



Oct - Nov
2018 - 2019



1400 E. 8th Avenue
Davis, CA 95616
(530) 757-7154



DA VINCI HIGH SCHOOL

www.davincicharteracademy.net

Coming Up

Wednesday, November 14 from 5:30 - 6:30 pm - Da Vinci Advisory Board Mtng #3

Wednesday, November 14 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm - Da Vinci Boosters Meeting #3

Friday, October 19th - Quarter 1 Ends and Grades Reported the Following Week

Saturday, October 27th at 11:00 am - Da Vinci's Mariachi del Valle plays at Davis Cemetary for Dia De Los Muertos

Saturday, November 3rd from 1-3 pm - Da Vinci Annual Chili Cook-Off



@davincidjUSD



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da vinci charter academy high school



@davinciDJUSD

Launching a New Website

We are thrilled to be launching a new, comprehensive, multi-faceted website for the Da Vinci program. For the past few months, we've working in partnership with the DJUSD Public Information Office to not only replicate existing website content but also to develop engaging, new content into our new format. That work comes to fruition next week with our expected launch date of Friday, Octob. While our homepage URL (www.davincicharteracademy.net) will stay the same, you'll quickly notice that the new site will direct you to new homepages for DV Junior High and DV High School. If you currently have pages bookmarked, you will need to update those bookmarks. Key features of our new website include:

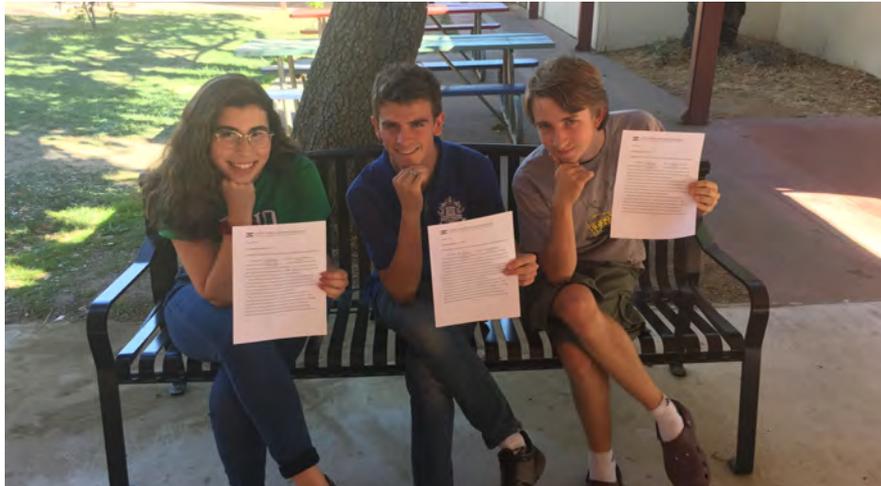
- A calendar that you can subscribe to
- An alumni corner page
- Quick links for students, parents, & ; community
- DVCA & DJUSD news stories
- A student announcements page
- A counseling corner page
- Links to DVHS Social Media

We will be developing a Project Showcase Page and Internship Spotlight Page in the coming months. We hope you enjoy the new site and welcome any feedback or suggestion for ongoing improvement.



National Merit Scholars

Last year 1.6 million students took the PSAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, a rigorous assessment that is part of college admissions preparation. Of those 1.6 million students, 50,000 are identified as the highest scorers, a remarkable accomplishment reflecting a great deal of effort and preparation. Da Vinci Charter Academy is proud to honor three current seniors who received this recognition as Commended Students of the National Merit Scholar Program. Congratulations to Becca Wittman, Bailey Robinson-Burmester, and Jackson Tarning.



Pictured Becca Wittman (left), Bailey Robinson-Burmester (center), and Jackson Tarning (right)

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Our counseling team is hard at work supporting students in a variety of ways. ; Check out the announcements on important activities and opportunities for you or your student to connect with your counselor: ;

- Counselors are available every Monday at lunch in the Presentation Room to support students with the college application process. ; Students can get help with letters of rec., personal statements, ; financial aid, and completing the application. ;
- 10th Grade parents should begin signing up for your Individual 10th Grade Planning Meetings. Please go to <https://myscuta.com> and sign up using your student's counselor's email (estrand@djud.net or nchiamparino@djud.net) to request an appointment date and time. ;
- Lewis & Clark College from Portland, Oregon will be on campus on Monday, October 22nd at 10:00 am. Your child can attend this informational presentation by signing up in the DVHS front office. ;



Nicole Chiamparino-Roper, Counselor



Erika Strand, Counselor

This can be a very busy and demanding time of year for students. Work can pile up and stress can build. The DVHS counseling team is here to support students and families so don't hesitate to reach out.

