



DaVinci Connection

DATES TO REMEMBER

Welcome Picnic

Thursday, August 11

5:00—7:00 pm

Aquatone Park

Board Meeting

Monday, August 15

6:00 pm

Picture Day

Friday, August 19

PTO General Meeting

Tuesday, August 23

6:30 pm

DaVinci Academy

Board of Directors

meeting is on Monday,

August 15th at 6:00PM

You can view the

proposed meeting agenda

on Friday, August 12th

in the afternoon

at our DaVinci Academy

web site [http://](http://davincicharterschool.org/meeting-schedule-and-minutes)

[davincicharterschool.org/](http://davincicharterschool.org/meeting-schedule-and-minutes)

[meeting-schedule-and-](http://davincicharterschool.org/meeting-schedule-and-minutes)

[minutes](http://davincicharterschool.org/meeting-schedule-and-minutes)

School Supplies Link:

[http://](http://davincicharterschool.org/School_Supplies)

[davincicharterschool.org/](http://davincicharterschool.org/School_Supplies)

[School_Supplies](http://davincicharterschool.org/School_Supplies)

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are still in need of parents to volunteer at DaVinci Academy. We would like each family to volunteer 40 hours per year. A great way to volunteer is in your child's classroom. Please contact your child's teacher about reading to students, help with projects, or to help on field trips.

Currently we are looking for individuals to volunteer in our Library/Media Center. Our new Librarian is David Nelson. He is looking for several people to help organize and coordinate our book selection into an electronic system. Please contact David through email at dnelson@davincicharterschool.org to volunteer.

Volunteers are also needed to help during lunch and recess. If you are interested in volunteering in the kitchen, lunchroom, or at recess please contact Stephanie Bacigalupo at sbacigalupo@davincicharterschool.org.

Volunteers are needed for a couple of small project in the school's office. If you are interested please contact Stephanie Bacigalupo.

sbacigalupo@davincicharterschool.org.

The storage room in the middle school area is in desperate need of organization. This is more than a one person job so we will need three or four volunteers to work together to orchestrate this project. Please contact Cory Klabunde to volunteer for this task at cklabunde@davincicharterschool.org.



2011-12 BUS ROUTE SCHEDULE

Attached to the newsletter is the updated 2011-12 school bus route schedule (as of August 9/2011). Please review the updated 2011-12 bus route schedule carefully, because some of the times have changed and we have **added a new bus stop to the green bus**. The new bus stop is now located at 99th Lane NE and Tyler Street, which will start on Monday, August 15.

We ask for your patience with the bus service at this time. As we have new bus drivers, new routes, and new students participating in our bus service, the arrival times are behind schedule. DaVinci Academy is working with our bus company to create a bus schedule that will work for most families. The first week is the time we review issues and attempt to correct them to create a seamless bus schedule. If you have any issues or concerns please contact Cory Klabunde.

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 also help our school qualify for additional funds, grants, and discounts. The application qualifies families for one school year. Therefore, if your family qualified for the 2010-11 school year, you will still 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 at sbacigalupo@davincicharterschool.org.



DaVinci Connection

FROM THE DESK OF the High School Coordinator:

Although my name has been mentioned a few times in recent communications from DaVinci Academy, it is time I introduce myself. My name is Patrick Hobot. I am married to a wonderful woman who has blessed me with two amazing children. We are residents of Blaine, and that contributed greatly to my desire to become a part of the DaVinci family and to directly serve the community in which I live. I earned my teaching credentials from St. Cloud State University and my Masters degree in Educational Leadership from St. Mary's University of Minnesota. I taught English and other subjects for several years to a variety of grade levels before entering into the charter school world. For the past eleven years, I worked with what eventually became the largest charter school system in Minnesota. During that time, I was responsible for creating a middle school and two high schools essentially from the ground up, developing the curriculum plan, working with the contractors to design the physical spaces, and acquiring and training talented staff. When the opportunity with DaVinci Academy arose, I knew it was calling for change for my family and me. DaVinci Academy's new high school program presents exciting new challenges for me. My understanding is that the expectations for rigor in the curriculum are above the norm, and a primary goal is to have students college-ready even before they leave high school.

