

da Vinci Arts Middle School

Family Handbook & Calendar

2009-10 School Year

Mission & Vision Statement

It is the mission of da Vinci Arts Middle School to assist our students to reach their full academic and artistic potential, and prepare them to lead satisfying, creative lives in which they will continue to learn and grow.

Vision:

The da Vinci Arts Middle School will seek innovative ways to integrate the arts throughout the curriculum, provide focused arts instruction, and create a rich, inquiry-based learning environment with high standards of academic excellence.

We will provide a safe, supportive and nurturing environment that encourages our diverse student body to take the risks necessary to reach their personal, artistic and academic potential, and to become leaders in the community.

We will take a leading role in assisting our district in the creation of a K-12 arts integrated program.

We will remain committed to enriching the Portland community by creating a diverse and active home for artists, lovers of art, creative students and their families.

da Vinci Arts Middle School

2508 NE Everett St.

Portland OR 97232

Phone: (503) 916-5356

Fax: (503) 916-2721

Web site: www.davinci.pps.k12.or.us

Principal: Eric Bergmann

School day: 8:15 - 2:45

Office hours 7:30 am - 4:30 pm

Emergency School Closures:

In case of inclement weather, local radio and TV stations carry announcements of school closures and late openings

da Vinci Community Pledge

Today is a new day

Today I am the possibility of da Vinci

The possibility of a mind open to learning the secrets of life

Today I am the possibility of creation itself, creation

Through paint and clay, song and dance, word and pen

Today my heart goes out to the da Vinci Community

I am the possibility of respect for any and all

I can open my mind to others' voice and art, with a smile and a hug

Today I am the possibility of possibility itself

Today I pledge to be da Vinci

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Administration & Support Staff

Eric Bergmann	Principal	ebergman@pps.k12.or.us
Vern Marshall	Asst. Principal	vsmarshall@pps.k12.or.us
Mary Sharp	Secretary	msharp@pps.k12.or.us
Connie Cheifetz	Community Liaison	conniec@pps.k12.or.us
Marylyn John	Counselor	mjohn@pps.k12.or.us
Thursdays, Fridays & alternate Mondays		
Linda VonWerssowetz	Library Assistant	lvonwers@pps.k12.or.us
Thursdays, Fridays & alternate Wednesdays		
Roz Tucker	School Psychologist	rtucker1@pps.k12.or.us
Bev O'Brien	Nurse	bobrien@mesd.k12.or.us
Monday & every other Thursday		
Katie Lee	Speech Pathologist	klee2@pps.k12.or.us

Instructional Staff by Department

ARTS

Tom Beckett	Drama #305/306	tbeckett@pps.k12.or.us
Kristen Brayson	Dance gym/port E	kbrayson@pps.k12.or.us
Andrew Butterfield	Visual Art port A, B & F	abutterfield@pps.k12.or.us
Mary Morris	Visual Art #102	mmorris@pps.k12.or.us
Hakim Muhammad	Drum music bldg	keemdog@msn.com
Claire Olberding	Dance gym/port E	colberdi@pps.k12.or.us
Diana Rowey	Music music bldg	drowey@pps.k12.or.us
Julana Torres	Dance gym/port E	jtorres@pps.k12.or.us

LANGUAGE ARTS/SOCIALSTUDIES (CORE)

Patrick Binder	#301	pbinder@pps.k12.or.us
Jody Foster	#207	jfoster@pps.k12.or.us
Ann Fournier	#304	afournier@pps.k12.or.us
Alison Lanigan	#208 (1/2 time)	alanigan@pps.k12.or.us
Dave Myers	#300	dmyers@pps.k12.or.us
Lori Shumway	#204	lshumway@pps.k12.or.us
Shannon Wasson	#309	swasson@pps.k12.or.us
Megan Young	#308	mcyoung@pps.k12.or.us

SCIENCE

Jim Hashimoto	Earth Science #101	jhash@pps.k12.or.us
Jason Hieggelke	Life Science #105	jhieggel@pps.k12.or.us
Heather Stevens	Physical Science #109	hstevens@pps.k12.or.us

MATH

Doug Ingamells	#203	dingamells@pps.k12.or.us
Kerry Kubeck	#201	kkubeck@pps.k12.or.us
Steve Saslow	#200	ssaslow@pps.k12.or.us

RESOURCE CENTER

Elaine Ko	Teacher #302	eko@pps.k12.or.us
Shantel Schneider	Para-educator	sschneid@pps.k12.or.us
Kristine Schultz	1/2 time Teacher #202	kschultz@pps.k12.or.us

SELF CONTAINED SPECIAL ED CLASS

Kristine Suihkonen	Teacher #112	ksuihk@pps.k12.or.us
Bill Delmatoff	Para-educator #112	bdelmato@pps.k12.or.us

In addition to emails, all staff now have voice mail. Just call the office between 7:30 am& 4:30 pm and you can leave a recorded message for any of our staff.

September 2009



Underlined dates on the calendar relate to the list of events below.

da Vinci Arts Middle School

Creative minds for challenging times.

Schedule of Events

- 8th - **First Day of School**
- 12th - **Opening Celebration for the Evans Harvard High Performance Classroom**, the energy efficient new music classroom at da Vinci 3:00-7:00 PM
- 16th - **Late Opening** (10:15 AM)
- 18th - **Outdoor School Orientations** (1:30-2:45) for all 6th graders
- 21st - **Site Council** 4:00 PM
- 21st-25th - **Spirit Week** A week filled with themes and activities celebrating the da Vinci spirit!
- 22nd - **PTSA General Meeting** 7-00 PM
- 23rd - **Back to School Night** Come meet your child's teachers 6:00-8:00 PM
- 29th - **Locker Painting** (Phase I) 1:45PM
- 30th - **Locker Painting** (Phase II) 8:15-10:10 AM

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	<u>12</u>
13	14	15	<u>16</u>	17	<u>18</u>	19
20	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>	24	25	26
27	28	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>			

It isn't where we came from; it's where we're going that counts.

Ella Fitzgerald

ATTENDANCE - EVERYDAY COUNTS!

Learning happens each day, in every class. Da Vinci uses a hands-on, collaborative approach to learning and this type of work is difficult to ‘make-up’ at home. Being consistently late to school or pulling students out of class for non-emergency medical appointments robs them of valuable learning experiences and disrupts the learning environment for all students. Please do what you can to ensure your child’s success at da Vinci by supporting their on-time attendance each day.

