

# Discovery Canyon Campus

Academy School District 20  
1810 North Gate Boulevard, Colorado Springs, CO 80921  
Phone: 719-234-1800 Fax: 719-234-1899  
Website: <https://asd20.org/Schools/dcc>

**Andie Ruskin**  
Principal for Grades PK-5  
[andie.ruskin@asd20.org](mailto:andie.ruskin@asd20.org)

**Mario Romero**  
Principal for Grades 6-8  
[mario.romero@asd20.org](mailto:mario.romero@asd20.org)

**Jim Bailey**  
Principal for Grades 9-12  
[james.bailey@asd20.org](mailto:james.bailey@asd20.org)

July 27, 2018

Dear DCC Middle School Families,

I am so excited to welcome you to the start of the 2018-19 school year. I also want to welcome all new families to the DCC Community. In this letter, there is important information and dates to help you get started for this coming year.

It is my honor to serve you as the principal of Discovery Canyon Middle School. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. You can contact me at (719) 234-1810, or on my cell phone at (719) 510-5895.

## **A number of staff members new to DCC middle level will be joining us this school year, including:**

- Rachel McIntyre – Principal Secretary
- Evelyn Adams – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade through 12<sup>th</sup> Grade ESL Teacher
- Alexis Bailey – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts Teacher
- Amber LaBandt – SSN Teacher
- Ashley Soulvie – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Special Education Resource Teacher
- Lauren Dachary – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Special Education Resource Teacher
- Holly Pacione – Computer Technology Teacher
- Kristina Swind – Counseling Secretary
- Richard Gross – SSN Paraprofessional
- Kristen Padilla – SSN Paraprofessional
- Crystal Anguiano – SSN Paraprofessional

## **Student Class Schedules**

When the middle level counselors return to school on August 1, 2018, they will begin their work to finalize student schedules. **Once middle level student schedules are finalized, parents/guardians will be notified via 20 Alert and instructions will be provided for accessing and printing the “easiest to read” version of the schedule. Please be so kind as to not print your student’s schedule until receiving notification that the schedules have been finalized.** Finalized student schedules will be available prior to the DCC PK-8 Open House, held on August 13, 2018. I anticipate the 20 Alert will be sent to access student schedules the afternoon of August 10<sup>th</sup>.

## **Bell Schedules**

The school day begins at 8:15 AM and concludes at 3:15 PM. The bell schedule is also attached to this 20 Alert and can be accessed on the school website. Please feel welcome to make a printout of the bell schedules to use as a reference throughout the school year.

## **Before School Study Time (BeSST)**

Students in grades six through eight are able to enter the DCC middle level building starting at 7:35 AM. Students who are in the building before 7:35 must stay in the area located in front of the attendance office. Supervision for students will begin at 7:35 in the middle school gym. Students will be required to stay in the middle school gym until the first bell rings at 8:05 AM. Breakfast will be served every morning on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the middle school.

*“One common campus, one common purpose, one common goal – student success!”*

## ***Upcoming Events at DCC***

Please mark your calendar for the following upcoming school year start-up events. As the dates approach, specific information regarding each event will be sent via 20 Alert as needed.

- Registration for The Digital Learning Program for all students. All students will need to have their devices registered to the network. The registration dates are August 10<sup>th</sup> and August 14<sup>th</sup> in the Cafetorium. August 10<sup>th</sup> will be from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. August 14<sup>th</sup> will be from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM
- DCC PK-8 Open House (Opportunity for students and parents to visit classrooms, meet teachers, etc.) Discoveries Teachers will be serving root beer floats in the Proto Plaza (plaza in front of the middle school library).  
Monday, August 13, 2018  
3:30 PM - 6:00 PM
- DCC 6<sup>th</sup> Grade High Trails Information Night  
Thursday, August 27, 2018  
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM in the Middle School Cafetorium
- DCC Community Connections Social  
Saturday, August 25, 2018  
10:00 AM to 12:30 PM on the Lower Soccer Field – The first Varsity Football Game begins at 1:00 PM at District 20 Stadium.
- DCC 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Back to School Night (Opportunity for parents to follow their student’s class schedule and meet teachers.)  
Wednesday, August 22, 2018  
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM
- DCC 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Academy (6<sup>th</sup> Grade Back to School Night)  
Wednesday, August 29, 2018  
5:30 PM – 7:30 PM
- DCC PK-12 International Baccalaureate (IB) Information Night  
Date and time TBA

## ***School Supplies***

We will have school supply lists for the 2018-2019 school year for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. The school supplies list for each grade level is located on the front page of the middle school website.

## ***First Several Days of School***

- **Wednesday, August 15, 2018** is the first day of school for **sixth grade students only**. When they arrive to school in the morning, sixth grade students should report to the Middle Level Gym. Staff and students in the Bringing Our Level Together (BOLT) Crew will be available to assist sixth grade students. From there, sixth grade students will be guided through a special schedule that allows them to visit each of their classes. On this day, students only need to bring to school a pen or pencil; their planner; a copy of their class schedule; and a lunch, if they will not be purchasing lunch in the Cafetorium. All 6<sup>th</sup> Grade students will be receiving a DCC T-shirt the first day of school.
- **Thursday, August 16, 2018** is the first day that **all sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students** will report to DCC. All students will have **Silver Discoveries on this day**.
- **Friday, August 17, 2018** will be a **Purple Day**.
- **Monday, August 20, 2018** will be a **Silver Day**.
- **Tuesday, August 21, 2018** will be a **Purple Day**. From this day forward, the Purple / Silver “every other day” rotation will continue.

### ***DCC Community Connection Social***

This year, we will be celebrating an annual tradition to kick off our school year. We will be having **the Discovery Canyon Community Connection Social** on **Saturday, August 25, 2018** from 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM on the middle school PE field. This is an event the whole DCC K-12 community can attend for free. We will have carnival games, bounce houses, ice cream, music, and a dunk tank. There will be another 20 Alert sent to RSVP for the event.

The first Varsity Football game will be on this same day at 1:00 PM at District 20 Stadium. It would be great to have all our students, parents, and community support the football team at the game right after the Community Connection Social.

### ***This year's Middle School Theme***

This year's theme at DCC Middle is "Thunder Pride is in the AIR."

### ***Student Planners***

Students will receive their planners in their Thundertime Class during the first week of school. The consumable fee for each grade level will cover the cost of the student planners.

### ***"Whites of Eyes" Count***

It is very important that your student attend school each day during the week of August 15, 2018 as we conduct the "Whites of Eyes" count. This will confirm your student's enrollment and attendance at DCC for the 2018-2019 school year. **If there are circumstances that prevent your student from attending school during the week of August 15, 2018, please contact DCC at (719) 234-1849.**

### ***First Day of ASH***

The first day for the After School Help program (ASH) will be August 20, 2018 from 3:15 PM to 4:45 PM in the middle school library.

### ***Athletics***

This year, we will begin our athletic season with 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade football, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade volleyball and 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade cross country. We will send a separate 20 Alert about signing up for athletics and the first day of practice for all three sports.

Throughout the school year, information will continue to be shared with you via the 20 Alert e-mail system. Most of the DCC Middle School 20 Alerts will be sent on Wednesday afternoons. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact DCC at (719) 234-1800, or on my cell phone at (719) 510-5895.

I can't wait to see all our students and families for the start of this school year. I look forward to a wonderful school year at the best school in the state. GO THUNDER!!

Sincerely,

Mario Romero  
Principal  
Discovery Canyon Campus Middle School