



# DaVinci Connection

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

High School "Town Meeting"  
Wednesday, June 20  
6:00 pm  
Middle School Math Room

Last Day of School  
Thursday, June 21

Special School Board  
Meeting  
Tuesday, July 10  
6:00 pm  
Room 302

First Day of School  
Monday, August 13

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

## **HIGH SCHOOL STARTS IN EIGHT WEEKS**

*(by Cory Klabunde, School Director)*

We have finished planning the four years of high school. Thank you to Patrick Hobot, the high school coordinator, for his hard work designing classes, holding monthly "Town Meetings," and communicating with parents about the high school program.

I want to paint a picture of what high school will look like starting next year. We are going to change from our four quarter schedule to a trimester schedule with six periods per day. By the end of the school year, every student has the opportunity to earn eight credits toward graduation. Each student will be able to earn 32 credits by the end of their high school career.

A student will earn, at a minimum, four credits in each of these disciplines: English, Social Studies, Science, Math, and Art; one credit in PE; a half credit in Health. The remaining credits will be earned in elective courses.

In 9<sup>th</sup> grade, the first four periods will be 70 minutes long for English, Math, Science, and Social Studies. The last two periods will be 45 minutes long. English and Math (1.5 credits each) will be year-long courses. Science (1.0 credit) will be two trimesters in length, and the third trimester will be Health. Social Studies (1.0 credit) and Spanish (0.5 credit) will be taught year-long on a three-day rotation; Social Studies for two days and online Spanish for the third day. Physical Education (1.0 credit) will be every day for 45 minutes. The last period of the day is reserved for the Arts courses (Choir, Band, Orchestra, general music, and visual and organic arts). Each student will choose three elective classes that will rotate on a day-to-day rotation.

I am very excited about the addition of high school programs, and I am

looking forward to the first graduating class in four short years! If you have any questions about the high school, there is one more "Town Meeting" this Wednesday, June 20, at 6:00 pm in the middle school Math room. Patrick Hobot and I will be there to answer any question you may have. If you have questions or comments and cannot make it on June 20, please give Terry Moffatt or myself a call at 763-754-6577.

## **DEPARTING STAFF**

*(by Holly Fischer, Instructional Coordinator)*

This is the time of year in education when teachers make decisions about where they will teach the following year. I want to let you know about a few teachers and staff members who will move on to other opportunities next year so that you can have a chance to thank them for all they've done and wish them well.

Marcia Bouwman will retire from her front desk position to spend time with her husband and family. Para Sunita Stanton is leaving to move to Colorado. Sara Erickson and Susanna Elliott, middle school teachers, are moving on to new opportunities, as is Phill Erickson, the instrumental music teacher. Remy Dick, our 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher, has found a job right around the corner from her Monticello home, and Matthew Brossart has taken a language arts position at the Minneapolis charter school where his wife works. Lastly, Patrick Hobot has fulfilled his contract with us in designing a high school program, and he will move on as well. Please take the time to connect with these people before the end of the year. They have been a valued part of our team and will be missed.

So at this point, you are asking yourself, "Who is going to teach those classes?"

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Because we currently have such a talented group of teachers, we were able to move some people internally to maintain consistency for our students. These are the positions we know about for next year.

- Cristina Mitchell, current AM kindergarten teacher, will be the new 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher with Ms. Kaiser.
- Jason Sirovy, current 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher, will teach on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade team.
- Karen Carter, current PM kindergarten and literacy small group teacher, will teach 3<sup>rd</sup> grade with Ms. Morgan.
- Elizabeth Andringa, our current middle school reading and math RTI teacher, will teach on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade team.
- Susan Buckrey, current paraprofessional, will serve as the ELL (English Language Learners) teacher and the third and fourth grade RTI (Response to Intervention) teacher.
- Stephanie Severson, our current library/technology and 5<sup>th</sup> grade reading group teacher, will be the new middle school ELA teacher.

We still have some holes to fill and are currently interviewing for those positions. We are earnestly seeking the best applicants for our school and will introduce them when we have news to share.

#### FROM THE MUSIC ROOM

*(by Stephanie Hunter, Vocal Music Instructor)*

Check out DaVinci Academy's own music video of "Red Polo Shirt," featuring our K-8 students! You can find the video on the [VIMEO](https://vimeo.com) web site. Please refer to the main body of the email for the password or contact the school office. We are hosting it privately so that it is only available to DaVinci Academy members who have the password. Enjoy!



#### FREE YOUNG ADULT AUDIOBOOKS

*(by Stephanie Severson, Library/Technology Instructor)*

Generous audiobook publishers are partnering with SYNC again to offer a terrific schedule of FREE audiobooks to download and enjoy this summer. Mark your calendar so you will not miss a week. As usual, their pairings are thoughtful and interesting. [Click here](#) for more information.

**June 14-20:** *The Eleventh Plague* by Jeff Hirsch (Scholastic Audiobooks) and *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck, adapt. by Frank Galati (L.A. Theatre Works)

**June 21- 27:** *Iris* by Francisco X. Stork (Listening Library) and *Sense and Sensibility* by Jane Austen (Tantor Media)

**June 28-July 4:** *The Amulet of Samarkand* by Jonathan Stroud (Listening Library) and *Tales from the Arabian Nights* by Andrew Lang (Naxos Audio)

**July 5-11:** *Anna Dressed in Blood* by Kendare Blake (AudioGo) and *The Woman in White* by Wilkie Collins (AudioGo)

**July 12-18:** *Guys Read: Funny Business* by Jon Scieszka (Harper Audio) and *The Notorious Jumping Frog of Calaveras County and Other Stories* by Mark Twain (Recorded Books)

**July 19-25:** *Cleopatra's Moon* by Vicky Alvear Shecter (Oasis Audio) and *Antony and Cleopatra* by William Shakespeare (AudioGo)

**July 26-Aug. 1:** *Pinned* by Alfred C. Martino (Listen & Live Audio); and a title to be announced (Brilliance Audio)

**August 2-8:** *Daughter of Smoke and Bone* by Laini Taylor (Hachette Audio) and *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens (Blackstone Audio)

**August 9-15:** *Skulduggery Pleasant* by Derek Landy, (Harper Audio) and *Dead Men Kill* by L. Ron Hubbard (Galaxy Press)

**August 16-22:** *The Whale Rider* by Witi Ihimaera (Bolinda Audio) and *The Call of the Wild* by Jack London (Naxos Audio)