With that expectation in mind, I have been busy sorting through the first task that met me as I walked through the doors (particularly of the gymnasium) where a massive amount of curriculum materials and miscellany acquired from some closing schools had been assembled. It has been a significant task, and we were able to pull some very useful materials that will be valuable in the future, as well as some pieces immediately beneficial to the K-8 program. As well, I was fortunate enough to come on board just in time to join a group of teachers attending the Springboard pre-AP curriculum training in Elmhurst, Illinois. I spent three days in training and the majority of two days on the road with some very fine, intelligent and dedicated educators that I have to say we are very fortunate to have at DaVinci Academy, and for you to have serving your children's educational needs. The Springboard pre-AP curriculum itself is a very exciting approach to teaching that truly embraces standard-based learning and assessment. It is deeply challenging in its application of learned skills to new material, and I think it is prescriptive for addressing the expectations of the post-secondary institutions and employers in our children's future. I look forward to working more closely with the program as the high school plan is developed with AP coursework as a focus.

I am currently in the process of developing a comprehensive calendar for the high school project, and establishing a Google site within the

Davincicharterschool.org domain to track progress in the development of the high school. However, it is also my hope to be highly responsive to the ideas and perspectives of the stakeholders of DaVinci Academy. Therefore, there is a "meet me" meeting scheduled on Wednesday evening, August 17 at 6:00PM in Room 306 (middle school math room) here at the school. At this meeting, it will mostly be a recap of what I've written here, and perhaps the floating of a few ideas to incorporate into the expectations for student achievement as a path for graduation. It will also be great opportunity to meet some of you and to hear your ideas and concerns for the development of the high school program so I can bring those ideas back to the leadership of DaVinci Academy and make sure we are aware of the good ideas our community has to offer.

I look forward to meeting you soon. Thanks for the opportunity to use my experience and expertise in such a rewarding way.

TABLES & CHAIRS FOR SALE

We have wooden tables and chairs to sell. These items have been retired and replaced with furniture acquired from two other charter schools that have recently closed. We are asking \$5.00 for the tables and \$2.00 for the chairs. If you are interested, please contact Cory Klabunde to make arrangement to purchase and pick up of these items.



DaVinci PTO Place

INTEREST & TALENT

Be on the look-out for our new Interest & Talent Survey to be coming out to you soon. It will provide you with many different opportunities and ways of successfully reaching your volunteer hour goals with the school. Examples of these opportunities can vary from things such as classroom time to field trips, construction or even serving on a committee.

BOX TOPS

Fun Fact: Did you know Box Tops is the easiest fundraiser we can do for our school? Clip and send. That is all it takes. Starting on September 1-30 for every 25 Box Tops turned in your child will be entered in a back to school drawing. Please be sure to include students name/teacher so they will receive credit. We will be doing more of these this year so let's get busy asking neighbors, friends and family for those Box Tops. It's easy to earn cash for your school. Go to btfe.com and sign up today!

WELCOME BACK PICNIC

The picnic will be held on Thursday, August 11th 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.

MEET N' GREET

Announcing our first ever PTO and Administration Meet n'Greet. Parents will be invited to come meet the PTO and Administration on a grade level basis. Look for more information to be provided at the Welcome Back Picnic on August 11th and in upcoming newsletters.

PTO LOGO ART CONTEST

The DaVinci PTO would like to create our own distinct logo and would like to incorporate and showcase the art from one of DaVinci Academy's own students.

Rules:

1. Must be "drawn" art, not photograph
2. Must include the words: DaVinci PTO
3. Must incorporate children or hands into the drawing in some way
4. Must be black & white, no color please
5. Contest ends September 30th

Please submit all entries to front desk and Ms. Bouwman will put them in the PTO mailbox. The winner will receive a prize, yet to be determined.

FACEBOOK

Keep in touch with what the PTO and school are doing. "Like" us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/DaVinci.PTO> to keep up to date and connected with the DaVinci community.

DID YOU KNOW...

You can find a variety of useful and interesting information on the DaVinci Academy website!

Current events, calendars, newsletters, school supply lists, policies, faculty information, Board of Director meeting minutes, useful links and much, much more. If you are looking for a specific item or topic you can also use the search bar, located in the top right hand corner, by typing in a keyword. If you haven't yet had the opportunity to explore the site, take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with all it has to offer. <http://davincicharterschool.org/>

Check it out and add it to your favorites list!