

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.)

Welcome Back!

(Debra Lach, Executive Director)

Dear parents and guardians:

As the 2014-15 school year begins, I want to officially welcome you and your student to DaVinci Academy. Whether your family is new or returning, you are an integral part of our community.

The teachers and staff have been preparing all summer to greet students and get started on our shared journey of learning. We have several new teachers with a wealth of experience and ideas. I encourage you to take time to get to know them, as well as welcoming our new students and their families.

Educating a child is a big job, and we need your help to do it well. Please be sure your child comes to school each day rested, having eaten a nutritious breakfast, and ready to learn. There is a breakfast survey attached to this newsletter. Please take time to give us your feedback. Also, please make sure your child is here on time every day. We don't want our students to miss any instructional time, we miss them when they are gone, and it disrupts a class when someone is missing.

We also ask that you support us by helping your child understand that school and homework are important and that success in school is something that your family values. Research shows that students whose parents are involved in their education do better in school, so I hope you'll be an active partner with us, whether you choose to join our PTO, to volunteer at the school, attend a board meeting, or take part in special events. We welcome your involvement in our school.

Please join us for the back-to-school evenings where teachers will share important information:

Grades 6-8 - August 19, 6:00 pm
Grades K-3 - August 26, 6:00 pm
Grades 4-5 - September 4, 6:00 pm

I also encourage you to stay in touch with your child's teachers and with me if you have any questions during the school year. Working together, I know we can make this a great year at DaVinci Academy of Arts and Science and we look forward to partnering with you to help your child grow and learn!

Picture Day - Friday 8/15

Please remember that picture day is tomorrow. Uniforms are required for all students. Retakes will be available on 9/19 and you do not need to submit orders in advance.

Registration Continues

Thank you to everyone who has completed their back to school registration! If you are one of the few families who has not found the time to complete it, this is your reminder to complete the online registration by this Friday (8/15). The registration link can be found [HERE](#) or on the DaVinci Academy [homepage](#).

New Staff

Ms. Wietgreffe - Special Education Teacher

Hi, My name is Amy Wietgreffe (Ms. Amy) and I am very excited to be joining the Davinici Academy special education department. This will be my 7th year as a teacher. Previously I taught at Richfield Middle School and Turtle Lake Elementary (Mounds View Schools.) I received my Bachelor's Degree from Minnesota State University- Moorhead and am almost done with my Autism Certification from Hamline University. When I am not working, I enjoy reading mystery novels, shopping, traveling, spending time with friends and family, and I LOVE to bake!

Ms. Alexander - Para Professional

My name is Erin Alexander and I am a special education para professional this year. I am currently finishing my elementary education degree at Metropolitan State University. I have a passion for working with children and I am excited to be a part of DaVinci Academy. In my free time, I enjoy spending time with my dog, boyfriend and family.

Fall Play Announced!

The 2014-15 fall play is The Humor Games, a slapstick parody of The Hunger Games. Auditions for The Humor Games will be on Monday, August 18 from 3:15 pm to 4:00 pm (Mrs. Severson's

room, 305).

The fall drama is limited to fifth-eighth graders. However, any fourth graders that were in last year's spring musical are also allowed to audition.

Practices will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting Thursday, August 21 from 3:15 pm to 4:15 pm. Performances are scheduled for November 7th & 8th.

The fee to participate in the play is \$100 but students should not pay or sign up for the play until after the cast list is posted on Tuesday, August 19th (at the end of the school day).

Extra-Curricular Sign-ups Due September 1

Our first session of extra-curricular activities are now available open for sign-up. Soccer will start August 18, fall play auditions are also August 18 (see above for more info) and all other school run activities start September 8th. Please see all program descriptions [here](#).

Print, complete and return the sign-up form [here](#).

If you have any questions regarding these activities, please contact [Ms. Moffatt](#).

Breakfast Survey

A healthy breakfast is critical to each child's learning. In light of this, each year we survey families to determine if there is strong enough interest for a before-school breakfast program. Please use this link to take a quick survey: [Breakfast Survey Link](#)

Thank you for your participation.

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

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