

DISCOVERY ACADEMY OF LAKE ALFRED

1000 North Buena Vista Drive

Lake Alfred, FL 33850

RENEWAL ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN

JUNE 2010

Carol Fulks, Executive Director

Kevin Warren, Principal

Peggy Cook, Chairperson, Board of Directors

A circular graphic featuring a globe in the center. The globe is surrounded by a ring of text containing various words like 'INSPIRERS', 'FINDERS', 'ADVENTURERS', 'TRAILBLAZERS', 'VISIONARIES', 'EXPLORERS', 'THINKERS', 'SEEDERS', 'PATRONDERS', and 'KNOWLEDGE SEEKERS'. Overlaid on the globe is the text 'Discovery Academy of Lake Alfred Mission Statement' in a bold, purple font.

Discovery Academy of Lake Alfred Mission Statement

We are dedicated to actively engaging all individuals in a quality learning experience that will enable them to value themselves and become responsible, productive citizens in a changing world.

Individual components fit into many sections of our mission statement.

Students are **actively engaged** in learning at DALA through:

- ✦ School-wide use of Kagan Cooperative Learning Strategies
- ◊ “Being There” experiences
- ✦ Hands-on learning
- ✦ Brain-based learning environment

All individuals are engaged in **quality learning experiences** by incorporating:

- Hirsch Core Knowledge Curriculum
- Multiple Intelligence Strategies
- Methods to address varying levels of ability
- Integrated Curriculum
- A focus on Literacy –
 - Literacy Council, Discover Reading, Intensive Reading Program,
 - Celebration of Reading Day, Book Adventure, Read It / Rate It
 - Classroom Libraries, Read Aloud Strategies, Daily Reading Class
- Real world experiences to extend classroom learning

Self-value is further promoted via:

- Life Skills and Lifelong Guidelines focus in Advisory Class
- Open-door guidance policy
- Abundant opportunities for students to celebrate personal accomplishments

Responsible citizenship is modeled by offering:

- ✦ Grade specific Advisory Classes
- ✦ Life Skills and Lifelong Guidelines
- ✦ 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens
- ✦ National Junior Honor Society

Students are being prepared to be **successful in a changing world** by providing:

- ✦ Business Computer Exploratory Wheel Classes
- ✦ A school-wide emphasis on technology
- ✦ Many opportunities to use technology in the classroom
- ✦ Computer labs throughout the school

Background Information

Discovery Academy of Lake Alfred is a conversion charter school serving grades six through eight. Discovery is accredited by the SACS CASI, a division of Advancing Excellence in Education Worldwide. Emphasized throughout the school is technology, Kagan Cooperative Learning, excellence in academics, “Being There” experiences (field trips and simulations) integrated through the Hirsch Core Knowledge Curriculum and excellence in academics by making connections to real world situations. Discovery Academy promotes the middle school components of advisory classes, teaming and a block schedule with common planning and exploratory classes for students.

Disaggregated information on the 2008-2009 student population is listed below:

<u>Student Population</u>	1040 students	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
White	48.5%	248	260	508
Black	20.5%	101	113	214
Hispanic	27.7%	127	161	288
Other	2.9%	19	11	30

<u>Low SES</u>	581 students	56% of total school population		
White	40.3%	113	121	234
Black	25.6%	69	79	149
Hispanic	31.5%	86	97	183
Other	2.8%	11	5	16

<u>Students with Disabilities – non-gifted</u>	58 students	6% of total school population		
White	53.5%	21	10	31
Black	8.6%	3	2	5
Hispanic	32.8%	12	7	19
Other	5.2%	2	1	3

<u>LEP</u>	99 students	10% of total school population		
White	4%	2	2	4
Black	12%	5	7	12
Hispanic	81.8%	32	49	81
Other	2%	2	0	2

Goal One

Discovery Academy students will demonstrate progress in writing.

Indicator:

Discovery Academy students will demonstrate annually an equal or higher percentage of students scoring Level 3.5 or above on the FCAT SSS Writing than the majority of comparable schools as evidenced by the DOE School Grades Report. Comparable schools are determined annually by the Polk County School Board.

Baseline Data:

Year:	% FCAT Writing Discovery:	% FCAT Writing Comparable Schools:	
2007/2008	96%	91%	Denison Middle McLaughlin Middle
2008/2009	Not Available	Not Available at this time	

Goal Two

Discovery Academy students will demonstrate progress in reading.

Indicator:

1. Discovery Academy students will demonstrate annually an equal or higher percentage of students scoring Level 3 or above on the FCAT SSS Reading than the majority of comparable schools as evidenced by the DOE School Grades Report. Comparable schools are determined annually by the Polk County School Board.

