



# DaVinci Connection

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**First Day of School**  
August 8, 2011

**Finance Committee**  
Monday, July 18  
6:00 p.m.

**Policies Committee**  
Monday, July 18  
7:30 p.m.

**Policies Committee**  
Wednesday, July 20  
6:00 p.m.

**School Board Meeting**  
Monday, July 25  
6:00 p.m.

**Open Houses:**  
**Grades: K-2**  
Tuesday, August 2  
5:30-7:00 p.m.  
**Grades: 3-5**  
Wednesday, August 3  
5:30-7:00 p.m.  
**Grades: 5-8**  
Thursday, August 4  
5:30-7:00 p.m.

**Welcome Picnic**  
Thursday, August 11  
5:00—7:00 p.m.

**Picture Day**  
Friday, August 19

13001 Highway 65 North  
Blaine, MN 55434  
763-754-6577

[www.davincharterschool.org](http://www.davincharterschool.org)

## A NEW LOOK, A NEW NAME

The DaVinci Academy newsletter has been redesigned to complement the appearance and objective of our new website. With that, you will also notice the publication has a new name. Previously *DaVinci Dynamite*, our school newsletter is now *DaVinci Connection*. The new name reflects the objective of the publication to keep DaVinci stakeholders, students and staff well informed and tightly connected. The *DaVinci Connection* will strive to provide its readers with a wider variety of articles and in-depth information from sources throughout the DaVinci community. The *DaVinci Connection* will continue to provide announcements, important dates and general information about what is going on at school. You can also look forward to receiving regular updates from DaVinci's administrative staff, Board of Directors and various committee chairs.

If you have questions, comments, or if you would like to suggest ideas for future newsletter submissions, please contact Dawn Wenisch at [d2ndpower@msn.com](mailto:d2ndpower@msn.com) or [cklabunde@davincharterschool.org](mailto:cklabunde@davincharterschool.org).

## WELCOME BACK PICNIC

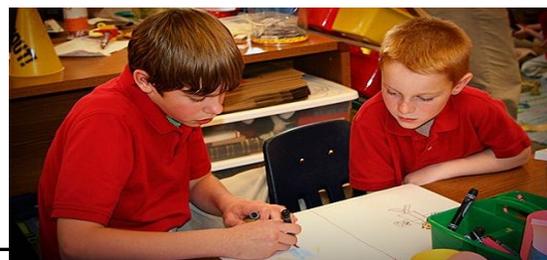
The picnic will be held on Thursday, August 11<sup>th</sup> at the Aquatore Park in Blaine which is located northwest of Highway 65 and Highway 10. The picnic will start at 5:00pm and will end at 7:00pm. The DaVinci Academy PTO will be having activities to entertain the children when they are finished eating. The Picnic is a potluck style menu and each family must bring their own drinks, cups, plates, and utensils. Seating is limited so please bring an extra blanket to use as a place to eat. Please check out the attached flyer.

## DIRECTOR'S DESK

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer break and staying safe during the last couple of storms. The school staff has been busy this summer getting ready for another great year. As you will read in this newsletter you will see new and updated information that you will need to know before the school year starts in three short weeks. As you prepare for the new school year, prepare your child for success.

The following two strategies will provide structure, relevance, and create a partnership with your child on their road to academic excellence. Make a calendar – being able to foresee deadlines gives children a sense of control over their lives. Start by having a conversation with your child about daily, weekly, and monthly schedules. Discuss and agree on predictable routines, school, extra-curricular, social activities, and other events that you and your child would like to pursue. The more input your child has about his/her time-management plan; the more likely he/she will follow through on the deadlines. Set goals together – Sit down with your child and brainstorm what he/she might achieve in the next school year. Focus on strengths as well as on areas that need improvement. Make the goals attainable. Meeting goals empowers children and enables them to meet tougher challenges ahead.

I look forward to more great days and appreciate the support of the parents, teachers, and students to make DaVinci Academy a great place to learn!





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## OPEN HOUSE INFORMATION

We will be having our open houses nights on August 2, 3, and 4. The open house will be from 5:30p.m. to 7:00p.m. DaVinci Academy PTO will be available for questions and they will be selling DaVinci Academy clothing.

- August 2 – grades K-2
- August 3 – grades 3-4
- August 4 – grades 5-8

Schedule of events –

5:30p.m. -5:45p.m.—Supply drop off to each classroom teacher

5:45p.m. – 6:15p.m.—parents/ students meet in classrooms for teacher welcome and expectations

6:15p.m. – 6:45p.m.– Parents meet in gym with administration and students will remain in classroom.

6:45p.m. – 7:00p.m.–Collect your child

## SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Please bring all supplies the night of the open house and give them to the classroom teacher. The list of supplies is located at the following link:

[http://davincicharterschool.org/School\\_Supplies](http://davincicharterschool.org/School_Supplies)

## CLASS LISTS

Class list will be posted at your child's open house. Class lists are currently being developed because of enrollment changes as we go through the summer break. Thank you for your patience with this process.

