



# DaVinci Connection

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**First Day of School**  
August 13, 2012

**School Hours:**  
8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**Back to School Nights**  
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

August 7: Gr. 7 - 9

August 8: Gr. 4 - 6

August 9: Gr. 1 - 3

**Kindergarten Family  
Conferences**

August 9  
9:00 am - 4:00 pm  
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

August 10  
9:00 am - 4:00 pm

**Welcome Picnic**  
Thursday, August 16  
5:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.

**School Pictures**  
Friday, August 17

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

13001 Central Ave NE  
Blaine, MN 55434  
763-754-6577

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

## SPANISH IS COMING TO DAVINCI!

Our school will be using an online Spanish program this year in the third through ninth grades. An online format will allow for maximum flexibility in scheduling and is a great way to engage our digitally savvy students. This is the way the program will look. The third through fifth graders will be taking the Exposure course which will give them an introduction to basic words and phrases with a focus on reading, listening, writing and speaking. The sixth through eighth graders will be taking the Competency level course which moves students on to grammar, sentence structure and applying Spanish in common situations. This is a fully online program and the students will have class time every third day proctored by a DaVinci Academy teacher. The program is a complete course, but 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students have the **option** of taking their learning further by using the virtual language component. The Middlebury online teachers conduct weekly virtual sessions using an interactive web-based platform. The ninth grade class will be using this synchronous learning model in their daily high school credit Spanish course. The per-student cost for an online teacher to add to the program is \$250.00 a year. There will be a sign up table at Back to School Night for 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade families who are interested in working with the online teacher. You can learn more about the Middlebury Language Program at these sites: <http://salesdemo.middil.com/> or <http://www.middleburyinteractive.com/index.php>.

One more thing, because our school is contracting for a year-long site license, families have the opportunity to take an additional language at home. You could try Chinese, French, German or Latin!

## EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Remember to sign up for extra-curricular activities. The form is attached to this newsletter.

## BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHTS

We will be having our Back to School Nights on August 7, 8, and 9. The hours will be from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

- August 7 – grades 7 - 9
- August 8 – grades 4 - 6
- August 9 – grades 1 - 3
- August 9-10  
Kindergarten Conferences

Schedule of events –

6:00 p.m. - 6:40 p.m. - Meet classroom teacher and drop off school supplies

6:40 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. - Parents/students meet in classrooms for teacher welcome and expectations

7:00 p.m. – 7:25 p.m.– Parents meet in gym with administration and students will remain with their classroom teacher.

7:25 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. – Parents pick up their students and sign up for various activities.

**Note:** 7th - 9th graders will have a slightly different schedule for this night. Watch for posted signs around the school.

Kindergarten families will have the opportunity to meet with the teachers one on one for beginning of the year conferences. These conferences will be 20 minutes long. While parents are meeting with the teachers, DaVinci Paraprofessionals will be assessing the students on reading skills. Conferences will be held Thursday, August 9th from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., and Friday, August 10th from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Parents need to call or email the school office to set up those conferences.

Class list will be posted at the Back to School Night. Class lists are currently being developed because of enrollment changes as we go through the summer break. Thank you for your patience!



### **"AUTHORIZED VEHICLE" WINDOW CLINGS**

DaVinci Academy is modifying the student pick-up process to assist staff in quickly identifying authorized drivers. Each family will be given two static-cling window decals that will need to be placed on the front windshield of their vehicle (driver's side, lower corner). We will distribute a maximum of two additional clings upon request for anyone on your *Authorized Pick-up List*. There will be a nominal fee for any replacement decals. The decals are numbered and assigned to a family or individual, not a specific vehicle.

Anyone who comes through the pick-up line without the appropriate window decal will be required to exit the pick-up line, park their car, and sign the student(s) out at the front desk. Identification will be required and they will be checked against the *Authorized Pick-up List* or recent communication from parents or guardians.

Window decals will be distributed at the *Start of the Year Conferences* (for kindergarten) or *Back to School Nights*. Please contact the front office if you have any questions regarding this process or if you need to request additional window decals.

### **SUPPLY LISTS ARE NOW AVAILABLE!**

You can find the 2012/2013 student supply list on our [website](#). This year, DaVinci Academy is giving parents the opportunity to save time and money by paying an upfront fee for a *limited* number of classroom supplies and having the school order them on an as-needed basis. This will not only make shopping easier for your family but also eliminate the storage issues we face at the beginning of the year. We have negotiated special prices for these items from our supply vendor and included only those things that we believe we could get for a better bulk rate. The "school purchase/parent reimburse" items are limited to community supplies such as printer paper, hand sanitizer, glue sticks, pencils, and sanitizer wipes. This process will substantially shorten the list of supplies you need to shop for and bring to school.

