



DaVinci Connection

DATES TO REMEMBER

PTO Meeting
Tuesday, January 24
6:30 pm
Room 305

Intent to Return Forms Due
Friday, January 27

School Board Meeting
Monday, January 30
6:00 pm
Room 302

Candidate Forum
Monday, January 30
7:00 pm
Room 302

High School Coordinator's
Town Hall Meeting
Wednesday, February 1
6:00 pm
Room 302

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

[http://davinicharterschool.org/
Calendar.aspx](http://davinicharterschool.org/Calendar.aspx)

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www.davinicharterschool.org

HOLLY FISCHER NAMED INSTRUCTIONAL COORDINATOR (by Terry Moffatt, Academic Director)

At the December board meeting, a decision was made, with the approval of the board and the recommendation of the administration, to hire an Instructional Coordinator. The main purpose of this new administrative position is to provide additional support for our teachers. The Instructional Coordinator will mentor teachers and assist them refining the skills they need to create a classroom environment which facilitates learning and exploration.

We are excited to announce that Holly Fischer has accepted this position! Holly is one of the founding teachers of the school and has a vested interest in the success of DaVinci Academy and our students. She has taught kindergarten here for the last 4 years and has a number of years of educational experience prior to DaVinci Academy. As the Instructional Coordinator, Holly will work closely with staff to ensure that they have the support they need to promote positive academic growth in our students.

The board and administration truly believe the addition of Mrs. Fischer to our administration team will have a significant, positive impact on our school community. She has both the instructional background and familiarity with our teachers to make a real difference!



2ND GRADER IS ARTSTAMPS FINALIST

Congratulations to 2nd grader Logan L., whose artwork has been selected for the January "My Fantasy Land" Top Artist of the Month Campaign at ArtStamps! Logan's artwork is on display for the month of January at www.artstamps.com/gallery. Visit the web site this month, and vote for Logan's artwork on the Artist of the Month page. The judges selected unique artwork based on creativity, artistic achievement, correlation to the theme, and age group. Logan's artwork was chosen from thousands, so this is quite an honor!

Way to go, Logan!



FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL COORDINATOR'S DESK

(by Patrick Hobot, High School Coord.)

Hello again! It seems that the cold weather has finally arrived, but the development of the high school is heating up so I'm toasty warm in my little office in the back. This episode of the Coordinator's Corner features a Q & A session to address some of the great inquiries from the stakeholders of DaVinci Academy. But first, let me remind everyone that the next High School Coordinator's Town Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 1, at 6:00 pm in the middle school math room (#302). Please feel free to come in, get an update as to what's complete in the curriculum for the high school, and to fire away with both questions and ideas for the future of DaVinci Academy High School.

Meanwhile, let's get to the entrée...

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FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL COORDINATOR'S DESK

Cont. from page 1

Q: How does the new state Post Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) affect DaVinci Academy students?

A: According to the MDE web site, the new rule for PSEO does the following:

- Allows 9th and 10th grade students to enroll in “college in the schools” classes if, after all the 11th and 12th grade students have applied, more students are needed to offer the course.
- Expands eligibility for concurrent enrollment programs to include technical courses within a recognized career and technical education program.
- Directs districts to provide information on post secondary enrollment options to students in 8th and 9th grade.

Note: Access to PSEO for 9th and 10th graders is limited to “college in the schools,” and only when more students are needed to offer a course after 11th and 12th grade students have applied (see above).

- Limits the number of academic years 9th and 10th grade students may enroll in post-secondary courses for secondary credit. Students first enrolling in grade 9 are limited to 4 years; students first enrolling in grade 10 are limited to 3 years.

Essentially, the new rule doesn't affect our students as we do not have 11th and 12th graders yet, and we are not planning to offer “College in the Schools,” also known as “Concurrent Enrollment” courses at this time. Concurrent enrollment classes are basically college-level courses taught at the high school, by high school instructors under the mentorship of college faculty. DaVinci High School is looking more at true PSEO (students go to college) and CLEP (College Level Examination Program) as well as AP (advanced placement approved by the college board) courses as routes for our students to gain college credits while in high school.

Q: When the high school opens next fall, will middle school students be able to earn high school credits during their middle school years?

