

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 to a New School Year!

By Debra Lach

We are looking forward to greeting the students on August 11th. Staff, teachers and volunteers are working hard to get ready for the new school year. One of our projects is the creation of a computer lab in order to better prepare our students for competitive 21st century skills. Thanks to all who participated in and donated to our Golf Tournament/Dinner Gala to help raise funds for the technology that will support our students. To accommodate the lab we have moved the Advanced Academics Resource room and several office personnel, so look for Ms. Lach, Executive Director, behind the reception desk and Mrs. Fischer, Instructional Coordinator, in the middle school wing. We will publish new maps when we have completed moving to keep you informed. Enjoy the rest of your summer break.

ENROLLMENT / CLASS LISTS

Most of our classes are full for the coming school year and we are welcoming more than 30 new families ([see related article](#)). Class lists are being finalized and will be published the week of August 4.

BUS SCHEDULES

Mr. Eldred is working with the bus company to map and finalize the bus routes for the coming school year. Final bus schedules will be published in August. If you have any specific questions, contact [Mr. Eldred](#) at 763-754-6577.

Kindergarten Family Home Visits

Hey DaVinci Kindergarteners, are you excited about starting

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school? Your teachers are anxious to meet you, so they will be coming to your house for a visit! Ms. Megan LeSage and Ms. Robyn Plucker, our two Kindergarten teachers, will be contacting your family to set up a time to meet either Monday, July 28th or Tuesday, July 29th. They will come for about 15 minutes to talk about school and get to know you a little bit. So, be listening for a phone call from one of them in the next couple of weeks to get more information.

If you have questions, you can call the school at 763-754-6577 and talk to Ms. Plucker, Ms. LeSage or Mrs. Fischer, the Instructional Coordinator.



(Ms. Plucker and Ms. LeSage)

Parent Information Night for New Families - August 6

There will be a Parent Information Night (PIN) just for **new families** on Wednesday, **August 6 from 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm**. We want to provide our new DaVinci Academy families with a designated night to assist them with beginning of the school year tasks and present common procedures of our school. New Kindergarten families should plan to attend even though you will have met with your child's teacher by that time.

The doors will open at 6:00 pm. From 6:00 pm to 6:30 pm, you will have a chance to:

- Check in at the front desk to obtain classroom assignments
- Pick up your family packet that will include things such as:
 - Authorized Vehicle Stickers - required to pick up your child in the after-school car line
 - Application for Educational Benefits - to apply for free school lunches
 - Lunch Number reminders - to help your student(s) memorize or just recall their lunch number

- Other helpful information
- Pay supply, lunch and activity fees
- Complete your K-12 Online registration (see information below)
- Submit your completed and signed Registration Form
- Sign up for extra-curricular activities
- Drop off student supplies (can be held for first day of school)

At 6:30 pm, the school administrators and office staff will present information on many topics, including:

- Student drop off and pick up procedures
- Parking options
- Absence Reporting
- Volunteering
- Daily/yearly schedules
- Extra-curricular activities
- School-wide Positive Behavior Program (PBIS)
- Answer any "how do I....?" questions you may have

All new families are strongly encouraged to attend this event. If you are unable be there on 8/6, you are welcome to take care of the "housekeeping" activities on Returning Family Drop-In & Drop-Off Day on 8/7 between 7:00 am and 7:00 pm ([see related article](#)) but note that administrative staff will not be making a presentation that day. Any family packets that are not picked up during these two events will be sent home with students the first week of school.

Returning Families Drop-In & Drop-Off Day

(formerly known as "Back to School Open House")

In an effort to better serve the needs of our families and teachers, we have modified our Back to School/Meet the Teacher Open House nights.

For parents and children who want to come in before school starts to take care of the many "housekeeping" tasks, Thursday August 7th between 7 am and 7 pm is Returning Family Drop-in & Drop-off Day. Any time during those 12 hours, you will have a chance to:

- Check in at the front desk to obtain homeroom assignments
- Pick up your family packet that will include things such as:
 - Authorized Vehicle Stickers - required to pick up your child in the after-school car line
 - Application for Educational Benefits - to apply for free school lunches
 - Lunch Number reminders - to help your student(s) memorize or just recall their lunch number
 - Other helpful information
- Pay supply, lunch and activity fees
- Complete your K-12 Online registration (see information below)
- Submit your completed and signed Registration Form

- Sign-up for extra-curricular activities
- Drop off student supplies (can be held for first day of school)

Please note that one thing you will *not* be able to do is meet with the teachers; they will be inaccessible due to training, planning and preparing for the first day of school. If you are unable to stop by during Drop-in & Drop-off Day, your family packet will be sent home with your child on the first day of school.

