

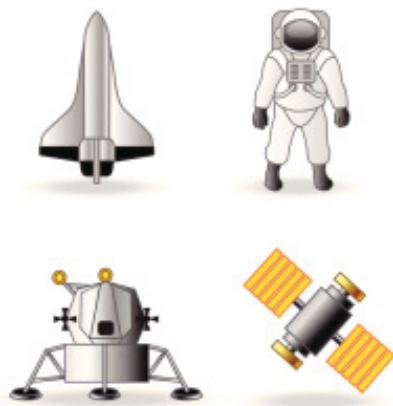


NASA Program from Discovery Museum Begins in October

by Mrs. Mary Servino; with Erika Kiley & Sarah Tropp (Discovery Museum)

Discover NASA seeks to introduce rocket science to all students, beginning in kindergarten. Through early explorations of forces and motion, flight, planetary science, and satellite usage, students prepare to take on increasingly advanced topics of rocketry and human space exploration. These weekly hands-on lessons began last year in grades K through fifth. This year grades sixth through eighth have been added. Want to know what your child is learning? Keep on reading!

While a first grader might learn how pilots use pitch, yaw, and roll to fly an airplane, a third grader might study how a plane actually gets up in the air and stays there. Second graders put together alka-seltzer-powered pop rockets, while fifth graders design their own specialty model rockets, and eighth graders will learn how to design space suits and heat shields for better human exploration of outer space. Each grade band progression will cover new topics and study increasingly complex issues of forces, flight, and space science and the role humans play in exploring and understanding our universe.



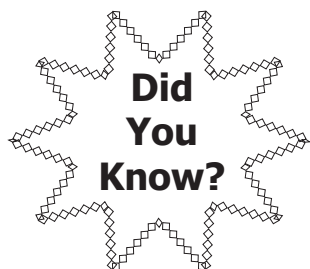
The 6-8 program will begin with investigations of force and motion and how they relate to rocketry. Activities include:

- ◆ Building a hovercraft
- ◆ Riding on a gyroscopic platform
- ◆ Making “crazy balloons” that change their center of mass
- ◆ Designing, constructing, and launching various types of rockets

Investigations into humans in space will include:

- ◆ Designing, constructing and testing a space helmet for “eggstronauts”
- ◆ Space suit design
- ◆ Life on the International Space Station
- ◆ Bringing rockets and astronauts home after a mission
- ◆ Participating in Challenger Simulator missions

Here are some things about our International Space Station you might not have known. Tell your friends! Amaze your family! Did you know...



- ✿ Space Station's living space is about the size of a six-bedroom house.
- ✿ Astronauts sleep in any direction with no bed, just a sleeping bag strapped to a wall so they don't float around.
- ✿ There are about eight miles of wiring in the Station's electrical system.
- ✿ Over 50 computers keep the Station's systems working.
- ✿ A humanoid robot has been helping the Station since 2012. It's name is Robonaut2 and it helps out the astronauts with technology issues. It is a robot that looks like a human!
- ✿ Research on Station continues to make discoveries important to us here on Earth including, recently, a possible vaccine for salmonella.

IDMS Community Service Club



The IDMS Community Service Club participated in their first community event this school year. On September 17th, club members assisted at the LIV FREE event in Trumbull. LIV FREE is a non-profit organization that helps families fighting pediatric cancer. Our students did an amazing job and had a great time helping out at the event. Special thanks to Mrs. Fox, Ms. Z, Mrs. Monteiro, Mrs. Anderson, and Mrs. Servino for helping out at the event. The IDMS Community Service Club is open to students in grades 5-8. Please see Mrs. Monteiro (115) or Mrs. Anderson (Art Room) if you would like to join.



PAC Updates

PAC / SGC Elections

We will be holding elections for the Parent Advisory Council (PAC) and the School Governance Council (SGC) in October. Please consider running for a position. Parent involvement is essential to our children's success.

Parent Volunteers

We have many activities lined up this year, and we welcome parent volunteers to help us out. From preparation to set-up to clean-up, we could always use an extra pair of hands. Please sign up in the Parent Room.

Picture Day

Just a reminder that students must wear their uniform for picture day. Sibling photos will be taken during Retake Day.

Fundraisers



Thanks to your continued support of our fundraisers, we were able to provide teachers with classroom supplies and fund school activities, such as buses for field trips, our Back to School picnic, our evening events, etc. Let's do it again this year! Deadline for KidStuff Coupon Book orders has been extended to October 11th.

Trunk or Treat

Trunk or Treat is right around the corner. Please be on the lookout for a flyer to sign up to decorate your trunk. Best decorated trunk wins a prize!

New Year, New Teachers

This year, three teachers have switched grades, and we welcome two new teachers to our IDMS family. Get to know them here...



"If there was no change, there would be no butterflies." -Unknown

I switched grades this year and although I LOVED teaching kindergarten for the past six years at Discovery, I am excited to be teaching 4th grade math and science this year. I came to Discovery because it is a science magnet, and as everyone knows...I love science. This year, I am getting to teach science and math again to some of my former students. It is also great to teach those who had Mrs. Lopez and Mrs. Warren for kindergarten. I think it is very special to be able to teach every child in the grade. It is also very special to be downstairs in the morning and greet 5th and 6th grade students, whom I used to teach, on their way to class. I view Discovery as my home away from home. We sure do spend a lot of waking hours together! I am very lucky to get to spend those hours with great people.

