS

CLUBS

ANNUAL MUSICAL

Discovery has an annual musical and this year is Frozen. Auditions take place in the fall and will be announced via Facebook, email, and posted at school. All students are welcome to try out.

For questions contact:
Steven Moeller at smoeller@discoverycharter.org



AT OUR CORE

RECYCLING

Discovery recycles! Send in:

- Ink and toner cartridges
- Household batteries
- Plastic bags
- Markers
- Snack wrappers (chips, crackers, bars, candy)
- Glue sticks

In the lobby there are labeled bins so you can drop off at your convenience.

NO CARDBOARD PLEASE as we have to pay to recycle cardboard.

SUSTAINABILITY

Discovery is big on sustainability. In fact, it is part of our mission. Please be mindful of what you are sending in for lunches and snacks.

Some quick tips: Buy in bulk and put in reusable containers instead of having multiple throw away bags/containers. Reusable lunch bags are great and can be purchased locally, or on Amazon, Target and Meijer, etc.

Reusable water bottles can be sent in daily. They should be labeled with your child's name (and teacher helps). Please NO disposable plastic bottles. Water is the only approved drink for water bottles.



GRADE CHAIRS & ROOM LIAISON



Each grade will have a Grade Chair and each classroom will have a Room Liaison to help navigate classroom and holiday celebrations and announcements. They help keep everyone up to date on events and happenings.

Grade Chairs and Room Liaisons will introduce themselves via email at the beginning of the year. The Grade Chair will send biweekly emails with updates. If you do not receive these, please reach out to Joseph Gonzalez, PAC President, who will make sure you are added to the list.

Grade Chairs will also be coordinating grade-related activities, classroom parties, ensuring background checks are up to date for volunteers or parties, and instituting a copy schedule for your grade.

Room Liaisons will help in the classroom with day to day activities. They will ensure your teacher has everything he/she needs.

SCRIP

SCRIP is an easy way to give back to the school while shopping as usual. Groceries, gas, department stores, retail stores, restaurants, hotels, Disney—you name it, we can probably get it.

HOW IT WORKS:

- We get gift cards at a reduced rate (each company gives back a different percentage) and sell them to you at face value.
- You spend money that you would be spending regardless.
- You can participate by buying plastic cards at school or ordering online and having them delivered to your student or available for pick up.
- We have someone in the lobby Monday through Friday mornings from 7:45-8:15am to assist you.
- You can also order SCRIP online and receive virtual cards for most items almost immediately by using [RaiseRight](#), hooked up to your bank account.
- When paying for SCRIP you can use cash or check, or online it will withdraw from your checking account or credit card of choice.

If you need SCRIP on an off day, or have ANY questions, do not hesitate to reach out to our SCRIP coordinators Jennifer Valencic and Erin Mckechnie discoveryscrip@gmail.com.

**For more information: <https://www.discoverycharter.org/scrip>
Sign up for SCRIP today!**



ANNUAL EVENTS

HAWK WALK & RUN 5K

The Hawk Walk & Run 5K takes place in May. It is a fun day filled with excitement and enthusiasm. The students train for it in gym class and spring run club.

FIELD DAY

Field day is an end of year celebration. It takes place in May. The students get to go outdoors for the day and play multiple games and activities led by volunteers.

BONFIRE, HAYRIDE

Rogers Lakewood Park
More info to come.

MAJOR FUNDRAISERS



Fall Fest is a family fun fest that takes place in October 8th this year. The idea of Fall Fest is to get Discovery families together for a day of games, food, a pie and chili contest, and most importantly, FUN! A lot of volunteers and sponsors are needed to pull this event off. If you would like to volunteer, please contact: Miranda Wilkening at miranda.wilkening@gmail.com

DISCOVER OUR WORLD

Our spring fundraiser, adults only. It is usually heavy hors d'oeuvres and drinks. Ticket prices are usually around \$50/pp and entertainment and venue changes year to year. Lots of volunteer and sponsorship opportunities. Date is usually early spring (March or April).

ONGOING FUNDRAISERS

Various fundraisers take place throughout the year, all are completely optional. These include but are not limited to (and always subject to change):

NOVEMBER:

Marilyn's Bakery Pie Sale

JANUARY/FEBRUARY:

Gelassomo's Pizza Fundraiser

POPCORN FRIDAYS:

The last Friday of every month (\$1/bag, sold at lunch)

SCRIP SALES: All day, everyday

UNIFORM SALES: A small amount on uniform sales go back to PAC.

