



DaVinci Connection

DATES TO REMEMBER

Donuts with Dads

Wednesday, February 15
7:30-8:30 am

Enrollment Lottery

Wednesday, February 15
6:00 pm

No School

Thursday, February 16-
Friday, February 24

School Building Closed

Monday, February 20-
Friday, February 24

School Resumes

Monday, February 27

School Board Meeting

Monday, February 27
6:00 pm
Room 305

8th Grade Family Night

Tuesday, February 28
6:00 pm
Room 310

PTO Meeting

Tuesday, February 28
6:30 pm
Room 305

All-School Celebration/ Chili Feed

Thursday, March 1
5:30 pm
Gymnasium

Find more upcoming events on the DaVinci Academy home page, or go to the "Calendar" page for future important dates.

<http://davincicharterschool.org/>

13001 Central Ave NE
Blaine, MN 55434
763-754-6577

www.davincicharterschool.org

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR AUGUST 3

(by Cory Klabunde, School Director)

The DaVinci Academy Fundraising Committee has begun planning its first major fundraiser – the **Friends of DaVinci Academy Golf Tournament**. Mark your calendar for Friday, August 3, at Majestic Oaks Golf Course. The event will include both a golf tournament and a dinner, with prizes, a silent auction, and awards. Look for more details as our plans progress.

This will be DaVinci Academy's major fundraiser for the 2012-13 school year. We need all stakeholders to support this event, and there are many ways to do so. We need golfers, sponsors, prize and cash donations, trophies, etc. We also have letters and brochures for your use in encouraging your employers, business associates, friends, and local businesses to support this fundraiser. Their involvement is critical to the success of our event.

Contact [Mary Walker](#) or [Cory Klabunde](#) to get involved in this event, for tournament details, or to obtain materials for distribution to your employer, friends, businesses, and associates. Thank you for your participation, and we look forward to a fun, successful event for DaVinci Academy and everyone involved!

FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL COORDINATOR

(by Patrick Hobot, High School Coordinator)

Tick, tick, tick...it's coming faster than we imagine it is – DaVinci Academy High School!

As you know, we will add 9th grade next year and another grade in each of the following years until we are a full K-12 charter school. For the 2012-13 school year, we will remain on the current campus. Where we go after that is yet to be determined.

As I have been writing the curriculum for the new programs and classes, it has been encouraging to receive continuous reminders from the administration and the Board of Directors that a large part of the vision and mission of our school is to fully prepare our students for higher education and to stay true to the focal points of the arts and sciences.

With that in mind, Mr. Klabunde, Ms. Moffatt, and I have been working under the concept of "five cores" at the high school level. This is an idea that expands the state of Minnesota's current graduation requirements, which include the equivalent of four years of credit only in English Language Arts, to requiring an equivalent of four years' worth of the "five cores" of DaVinci Academy – English, Math, Social Studies, Sciences, and a potential variety of (fine) Arts electives. And, of course, we will maintain a high standard for behavior and performance for all of our students.

I guess what I want to assure you – as surely as we are preparing for high school programs – is that the process through our high school program will not only be *rigorous and challenging*, but also *relevant and engaging*. Most importantly, though, is that our students WILL be ready for higher education if that is the route they choose as they enter adulthood.

Want to know more? In lieu of the monthly "High School Town Meeting," we will hold a special **8th Grade Family Night on Tuesday, February 28, at 6:00 pm**. Families can look at many of the curriculum materials we will use, get a real feel for the look of the 9th grade schedule, ask questions or share ideas with myself and the administrators, and perhaps enjoy a snack and a beverage. Not in 8th grade? You can still come...it's your future, too!



POSITIVE REFERRALS AT DAVINCI ACADEMY

(by Gregg Eldred, Student Development Coordinator)

There are many ways to acknowledge our students for displaying positive behaviors. Verbal acknowledgement, parent phone calls, classroom rewards, and simply saying "thank you," are just a few options/ideas.

This year, we have implemented **Positive Referrals** as another way to recognize students for displaying good behaviors. When a student receives a positive referral, he/she is brought to my office and we call one of the student's parents/legal guardians. The positive referral is read to the parent/legal guardian by the student or me, if they choose.

Here are just a few of the positive behaviors that we look for from all of our students:

Respect

Uses "please" and "thank you"
 Opens doors for others
 Helps others who are struggling
 Waits his/her turn
 Shows good sportsmanship
 Uses good judgment

Responsibility

Arrives to class on time
 Does homework consistently and on time
 Does assignments to the best of ability
 Takes a leadership role in class or on an activity
 Takes responsibility without being asked
 Maintains a neat and organized desk/locker/homework

During the 1st semester, the staff at DaVinci Academy awarded **602 Positive Referrals** to students in all grades!

