



DA VINCI COMMUNICATIONS

2016-2017

STUDENT AND PARENT HANDBOOK

Dear Students and Families,

Welcome to Da Vinci Communications!

DVC is an environment in which informed, resourceful and reflective students become college-ready, career-prepared, and community-minded individuals who graduate from postsecondary programs to become productive members and respected leaders in the global community.

Students work on real world, project-based, college preparatory projects and curriculum. We create and support a culture of high expectations for all, where students grow in knowledge and wisdom, develop a growth mindset and the perseverance required to develop new skills, and form safe and strong relationships with teachers, peers, parents, and the community.

This handbook is a guide to our school's programs, policies, and procedures. It gives an overview of courses, schedules, grades and graduation requirements and expectations for our school community. We look forward to collaborating with you in preparing your student to be college-ready, career-prepared and community-minded.

Sincerely,

Nathan Barrymore
Principal

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SCHOOL INFORMATION



DA VINCI COMMUNICATIONS

12495 Isis Ave
Hawthorne, California 90250
Main Office: (310) 725-5800 ext. 4
Fax: (310) 643-3013

DVC Website and Blog: <http://dvc.davincischools.org>

Da Vinci Schools website: www.davincischools.org

Student Portal: <http://dvcportal.weebly.com>

E-Mail: info@davincischools.org

1. CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have a question about...	You should contact...
Attendance Lunch Balance PowerSchool Access Payment for School Events (overnighter, prom, etc.)	Jackie Martinez (Front Office) jmartinez@davincischools.org
Instruction / Curriculum / Assessment / Grading Master Calendar, Master Schedule, & Daily Schedule Facilities Discipline State Testing (SBAC, CAHSEE, CELDT, PSAT, PFT) Advisory Program English Language Learners & 504 Plans Student Clubs	Nathan Barrymore (Principal) nbarrymore@davincischools.org
College Applications Financial Aid for College Student Transcripts SAT & ACT Testing and Fee Waivers Student Course Schedules & Credit Recovery Transfer Student Schedules Socio-Emotional Counseling Crisis Management	Grades 11 and 12 Brittany Goodacre (School Counselor) bgoodacre@davincischools.org Grades 9 and 10 Ariana Ordonez (School Counselor) aordonez@davincischools.org
Special Education	Allegra Johnson (Special Education Director) ajohnson@davincischools.org
Athletics	Chris Jones (Athletic Director) tcurry@davincischools.org
Music	Toby Harwell (Music Director) tharwell@davincischools.org
Enrollment & Admissions	Carla Levenson (Director of External Relations) clevenson@davincischools.org
Real World Learning (Including Work Experience)	Natasha Morse (Real World Learning Director) nmorse@davincischools.org

2. HOURS & OPERATIONS

Front Office Hours

The front office opens at 8:00am and closes at 4:00pm Monday – Thursday. The office is open 9:00am to 4:00pm on Fridays.

School Hours

The school is open for students to attend office hours from 8:00 – 8:50am Monday – Thursday (gates open from 8:00 to 8:15 for students to enter, then close until 8:50, at which point they open for first period entrance). All classes start promptly at 9:00am and end at 3:55pm. Campus is closed to students at 5:00pm unless students are involved in a school-sponsored, calendared activity.

All classes start promptly at 10:00am and end at 3:55pm on Fridays. Campus is closed to students at 5:00pm unless students are involved in a school-sponsored, calendared activity. Students should leave in a timely manner after 3:55pm unless they are involved in school-sponsored, calendared events after school, including school clubs and sports. The campus is closed and there is no school personnel overseeing students before 8:00am on Mondays through Thursdays, or before 10:00am on Fridays.

Attendance

Success in school depends greatly on prompt and regular classroom attendance. Frequent tardiness and absences result in students missing important presentations, demonstrations, discussions, explanations, and collaboration on project-based work. We request that families schedule vacations or special programs so as not to conflict with school.

School starts promptly at 9:00am on Mondays – Thursdays and 10:00am on Fridays. Students are expected to be in the classroom at these times and may be marked tardy if they are not in their scheduled class at the start of school. School ends at 3:55pm on all days. Students are expected to be in school until 3:55pm every day.