Arrival

School starts at 8:15. Students may enter the building at 7:30 AM and go to the cafeteria for breakfast or socializing. Breakfast service begins at 7:50. At 8:00 AM students may move out of the cafeteria to visit lockers, etc. and be prepared to get to their first class, ready to learn by 8:15 AM.

If you drive your student to school, **PLEASE MOVE EAST ON EVERETT** so disembarking passengers don’t cross in front of moving traffic and traffic flows smoothly. Or alternately, arrange for a drop off/pick-up stop a few blocks away so we can alleviate the traffic congestion in front of the school.

A carpool list is compiled each year and available in the rack across from the office to help families make connections to share the driving.

There are two bike racks in front of the school and another behind for students that ride their bikes to school. Three Tri-Met lines run within 3 blocks of our school: #12 Sandy, #19 Glisan and #20 Burnside.

Late Arrival

Students arriving late MUST visit the office to check-in before receiving a pass to get to class. A note from a parent or caregiver is needed to confirm the reason for lateness.

Being late, whatever the reason, disrupts learning for everyone. Please make every effort to be on time! Each time a student has collected 3 unexcused tardies to first period or after lunch they serve a lunch-time detention.

Absences

Parents, please call the office by 9:00 am to let us know your child will be absent. If we do not receive a call from a parent then we call the student’s home number, or an alternate number provided by the family, to confirm it’s an excused absence.

If a student is absent for an extended time (longer than 2 days), class work can be collected and picked up by a parent or friend. Call the office and leave a message stating that you would like a work packet assembled. Please allow 24 hours to put this together.

Prearranged Absences

We strongly discourage extended absences during the school year, however, if you know in advance that your child will be out of school for more than a day, we would like to know ahead of time. A parent or the student needs to stop by the office and pick up a pre-arranged absence form. The form is taken to each teacher, signed by student and parent and returned to the office. Completion of the form lets everyone know when the student will be out and outlines each person’s responsibility in making sure lessons are covered and school work is completed.

Leaving Campus Early

Students may not leave the school grounds during the school day without permission of parents and the school administration. If a student leaves campus for any reason, she/he is required to sign out in the office. If the student returns to school (the same day), she/

he needs to check back in at the office.

We can only release a student to an adult listed on the student’s registration form. If you need your child to be picked up by another adult, please send a written note with your child.

Moving from Class to Class

Students have 4 minutes to pass from class to class. This time can be used to visit their locker or use the bathroom. Getting to classes on time is important throughout the school day. Time to change clothes from dance or clean up from a messy class, needs to come from that class’s time and is not a reason to be late to your next period class. Students should enter class ready to focus on learning. Students may only leave class with the permission of the teacher.

Dismissal

School dismisses at 2:45 each day. Students will not be held after class for more than 15 minutes without prior notification of a parent or caregiver. Families need to make a plan so that students leave the building and the school grounds by 3:00 PM each day, unless they are taking part in a school sponsored activity. Most staff are ‘off duty’ or attending to other issues and are generally not available to supervise students that are just ‘hanging out’.

da Vinci Daily Schedule	
Period 1	8:15 - 9:01
Period 2	9:05 - 9:51
Period 3	9:55 - 10:41
Period 4	10:45 - 11:31
Lunch/Recess 11:35 - 12:15	
Period 5	12:19 - 1:05
Period 6	1:09 - 1:55
Period 7	1:59 - 2:45

October 2009

da Vinci Arts Middle School

Creative minds for challenging times.

Schedule of Events

- 2nd - **Student Dance Party** featuring activities, music and refreshments 2:00-3:30 PM
- 7th - **Picture Day** Send a prepaid order form to school with your student if you want to buy school photos. Students go during their core class period
- 9th - **NO SCHOOL** - State Teacher In-service Day
- 14th & 15th **Mt St Helens FT** (Earth Science student will go once)
- 19th - **Site Council** 4:00 PM
- 19th-23rd - **Red Ribbon Week** A week of lunchtime trivia around drug and alcohol usage
- 20th - **PTSA General Meeting** 7-00 PM
- 21st - **Late Opening** (10:15 AM)
- 30th- **Student Talent Show** *Spooky theme* 2:00-2:45 PM

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	<u>2</u>	3
4	5	6	<u>7</u>	8	<u>9</u>	10
11	12	13	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	16	17
18	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u>	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

What I dream can happen.

Cass Elliante

COMMUNICATION

www.davinci.pps.k12.or.us

The da Vinci website contains lots of information about the school. Here you can find issues of the Scroll, an updated school calendar, details about school events, contact links to parent leaders, teacher emails, and more. On the Newsletter page you'll find a link to the wiki page of da Vinci daily bulletins.

With Teachers

We encourage regular communication between students, teachers and parents. If students or parents have questions or concerns about a particular class, they should first approach the teacher of that class. Over the summer a new phone system was installed at da Vinci and all teachers now have voice mail. Call the main da Vinci number and we can put you through to individual teacher's voice mail. Many families and teachers find e-mail a practical way to keep lines of communication open. Teacher email addresses are listed in the front of this handbook.

Teachers are available for fifteen minutes before and after school each day (8:00-8:15 and 2:45-3:00), and by appointment for one half hour each day. These half hours occur either from 7:30 to 8:00 or from 3:00 to 3:30, depending on the teacher's schedule. Please call ahead to schedule meetings for these times

Fall Conferences

Annual fall conferences provide an opportunity for parents to meet with teachers and learn about their student's academic and social progress and work habits. In conferences at da Vinci, families schedule a 15 minute private conference with their core teacher and can also touch base with math, science and arts teachers. Eighth grade students should be sure to meet with the teacher that is mentoring them with their Arts Capstone project, so students and parents can hear together the responsibilities this project entails.

If you have academic concerns before November, do not wait until conference time to contact your child's teachers, rather contact the teacher immediately.

Conferences are an important part of staying in touch with your child's school progress. Please make it a priority to attend. Detailed information will be sent home so you can schedule an appointment.

With the Counselor

Our school counselor, Marylyn John, is here to support students and families academically and socially. An appointment can be made by phone or email (503) 916-5356 or mjohn@pps.k12.or.us. She is at da Vinci on alternate Mondays and all day Thursday & Friday.

