

# DaVinci Connection

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## School Links

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Staff Directory  
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## Important Dates

10/2 - Town Hall Meeting,  
6:30 pm

10/6 - School  
Development Committee,  
6:00 pm

10/6 - HR/Compensation  
Committee, 7:00 pm

10/8 - Policy Committee,  
3:30 pm

## Dear Lee,

To the left, you will find helpful links that will take you directly to the articles you want to read (Table of Contents), to important pages on our website (School Links), and will provide a quick list of upcoming events (Important Dates.)

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## DaVinci is named a Reward School for the Fourth Year in a Row!

This week the list of Reward Schools in Minnesota for 2014 was released and DaVinci Academy was named as a Reward School for the fourth year in a row. Reward schools are schools that are performing in the top 15% on academic proficiency, academic growth and narrowing the achievement gap. Only 20 schools out of over 2,000 schools receiving Title One funding have received this designation all four years and only three of those 20 are charter schools. We are extremely proud of our teachers, students and parents and thank them all for their hard work to make DaVinci Academy the excellent school it is.

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## Town Hall Meeting & Expansion Plans

Around 70 people attended last night's town hall meeting on expanding the school. The board president, Ross Meisner, reviewed some of the high level options, issues, and challenges about starting a high school, followed by an engaged public discussion about the possibilities and concerns around school expansion. It was clear that everyone is committed to protecting the successful K-8 program we have now. The central question tends to pivot around whether we should leverage our success to provide a high school program to serve our students (and the community), or should we stay focused on our great K-8 program and not dilute our attention and resources by pursuing a school expansion at this time. Both arguments have merits and proponents, and both paths carry risks. For example, if we expand, will the culture and performance of our K-8 program be impacted? If we don't expand, are we failing to provide a continued high-quality education to our children, fulfill the original

10/8 - Flu Shot Clinic,  
3:00-5:30 pm

10/9 - Book Fair  
Preview Day

10/10, 10/13, & 10/14 -  
Book Fair

10/13-17 - No School

10/13 & 10/14 - Fall  
Conferences

10/13 - Curriculum  
Committee, 5:00 pm

10/13 - Finance  
Committee, 6:30 pm

10/14 - School Picture  
Order Forms Due

K-12 charter, and will we lose a lot of families and students.

At the board meeting following the town hall forum, the board discussed the immediate question of submitting an application to the state for grant funding to help pay for high school expansion planning. This application is due 10/27/14. Due to our prior communications with the state and our authorizer which made us eligible to apply for this grant, the grant funds must be designated as helping us plan and launch a high school that would presumably include expanding k-8 as well. The board voted to prepare and submit the grant application. Note that DaVinci could plan and execute a school expansion without grant funding, but the \$375k-\$675k in possible funding would help offset expenses we would incur over the first 3 years of planning and start-up operations.

Starting a high school requires commitment and is a challenging proposition. Looking around the state, it's hard to find a clear model of a thriving charter high school that we could learn from. This will require a full-blown "start-up" mentality, with a committed board and community group investing significant time and effort. At the town hall meeting, about 20 people submitted their names as willing to participate, which is encouraging. The board also needs to evolve to a start-up footing, and there are two current seats open and three terms coming up for re-election in February. **Whether you think expanding into a high school is a good idea or a bad idea, we need parents and other members of the community to step forward and help lead the school, including with any expansion.** Please consider contributing your time and talent to the board.

If you were not able to attend the town hall, and are interested in helping, please print an form [here](#) (or pick up at the front desk) to indicate your interest in serving on the board or one or more committees related to expansion planning at and turn in to the front desk.

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## Fall Conferences - October 13 & 14

We will be holding parent/teacher conferences on Monday and Tuesday, October 13 and 14. The times are as follows:

### Monday, 10/13

8:00 am-3:00 pm (grades 4-8 open conference time is 9:00 am-2:00 pm\*)

### Tuesday, 10/14

Noon-8:00 pm (grades 4-8 open conference time is 1:00-7:00 pm\*)

**Kindergarten-3rd grade teachers** will have individual 20-minute conferences in their classrooms. Reserve your spot by contacting Brenda in the office at 763-754-6577. Special Education and RTI teachers will join those conferences as they can to meet with as many families as possible.