Graduate Profile

Recently DJUSD released its Graduate Profile, a graphic that depicts the skills, dispositions, and characteristics that Davis schools seek to instill in their students. What you might not know is that Da Vinci actually developed a Graduate Profile in 2016. We gathered input from students, staff, parents, and Advisory Board members and distilled their input into seven areas (shown on). Those familiar with Da Vinci's approach to teaching and learning will quickly recognize that it looks pretty familiar. In fact, the areas depicted are actually our ESLRS's - the areas upon which our teachers design project and the areas in which our students are assessed in their work. Da Vinci is looking to deepen our commitment to our Graduate Profile by creating a Senior Defense of Learning Project in which seniors will build a portfolio of experiences and accomplishments that demonstrate their growth in the areas of the Graduate Profile and present them to a group of stakeholders. There's lots of work left to be done but we are excited about what's to come.

I'd like to give thanks to former teacher Emma Gist and DV alumna Ellory Erecious for their help in creating the graphic shown to the right.

Da Vinci Charter Academy
Est. 2004 ♦ Innovative ♦ Inclusive ♦ Collaborative

Communication: Da Vinci students articulate well-developed, complex ideas clearly and with confidence both through writing and verbally. They are able to adapt their language to the context and task with the poise to express themselves to a variety of audiences.

Collaboration: Da Vinci students balance confident contributions with effective listening, compromise and support. They are able to work with people of varying mindsets, skills, perspectives and strengths in diverse circumstances. Da Vinci students seek both individual and team success.

Learning Mindset: Da Vinci students are motivated to seek challenge and are committed to lifelong learning. They embrace the idea that mistakes and setbacks present opportunities to develop and improve, and that knowledge and skill will grow through effort.

Critical Thinking: Da Vinci Students are risk-taking innovators. They confidently apply knowledge and skills in unfamiliar contexts and across various domains, using a range of higher order thinking skills to develop original solutions to complex problems.

Citizenship: Da Vinci students embrace the responsibility of being positive contributors to their communities. They exhibit self-awareness and know their place in a community while seeking to understand the needs, experiences and backgrounds of others. They consider the implications of their actions upon the broader community.

Self-Management: Da Vinci students practice resourcefulness, perseverance, self-advocacy, and time-management in order to develop healthy habits that promote independence and support their progress towards their goals.

Technological Literacy: Da Vinci students understand the integral role of technology in a knowledge society. They access and ethically utilize a variety of technological tools to support their learning. They strive to continually adapt the type and application of technology to be prepared for the modern workforce and economy.

Advisory Board Update

The Da Vinci Advisory Board met for the second time this past week. We are fortunate to have a dedicated group of students, parents, staff, and community members willing to help develop ideas to grow and improve our program. In the first meeting, members engaged in a "Chalk Talk" protocol to share ideas about improving our program. The Chalk Talk was synthesized into three main themes: (1) improving overall student wellness (2) improving facilities (3) better informing the Davis and surrounding communities about the Da Vinci program. There are undoubtedly ambitious goals but the Advisory Team is eager to get to work. At our November 14 meeting, we'll transition into forming committees and coming up with action steps to address these goals. I look forward to sharing this work and potentially involving more stakeholders in the Da Vinci community.



I would also like to introduce you to our Advisory members by spotlighting one member each month. Last month, you met Maggie, our High School Student Rep. This month, I'd like to introduce you to Isabella Yan, our Junior High Student Rep (shown to the left). Isabella lives in Davis and loves the community. She enjoys all kinds of outdoor activities like snowboarding, skateboarding, rock climbing, and swimming. So far, Isabella has learned what it's like to discuss important issues with staff and parents. She hopes to focus on building the school's reputation by sharing the positive things going on, and making it a welcoming place for everyone. She also wants to make the school bigger and better. We are glad to have Isabella's input on the Advisory Board team.!