With the Principal

If students or parents have a broader concern, and wish to talk or meet with the principal, Eric Bergmann, an appointment can be scheduled through the office or by email: ebergman@pps.k12.or.us

Newsletter - The Scroll

The da Vinci newsletter is our most important communication link with families. An electronic version is posted to our website and can be e-mailed to families each Thursday. A paper copy is sent home with students monthly. Please make an effort to retrieve and read the da Vinci newsletter each week. (If you cannot access the web or do not have an email address and want a weekly paper copy, you or your student can pick one up in the rack across from the office.) Parent and student submissions to our newsletter are welcome. 9:00 am each Tuesday is the deadline for that week's news. Articles may be submitted via e-mail to conniec@pps.k12.or.us or brought to her in the office.

To get your newsletter electronically visit our website: www.davinci.pps.k12.or.us. Click on the word *Newsletter* that appears on the left to bring a list of available dates. Click again on the date you want and a copy of the newsletter will appear on your screen. You can also sign up to receive occasional school announcements and a weekly link to the newsletter via email. Send your first and last name, child's name and your email address to: conniec@pps.k12.or.us

Telephone Use

Students may use the office phone for injury, illness and transportation emergencies. Messages can be relayed to students from parents or caregivers via the office. Please do not call or text your child on their personal cell phone. Personal cell phones are to be kept OFF during the school day. Any phones circulating during the school day (and this includes lunch and recess) will be confiscated and the student can pick it up in the office at the end of the day. If a student has their phone confiscated three times, the parent needs to come to the office to collect it.

Family Directory

A da Vinci directory is put together each fall. Families are encouraged to sign up so that communication among students and families is easy and efficient. The directory sign-up form was given to new and returning families before school released for the summer. Additional forms can be downloaded from the Get Involved page of our website or picked up in the rack across from the main office. Please return your completed form by September 18th to be included this year. Look for a draft copy at our Back to School night so you can proof your entry.

Information Racks

We have two acrylic racks with informational pamphlets for students and parents. One is located just outside the counselor's office and the other is across from the main office. In these racks you will find information about school and community events including paper copies of the most recent da Vinci Scroll, PTA information and neighborhood resources.

Groups or individuals wishing to place information in these racks must first obtain approval from the PPS central office.

November 2009

da Vinci Arts Middle School

Creative minds for challenging times.

Schedule of Events

- 1st - 6th **Outdoor School** - All da Vinci 6th graders will attend Outdoor School this week, though they will be at 5 different locations.
- 6th - **NO SCHOOL** plan for conferences
- 2nd-20th - **Pennies for Patients** Da Vinci students raise money for Leukemia Research. Cores compete to see who can collect the most change
- 11th - **NO SCHOOL** - Veterans Day
- 13th, 14th, 20th & 21st - da Vinci Theater Department presents **Burnt Offerings** Show times 7:00 pm, Tickets-\$5 general; \$10 reserved
- 16th - **Site Council** 4:00 PM
- 17th - **Photo Re-take Day** Bad pictures? Bring them back and get your picture retaken, or taken for the first time if you missed the October shoot.
- 17th - **PTSA General Meeting** 7-00 PM
- 19th - **Conferences** 5:00-8:00 PM
- 24th - **Conferences** 8:00 AM-8:00PM
- 24th-27th - **NO SCHOOL** - Thanksgiv-

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>1</i>	<i><u>2</u></i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i><u>6</u></i>	<i>7</i>
<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>15</i>	<i><u>16</u></i>	<i><u>17</u></i>	<i>18</i>	<i><u>19</u></i>	<i><u>20</u></i>	<i><u>21</u></i>
<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i><u>24</u></i>	<i><u>25</u></i>	<i><u>26</u></i>	<i><u>27</u></i>	<i>28</i>
<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>					

Believe in something big. Your life is worth a noble motive.

Walter Anderson

SCHOOL PROPERTY ISSUES

Lockers

Lockers are chosen during the first days of school. Each LA/SS (core) class will choose their lockers from a designated area. With lockers on the second or third floor, students need to provide their own lock and register its combination or spare key with their teacher, who then shares it with the office. If someone is using a locker without a lock, students need to treat it as though it is locked and not open another student's locker. Students should keep in mind that no matter how secure a locked locker seems, they should not keep irreplaceable or valuable items in them . . . and please remove food daily!

Students may decorate their locker with colored tapes, contact paper or water based paints. NO SPRAY PAINT OR OIL-BASED PAINTS, PLEASE. Most any original design is welcome, but we ask that students avoid logos and commercial symbols or anything negative or that promotes negative behavior. Teachers have a template for you to use to help you plan your locker design. Using your locker as a message board with students writing back and forth to each other is not permitted.

If a student wants to stay after school to decorate their locker, they need to have an adult supervisor - generally a parent or a friend's parent. Special care must be taken to protect surrounding lockers, the locker base and the floor.

Under NO CIRCUMSTANCES should a student write on another student's locker, regardless of the intent. Comments made by students on others' lockers can be especially hurtful.

Textbooks

Issuing textbooks - Textbooks issued to students become the responsibility of the student. To facilitate record keeping, books are issued by number and the

issuing teacher keeps a record on file. The teacher will also make a note of the condition of the book when issued and returned.

When a textbook is missing for a prolonged period of time, a letter will be sent to the parent / guardian. The letter will specify the missing textbook, its number, the issuing teacher and the cost of a replacement book. A new book will not be issued until the missing book has been paid for. If the missing book is found and returned in reasonable condition before the end of the year, the payment will be returned.

Skateboards/Scooters/Wheeled Shoes

Students are not to use skateboards/scooters or wheelies anywhere in the building. Outside they are prohibited from using them on the stairs, the front sidewalks or in parking areas.

Students are permitted to use them safely and responsibly on the blacktop, before and after school only. During school hours skateboards & scooters need to be kept in the student's locker and wheels need to be popped out of shoes.

Internet Usage at Home and School:

The Internet is a rich resource that can enhance learning. It can also provide false, misleading information and, if misused, can lead a child into a dangerous situation. Portland Public Schools has developed an acceptable use policy for students using the Internet at school.

Students are expected to follow that policy and to report any misuse to their teacher. Staff will monitor student Internet usage at school and provide appropriate consequences for misuse. We will notify parents depending on the violation. We strongly encourage families to monitor and supervise Internet usage at home and to talk with your child(ren) about safe, appropriate and inappropriate Internet usage.

da Vinci Library

Check-out & Return

Books, periodicals, and encyclopedias in the general collection may be checked out. Dictionaries are for in library use only. Do not remove any book from the library without first taking it to a library volunteer or staff member who will help you check it out.

When returning books, you can give them to the person on duty or place them in the return receptacle in the library or the main office. Library volunteers will then check them back in and return them to the shelves for others to check out.