Procedure for Reporting Absences or Tardies

1. Call the school at (310) 725 – 5800 and leave a message notifying the school of the absence. Please include the name of the student, the grade level of the student, and the reason for absence in the email or the message. You may also email the office manager – see the Contact Info section.
2. When the student returns to school, please send the student with a note verifying the absence or tardy. All notes should contain the following information. (Please see next section regarding excused versus unexcused absences and tardies.)

- Student's full name
- Grade level
- Date(s) of absence
- Reason for absence
- Parent contact number
- Signature

Excessive Absences

Whenever a student is going to be absent for more than three consecutive days, a meeting must be set up with the school administration to discuss the absences and a plan for managing academic work during the time away. Students with more than 14 absences in any single class in one semester may not receive credit for the class, regardless of grade.

Any student who has missed five consecutive days of school without any contact between the family and the school may be withdrawn from the school. Any student who has missed fifteen consecutive days of school, even with contact from their family to the school, may be withdrawn from the school.

Closed Campus

DVC is a closed campus, meaning that students are not permitted to leave campus during the school day without being signed out by their parent or legal guardian.

Procedures for students aged 18 or older

Permission is given for 18 year old students to excuse their own absences and sign themselves into and off of campus once they have submitted the appropriate contract. Please see front office for the appropriate contract. All absences and instances of signing out early will be communicated to parents as described in the contract.

Procedure for Picking Up a Student Early

Students will only be released during the school day to their parent/guardian that is listed in PowerSchool for the student. If a parent/guardian wishes for one of the emergency contacts listed in PowerSchool to pick up a student early, they must make the request in person or by phone. When the parent/guardian arrives to pick up their student, the office will verify that the person coming to pick up the student is listed on the emergency contact form. The office staff may require photo identification for verification of parent/guardian/emergency contact identity.

The student will only be called out of class when the parent/guardian arrives at the school to pick them up. Students will not be called out from class or dismissed from school per phone requests by the parent/guardian. The parent/guardian must sign the student out of school, indicating time of sign-out and reason for sign-out. A doctor's note (if applicable) should be provided upon student's return to school on the same day or on the next day in which the student is present.

Leaving school early or arriving late often, with or without reason, can be damaging to a student's educational experience and to how their courses are run. If a student often leaves school early or arrives late a conference will be held with the family to discuss potential consequences, including extracurricular activities, dances, etc.

Procedure for Bringing a Student to School After the School Day Has Started

When a student is arriving more than 20 minutes after the school day has started, the parent/guardian is required to come to the front office with the student who is late and sign him/her in. Include reason for late arrival and any appropriate documentation of late arrival (i.e. doctor's note).

Notes: Please see list of excused versus unexcused absences/tardies to understand what qualifies as an excused absence/tardy. Please note that frequent excused or unexcused absences or tardies may result in disciplinary consequences or loss of course credit.

Visitors to Campus

All visitors to campus, including alumni, parents, guardians and family members, must have an appointment as approved by a teacher or administration. All visitors must sign in at the front office.

Consequences for Unexcused Tardies

If a student is tardy to class three times during a week, they will be required to serve detention before school on Friday of that week. Other consequences for repeated tardies will be assigned based on how often a student is tardy to class.

Excused vs. Unexcused Absences (Truancy) & Tardies

Excused absences or tardies include the following:	Unexcused absences (truancy) or tardies include:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">· A medical, dental, optometric, or chiropractic appointment with a doctor's note· Personal illness with a parent note· Quarantine with a doctor's note· Family emergency with a parent note· Appearance in court with a note from the court· Attendance at a funeral with a parent note· College visit with parent note*· Employment conference with a parent note*· Observation of a religious holiday or ceremony with a parent note*· Conference with another staff member with a note from that staff member excusing the absence / tardy· Special circumstance approved by administration*	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Any absence or tardy without a note, including being late to a class without a note· Unexpected transportation issues (i.e. traffic issues, flat tire, etc.) – with or without parent note· Oversleeping and /or mismanagement of time· Family vacations· Babysitting / taking care of other family members· Anything not listed under "excused absences or tardies"
<p><i>*Requires pre-approval by administration. Please schedule an appointment.</i></p> <p>Notes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>Any student who has repeated absences or tardies, regardless of whether they are excused or unexcused, may be subject to disciplinary consequences or loss of course credit.</i>2. <i>If a student is going to be absent for more than three consecutive days for any reason, an appointment with school administration to discuss the absences and plan for completing school work must be held.</i>	

If students or parents have questions about attendance / tardy records, please do the following:

1. Log into PowerSchool to review student attendance data.
2. Contact the front office with questions by calling (310) 725 – 5800.
3. Unresolved questions regarding attendance / tardies will be addressed by school administration.