A: Not at this time, and there are a number of reasons for this. The first is that the board would have to approve a policy to allow for that to happen. Currently, no policy exists. The *main* reason, though, that the

administration is not intending to advocate to offer high school courses and/or credits to middle school students is due to the increased rigor and expectations (pre-AP level math and language arts programs, for example) that have been introduced at the middle school that should properly challenge each of our students. Teachers are responsible for differentiating instruction to reach outlier students in their classes, but we are not in position to offer credits for that differentiation. There are other factors to consider as well, such as small-school scheduling challenges, and that the high school courses, as they are being designed, are intended to be at honors level and above, a number of which will have college level rigor and credits attached.

Q: Will the high school offer home economics and industrial technology/shop courses?

A: It is not in the plans at this time. All elective paths require significant amounts of funding. DaVinci Academy of Arts and Science has chosen the Arts and Sciences as its focal points and as foundations of our mission and vision. Thus, our resources for electives will be targeting arts and science. The Career and Technical Education offerings at DaVinci Academy will be more in the fields associated with arts and sciences, such as digital media arts (and marketing), the continuation of the music programs, and science electives consistent with the vision and mission of DaVinci Academy, as well as business communications and financial literacy curricula that we feel are part of a responsible high school education regardless of the magnet programs a school represents.

Q: Will Health be taught at the high school?

A: Yes. According to state rule, health instruction is required at least once between grades 9-12. Where that instruction falls for a student may be a matter of elective choices, but it is currently intended for the 10th grade year as a partner class to Human Biology, which is part of an intensified science offering in 10th grade to prepare students for the end-of-course exam in Life Sciences that the state includes as a part of the graduation requirements.

Well, that's all for now folks. I look forward to more questions and the great ideas we've been getting from our families and stakeholders. Have a great winter!



PTO Place

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 24, 6:30 pm – PTO Meeting
(Guest Speaker - Heidi Gadja)

February 1 – Read-a-Thon Kick-Off

DOES EATING BREAKFAST IMPROVE SCHOOL PERFORMANCE?

According to many experts, eating a nutritional breakfast can have a beneficial influence on school performance. One study found that children who ate a healthy breakfast had higher energy levels and better learning ability than similar students who did not eat breakfast. Another study conducted by Harvard researchers found that students who ate breakfast were "significantly more attentive in the classroom, earned higher grades in math, and had significantly fewer behavioral and emotional problems." Let's get cooking!

Here are some quick and healthy breakfast ideas:

- Prepare a casserole the night before. Pop it in the microwave when you wake up, and it will be ready to go when you and the kids are ready for breakfast
- Incorporate complex carbohydrates, such as whole wheat toast and bagels. Spread peanut butter and raisins on top of either for added flavor.
- Bake muffins early in the week, then grab one or two each morning, or check out a local bakery for healthy varieties.
- Make waffles on Sunday morning and freeze the leftovers. You can pop 'em in the toaster for a homemade breakfast.
- Have you ever tried a tortilla for breakfast? Wrap it up with cold turkey and cheese, grab an apple, and they're on their way!
- Whole-egg or egg white omelets with fresh or frozen veggies (carrots, broccoli, celery, peppers, onions, and even black beans, make great additions).
- Don't forget cold cereal. We're not talking about those covered with sugar, but the healthy variety. Items such as Wheaties and Cheerios are always good choices.
- Make a shake or smoothie. Blend fruit and yogurt; top with granola!

READ-A-THON STARTS ON FEBRUARY 1

February is "I Love to Read Month," and DaVinci Academy students will celebrate by reading! We will kick off our annual Read-a-Thon on February 1, and it will go all month long! We have set some really fun goals and need the whole month to achieve them. We have great events and surprises planned for the month as well as an exciting conclusion ...if our goals are met! Watch for Read-a-Thon forms coming home next week, as well as more info and details for all of the exciting things we have planned to motivate our students to read!

FACEBOOK

Check out the PTO on Facebook and "Like" us to keep up-to-date on everything that's going on!

<https://www.facebook.com/DaVinci.PTO>



THANK YOU

Thanks to everyone who came to the Breakfast at Bruegger's. We had a great time and may do it again soon!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The PTO needs someone to provide childcare during the January 24 meeting. If you are interested, contact Dina Lantzer at jcbondslave@yahoo.com.