Students may have a maximum of 7 books and/or other materials checked out at one time. The initial check out period is 3 weeks. If you want to keep the materials longer than that, please bring them to the library where you can renew them for another 3 weeks, unless someone has placed a 'hold' on the item(s).

Lost, Overdue or Damaged Books

Books checked out and not returned or renewed within 3 weeks are considered overdue. Books checked out and not returned within 6 weeks are considered lost. Students must pay for lost or damaged books. The cost of the book is noted on the book pocket and can be looked up for you by a library volunteer.

If you have an overdue or lost book no additional books may be checked out until the book is returned, renewed or the replacement cost is paid. Students with overdue books are not allowed to attend school dances until the books are renewed, returned or the replacement cost paid.

There are computers in the library available to students to use for research. Students can come to the library, with a pass from their teacher or the office, and sign up to use a computer. There may be a time limit on use. Library computer use is limited to research (no games).

December 2009

da Vinci Arts Middle School

Creative minds for challenging times.

Schedule of Events

- 3rd - Last Day of the first trimester
- 4th - **NO SCHOOL** - grading day
- 5th & 6th **da Vinci Arts Fair** 10:00-4:00 each day
- 8th - **da Vinci Dance Showcase** - Dance I & II classes 7:00 PM free
- 10th - **Geography Bee** - morning assembly
- 15th - **PTSA General Meeting** 7-00 PM
- 16th - **Late Opening** (10:15 AM)
- 17th - **da Vinci Music Concert** 7:00 PM \$3.00
- 18th - **Student Talent Show** 2:00-2:45
- 21st-Jan 1st - **NO SCHOOL** - Winter Break

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>
<u>20</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>
<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>31</u>		

It gets dark sometimes, but morning comes. Keep hope alive.

Jesse Jackson

PERSONAL PROPERTY, HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES

Registration Forms

It is very important to be sure that a student's registration form has current emergency telephone numbers in case of illness, accident or other emergency requiring parent notification. If you move or change your number be sure to update Mary Sharp in the office.

Backpacks

Students are welcome to use backpacks or book bags to carry books to and from school, but for safety's sake, they are not brought into classrooms or left in the hallways. Please keep them in your lockers.

Electronic Devices

Use of personal electronic devices is not allowed at school from 8:12 - 2:45. This includes such things as cell phones, mp3 players, video games, laser pointers, pagers, radios, walkmans, etc. If they are out or used at school they will be collected and students can retrieve them at the end of the day. After three confiscations, a parent will need to pick them up.

Da Vinci cannot be responsible for these items brought to school that end up lost or stolen.

Parents - Please do not ask your child to keep their cell phone on during the school day. Do not use it to contact them between 8:10 and 2:45. If you need to talk to your child between those hours, call the office and we will help you reach your child. If your child needs to call you, they can request a phone pass from their teacher or supervising staff and use the office phone.

Clothing Guidelines

While creativity in clothing choices is welcome, we expect students to wear clothes that are practical and not revealing. Much of the popular clothing design for young women and girls promotes an over-sexualized image and we want to avoid this look at school. Midriffs and cleavage need to be covered.

Minimum length for shorts and skirts is 'finger tip' length, meaning when arms are hanging down straight at the sides, skirts or shorts need to be as long as the end of your finger tips.

Students cannot wear clothing that displays images or words that are sexually suggestive, refer to alcohol, tobacco, or other drug related items; nor clothing that displays images or words that is demeaning to a particular person or group, or indicative of gang membership. Sagging of pants is not allowed.

Coats should be taken off and left in your locker. Students are welcome to wear hats as long as they are not disruptive to the learning environment. But we do require that students remove hats when in the auditorium.

Students need to wear street shoes while in the hallways and outside. Tap shoes and bare feet are for dance class only.

Parents, please help your child follow these common sense guidelines. They are set forth to promote a comfortable school environment for all.

Medications

Students cannot carry and/or self dispense any type of medication, including aspirin, cough syrup, Tylenol or any other over the counter remedies. The only exception to this rule is inhalers for asthma*.

All prescription medications need to be dispensed according to written doctor's instruction (a copy of which needs to be on file in the office) and must be brought to the office in its original container. Everything except inhalers must be kept in the office.*

Over the counter medication is dispensed by office staff if parents have requested and returned the proper consent form along with a personal supply of the medicine, in its original packaging. Food supplements such as vitamins or herbal remedies cannot be

dispensed without a doctor's prescription.

* Call the office to find out what is necessary for your child to carry his or her inhaler.

Accidents

Any injury occurring at school should be reported to the office immediately so the student can receive the appropriate care, parents can be alerted, if necessary and accident forms can be filled out.

School Nurse

We will have a licensed and certified Multnomah Education Service District nurse in the building one and a half days a week to address student's health needs.

Health Screenings

Vision and Scoliosis screenings are conducted during the school year. These dates are still to be arranged and will be listed in The Scroll.

Vaccination Requirements

ALL GRADES

- Diphtheria/Tetanus containing vaccine (DtaP, DTP, DT or Td); usually 5 doses
- Polio (OPV or IPV); usually 4 doses
- Measles, Rubella, Mumps (MMR); 1 dose on or after the first birthday

7TH GRADE STUDENTS ALSO NEED

- Measles, Mumps, Rubella; 2 doses (one can be measles only)
- Hepatitis B; 3 doses
- Varicella (Chickenpox) 1 dose or a history of the disease (be sure to note date)
- Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis) unless the student has received a dose of tetanus-diphtheria containing vaccine (Td, DT) in the past five years.

January 2010

da Vinci Arts Middle School

Creative minds for challenging times.

Schedule of Events

- 4th - School resumes after Winter Break
- 18th - **NO SCHOOL** - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 19th - **Site Council** 4:00 PM
- 19th - **PTSA General Meeting** 7-00 PM
- 20th - **Late Opening** (10:15 AM)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
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If you don't like the way the world is, you change it.

You just do it one step at a time

Marian Wright Edelman

STUDENT BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

In 1996, when da Vinci first welcomed students, staff members developed the Safe, Fair and Friendly. policy as our school rules. Since then we have added the student pledge to reinforce these same concepts. A school's atmosphere is most influenced by the behavior of its students. We need each of you to be a responsible community member.

SAFE, FAIR & FRIENDLY

BE SAFE

- Walk at all times in the building.
- Leave coats, purses, backpacks and electronic devices in your locker.
- Ask your teacher if you need to leave the room for any reason.
- Keep yourself and objects inside the windows.
- Our campus is closed. This means you may not leave during school hours without written permission from your parent or guardian. (And by checking out in at the office.)
- Wear street shoes in the halls. Wear your dance shoes only in the gym or the dance studio.