PEOPLE & SERVICES

YOU NEED TO KNOW

UNIFORM CO-CHAIR

Anna Young
Abby Sellers

discoveryuniforms@gmail.com

SCRIP

Jennifer Valencic
Erin Mckechnie

discoveryscrip@gmail.com

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

(carline, lunch, copies, ect):

Lisa Gonzalez

lisagonzalez2108@yahoo.com

TEACHER APPRECIATION SNACKS

Joseph Gonzalez

josephgonzalez21@gmail.com

SUSTAINABILITY CHAIR

Andie Jahnz-Davis

andie.jd@yahoo.com

LOST AND FOUND

Carri Kulick

ckulick@discoverycharter.org

CARE CLOSET

Andie Jahnz-Davis

andie.jd@yahoo.com

NURSE

Kristen Byrt, RN

kbyrt@discoverycharter.org

FRONT OFFICE

Brianna Wheeler

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SOCIAL WORKER

Diane Medley

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Greg Guernsey

gguernsey@discoverycharter.org

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

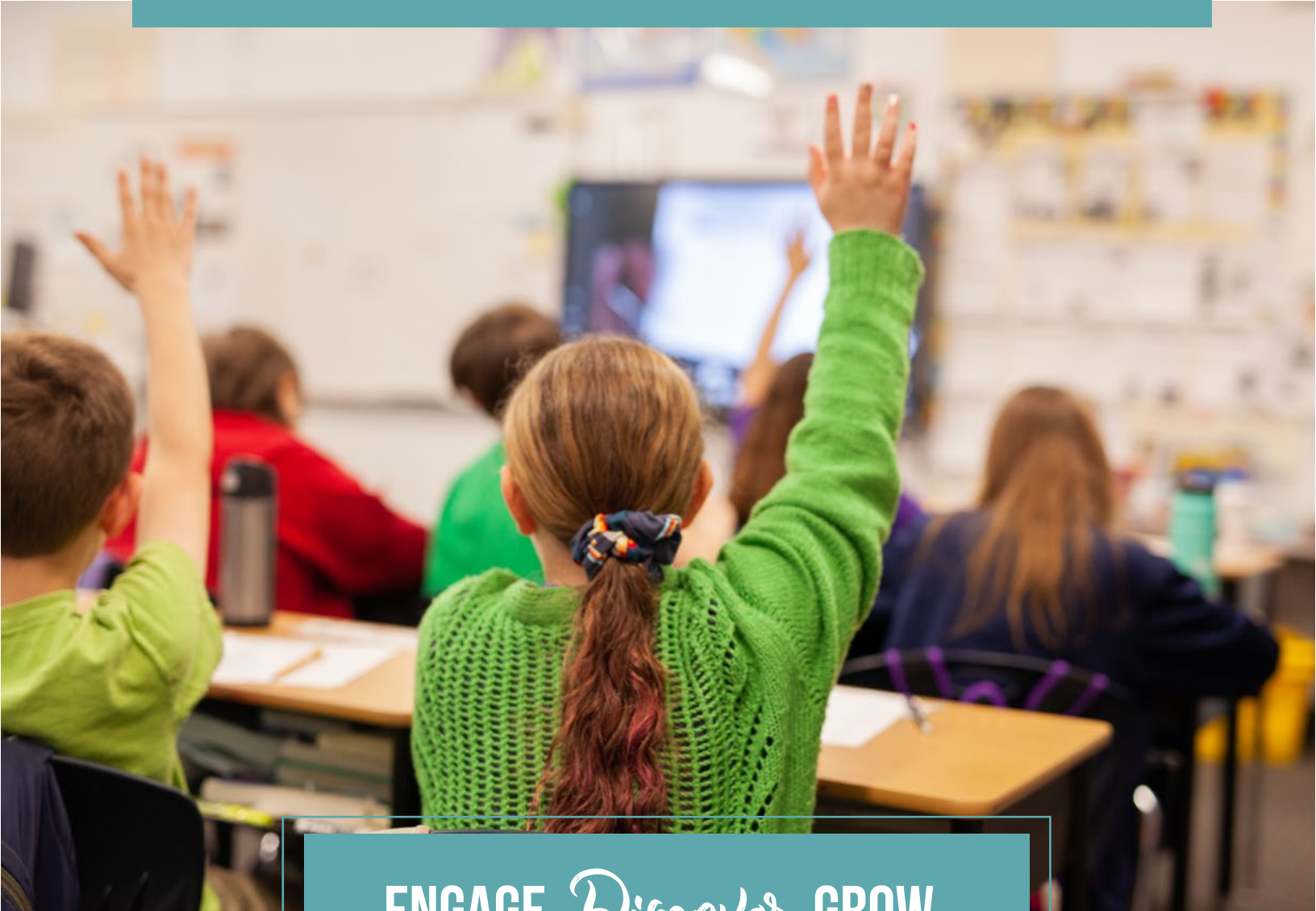
Vera Jones

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Debra Weller

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ENGAGE. *Discover.* **GROW.**

MEET THE PAC BOARD

PRESIDENT

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Shannon.molden@gmail.com

AT-LARGE

Andie Jahnz-Davis

andie.jd@yahoo.com

We are doing our best to serve the school, teachers, students and parents. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact us via email or introduce yourself and let's talk.