Parents and students will still have the opportunity to meet with teachers and administration later in August and September, *after* school has been in session for a couple of weeks. This delay allows teachers focused time the week before school to prepare for the upcoming year in addition to providing teachers with a couple of weeks time to get to know your child(ren) and solidify class schedules, routines and expectations. Parents and students will also have a better idea of what questions they want to discuss with teachers and staff after a couple of weeks of school.

Meet the Teacher nights for all families will be as follows:

Grades 6-8: August 19th from 6-7:30

Grades K-3: August 26th from 6-7:30

Grades: 4-5 September 4 from 6:00-7:30

Online Registration Forms

Prior to the first day of school, we require all families (new and returning) to complete the online registration packet through *K-12 Online*. This process allows you to update any personal and emergency contact data, provide current medical information, review and acknowledge select school policies and obtain other important notices. As this is all done online, the entire process should only take an average of 15 to 20 minutes per student. After it is complete, simply print the Registration Form, sign it and return it to school. **Your registration is not considered complete until the signed form is received in the school office.**

The online registration period will be open starting August 1, 2014.

You will receive an email with your child(ren)'s log-in information and password and you should be able to complete the entire process from home. However, if you need help in any way, feel free to contact the school office or come to school during New Family Parent Information Night or Returning Family Drop-In and Drop-off Day (see related articles) and use an available registration computer. We will be happy to assist you.

School Supplies Lists are Available!

School supplies lists have been posted to the school website and can be found [here](#). As in prior years, the list is in two sections:

School Purchase/Parent Reimburse items and Family Responsibility items. The School Purchase/Parent Reimburse items are those that DaVinci Academy would prefer parents pay us for now (amount listed on supply list) so that we may purchase them throughout the school year when needed. We have such a

limited amount of storage space (most areas have been transformed into classrooms and offices over the years) that we do not have the room to keep large amounts of supplies on hand.

However, parents may choose to purchase those items on the School Purchase/Parent Reimburse list on their own along with the other student school supplies. Supplies and supply fees can be brought to school on either New Family Parent Information Night, Returning Family Drop-in & Drop-off Day or any day during the first week of school.

Mrs. Maeckelbergh's Farewell Note

DaVinci Family,

I am sad to be leaving you this fall but having spent time with the wonderful families at our school has made me understand and appreciate the importance of being a parent. I will be staying home with my little guy part-time and going back to teach biology at Coon Rapids High School part-time.

I have greatly appreciated the support and encouragement from our families. I cannot thank you enough for allowing me to work with your kids. Please know that I will always treasure our short time together and that I will miss you all very much.

Please keep in touch,
Holly Maeckelbergh

Lunch Orders

As soon as available, you will receive a separate email about pre-ordering August lunches. For those of you who are new to DaVinci Academy or if you are simply unfamiliar with the lunch program, please check out our food service web page [here](#). It will provide you with a quick overview on the program, how to order lunches and you can view last June's menu to get an idea of the meal offerings. Any questions on this program can be directed to [Mrs. Swearingen](#).

You can also find out more information on the food service webpage about applying for **free or reduced-priced school lunches**. An Application for Educational Benefits can be printed from our website or the K-12 Online registration program and one will be included in your family packet. Any returning DaVinci student that was approved for this program last year will have a 30-day grace period in which to submit a completed application before benefits will be suspended. If you already received a letter from Mrs. Swearingen regarding direct certification for the 2014/2015 school year, you are not required to submit an application. Please contact [Mrs. Swearingen](#) with any questions about this benefit.

We encourage all families to complete an application even if you are unsure if you qualify because the school receives additional benefits and grants based on this information.

After-School Childcare

If you are interested in signing up for convenient and flexible after-school care for the upcoming school year, check out Y-Care; daycare provided by the Lino Lakes YMCA right here at DaVinci Academy!

To review program details and register, go to the YMCA website [here](#).

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

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