

DaVinci Connection

DATES TO REMEMBER

No School
Friday, August 31-Tuesday,
September 4

School Resumes
Wednesday, September 5

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

Give with Target®

Remember to vote for
DaVinci Academy in the
Give with Target campaign
([Facebook.com/Target](#)). As
of Tuesday, August 21, we
had 298 votes! That is \$250
in Target gift cards!

STUDENT RECOGNITION PROGRAMS

*(by Gregg Eldred, Student
Development Coordinator)*

Last year, we initiated the Positive Referral Program at DaVinci Academy. In that school year, over 1,000 Positive Referrals were awarded to students ...1,188 to be exact. That is fantastic!

We will continue to use the Positive Referral Program but have initiated several new programs to continue to recognize students for displaying good behavior, academic achievement, and exhibiting the character traits of the month that we are focusing on.

SPARK - The first program is one that we are actually *reintroducing* to DaVinci Academy. If you were here two years ago, you may be familiar with SPARK. The SPARK program is for students in kindergarten-6th grade and stands for:

Spirit

Participation

Academics

Responsibility

Kindness

Students can be awarded SPARK tickets for displaying the character traits listed above. Once a student receives a SPARK ticket, he or she places it in the SPARK container located at the front office. Five tickets will be drawn from the container each Friday, and the winners will have an opportunity to choose from a variety of small prizes. The remaining tickets will be set aside for an additional end-of-the-trimester drawing.

Student of the Month - A new recognition program this year involves the students learning about different character traits that we believe are important. August's

character trait is "Attitude." Each month, DaVinci Academy staff will select a boy and a girl in each grade who exemplify the month's trait and display good behavior to be a "Student of the Month." The chosen students will be recognized at one of two monthly assemblies; a kindergarten-4th grade assembly and a 5th-9th grade assembly.

Sub Stub - The final new recognition program is the Sub Stub program. Substitute teachers will award Sub Stub tickets to any student who displays good behavior or students who are helpful while the substitute teacher is working in our building. Students receiving Sub Stub tickets have an opportunity to win a free sub sandwich from Subway through a weekly drawing.

We look forward to another great year at DaVinci Academy! If you have any questions about our new programs or about any student behavior issues, feel free to contact me, Mr. Eldred, at 763-754-6577, x116.

IF LARGE GROUPS OF SMALL CHILDREN SCARE YOU...

(by Tracey Cramer-Kelly, Parent)

When you think about volunteering at DaVinci Academy, do you think of chaperoning field trips or helping out in the classroom, library, or lunch room? That kind of volunteer service is needed and appreciated!

But what if your strengths and abilities lie elsewhere? DaVinci Academy wants to use them! You don't need a background in education to offer valuable insight. If you've ever worked a job in retail, hospitality, or a business office, you have skills that DaVinci Academy needs.

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There are many “behind the scenes” committees that support the staff, students, and Board – and several of them are in dire need of help as we begin a new school year:

- **Communications** is responsible for the newsletter you’re reading now, as well as the web site, public relations – anything that involves sharing information with parents and other stakeholders.
- If you like working with numbers (or if you’ve ever run a small business), the **Finance Committee** wants you. DaVinci Academy has been fiscally sound so far, and we intend to keep it that way.
- **Facilities:** This is an exciting time in the life of DaVinci Academy! What is the best use of space in the current building? What equipment do we need? Where and how should DaVinci Academy expand as we grow? Help make those decisions.
- **Policy & Procedure** affects *everyone*. To make the best decisions, this committee needs more parent input. Special need: employment lawyer or someone who has access to that field.

As a fellow parent (and Communications Committee member), I encourage you to consider meeting your required volunteer hours by serving on a committee. I guarantee you’ll enjoy using your skills to contribute to DaVinci Academy’s success!

A full list of committees can be found by [clicking here](#). When you pick the committee you are interested in joining, please contact the committee chairperson for more information.

PLANNER AWARDS

(by Terry Moffatt, Academic Director)

Thank you to all who read the reminder in the planner and emailed Ms. Moffatt about what you were reading. The 10th student to email was fourth grader Zennon K. He received a \$10 gift card to Subway. Keep watching the planners for other chances to win!

PIANO & VIOLIN LESSONS

If your child is interested in taking piano or violin lessons, contact Marsha Emmons at 612-991-0058. She has Tuesday and Wednesday after-school lesson times available at DaVinci Academy.

PROCEDURAL REMINDERS FOR THE START OF THE YEAR

(by Holly Fischer, Instructional Coordinator)

Now that we are back into the swing of things at school we need to make note of a few procedural items that help the school run smoothly.

1. There is no parking or dropping off of children at the front of the school in the A.M. This is a bus zone and parents who try to do the quick “stop and go” end up causing congestion issues for others. Please follow the line of cars and drop your children off at the back of the school.
2. When you come to school at the end of the day to pick up your child, please wait by the receptionist’s desk for classes to let out. The activities that bring closure to the school day are important and work best when the kids are focused and undistracted.
3. If your child has forgotten a lunch or other item at home and you are dropping it off, please leave it at the front desk for Mrs. Young to deliver to the classroom.
4. Lastly, please provide healthy beverages for your child at lunch or snack time and avoid sending pop to school.

Thank you for remembering these little things, as they do help to set the tone for an organized and efficient school day.

CLASSROOM WEBSITES

(by Holly Fischer, Instructional Coordinator)

As a DaVinci parent, I have struggled with keeping track of the many things my sons need for each class. In an effort to make our school website more of a one-stop shopping destination for everything parents need, we have asked teachers to create a classroom website. Teachers will post their weekly newsletters here, as well as highlight important assignments or web addresses that students should be aware of. Those links should be available on the website soon and will be under the **Student Resources** tab in the **Staff Directory** section.