**4th-8th grade teachers and specialists** will hold open conferences in the gym. Parents can stop by and meet with whichever teacher they'd like during those times.

**\*Special Note:** 4th-8th grade teachers will set aside the first hour and last hour of each conference day for pre-arranged appointments with specific families. You will hear from one of those teachers if your conference needs to be scheduled during that time.

If you have any questions about conferences, please call the office or [Holly Fischer](#) at 763-754-6577.

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## Family Flu Vaccine Clinic is October 8

This year, our flu clinic (October 8) will be open to families of staff and students.

### FLU VACCINATION CLINIC

**Where:**

DaVinci Academy of Arts and Science

**Date:** October 8, 2014

**Time:**

3:00 - 5:30 pm

The Minnesota Visiting Nurses Association provides the vaccines to our school community. See below for a list of the insurance companies and the vaccines that are covered. The flu vaccines are also available with cash payment. See the attached cash cost for each vaccine type.

### 2014 Accepted Insurances and Cash Prices

Please use the following procedure to register online. You must make an appointment for each family member who will receive the vaccine.

### To Make an Appointment:

- Access the Login Page using <https://pickatime.com/mvna/davinci>
- Appointments can be made up to 2:00 pm on October 8, but time slots may fill, so we recommend you make an appointment as soon as possible.
- Appointments can be made up to 1 hour before your scheduled clinic
- Select "Login/Create Account" to create your username and password
- Select the location (DaVinci Academy) and date (October 8) you will be attending
- A list of available times will appear - Select a time
- Your appointment details will be listed. If everything is correct, select "Create Appointment."
- You will receive an appointment confirmation via email according to the timeline you select

Bring the completed [2014-15 Flu Vaccine Consent Form](#) for each person in your household who will receive a flu vaccine.

If using medical insurance, you must bring your Health Insurance member ID cards in order for MVNA to bill your insurance on your behalf.

Adult participants must also bring a picture ID.

Please refer to the documents below about the flu vaccines. Contact [Caroline Carritt](#) at 763-754-6577 if you have questions.

[CDC No Excuses](#)  
[CDC Quadrivalent Flu Vaccine](#)  
[2014 Vaccine Information Statement 1](#)  
[2014 Vaccine Information Statement](#)  
[2014 Flu Vaccines doc 1](#)  
[2014 Flu Vaccines doc 2](#)  
[CDC Benefits of Flu Vaccine](#)

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## Breakfast Survey Follow Up

Recently we conducted a survey to determine the overall interest in a school breakfast program. Based on feedback, we found there was enough interest to explore this program more thoroughly. Please take the time to review the sample menu attached and complete the attached survey.

[Sample Breakfast Menu](#)

[Breakfast Survey](#)

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## Weather Reminder

It is quickly becoming fall in Minnesota! Students will continue to go outside during recess and some gym classes so we want to remind you to send your children to school with appropriate outer wear. Also, our lost and found is quickly filling up with coats, sweatshirts, sweaters and hats. Please label ALL clothing that comes to school. This will greatly increase the chance of misplaced items getting returned.

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## Book Fair & Volunteers

**Preview Day:** Thursday, Oct. 9, 10:00 am-3:00 pm  
**Open for Sales:** Friday, Oct. 10, 8:00 am-3:00 pm (gym)  
**Open During Conferences:** Monday, Oct. 13, 8:00 am-3:00 pm, and Tuesday, Oct. 14, noon-8:00 pm (front lobby)

Preview the selection AND/OR make purchases by clicking [HERE!](#)

### **CALLING ALL BOOK FAIR VOLUNTEERS! ~**

Help is needed at the Book Fair. Lend a hand setting up and/or tearing down. We also need help with sales! Volunteers are needed during the following times:

Thursday and Friday, Oct. 9 & 10, 8:00 am-3:00 pm  
Monday, Oct. 13, 8:00 am-3:00 pm

Tuesday, Oct. 14, noon-8:30 pm

Please email [Miranda Ten Napel](#) if you can help for any block of time on these days or if you have questions about the book fair.

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## PTO News

See the most recent PTO new [here](#)!

DaVinci Academy of Arts & Science / 13001 Highway 65 / Blaine, Minnesota 55434 / 763-754-6577

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