BE FAIR

- Be on time to each class.
- Clean up after yourself in classrooms and the cafeteria.
- Take care of the school property. Do not vandalize the school, including no unauthorized graffiti.
- Share equipment and supplies, including playground equipment.
- The phone in the office is for emergency calls, and you must have written permission from your teacher to come use it. Do not ask to use the office phone in between classes.

BE FRIENDLY

- Speak and act respectfully to all.
- Use good manners.
- Use a reasonable voice in the halls.
- If in doubt, ask first.
- Do not contribute to or pass on gossip or rumors.
- Offer assistance to students and adults needing help.

FOOD AT SCHOOL

Snacks from Home

Students are allowed to bring a nutritious mid-morning and mid-afternoon snack. No foods that have sugar listed as one of first three ingredients are permitted. WATER BOTTLES are recommended, but no soda pop, juice, sports drinks, coffee or other beverages. No glass containers, please.

Building Food Service

We have a full service cafeteria on the ground floor. Food service begins at 7:50. Cafeteria breakfast is \$1.00. Our students have 40 minutes for lunch and recess. The cafeteria serves hot and cold lunch options. \$2.45 buys a meal with milk or juice.

Free & reduced meals are available for families in need, but you must reapply for them each year. Paper work will be mailed to you from the district. (Reduced price meals: Breakfast \$.30; Lunch \$.40) Extra copies can be found in the main office. Forms can be submitted throughout the year as the need arises.

Buying Meals

We have a computerized meal payment and access system. Each student is issued a Personal Identification Number (PIN) for a meal account. The cafeteria line moves along fastest if meals are purchased ahead of time. Payment is made in the cafeteria or online. If paying at school, the best time to do this is in

the morning, before class. Make checks payable to Nutrition Services and be sure to put the student's ID# on the check. Go to my-lunchmoney.com to add funds electronically.

Students can pay with cash for their lunch or beverage purchase, but instead of receiving change back, the balance is put on their account. In addition to full meals the cafeteria also has nutritious beverages (juice, milk, soy milk & water) for sale. Juice can be purchased at lunch only if students have a note of lactose intolerance from their doctors on file with the cafeteria.

Student Cafeteria Workers

Each day two shifts of students are needed to work in the cafeteria to help serve their fellow students. Students work for a three-week stint and receive a free lunch each day that they work and other perks.

Green Team

A few years ago da Vinci made the commitment to become a green school. This entails agreements in the areas of waste reduction and recycling. A daily commitment happens in the cafeteria where students wash reusable trays instead of us using disposables. This group, which also spearheads paper recycling and other efforts is headed up by art teacher Mary Morris. Consistent, reliable tray washers are treated to a trip to Oaks Parks at the end of the school year.

Microwave Ovens in the Cafeteria

We try to provide at least 2 microwave ovens for student use in the cafeteria. Because of the heavy usage, they frequently break down. If you have one you can donate, please bring it in. *Thanks!*

February 2010

da Vinci Arts Middle School

Creative minds for challenging times.

Schedule of Events

- 5th & 6th - **Master Arts Showcase** Performance and artworks by da Vinci's upper level arts students. Gallery opens at 6:00 PM, performances begins at 7:00 PM Tickets prices TBA.
- 11th - 6th grade student production *Attack of the PomPom Zombies* 3:00 PM \$3.00 at the door
- 11th - **Information Session** for da Vinci 2010-11 applicants 4:30 PM
- 15th - **NO SCHOOL**
- 16th - **Site Council** 4:00 PM
- 16th - **PTSA General Meeting** 7-00 PM
- 17th - **Late Opening** (10:15 AM)
- 17th - **Information Session** for da Vinci 2010-11 applicants 6:00 PM
- 23rd - **Information Session** for da Vinci 2010-11 applicants 9:30 AM
- 26th - **Deadline for 2010-11 High School Transfers**
- 26th - **Da Vinci Student Dance** (Alumni Invited) 5:00-7:00 PM

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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You are the one that can stretch your own horizons.

Edgar Magin

DISCIPLINE POLICY

da Vinci staff set high standards for student behavior. Students are expected to practice the “Safe, Fair and Friendly” code (see page 14) when dealing with other students and staff. It is important that each individual feels free to contribute to the group without fear of harassment, teasing or putdowns. We expect students to treat each other and the staff with respect and to conduct themselves in the classroom in a manner that allows those around them to learn.

Our disciplinary procedures are designed to coincide with the Portland Public School District’s discipline policies which provide for a continuum of interventions. In some cases, the PPS District code mandates a specific consequence, often for more severe cases of inappropriate behavior such as physical violence, possession of a weapon, drugs or alcohol and refusal to follow staff directions. It is important that students listen to any adult when they are asked to do something and respond the first time.

All staff in the classroom will implement the following steps, aimed at directing students toward appropriate classroom behavior. When a student behaves in a way that disturbs the learning of others or the teaching process, the teacher will follow these steps:

Verbal Warning(s) – A verbal warning or warnings will be given to the student. *After what the teacher deems to be a sufficient number of verbal warnings, the teacher will instruct the student to take a “time out” in the classroom or another classroom to complete a Reflection Sheet.

Reflection Sheet – The Reflection Sheets should be used to help a student think about the choice he/she made, and to decide what needs to happen to change their actions and improve the opportunity for learning in the classroom and school community. *After a student has received (3) reflection sheets, he/she should receive an Incident Report for the fourth offense.

Incident Report – The Incident Report is for teacher use to communicate with families about incidents of concern. *A copy of each one that is written should be given to the Assistant Principal as an F.Y.I.* *After (3) incident reports, a Referral should be used to report the fourth incident to the administrator. The administrator will, in using the P.P.S. Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook, take action by determining a consequence for the offense.

Referral – The Referral form is for the administrator’s use in determining the degree of the behavior infraction identified by the staff member and to decide the level of the consequence. The level of the consequence will depend on the type of rule that was broken, the level of seriousness and the number of occurrences. *The Referral form should always be used to report serious incidents such as fighting; possession or use of a weapon; possession or use of an explosive device; possession or use of tobacco, alcohol, or drug related issues.

Action Levels

Level 1 – Conferences

Level 2 – Interventions (i.e., parent conference, community service, detention, SAT)

Level 3 – Suspension/Temporary Removal/ Reassignment/Referral

Level 4 – Expulsion/Delayed Expulsion/ Reassignment/Referral

Level 5 – Mandatory Expulsion

Level 6 – Mandatory One-year Expulsion

*At each level students will be provided due process.