Baseline Data:

Year:	% FCAT Reading Discovery:	% FCAT Reading Comparable Schools:	
2007/2008	56%	56%	Denison Middle McLaughlin Middle
2008/2009	Not Available	Not Available at this time	

2. Discovery Academy students in the lowest quartile will demonstrate annually an equal or higher percentage of students making learning gains on the FCAT SSS Reading than the majority of comparable schools as evidenced by the DOE School Grades Report. Comparable schools are determined annually by the Polk County School Board.

Baseline Data:

Year:	% FCAT Reading Discovery:	% FCAT Reading Comparable Schools:	
2007/2008	63%	58%	Denison Middle McLaughlin Middle
2008/2009	Not Available	Not Available at this time	

Goal Three

Discovery Academy students will demonstrate progress in math.

Indicator:

1. Discovery Academy students will demonstrate annually an equal or higher percentage of students scoring Level 3 or above on the FCAT SSS Math than the majority of comparable schools as evidenced by the DOE School Grades Report. Comparable schools are determined annually by the Polk County School Board.

Baseline Data:

Year:	% FCAT Math Discovery:	% FCAT Math Comparable Schools:	
2007/2008	49%	54%	Denison Middle McLaughlin Middle

2. Discovery Academy students in the lowest quartile will demonstrate annually an equal or higher percentage of students making learning gains on the FCAT SSS Math than the majority of comparable schools as evidenced by the DOE School Grades Report. Comparable schools are determined annually by the Polk County School Board.

Baseline Data:

Year:	% FCAT Math Discovery:	% FCAT Math Comparable Schools:	
2007/2008	64%	65%	Denison Middle McLaughlin Middle
2008/2009	Not Available	Not Available at this time	

Goal Four

Discovery Academy students will demonstrate progress in science.

Indicator:

Discovery Academy students will demonstrate annually an equal or higher percentage of students scoring Level 3 or above on the FCAT SSS Science than the majority of comparable

schools as evidenced by the DOE School Grades Report. Comparable schools are determined annually by the Polk County School Board.

Baseline Data:

Year:	% FCAT Science Discovery:	% FCAT Science Comparable Schools:	
2007/2008	32%	31%	Denison Middle
		28%	McLaughlin Middle

Goal Five

Discovery Academy’s classroom teachers will be evaluated in the use of Kagan Cooperative Learning.

Indicators:

1. 95% of classroom teachers will be coached by administration / designee at least once each school year as documented by coaching forms.

Baseline Data:

Year:	Kagan Coaching:
2007/2008	97%
2008/2009	Not Available at this time

2. 95% of classroom teachers employed for the entire academic year will attend at least six peer teaching demonstrations of Kagan teambuilders or classbuilders during staff meetings each year as documented by sign-in sheets and agendas.

Baseline Data:

Year:	Kagan Peer Teaching:
2007/2008	92%
2008/2009	Not Available at this time

Goal Six

Discovery Academy stakeholders will reflect their satisfaction with the overall school program.

Indicator

1. Eighty-five percent of the parents responding to the Annual Climate Parent Survey will show that they are satisfied with the school by indicating that they either agree or strongly agree with the majority of the effective school correlates.

Baseline Data:

% that Strongly Agree or Agree to the Effective Schools Correlates

	Effective Schools Correlates						
Parents	One	Two	Three	Four	Five	Six	Seven
07/08	97%	98%	99%	98%	96%	95%	97%
08/09							

2. Eighty-five percent of the teachers responding to the Annual Climate Teacher Survey will show that they are satisfied with the school by indicating that they either agree or strongly agree with the majority of the effective school correlates.

2007-08 Baseline Data:

% that Strongly Agree or Agree to the Effective Schools Correlates

	Effective Schools Correlates						
Teachers	One	Two	Three	Four	Five	Six	Seven
07/08	90%	99%	93%	97%	96%	97%	95%
08/09							

Goal Seven

Discovery Academy will operate with sound financial principles and an active supportive board of directors.

Indicators:

1. The results of an independent audit will show that the school will have an accumulated unreserved/unrestricted fund balance of 3% of annual revenue.
2. The Discovery Academy Board of Directors will meet a minimum of four times per year with a quorum present (½) to review the school’s viability, including but not limited to the operating budget, Annual Financial Audit, School Grades and AYP data, and the School’s Accountability Plan progress. Minutes for each meeting are on file at the school and available to the Office of School Choice during site visits.