Supply fees will be collected at the *Start of the Year Conferences* (for kindergarten) or *Back to School Nights*. If you have questions on this, please contact [Terry Moffatt](#) or [Lee Swearingen](#).

### **WELCOME BACK PICNIC**

The picnic will be held on Thursday, August 16th at Aquatore Park in Blaine which is located northwest of Highway 65 and Highway 10. The picnic will start at 5:00 p.m. and will end at 7:00 p.m. The Picnic is 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

### **PRETEENS NEED SHOTS, TOO!**

Call to schedule your child's preteen doctor visit today! The preteen doctor visit is key to a healthy start for adolescence. It also the perfect opportunity to discuss ways to stay healthy, such as eating right, being active, and standing up to peer pressure. The doctor will also recommend immunizations to protect your child from some serious diseases. Some immunizations help strengthen your child's baby shots and others are new for preteens. If you are concerned about the cost of shots, free or low cost immunizations are available. Talk to your doctor or clinic. (Compliments of the Minnesota Department of Health –MDH)

### **NEW CHAMBER CHOIR FOR GRADES 7-9**

Mrs. Hunter is auditioning students to be a part of a select choir who want to excel at singing and performing. They will explore challenging and fun music including a madrigal performance in the winter and jazz/show choir music in the spring. Chamber Choir will be made up of 8-12 students who must also participate in Concert Choir. Both choirs will be offered during the school day. Auditions will be held on Tuesday, August 7<sup>th</sup> at Back to School Night, so please contact [Mrs. Hunter](#) to arrange a time to sing for her.

### **MUSICAL INSTRUMENT SELECTION**

Schmidt Music will be coming to the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade Back to School Night for instrument rental information. If your child tried out instruments with Mr. Erickson at the end of last year, this would be the time to reserve those instruments and meet Mr. Hebert our new Instrumental teacher.





### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

The first day of school is quickly approaching and the staff is rounding up lots of different opportunities for volunteers. Please let me know if you are interested and available to assist with these projects.

#### **Classroom Set-up**

1. Unload school desks and chairs & repack and move books – We need some strong individuals to help get our new classrooms set up so the students have a place to sit! We also have books that need to be repacked into smaller boxes and moved. Come Monday and Tuesday, July 30 and 31 from 4:00 to 6:00. Kids (4<sup>th</sup> grade and up) are welcome to come help.
2. Moving and boxing up books for middle school Language Arts class.
3. Assemble a cabinet for Ms. Mannella (first grade) - This project should take about 90 minutes and tools will be provided.

#### **Office Help**

1. We have several cutting, laminating and binding projects. These could probably all be completed in 4 to 6 hours. You can spend the day or just an hour. Several people can work on this project over the course of a week. These projects must be done before Tuesday, August 7.
2. Book scanning – We have six work books need to be scanned in to a file. Can be done in less than an hour but will need to be done between July 30 and August 7.
3. Organizing materials for Back to School Night – We will need assistance with labeling and stuffing. This will be done between July 30 and August 3.
4. Middle School Binders - We need assistance with assembling middle school student binders/organizers. This will be done between July 30 and August 3.

If you can help with any of this work, please let [Lee Swearingen](#) know as soon as possible. Identify the task (or tasks!) you want to help with and the date and time you can be here.

### **APPLICATION OF EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS**

Our school participates in the Food and Nutrition 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 2011-12 school year the family will need to complete a new application for the 2012-13 school year. If you have any questions regarding the application or the lunch program you may contact [Stephanie Bacigalupo](#).

### **LUNCH**

We have changed our food service provider to Taher, Inc. for the upcoming school year. Attached is the August lunch menu. Please turn in the lunch calendar to the school office during the Back to School Nights on August 7-9. The cost per meal with milk is \$3.50. If a student would like to purchase individual milk the cost will be \$0.50.

**Note:** School lunch times have changes and are as follows:

K - 2 10:15 - 10:40 a.m.  
 3 - 4 10:40 - 11:05 a.m.  
 5 - 6 11:05 - 11:30 a.m.  
 7 - 9 11:30 - 11:50 a.m.

Because of the earlier lunch times, students in K to 4th grade will have an afternoon snack time. Parents will need to provide snack daily for their child.

### **BREAKFAST SURVEY**

MDE Food and Nutrition would like to know if there is enough interest in offering a breakfast option to DaVinci Academy students. Please visit [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Breakfast\\_2012](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Breakfast_2012) to take a short survey regarding your interest in breakfast being offered at DaVinci Academy. Please respond by August 7.



## **NEW STAFF AT DAVINCI ACADEMY**

**Holly Fischer, Instructional Coordinator**

I am excited to introduce you to the new teachers and staff members who will be joining the DaVinci family this year. These are just short introductions, so be sure to come in and meet everyone in person at the Back to School Night!