Consequences will depend on:

- The type of rule that was broken
- The level of seriousness
- The number of occurrences

All weapons are prohibited on all Portland Public School Property. This includes weapons under any concealed weapon permit.

Detention – Students with (3) or more unexcused tardies to 1st and/or 5th period class will be assigned a recess detention. Time served will be concurrent with the student’s recess time. This will not be a time for students in detention to communicate with peers – verbally or non-verbally. If they choose to disregard the rule(s), detention will be reassigned. Students may be detained after school for 15 minutes without parent notification. Time beyond this period needs to be authorized by a parent/guardian.

Student Support Services SAT (Student Assistant Team)

The SAT meetings will be held on Thursday mornings at 7:30 a.m. and facilitated by Marylyn John, Counselor. An invitation will be extended to each teacher of the student on the SAT agenda. Parent(s)/guardian(s) will be invited as well. At this meeting, a plan for the student is developed and signed and dated by the participants.

BSC (Building Screening Committee)

The Building Screening Committee will meet on Wednesday afternoons from 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. and be facilitated by Vern Marshall, Assistant Principal. At this meeting referrals to the BSC from teachers or parent/guardians will be reviewed with the student’s teachers and their parents/guardians. A decision will also be made as to whether an informal screening or formal assessments are needed to determine the level of support the student needs to maximize their learning opportunity in school.

March 2010

da Vinci Arts Middle School

Creative minds for challenging times.

Schedule of Events

- 8th - 19th - **Second Wind Food Drive**
- 9th - **Information Session** for da Vinci 2010-11 applicants 3:30 PM
- 12th - **Deadline for 2010-11 Elementary & Middle School Transfers**
- 12 - Last Day of the second trimester
- 15th - **NO SCHOOL** - grading day
- 15th - **Information Session** for da Vinci 2010-11 applicants 9:30 AM
- 16th - **Site Council** 4:00 PM
- 16th - **PTSA General Meeting** 7-00 PM
- 19th - **Run for the Arts** - Pledge sheets distributed
- 19th - **Student Talent Show** 2:00-2:45
- 22nd-26th - **NO SCHOOL** - Spring Break
- 31st - **Run for the Arts** - Pledge sheets due

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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Live your life as an exclamation rather than an explanation.

Bob Newton

GRADING & ASSESSMENT

On-going Communication

Each teacher is committed to providing on-going information about classroom activities and assignments. They will develop a plan that will allow families access to their student's responsibilities and accomplishments. Some teachers provide assessment sheets, homework sheets etc. Others provide family newsletters. In addition each student is given a planner by the school. Our goal is to have them write their assignments in the planner so parents can see what has been assigned and when it is due. Help your child get into this good habit by asking to see their planner and checking their progress.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the improper use of, or failure to give credit to, another person's research, writings, visual or musical representation, or ideas. It can be an act as subtle as inadvertently neglecting to use quotation marks or references when using another source or as blatant as knowingly copying an entire paper, or parts of a paper, and claiming it as your own. Consequences for plagiarizing are as follows:

On the first instance of plagiarizing, students (and a parent) will be required to meet with the teacher and an administrator and review the policy. Students will be required to re-write the assignment and suffer a 50% reduction in grade.

On the second instance, students will receive no credit for their work and will have no chance to make the work up. Parent and student must meet with an administrator to review the policy and discuss future consequences.

On the third or more instances, parent and student must meet with administrator where consequences will be determined (suspension, expulsion, etc).

Mid-term Reports

At the midpoint of the trimester, teachers are required to notify families of student status if the student's work places them in danger of receiving a '2' or below in academic performance or a 'sometimes' or 'seldom' in effort. (See below for grading standards.)

Trimester Report Cards

Each trimester, students will receive an assessment report. This report will consist of scores from all the student's teachers. Da Vinci uses the PPS standards-based report card. Students receive both an academic and an effort evaluation. In addition, the report card will highlight specific instructional content covered for the trimester.

Annual Standardized Testing

All students take the State reading and math exams via computer. Testing in this manner creates a custom testing tool for each student as the computer adjusts questions based on how a student has answered their previous question. Students may test up to three times per year. Results of the test taking are known almost immediately.

State Benchmarks

In addition to these assessments, students must also complete work samples - classroom assignments created by the teacher and scored by the teacher or a team of teachers. Each student must complete a work sample in: writing, math, science and oral presentation.

8th Grade Arts Capstone

Just as students create speech, writing and math problem solving samples for scoring, arts benchmarks have been created as well. As an arts-focused school da Vinci values these skills and issues a certificate acknowledging the student's accomplishments in this area.

Capstone Projects need to demonstrate the student's knowledge of the following three aspects:

- ◆ Create, present, perform - Create a series of visual art pieces or perform a dance, piece of music or dramatic work
- ◆ Historical and cultural context - What are some of the cultural and historical references that your work draws on. How does it relate to artists of the recent or even distant past.
- ◆ Critique - Show that you understand the vocabulary of your medium and can use it to describe and analyze your work as well as the work of others.

GRADING STANDARDS EXPLAINED

ACHIEVEMENT MARKS

6 = EXEMPLARY performance;	Exceeds grade level expectations
5 = STRONG performance;	Exceeds grade level expectations
4 = PROFICIENT performance;	Meets grade level expectations
3 = DEVELOPING performance;	Close to meeting grade level expectations
2 = EMERGING performance;	Does not yet meet grade level expectations
1 = BEGINNING performance;	Does not yet meet grade level expectations
NE = No evidence	Did not submit enough work to determine level
NM = No mark	Enrolled too few days to determine level, or class gives only effort mark
Progressing	*An asterisk added to the mark indicates that student is progressing

EFFORT MARKS

CN = Consistently demonstrates an effort to learn; consistently completes work; is diligent and on-task.
OF = Often demonstrates an effort to learn; usually completes work; is usually diligent and on-task.
SM = Sometimes demonstrates an effort to learn; inconsistently completes work; is inconsistently diligent and on-task.
SL = Seldom demonstrates an effort to learn; infrequently completes work; is seldom diligent and on-task.

April 2010

da Vinci Arts Middle School

Creative minds for challenging times.