Chili Cook Off

The Da Vinci Chili Cook-Off is happening once again on Saturday, November 3rd at the Da Vinci High School Campus Quad. The event will run from 1 - 3 pm. This annual event is organized by the Da Vinci Leadership Class and supported by the Da Vinci Booster Club. It's a great way to connect with the Da Vinci community and sample a wide range of chili. Proceeds from the event benefit Da Vinci ASB and the Senior Class. This year, our very own Mariachi del Valle will be providing entertainment with a set of mariachi songs to brighten the mood. You can sign up as a team of 1-4 for \$30. Registration forms are available in the DVJH and DVHS offices. You can also download the form from the November 3rd calendar page on our website at or click [HERE](#). Or, if you prefer, you can come just to taste. Regular admission is \$5 per person. Beverages will also be for sale at the event. There are three different entrance categories for teams: meat chili, vegetarian chili, and vegan chili. Come out and defeat past champions John Grima (shown below left) and Jaden Matte, Will Whouie and Nate Thompson (shown from left to right in the image below right), We hope to see you there!



Dancing Dino!

Did we win? No. Was it Epic? **ABSOLUTELY!** Last week the Davis Chamber of Commerce hosted the Discover Davis downtown and eight different mascots competed in a dance-off. This was the first time that our Da Vinci Dino participated and they did a great job dancing to Party Rock Anthem by LMFAO. Inside the Dino suit was Da Vinci Leadership student and Sophomore Class Rep, Timothy Schiling. Ultimately, the UC Davis Aggie won with some sweet breakdancing and backflips but we were honored to be part of the event and will be back next year. Anyone know where our Dino can take dance lessons?



Project Spotlight

The first round of culminating, public projects wrapped up last week. Our sophomores completed The Island Project. Our juniors complete Whose Constitution Is It? Our seniors completed Yo, Caesar. We grateful for the many parent and community panelists who took the time to provide feedback and see our students work in action. Check out the summaries and images below.

Sophomores, in the hypothetical role of shipwrecked islanders, evaluate and recommend a form of government that would best promote a successful community in The Island Project.



From left to right: Matthew Ceppos, ; Josue Medellin-Sicairos, Ethan Horowitz, and Shaun E

Juniors, from perspective of social group present during the Constitutional Convention, debate the equity of our founding document in Whose Constitution Is It?



From Left to Right: Fiona Herner, Zach Gardener, Nick Seyk, Will Whouie, ; Justin Yeung, Amanda Kim, Maggie Watson, and Bradley Shaw

Senior, after reading Julius Caesar, re-write and dramatically perform a scene through the context of a contemporary government in Yo, Caesar!



From left to right: Ben Kimmel, Cole Hein, Alex Weinshilboum, and Kayden Hoal

From Principal Millsap

In 2006, I was job searching and knew that I was looking for something special - a community that placed students at the center of everything, a place that would demand that I adapt and grow as an educator, and a place where relationships formed the foundation for learning. I visited Scott Bell's classroom one morning, back when the school was located on the DSHS Campus. I was not struck that day by a 1:1 laptop ratio, or glitzy project presentations (although both were impressive). I was struck by a conversation that Mr. Bell facilitated between me and his history class. He brought them to the front of the room, gathered closely with some seated on the floor and he asked them to describe their school. They discussed the trust that teachers put in them and the opportunities to be creative. They shared how they felt they belonged and learned about each other's strengths and areas for growth. They talked about how the projects were engaging and that their learning often surprised them. These are the things that brought me to Da Vinci and it's the reason I'm still here. I continue to believe it's an incredibly special place where I hope to send my own child one day.

I would like to thank all of the parents and community members who have contacted me with supportive and constructive feedback about the media coverage this week. Our staff continues the important work of preparing students for success in college and career each day without distraction; your comments are welcomed and appreciated. We as a staff continue to reflect on this situation in order to improve our practice. As Da Vinci continues to receive media attention, please consider talking to your student about their social media presence, their digital footprint, and ways to keep their profile private. Our interest is always in keeping students safe. You can learn more about cyber safety at DJUSD Digital Citizenship.

Thank you for being part of this exceptional community; I'm glad you are here.

Best regards,

Tyler Millsap