

**DAMASCUS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL  
CHALKMARKS  
HOME OF THE EAGLES**



The Heart Of Education is Education of the Heart

## ***Discover Discovery!***

Perhaps you have wandered down the hall at Damascus Christian School and have noticed a door labeled **DISCOVERY**. Because some parents are unaware of what Discovery is all about, we are providing the following questions and answers for you.

### **What is Discovery?**

Discovery is the name of an educational therapy program at Damascus Christian School that provides students with tools for learning. The goal is to come alongside a student who is experiencing a learning difficulty and to provide intervention that can enable them to become an independent and successful learner in the classroom. Educational therapy is facilitated by teachers who have received extensive training through the National Institute for Learning Development ([www.nild.org](http://www.nild.org)).

### **Who could benefit from the Discovery Program?**

A child who struggles with one or more of the following:

- Writing legibly and fluently
- Learning to read
- Following directions
- Sequencing
- Thinking efficiently
- Spelling accurately
- Remembering math facts
- Problem solving
- Attending
- Reading comprehension
- Spending hours on homework
- Academic performance below grade level

### **How does a student become enrolled in Discovery?**

The process usually begins with either a classroom teacher making a referral or a parent expressing concern regarding the academic challenges that his or her child is experiencing. A complete psycho-educational battery of tests is then administered in order to identify the student's areas of cognitive strength and patterns of weakness. Based upon test results, educational therapy intervention is designed to address the individual's specific needs.

### **What are the features of Discovery?**

- An intervention that provides explicit and intentional instruction designed to develop literacy skills, mathematical reasoning, oral and written expression
- All age inclusive—providing tools for learning for

kindergarten-adults

- Integrative—addresses processing difficulties while developing basic academic skills
- One-on-one, or small group instruction—depending on the needs of the student
- 26 techniques tailored to the individual needs of each learner

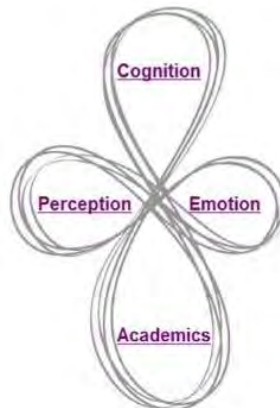
### **Who benefits from Discovery?**

- *DCS students who are enrolled in Discovery* benefit as the program begins to build within them a sense of competency and confidence.
- *Every DCS student* benefits from Discovery because the Discovery teachers are available to collaborate with classroom teachers regarding *any student* for whom they have concerns or questions.
- *Parents of Discovery students* benefit from the supportive and informative parent meetings offered throughout the school year. Practical topics discussed at parent meetings have included the following:

Helping your child with homework; ADHD—characteristics and intervention; Fostering Self-Esteem; Reading Aloud to children; Stress and your child. Discovery parent meetings are always open for any interested parent to attend.

- *Any DCS parent* can also benefit from Discovery. Discovery teachers welcome the opportunity to hear the concerns and questions that caring parents often experience when they see their child struggling to complete homework, follow directions, attend to information, etc.
- *All the DCS staff* benefits from Discovery, also. Discovery teachers partner with classroom teachers in an effort to engage every student in successful learning.
- *The Damascus community* benefits from

Discovery as Discovery teachers also work with home school and public school students.



### **SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST ON NEXT PAGE**

- ⇒ **VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS HONORS DCS STUDENTS**
- ⇒ **DCS STUDENTS SELECTED-ALL-STATE BAND**
- ⇒ **MANNERS MATTER**
- ⇒ **DCHS GRAD SELECTED—PREP ATHLETE OF THE YEAR AWARD**
- ⇒ **OOPS!**

## Veterans of Foreign Wars Honors DCS Students

Every year, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) sponsors the Voice of Democracy and the Patriot's Pen competitions for students at the high school and junior high levels respectively. In this year's contest, writing and recording an essay dealing with the theme "Does America Still Have Heroes?," DCS sophomore **Laura S.** placed second at the post level and was awarded a \$200 prize, and junior **Olivia B.** place third, earning a \$100 prize. Additionally, addressing the theme "When is the Right Time to Honor our Military Heroes?" in a written essay, eighth grader **Valerie W.** placed second at the post level, earning a \$100 prize. Congratulations, ladies!



## 2 DCS Students Selected for Oregon Middle School All-State Band

Congratulations to **Keira B.**, 8<sup>th</sup> grade, oboe, and **Alyssa B.**, 8<sup>th</sup> grade, French Horn, who have both been selected to the Oregon Middle School All-State Band. 100 students from 80 middle school from throughout the state have been selected. Out of the 100



students, five come from private Christian schools. Their conductor will be Andrew Balent, an internationally known composer and conductor.

The band is part of the Oregon Music Educators Conference in Eugene with over 5,000 directors and students attending. The conference is being held January 14 – 17, at the Eugene Hilton Hotel. The Oregon Middle School All-State Band will be performing on Friday at 4 PM, at the Hult Center. Congratulations, Keira and Alyssa! And DCS band director **Mr. Bolton!!**

## Manners Matter

## Monthly Recipients

For the month of December, elementary teachers selected the following students to receive the *Manners*

*Matter* award, presented to students who demonstrate consistently good manners. **1<sup>st</sup> grade – Beckett I. and McKenna P., 2<sup>nd</sup> grade – Caleb C. and Keon M., 3<sup>rd</sup> grade – Shane A. and Luke N., 4<sup>th</sup> grade – Isabelle B. and Shannon C., 5<sup>th</sup> grade – Gabe C. and Silas M., and 6<sup>th</sup> grade – Grace M. and Luke P.** Well done!

## DCHS Grad Selected as Finalist for 2009 Prep Athlete of the Year Award

**Sean Lewis**, DCHS track standout, has been selected as a finalist for the 2009 Johnny Carpenter Prep Athlete of the Year Award, to be presented Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, at the Nike World Campus in Beaverton. Comcast SportsNet will televise the show Tuesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Emmy award-winning sportscaster Ahmad Rashad will be the master of ceremonies and numerous sports celebrities will present the various awards. It is going to be a memorable event of the Who's Who in Oregon sports. Our congratulations to Sean for being nominated for this recognition through his hard work, dedication, and giftedness of the Lord. Congratulations too, to Sean's DCHS track coach **Kelly Holding**, who helped him achieve this level of success.



## OOPS!

We incorrectly reported last week that the Snack Shack profits went to our athletic program. They actually go to help offset the expenses related to the Washington, DC trip.

**OOPS!**