Schedule of Events

- 1st - Run for the Arts Run Day
- 9th, 10th, 16th & 17th - da Vinci Theater Department presents an original rock opera, *Fables*. Friday shows at 7:00 pm, Saturday shows at 2:00 pm Tickets-\$5 general; \$10 reserved
- 19th - Site Council 4:00 PM
- 20th - PTSA General Meeting 7-00 PM
- 22nd - Scoliosis Screening for 7th grade students

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25	26	27	28	29	30	

We are what we pretend to be, so we must be careful about what we pretend to be.

Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.

PARENT-SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

Da Vinci teachers provide homework as a means for students to reflect and expand on what they are learning in school. It is also a time when parents can gain insight into a large part of their child's school life.

Students are expected to note and track assignments in their da Vinci student planner. It is our expectation that students complete their assignments and turn them in on time. Completion of homework affects a student's trimester effort grade, while the quality, accuracy and depth of understanding communicated by the student affect their achievement grade. When students are not completing or turning in their homework satisfactorily, parents, student and teacher will need to develop a plan to address and correct the situation.

Here are some guidelines to follow:

Student's Jobs

- Keep track of books and assignments. Your planner can help with this.
- Start on time and allow time to finish work.
- Talk to your teacher about your progress in class.
- Ask questions if there are things you don't understand.
- Do your work with limited assistance.
- Turn completed work in on time.
- Accept responsibility for grades or other consequences.

Parent's Jobs

- Establish a regular time for homework.
- Establish a regular place for homework.
- Provide limited instruction and assistance.
- Provide necessary materials and supplies.
- Establish logical consequences for noncompliance and incentives for responsible behavior. (If you do _____, then you can do _____)

Teacher's Jobs

- Provide clear instructions and assessment criteria.
- Provide learning resources.
- Provide time lines and deadlines.
- Provide encouragement.
- Provide prompt feedback regarding work returned.
- Be approachable outside of class for questions and help.

Sharing key information about your child can help teachers make a connection.

by Emily Graham

What can you tell a teacher that will help him do his or her job better? You might be surprised. While your child's teacher is the expert in education, no one knows more about your child than you do. It's just as important for parents to tell teachers about issues at home that may affect school performance as it is for teachers to report how children are doing in the classroom. Students do best when parents and teachers work together as partners. The start of a new school year is a great time to open a dialogue with your child's teacher. Not sure where to start? Here are seven things teachers wish you would tell them. Sharing this information with a teacher will help him or her better understand your child's needs and lay the groundwork for a cooperative relationship throughout the school year.

Health conditions: If your child is diabetic, uses an inhaler, is allergic to peanuts, or has a serious health condition, her teacher should know. It's also helpful to let the teacher know whether your child has been diagnosed with conditions like ADHD, which may affect behavior and concentration.

Family issues: Fill in the teacher if your family is going through a major change that could affect your child, such as a divorce, a death in the family, or a move. Even if your child seems to have adjusted well, alert teachers so they can watch for behavioral changes.

Personality traits or behavior issues: Maybe your son is painfully shy and is worried about making friends at a new school. Or perhaps your kindergartner has been having tantrums at home and you're concerned she'll do the same at school. It's best to make teachers aware of these issues before they become a problem at school.

Strengths and weaknesses: Your daughter is a star student in math but is embarrassed to read aloud. Your son loves language arts but struggles with science. If you tell teachers these things up front, they'll have more time

to help your children improve in the areas they need it most.

Learning style: You've spent years teaching your kids, from potty training to tying shoelaces, so you have a good idea of their learning styles. If your child learns better through hands-on activities than through listening to explanations, mention that to his teacher. Also share any teaching strategies that you've found work well with your child.

Study habits: Does your son speed through math homework but labor over reading assignments? Do your daughter's grades suffer because she spends so much time at skating lessons? Tell teachers about your children's study habits and any issues they face in completing the work. Teachers often can offer suggestions to make homework time go more smoothly.

Special interests: Knowing more about your child's hobbies or interests can help the teacher forge connections in the classroom. Let the teacher know that your young son loves a particular comic book superhero and that your middle school daughter is a gifted painter.

May 2010

da Vinci Arts Middle School

Creative minds for challenging times.

Schedule of Events

- 7th - **da Vinci Poetry SLAM** at Urban Grind Coffee House 2012 NE 22nd Av 6:00 PM poets sign-in. 6:30 performance begins
- 15th & 22nd - **da Vinci Dance Concert** at 4:00 & 8:00 PM All year-long dancers perform all four shows Tickets prices TBA. Tickets for the 4:00 PM show on the 22nd are not pre-sold, but go on sale an hour before show time.
- 17th - **Site Council** 4:00 PM
- 18th - **PTSA General Meeting** 7-00 PM
- 27th - **da Vinci Music Concert** 7:00 PM \$3.00
- 28th - **Student Talent Show** (last of the year for 6th & 7th gr performers)
- 31st - **NO SCHOOL** - Memorial Day

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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
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*I can give you a six word formula for success
Think things through - then fellow through.*

Edward Rickenbacker

PARENT PARTICIPATION

Da Vinci staff welcomes the opportunity to work with parents. From volunteering in the classroom to serving on the Site Council there are plenty of opportunities to help. When you come to the school to volunteer or visit, please check in at the office to pick up a badge.

We want to build on the network of community support we have developed and make sure that every parent feels welcome. Be sure you have filled out a volunteer form and parent resource page. Adults wanting to volunteer with students need to be willing to submit to a background check.

Check the Scroll (our newsletter) and "Get Involved" section of our website for new opportunities that arise.

Classroom & Office Assistance

Everyday parents are in the building assisting teachers and staff with various tasks. Whether they are checking in tardy students, assisting the nurse with a health screening or doing odd jobs in the classroom, this help is crucial to the well-being of our school. Don't be shy, if you have time to help just ask where you are needed.

Lunchtime Activities

We are looking for parents and community members to lead weekly lunchtime activity groups from 11:35-12:15. Anything kids can do while eating lunch - chess, D & D, knitting, book discussions, project planning, creative writing, etc. Do you have an interest, hobby or skill you could share? If so Contact Connie in the main office, 503-916-5356 or conniec@pps.k12.or.us.

Guest Instructors

Parents, or community members who have special skills that they could present to a class room, in a mini workshop, during lunchtime or after school should be sure to contact their child's teacher or our community liaison, Connie. Our goal is to make the most of our talent rich community.

