

DaVinci Connection

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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.)

DaVinci Students Excel

The results of the 2013-14 MCA testing are now public. We are excited to share our results!

In reading, our students scored 75% proficient, which is a 7 point increase from last year and 16 points above the state average. In math, our score improved by 4 points, going from 74% to 78%. This is 17 points above the state average. In Science, our students continue to excel at 84% proficient, which is 31 points above the state average! We are extremely proud of our students and teachers and want to congratulate everyone who helped the students achieve these results!

More information regarding the test results will be shared as it is released from the Minnesota Department of Education. Parents of students in grades 4 - 8 should expect individual student reports at the end of October.

Thank you to everyone for all of your hard work and support in helping our DaVinci students achieve excellence!

NWEA Testing Complete

Students in grades 2 - 8 have been busy completing the NWEA Map Assessment in reading and math. We have now completed the assessments and will send the results home in the next week. The results will come in the mail with a letter explaining what the results mean and how to use the information.

We do these assessments once a year in the fall. We use them to determine growth of each students as well as areas on which to focus. If you have any questions about the assessments or how to interpret the results, please contact [Terry Moffatt](#).

Teacher Communications

Thanks to all the families who attended the parent information nights to meet the teachers and new families. Please take time regularly to thank the teachers who make a difference every day in the lives of the students. If you have any questions, your child's homeroom or advisory teacher is the first person to contact. That teacher will make sure that your question is redirected to the right person(s) if necessary.

At DaVinci Academy, our mission is to awaken a passion for learning through an enriched and individualized approach to education. Students, parents and teachers will work together to ensure positive character development and build a strong foundation for higher education. To that end, we hire teachers who are experts in their fields. Our teachers and administrators are professionals; we treat them as we would doctors, lawyers, and other professionals. Students and parents have the right to voice concerns and we welcome your questions. Ultimately, the teachers and administration determine the curriculum and instructional practices based on the best interests of individual students, the student body, and the DaVinci Academy community.

Enterovirus D68 Information

Recently, you may have heard reports in the news of a respiratory virus, Enterovirus D68, spreading among children in some midwestern states. To date, there have not been any reported cases in Minnesota.

[Click here](#) for a FAQ document from the Minnesota Department of Health.

Introducing KnowBullying -- Put the Power to Prevent Bullying in Your Hand

(from MDE Learning Matters)

Parents and caregivers who spend at least 15 minutes a day talking with their child can build the foundation for a strong relationship, and help prevent bullying. KnowBullying, a new mobile app by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), encourages dialogue between you and your children and helps you start a conversation. KnowBullying by SAMHSA includes: tips on preventing bullying, identifying warning signs, information about social media, a section for educators and more.

Available for Android™ and iPhone®, [visit the SAMHSA website and put the power to prevent bullying in your hand.](#)

Student/Family Contact List

DaVinci Academy of Arts and Science (DaVinci Academy) is compiling Student/Family Contact Lists by grade for public distribution within the DaVinci Academy community. If you want to be included in the directory, please complete the attached form and return it to the school office no later than October 10, 2014.

[Student/Family Contact Form](#)

October Scholastic Book Fair

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.

No School on Friday 9/26

There is no school on Friday, September 26. If you consult your school calendar magnet to find out when your children have no school, please note that this day was missed.

Eagle Bluff Trip Recap

by [Aaron Melander](#), Middle School Social Studies

The 6-8 grade team embarked on the annual Eagle Bluff trip this past August for a three-day adventure-filled experience. The students received the opportunity to blend education with teamwork, courage, exploration, and lots of physical activity at the Eagle Bluff campus near Lanesboro, MN.

Students stayed in dorms and participated in several classes. Among the classes were: canoeing, treetops ropes, and zip line courses, pioneer life and Oneota Indian life, a GPS scavenger hunt, and the exploration of the water ecosystems of Eagle Bluff.

Judging by the smiles and excitement during the trip, and the exhausted students after the trip, it is safe to say the trip was a great success!

Morning Drop Off

Students may be dropped off at school starting at 7:40 am.

We understand that parking and the drop-off line of cars is difficult. We have done everything we can to make this process as safe and efficient as possible, given our space constraints.

Please allow time to wait in line and give your child time to be in the classroom by 8:00 am. While the bus and car lines have become more efficient, if all cars arrive at 7:55 am, there is no way to move the car line fast enough to ensure that all students arrive in class by 8:00 am.

The area in front of the school is reserved for buses. Buses usually arrive between 7:45 and 7:50 am. We have negotiated with the bus company to allow parents to drop off in front WHEN THERE ARE NO BUSES PRESENT. Please do not drive in the front of the school unless you are directed to do so by a staff member who is directing traffic. Please respect the staff who are working to keep the students safe while also keeping the drop-off as efficient as possible. Never park in front of the school

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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