Diane Goodrich

Fourth Grade Math/Science Teacher

I am thrilled to be in my new position as the 5/6 ELA teacher for IDMS! Prior to coming to IDMS in 2014, I taught for 10 years at Madison Elementary in Bridgeport, seven of which were spent teaching 6th grade reading. Teaching reading is my first love! I enjoy the challenge of changing students' perceptions of reading as "boring" or "unenjoyable." I truly believe there is a piece of literature out there that will inspire the reader in each of us. Expectations for my students include them being able to read, write, think, and speak about literature in a passionate, inquisitive and thoughtful manner. In my classroom, we welcome discussion and we celebrate novels when we finish them. I am so excited to see my students grow and thrive as readers and writers this year.



Kristen Gill

Grade 5/6 ELA Teacher



Hi, my name is Loretta Monteiro and I am happy to join the kindergarten team this year. I taught 5th and 6th grade ELA the previous two years. This is my third year at Discovery and ninth year teaching in Bridgeport. I teach because I want to make a positive impact in a child's life. I hope that my students always feel cared for and challenged. I hope they realize that anything is possible with a dream and an education. When I am not at school with my students I enjoy spending time outdoors with my husband Billy and son Cristiano.

Loretta Monteiro

Kindergarten Teacher

Hello! My name is Mrs. Rodriguez and I am so excited to join the Discovery family! This will be my ninth year teaching Pre-K in Bridgeport, and I love that I get the opportunity to work and play with the youngest members of the Discovery family! I look forward to working with the Pre-K 3 students and helping them prepare for Pre-K 4 and all their school years ahead!

Nicole Rodriguez

Pre-K 3 Teacher



We would also like to welcome **Esther Werneck de Almeida**, our new Portuguese Language Arts Teacher.

High School Application Process

by Ms. Ellen Rosoff, School Counselor

If you are the parent or guardian of an 8th grader, this article is for you. I am beginning my visits to the 8th grade homerooms to discuss the high school application process. The first packet of information I will be distributing to the students is the high school description packet. There are actually a number of schools to choose from, so please ask your child for this packet and go over it. You will have to sign the sheet asking for your signature indicating that you have seen the high school packet.

Over the next two months, I will bring in speakers from a variety of high schools who will talk to our 8th graders about their high school. There will also be opportunities for families to visit schools during their open houses. Take advantage of those events as they can be helpful in making decisions.

Students may choose one of the Bridgeport magnet and specialty high schools, your hometown high school, a state vocational school such as **Bullard Havens**, an out-of-town specialty high school such as **Global Studies** in Norwalk or a private high school such as **Fairfield Prep**. Your child should apply to each school that he/she is interested in and that you have approved. They should also register for **Fairchild Wheeler High School**, whether they attend or not. Discovery Magnet is Fairchild Wheeler's feeder school and applications are automatically accepted, but you still have to apply to get in. The student isn't applying for acceptance, they are applying as a means of enrolling. All applications from Discovery are always accepted.

Parents and guardians should assist with the online or paper application processes. Only you can help your child make these decisions. The teachers and I can give the students all the information they need from our end, but ultimately, it is your follow up actions that determine where your child will attend. Those of you who are sending your child to a private high school must send the documents I give you, on to the private schools of your choice. I will furnish you with the paperwork and then it is up to you to make sure that the high schools receive it.

Please remind your children that the high schools will be looking at their first marking period grades, and then again at the end of the year. If they need help, the best line of defense is to speak directly to their teachers. If he or she would like to speak with me, I am here to help.

Wishing you all a successful year! If you have any questions, please email me at erosoff@bridgeportedu.net or call me at 203-275-1821.

HIGH SCHOOL OPTIONS

Fairchild Wheeler Interdistrict Magnet High School, Bridgeport

For students interested in the STEM areas of study. The campus is divided into three separate schools: Information Technology & Software Engineering, Biotechnology & Zoological Science, Aerospace Engineering & Physical Sciences. DISCOVERY MAGNET STUDENTS HAVE AUTOMATIC ENTRY AND DO NOT NEED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE LOTTERY.

Bridgeport Military Academy, Bridgeport

Targets students interested in first responder careers, focusing on police, fire, emergency medical, homeland security, and military services.

Bridgeport Regional Aquaculture Science & Technology Center, Bridgeport

Targets students interested in a rigorous curriculum within the areas of Marine Science and Technology. Students are provided with many hands-on experiences, as well as learning opportunities taking place on marine ships on the Long Island Sound. Students attend Aquaculture during half of the school day, and their district high school for the other half.

Central High School Magnet, Bridgeport

Targets very capable students who have high grades and CMT scores. Central High School Magnet offers a challenging college prep. curriculum, as well as Advanced Placement courses. Students should have A's and B's, as well as excellent behavior.

Technical High Schools: Bullard Havens (Bridgeport); Platt (Milford); Emmett O'Brien (Ansonia)

Targets students who are interested in developing their skills that will assist in obtaining a job in a particular trade after graduation. Visit www.cttech.org for more information.

Regional Agriscience and Biotechnology Center, Trumbull

Targets highly capable students who are interested in a science-based curriculum with hands-on learning experiences. Students should have A's, as well as excellent behavior. Visit www.trumbullps.org for more information.

Center for Global Studies @ Brien McMahon, Norwalk

Targets highly qualified students who are interested in International Studies and World Languages. Students should consistently display excellent behavior and have a history of achieving high honors (all A's). Students attend high school in Norwalk. Visit www.centerglobalstudies.org for more information.

Regional Center for the Arts (RCA), Trumbull

Targets students who wish to pursue and develop their talent in the performing arts. Students attend their district high school for half of the day, and are transported to RCA for the remainder of the afternoon. The program is from 1 pm - 4 pm. Visit www.ces.k12.ct.us for more information.

Discovery Dispatch

is the monthly newsletter of the
Interdistrict Discovery Magnet School
4510 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06604
(203) 275-1801

Principal: Sangeeta Bella

Editors: Jade Zapanta

Rebecca Feola