LIEB, O'MEARA, & PETERSON JOIN DAVINCI ACADEMY BOARD

(by Doug Dinndorf, Communications Committee Chair)

The results of the school board election were announced during last night's DaVinci Academy Annual Meeting. Dale Lieb, current community board member, was re-elected. Therese O'Meara, current Special Ed teacher, was also elected to fill one of two open teacher board positions.

During a January 30 meeting, the DaVinci Academy Board voted unanimously to appoint Kamille Peterson to the board, filling one of two open parent positions. Kami is the parent of five DaVinci Academy children, with non-profit board and information technology experience.

The board welcomes Therese and Kami to the board and is very happy that Dale will continue to share his expertise. Dale's biographical information is available at <http://www.davincicharterschool.org/board-of-directors>. We will provide more information about Therese and Kami in the next few weeks.

Congratulations to Dale, Therese, and Kami for stepping up and offering their time and talents in helping shape the future of DaVinci Academy.

VOLUNTEER CORNER

(by Lee Swearingen, Volunteer Coordinator)

When volunteering at DaVinci Academy, please sign in and out at the HelpCounter kiosk located at the front desk. Not only does this log your hours, it also allows the school to know who is in the building at all times. Also remember to take a "Volunteer" badge.

Current Volunteer Opportunities:

- Catalog technology equipment
- Catalog unused books
- Move locker shelves
- Ongoing copying projects





DIGITAL ART ELECTIVE

(by Molly Platisha, Art Teacher)

I am thrilled to teach the Digital Art elective this quarter! Because I am a photographer, it is fun to share this passion with students and introduce them to the amazing things we can do by incorporating technology into our art-making.

The Digital Art class is working on creating stop-motion animations, and after only a few days, I am blown away by the students' creativity and awesome ideas. I am excited to see what they come up with at the end of the quarter!

The final product will be a short video made up of hundreds of still photographs. Stop-motion animation is a technique that makes inanimate (lifeless) drawings or objects appear to live and move. The object is moved in small increments between individually photographed frames, creating the illusion of movement when the series of frames is played as a continuous sequence.

Stay tuned to see the students' fabulous work at this quarter's end!





PTO PLACE

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 1-29 ~ Read-a-Thon

February 15, 7:30-8:30 am ~ Donuts with Dads

February 28 ~ PTO Meeting

March 1 ~ All-School Celebration/Chili Feed

FEBRUARY GUEST SPEAKERS

We are please to welcome Stephanie Severson (Library/Media Instructor) to our February 28 PTO Meeting. She will inform parents about the types of technology our DaVinci Academy students have and how they use them.

We will also have Karen Gunter, author of Creative Couponing. Karen is a local couponer, who will share her expertise on "Extreme Couponing" and "Couponing 101!"

READ-A-THON EVENTS

We had such a great time at "Muffins with Moms" last week. Thank you to all the moms who brought their kids to listen to our special guest readers, Senator Michelle Benson and Senator Pam Wolf. They are both advocates (at the capitol) for charter schools and welcome your input.

This Wednesday, February 15, join us for "Donuts with Dads" from 7:30-8:30 am. This is a perfect time to get some reading minutes in and also spend a little extra time with Dad! Our special guest readers include State Representative Branden Petersen, who is on the House Education Reform Committee, and Tim Sanders, the Representative from Blaine. They will read aloud during this time and be available to chat with dads. Coffee will be provided by Caribou!

This is a short week at school but a long week at home, so check out the "I Love to Read" calendar for some fun ideas to keep the excitement up for reading. This is also a great time to collect pledges!

QUESTIONS ABOUT PLEDGES?

- We encourage pledges set at a certain amount versus per minute or hour (especially from neighbors); this makes it easier to collect pledges on the spot. Many parents and grandparents pledge per minute or hour, and that works to push the student to read more. Just make sure you set realistic amounts for yourself and your student (we've seen a few people have to 'amend' their pledges after seeing how much their student is reading!).

- What are the details about the Kindle? Each student who raises \$100 in pledges will have his/her name entered into a drawing for a FREE Kindle! We will give one away at the end of the Read-a-Thon.
- Pledge money is divided up by giving the students half the pledges they collect to purchase new books from *Usborne Books and More*. The other half goes back to the PTO, which is then used to support different needs at DaVinci Academy. This year, we will invest in updating and expanding technology used by our students on a daily basis.
- We like students to bring their pledges and minutes in to school as the Read-a-Thon is going on so we can track our goals!

Thanks to everyone for participating in this year's Read-a-Thon!



Senator Pam Wolf reads at Muffins with Moms.

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."

— Dr. Seuss, *I Can Read With My Eyes Shut!*