## ENROLLMENT

Good news! We are at full enrollment this year in each grade. Our total enrollment for this year is 412 students and last year we finished the year with 375 students. The school board did make a decision to increase the classroom size from 25 students in first grade through fifth grade to 26 students. In Kindergarten each classroom will have 18 students. With the addition of these students the school was able to hire extra staff to help our students achieve higher scores on the MN State MCA tests in math, reading, and science and ensure our students are receiving the highest quality of education.

## LUNCH

Attached to this newsletter is the August lunch menu. Please turn in the menu for each of your children with the appropriate payment for each meal. Please turn in the lunch calendar to the office during the open house nights on August 2, 3, and 4. The school board approved an increase of \$.25 per meal due to the vendor price increase. The new cost per meal with milk will be \$3.50. If a student would like to purchase individual milk the cost will be \$.50.

## DONE RIGHT FOODS

Our food service provider will be here during our open houses to greet parents and provide samples for you to taste. They will also be available to answer questions or concerns you have about the lunch menu. If you have any concerns about the lunch program please let Cory Klabunde, school director know immediately.

## APPLICATION OF EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS

Our school participates in the Food and Nutritional Program through the Minnesota Department of Education. Each year we send out the Application of Educational Benefits to all our families. This application qualifies families for the free or reduced price meals at our school. This application could help our school qualify for additional funds , grants, and discounts.

The application qualifies families for one school year. So if a family qualified for the 2010-11 school year the family will need to complete a new application for the 2011 -12 school year. If you have any questions regarding the application or the lunch program you may contact Stephanie Bacigalupo.

## CALENDAR CHANGES

There are a few less student days on this version of the 2011-12 calendar. The changes to student days are:

January 2 – No school day – the mandatory intersession will be four days in length.

June 8th and June 15th – No school on Fridays in June.

To view the updated school calendar please visit the following link to our school's website:

[www.davincicharterschool.org/CMSUploads//Calendar/2011-12\\_School\\_Calendar\\_approved6-20-11.pdf](http://www.davincicharterschool.org/CMSUploads//Calendar/2011-12_School_Calendar_approved6-20-11.pdf)

If you have any questions please contact Cory Klabunde, School Director at [cklabunde@davincicharterschool.org](mailto:cklabunde@davincicharterschool.org)



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## WE ARE LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD MINDS

Our school board committees are looking for interested stakeholders to be active participants on these committees and to give input to the success of DaVinci Academy. For the list of committees and a short description of what each committee's focus, please visit the following link to our school website [www.davincicharterschool.org/committees](http://www.davincicharterschool.org/committees).

## CLASSROOM/SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are still in need of parents to volunteer at DaVinci Academy. We would like each family to volunteer 40 hours each year. A great way to volunteer will be to help out in your child's classroom. Please contact your child's teacher to find out ways to help in your child's classroom by reading to students, help with projects, or find out when the next field trip is going to be occurring. If you have not completed a background check for DaVinci Academy please contact Marcia Bouwman. Volunteers are required to complete a criminal background check prior to volunteering anywhere in the school. The cost for the background check is \$8.00 per volunteer. The background check is done once and is good for the time you are with DaVinci Academy. The criminal background check is submitted with the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) for review.

## NEW ITEMS ACQUIRED FROM OTHER CHARTER SCHOOLS

This summer DaVinci Academy was able to acquire many items from two closing charter schools. Both charter schools taught students in grades 9-12. We will be using these items to reduce the cost of adding our high school program. Some of the items we received included: band instruments, bookshelves, curriculum, desks, chairs, and tables.

## PICTURE PERFECT

Picture day will be August 19<sup>th</sup>. Look for order forms to come home the first week of school.

## AFTERNOON PICKUP PROCEDURE

All buses will come to the front of the building and pick up the students riding the bus. This includes the white buses from local daycares. Students are dismissed at 4:00pm.

- Parents who pick up their students at the back door will need to stay in the line of cars to pick up their children
- Drive as far forward as possible. A staff member will direct you to the location to pick up your child.
- If you park, park in the parking lot and not in the pickup line, then you must walk into the school and pick up your child from their home-room.
- Students are not allowed to be picked up from the front entrance of the school.
- Please do not stop and get out of your car while in the line.
- Keep the drive way to the back parking lot open to allow other vehicles to leave safely and to keep the line of cars moving for the next parent.
- Please do not line up to pick up students until 3:45 PM at the earliest.
- Students will not be allowed to cross the driveway to go to the Aldi's parking lot. Parents should walk over to the school to get their student.

Parents will need to be patient to pick up students after school. In the past it takes about 12 minutes on average to have all students picked up by parents or car-pools. We have 32 additional students going to school here this year, so it will take additional time to move the pickup line along in a fluent and efficient manner.

I am very pleased with the staff's ability to get parents and students together after school so they can make their journey home after a great day at school. Thank you for your cooperation and patience in improving the efficiency of this pick up process while keeping children, staff, and parents safe.

## CAR POOLING

If you are interested in car pooling with another family please email Stephanie Bacigalupo at [sbacigalupo@davincicharterschool.org](mailto:sbacigalupo@davincicharterschool.org).