Site Council

Da Vinci has an active and effective site council. It is made up of four parent members, three teachers and the principal. The site council's mission is to oversee student achievement at da Vinci. To that end they develop a three-year school improvement plan that is evaluated and updated annually. Terms run for two years beginning in January. Elections are in November. Site council meetings are open to all and generally take place the 3rd Monday of the month at 4:00 pm.

da Vinci Library

Our library runs on parent power! All books are cataloged and shelved by parent volunteers. If you are looking for a place to start helping during the school day, the library is a great place. The more consistently we can staff the library the more access to it our students will have.

Student Showcases

Music, dance & drama performances and visual art shows, are an important part of your child's learning experience at da Vinci. They are also very labor intensive and require a lot of parent help. You can even volunteer if your child is NOT performing!

Fundraising

Like most schools, da Vinci relies on its parent community to organize fundraisers to supplement district funds. Here are the ways we typically do that:

- **Scrip Program** Scrip is a great year-round fundraiser. The da Vinci Scrip program purchases gift certificates from area retailers at a discount & sells them to parents at face value. Scrip can be ordered weekly on Tuesdays & purchased after school on Thursdays.
- **Direct Appeals** At the beginning of the year and during performances, the PTSA collects donations. This gives parents and grandparents an opportunity to make tax-deductible gifts to support the school's programs.
- **da Vinci Arts Fair** Now in its fifth year this is a lively community event where the da Vinci gym becomes an informal gallery and about 75 local artists display their work. The school keeps a 30% commission from all sales in exchange for planning and staffing all aspects of the event. Scheduled for December 5th & 6th this year, planning began this summer.
- **Auction** Each year da Vinci parents put together a fun and profitable event. This is the fund raiser that brings in the bulk of the PTSA's budget and funds many of our core curriculum needs.

Parent Teacher Student Association

The da Vinci PTSA meets monthly. Here we discuss the issues that face our school and community in an open forum. The PTSA sponsors many events for students and families at da Vinci. The PTSA is governed by an executive board elected annually.

2009-10 PTSA Executive Committee

Shane Endicott, president

Rhys Scholes, past president & legislative chair

Tracee Danyluk, vice president

Paula Mims Dion, vice president

JR Richardson, treasurer

Laure King, secretary TB, secretary elect

Greg Netzer, fundraising

Doreen Waitt, fundraising Alissa Keny-Guyer, outreach

TBA, volunteer coordinator

TBA, hospitality & refreshments TBA, activities coordinator

Members at Large

Karen Ward, 7th gr parent rep

Laura Cissell, 8th gr parent rep

TBA, 6th gr parent rep

Contact information, meeting dates, agendas and minutes are posted on our website.

June 2010

da Vinci Arts Middle School

Creative minds for challenging times.

Schedule of Events

- 4th - **Student Dance** 6:00-8:00 PM
- 10th - **Volunteer Appreciation Reception** 11:00 AM
- 10th - **Capstone Day** - 8th grade students present their culminating arts projects 12:00-2:45 PM
- 11th - **Student Talent Show** (last of the year for 8th gr performers)
- 14th - **8th grade Promotion Ceremony** at Benson High School 4:30 PM, reception to follow
- 15th - **Last Day of School** Lunch on the Lawn, yearbook signing & field day activities

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

First comes the sweat. Then comes the beauty.

George Balanchine

DA VINCI TRADITIONS

STUDENT EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Student Dances Typically da Vinci has three student dance parties each year, each with a slightly different format. We try to offer a variety of activities at each party, sort of a ‘something for everyone’ approach. As with many events at da Vinci, parents play a crucial role. For the dances we rely on parents to help with planning, decorations, refreshments and chaperoning.

Talent Assemblies Every 6-8 weeks we like to have a talent assembly. Students audition with a staff member to see if their act is performance ready. Acts can be solos or group efforts and can include family members. Usually these are scheduled as an end-of-the-day assembly (2:00 - 2:45) and families are welcome in the audience.

Master Arts Showcase Last year February a new tradition was born at da Vinci. The Master Arts showcase brings together the best da Vinci students have to offer in music, visual arts, theater and dance performances. Advanced level performance art classes present a series of short pieces, while the halls are filled with a variety of visual art pieces from students. This is a special event not to be missed.

Da Vinci Theatre Performances Two to three times a year, da Vinci presents a play on stage. In November, “Burnt Offerings” a play based on the popular role-playing game Dungeons & Dragons will be on stage. In April we will present an original rock opera based on a collection of fables.

Da Vinci Music Concerts Twice each year our music students put on a concert; one in December and one in May. These concerts feature all music students, sometimes in collaboration with each other. They are generally 60 - 90 minutes long and appropriate for the whole family.

Da Vinci Dance Concerts Each year all year-long dance students prepare pieces for a formal dance concert in May. Every student participates in each of the four performances, spread over two weekends with costumes, lighting and sound. You will be impressed to see our students and their professional level of commitment to this very real display of discipline, arts training and talent. In addition Dance Level I & II will present a less formal (free) showcase of their work in December.

Poetry Slam Spearheaded by core teacher Shannon Wasson, the da Vinci Poetry Slam grows each year. Held at a local coffeehouse, students read their original work and compete for fabulous prizes. Judging is done by local writers, alumni and performance artists.

STUDENT YEAR END EVENTS

Arts Capstone Showcase

On this day the hard work by our 8th grade students is showcased for 6th and 7th grade students and da Vinci families. There is an Art Gallery displaying the portfolios of our Visual Arts Capstone students and performances in three venues around the school presenting Music, Theater and Dance Capstone performances.

Promotion

Completing middle school and moving on to high school is a special rite of passage for any student. Here at da Vinci we have outgrown our auditorium for this event, so we conduct our student promotion ceremony in a neighboring HS auditorium. A slide show is presented with pictures of all students, a few students perform, others speak and all students walk across the stage to receive a certificate from the principal. Afterward there is a reception with refreshments. This year’s promotion is scheduled for Monday, June 14th at 4:30 pm at Benson H.S.

Last Day Lunch on the Lawn

On June 15th, the last day of school we have a full school day, but the afternoon is given over to an outdoor lunch and yearbook signing. Everyone brings their own meal and the PTA provides a treat.

Eighth Grade Trip

Most years da Vinci 8th graders have celebrated their promotion with a special outing. The goal is that it is affordable so it is not a hardship for families to send their child. Parents generally plan the event with staff input. The trip is also dependent on parent willingness to plan the trip and staff willingness to help chaperone.

Participation in this 8th grade event is a privilege not a right. Students earn a chance to participate by being in good standing in all classes and demonstrating appropriate and respectful behavior to staff, parents and their peers throughout the year. More information on the Eighth Grade Trip will be forthcoming.