### **Holly Maeckelbergh, Science**

Holly has been teaching science for the last 7 years and has worked at Coon Rapids High School, Hopkins Junior High and in the Mounds View district. She has a degree in cell development and genetics from the College of Biological Sciences at the U of M and is excited to be working closer to home and at a small school. She spends her free time with her husband and friends at the lake.

### **Gabe Thompson, Math**

Gabe came to DaVinci Academy from the Minneapolis Public Schools and has experience teaching math in many different educational settings. One of his passions is to teach using technology and watch students develop that connection between technology and math. He has been married for 10 years and has 3 children. He is looking forward to meeting new families and upholding the high expectations that have been set by the DaVinci teachers and staff.

### **Mike Hebert, Instrumental Music**

Mike recently graduated from Northwestern College in St. Paul and is excited to start his career as a music educator. He believes, "the most important contribution schools can make to the education of our youth is to provide them with a sense of coherence in their studies. To provide them with a sense of purpose, meaning, and interconnectedness in what they learn. It is my personal passion and aim to use my classroom for this end. I want your children to leave my classroom knowing why music is important to them, their studies, and their lives. I hope to expose them to the greatest music there is to offer, and I absolutely can't wait to start!"

### **Melissa Broich, Library Paraprofessional**

Melissa graduated from the College of St. Benedict/St. John's University in 2006 with a degree in Psychology. Since graduation, she has been working in licensing and credentialing for a teleradiology practice. She loves books and children, so she is very excited to have found a job that combines the two. She is looking forward to joining the DaVinci Academy teaching team and meeting all the students.

### **Anders Lundahl, Paraprofessional/Floating Sub**

Anders graduated from the University of Minnesota Duluth with degrees in both Secondary Education and English, and has spent the past two years as a substitute teacher in the Duluth area. Anders is an avid runner and a musician and was drawn to DaVinci Academy because of our Arts and Science focus.

### **Susan Kelley, School Psychologist**

Susan has been a School Psychologist for 22 years and serves 10 charter schools in the metro area. Susan specializes in behavior management (specifically ADHD), individual and group counseling (coping skills/anger management), and ability/behavioral assessment. In her spare time, she enjoys singing in her Sweet Adeline chorus and quartet and judging high school dance teams all over the state. Susan lives in Coon Rapids with her significant other, Scott, her two dogs, Bodhi and Sattva, and her cat, Cleo.

### **Nick Lynch, Speech Language Pathologist**

Nick recently moved to the twin cities area after living in Duluth, MN for 6 years. He is originally from Grand Rapids, MN and he received his Master's degree at the University of Minnesota – Duluth in 2011. For the past year he has been working as a speech therapist at a day-program for children with autism. He is passionate about working with children and looks forward to the upcoming year at DaVinci Academy!



### **Traci Lawrence, Lunch Room/Paraprofessional**

Traci is a DaVinci mom of 2 daughters who are in second and fifth grade and a son in kindergarten. She is married and lives in Blaine, she likes to read, ride bike and travel.

### **Alyson Worthington, Paraprofessional**

Alyson graduated from Winona State University with a degree in Elementary Education with emphasis in Middle School Communications and Language Arts. She has worked with students of all ages with various disabilities and is thrilled to be a part of DaVinci Academy this year.

### **Pamela Aasen, Special Education Teacher**

Pamela has been teaching, on and off, for the last twenty-five years. She has a daughter named Rosie who is studying at the University of Minnesota, and a son named Andy who is at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. She has a long history of infusing art appreciation, music appreciation and drama into her lessons and was drawn to DaVinci Academy because of the Core Knowledge curriculum.

### **Phil Troy, Paraprofessional**

Phil graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree in Political Science. He is the oldest of eight, and many of his younger siblings attend DaVinci as well. He's excited to bring his unique skill set to help students at DaVinci succeed. He loves music, leadership, and politics.

### **PICTURE PERFECT**

Picture day will be Friday, August 17th. Look for order forms to come home the first week of school.



**FRIDAY, AUGUST 3, 2012**

**MAJESTIC OAKS GOLF COURSE**

**SIGNATURE COURSE**

701 Bunker Lake Blvd NE

Shotgun start at 12:45 p.m.

Hole in One Contest

Dinner and Awards

*Including Raffles and Silent Auctions*

Still looking for a few golfers for the Golf Tournament on Friday, August 3. There is still plenty of time to turn in a registration form. Registration forms may be dropped off at the school office until Wednesday, August 1.

Not a golfer and still want to be involved? Reserve a seat for the steak dinner afterwards.

More information is included in the attached flyer.