



# A School Family Boldly Chasing Growth

## Deerfield Elementary School

**WE ARE** a school family serving kindergarten through fifth grade students. Deerfield Elementary is located in a rural setting approximately nine miles north of Winchester, Indiana. Our school has historically consisted of two sections of students at each grade level. However, due to declining enrollment, we have been gradually transitioning to a single-section school over the past four years.

**OUR STUDENTS & FAMILIES** live in Deerfield, Ridgeville, Saratoga, and surrounding rural areas. All students ride school buses or are driven to school by their families. Approximately 57% of our students' families qualify for free or reduced lunches and textbooks, and approximately 92% of our students are Caucasian. A number of service organizations, small businesses, and churches in our community generously support our students in powerful ways including mentoring, volunteering with our school food pantry, donating clothing and supplies, and providing monetary support for special projects.

**OUR TEACHERS** place a high priority on building relationships and providing high quality instructional experiences that engage students in the process of learning. Deerfield employs 9 full time teachers including a special education teacher and an interventionist. Deerfield students also benefit from working with a school counselor, music teacher, and speech pathologist who are shared with our other Randolph Central School Corporation elementary schools. Our teachers have recently engaged in professional development targeting depth of knowledge, Smekens Literacy Workshops, LLI, Reading Recovery, and SEL with Dr. Lori Desautels. Additionally, they have participated in book studies: *Mosaic of Thought*, *Mindset*, *Next Step Forward in Guided Reading*, and *6+1 Traits of Writing*.

**OUR STRATEGY** is boldly and relationally chasing student growth. We firmly believe that if our students are consistently demonstrating growth, they are also taking continuous steps toward proficiency. It is this growth mindset that keeps us focused on what we can control to help students reach their learning goals. Simply put, we believe that through relationships, quality instruction, and student engagement, we can help all our students grow and achieve. This shared belief drives our decision making at Deerfield. Importantly, students and staff alike find courage in this approach.

**OUR STEPS** *Literacy Groups*: Our school-wide schedule is built around a 30-minute "Literacy Group" for all grade levels. During this time, teachers and Title I paraprofessionals provide data-driven, research-based, small group instruction. *Customized Spiral Math Review*: Our classroom and Title I teachers review current assessment data and develop customized spiral math review in two formats. Teachers create daily spiral math review homework assignments. Teachers also design monthly spiral review math activities for use in our Friday Math Literacy Groups. *Data Wall*: Our K-5 data wall is updated after each NWEA window based on student growth. This process keeps us focused on analysis of assessment data as we leverage our instructional expertise to craft learning experiences that meet students where they are.



Students at all grade levels work in daily literacy groups for intervention or extension learning opportunities.

### IN OUR OWN WORDS

At Deerfield, we believe in each other and our students.

We believe all students can grow, and we expect ourselves to help them do so. - *DES Principal, Mrs. Laura Kile*

Deerfield has a very family-oriented atmosphere. We strive to instill in every student the skills they need to succeed.

- *DES Staff and Parent*

Literacy Groups at Deerfield give kids that extra support and push they need to excel in school. - *DES Staff*

At our school, the teachers are nice; the kids are nice, and we can learn a lot! - *DES Student*

Students understand their learning goals, and they are excited when they meet them. - *DES Classroom Teacher*

For more information about our school or corporation,  
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