

# DaVinci Connection

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## School Links

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## Important Dates

[5/13-14 - Grade 8 MCA Science Test](#)

[5/13 - K-2 Music Concert, 6:00 pm](#)

[5/15 - Grades 3-4 Music Concert, 6:00 pm](#)

[5/19 - School Board Meeting, 6:00 pm](#)

## Dear Lee,

To the left, you will find helpful links that will take you directly to the articles you want to read (Table of Contents), to important pages on our website (School Links), and will provide a quick list of upcoming events (Important Dates.)

As always, we welcome your feedback.

## Spring Concert Series & Shuttle Bus Service

For each of the spring concerts, we will again be providing a shuttle service from The Way of the Shepherd to DaVinci Academy. We encourage you to take advantage of this option as no parking is allowed on the frontage road or in the Aldi parking lot.

The concert schedules are as follows:

- Tuesday, 5/13: Kindergarten - 2nd Grade
  - 6:00 pm to 6:30 pm (approximate end time)
- Thursday, 5/15: 3rd & 4th Grade
  - 6:00 pm to 6:30 pm (approximate end time)
- Tuesday, 6/3: 5th - 8th Grade Choir Concert
  - 6:00 pm to 6:45 pm (approximate end time)
- Tuesday, 6/10: Band & Orchestra Concert
  - 6:00 pm to 7:15 pm (approximate end time)

Performing students should arrive no later than 5:45 and the gym doors will open at 5:30 pm

### Shuttle Bus Schedule

5/22 - Grades 6-8 Art  
Show, 6:00 pm

5/26-30 - No School

6/2 - School  
Development  
Committee, 6:00 pm

6/2 - HR/Compensation  
Committee, 7:00 pm

6/3 - Field Day

6/3 - Choir Concert,  
6:00 pm

6/6 - No School



The shuttle bus will run from The Way of the Shepherd to DaVinci Academy from 5:30 pm to 6:00 pm.

The shuttle bus will run from DaVinci Academy to The Way of the Shepherd for 20 minutes after the end of the concert. Please plan accordingly to ensure you make it back to your vehicle.

**(B)** The Way of the Shepherd Parking - 13200 Central Ave NE  
Enter The Way of the Shepherd parking lot from 132nd Ave NE  
Exit The Way of the Shepherd parking lot onto Central Ave NE  
(frontage road).

A few spots will be reserved for The Way of the Shepherd guests. They will be designated by emergency cones. Please do not move these cones or use these spots.

#### **(A)** DaVinci Academy Parking

Parking at DaVinci Academy will be available in the back and side lots only. The front entrance loop will be used for guest drop off only (car or bus drop off). No parking will be available here during the concert.

Reminder - Per the City of Blaine, no parking is allowed on the frontage road in front of DaVinci Academy. This area must be kept clear for all vehicles (and shuttle buses!) to get through.

Thank you for your cooperation and patience!

# Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee Update

(by Doug Hiatt - Finance Committee Chair)

The Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee (often referred to as just the Finance Committee) is one of the standing committees of the Board of Directors at DaVinci Academy. The purpose of the Finance Committee is to manage the finances of DaVinci Academy with the highest integrity and ensure professional accounting practices are followed. The committee has successfully managed some difficult years.

That said, it is that time of year again for DaVinci Academy to adopt a budget for next school year. This provides an opportunity to review the current year's budget, think about priorities for next year, and to reflect on the funding disparities between charter schools and regular school districts. DaVinci Academy's current year budget is for revenue of \$4 million and expenditures equal to \$3.95 million. We are 10 months in to DaVinci Academy's current fiscal year, and we have revenue (including money owed due to the state holdback process) equal to 82% of what was budgeted and have expenditures (included expenses owed but not paid) equal to 82% of what was budgeted.

Next year's revenue will be very similar to this year's. This is true despite articles you have probably read in the newspaper that say there have been funding increases for public schools. The state did increase the amount it pays per pupil by several hundred dollars. However, they also revised the way they calculate total pupils. For DaVinci Academy, this will result in overall funding that is basically the same. That results in DaVinci Academy, like all charter schools, receiving significantly less revenue than regular school districts.

[A recent study of 2011 revenues](#) found that on average, Minnesota Charter Schools received \$1,048 (8.4%) less per student than regular school districts. The differential between DaVinci Academy and the Anoka-Hennepin School District (our local district) is closer to \$2,000-\$3,000 per student, depending on how total revenue is calculated. The funding formula changes did not change this. In addition, DaVinci Academy will have to continue to hold down expenses just like it has every year since the beginning. This becomes more challenging each year, and next year it will prove more difficult. When the state adopted the funding changes, it also revised the amount DaVinci Academy can receive for some of the expenditures each year. However, we will find a way.

With this in mind, I am writing to ask that all families, staff, and supporters of DaVinci Academy do two things. First, please plan to participate in the [3rd Annual Golf Tournament and Dinner Gala, Silent Auction, and Raffle](#). This event is an opportunity to celebrate and support DaVinci Academy. You can help by attending the Dinner Gala and/or golfing. Donate a silent auction or raffle item. Ask your employer, family, or other contacts to become a sponsor, donate prizes, or send golfers or dinner attendees. You can even volunteer the day of the event!

Second, this is the time of year when you will probably have your local representative or other politicians come to your door, call you, or talk to you at your work or an event. When they do, I would ask

Thanks for your dedication and devotion to DaVinci Academy. If you are interested in volunteering or have general ideas to share with the Finance Committee, please email [Doug Hiatt](#).

EVERYTHING  
is AWESOME

6-8 Art Show

Thursday, May 22nd  
6-7:30pm

(Art show poster designed by Greta S and Boatema A)

Thank you to each and every parent who went out of their way to acknowledge the teachers and staff!

## 4/7



The PTO Family Fun Night was a huge success! The school was packed with so many happy kids and parents that there was hardly a spot to sit down. That's just how we like it! The dunk tank was the favorite activity for most people to try out or just observe. A special thank you to the brave teachers who climbed in the tank: Mr. Melander, Mr. Mueggenberg, Ms. Mitchell, Ms. Kaiser, Ms. LeSage, and Mr. Slechta. The bingo tables were also filled up, and the food lines were continually flowing!



Thank you to the PTO and each parent or family member who helped out with this community building event. It was a great turn-out!

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**Cell Phone Recycling Event - May  
17th, 9 am - 2 pm**



Do you have any old cell phones lying around your house? It's illegal to throw them away in your household trash, but if you allow DaVinci Academy students to donate them to [techdump.org](http://techdump.org), you can help the environment AND support a worthy social service organization at the same time.

DaVinci Serves, a DaVinci Academy middle school service group, will collect unwanted cell phones for [techdump.org](http://techdump.org) at this DaVinci Academy event: Saturday, May 17, 9:00 am-2:00 pm (drive-through drop-off in the DaVinci Academy parking lot).

This student-run service project helps the environment by promoting safe recycling, it supports [techdump.org](http://techdump.org) (an organization that provides jobs for people who would otherwise be unemployable), AND - \$1 per pound collected will be donated to DaVinci Academy!

**Want to help? Please spread the word by copying and pasting this article into your Facebook status!**

DaVinci Serves collected cell phones at the recent PTO Bingo Night and handed out flyers to promote the May 17 collection date at the MN Green Expo (on May 10).

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## Signs of Spring!

Our Kindergarten classes are bringing spring into school with their annual chick hatching project; and this year they added ducks to the family! They are all so much fun to watch!



(Photo by Ms. Lesage)

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DaVinci Academy of Arts & Science / 13001 Highway 65 / Blaine, Minnesota 55434 / 763-754-6577

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