Dropping Off Belongings for Students During School Hours

Items dropped off for students will not be delivered to the classrooms, and students will not be called out from class or notified by the school to pick up items that are brought in. Items should be left on the drop-off table and labeled with the student's name. The school is not responsible for any items left on the drop-off table.

Ordering Food for Delivery

Students are not permitted to order any food to be delivered to the school at any time, whether during school hours or before/after school hours. Any food delivered to the school must be ordered and received by a staff member. Parents or guardians are also not permitted to order food to be delivered to the school for students. If a parent or guardian would like to drop off food for a student, the drop-off procedures must be followed.

Student Work and Media Release

All student work and activity at Da Vinci Schools may be used by Da Vinci Schools for educational purposes including training and development of teachers and staff and promotion of the school and organization.

3. WEEKLY SCHEDULES

The schedule below is an example of a typical week. This schedule, however, is subject to change. Each week, the schedule is posted to dvc.davincischools.org; please access this website for the most up-to-date information regarding the weekly schedule.

Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday	
Office Hours	8:00 - 8:55	Office Hours	8:00 - 8:55	Office Hours	8:00 - 8:55	Office Hours	8:00 - 8:55	Advisory/CD	10:00 - 10:45
Period 1a	9:00-10:45	Period 1b	9:00-10:45	Period 1a	9:00-10:35	Period 1b	9:00-10:35	Period 1a	10:50 - 11:35
Period 2a	10:50 - 12:35	Period 2b	10:50 - 12:35	Period 2a	10:40-12:15	Period 2b	10:40-12:15	Period 1b	11:40 - 12:20
LUNCH	12:35-1:05	LUNCH	12:35-1:05	LUNCH	12:15-12:45	LUNCH	12:15-12:45	LUNCH	12:20 - 12:50
Period 3	1:10 - 2:55	Period 3	1:10 - 2:55	Advisory	12:50-1:15	Advisory	12:50-1:15	Period 2a	12:55 - 1:40
Seminar 7	3:00-3:55	Seminar 8	3:00-3:55	Period 3	1:20 - 2:55	Period 3	1:20 - 2:55	Period 2b	1:45 - 2:25
				Seminar 7	3:00-3:55	Seminar 8	3:00-3:55	Period 3	2:30 - 3:55

Student-Led Conferences (SLCs)

During student-led conferences (SLCs), the school operates on a minimum day schedule so that teachers can be available to parents/guardians in the afternoon. Classes on these days run Monday – Thursday from 9:00am – 1:30pm. See the schedule below for an example of the student-led conferences schedule. Please note that school on Friday of SLC week generally runs on a normal Friday schedule, with classes meeting from 10:00am – 3:55pm.

Monday - SLCs		Tuesday - SLCs		Wednesday - SLCs		Thursday - SLCs	
Office Hours	8:00 - 8:55	Office Hours	8:00 - 8:55	<i>SLCs, No office hours</i>		Office Hours	8:00 - 8:55
Period 1a	9:00-10:20	Period 1b	9:00-10:20	Period 1a	9:00-10:20	Period 1b	9:00-10:20
Period 2a	10:25 - 11:40	Period 2b	10:25 - 11:40	Period 2a	10:25 - 11:40	Period 2b	10:25 - 11:40
LUNCH	11:40 - 12:10	LUNCH	11:40 - 12:10	LUNCH	11:40 - 12:10	LUNCH	11:40 - 12:10
Period 3	12:15-1:30	Period 3	12:15-1:30	Period 3	12:15-1:30	Period 3	12:15-1:30
<i>Students dismissed</i>		<i>Students dismissed</i>		<i>Students dismissed</i>		<i>Students dismissed</i>	
SLCs	1:45 - 4:00	SLCs	1:45 - 4:00	SLCs	1:45 - 4:00	SLCs	1:45 - 4:00
Students with an "I" in any class must stay after school from 1:30pm to 3:30pm and work		Students with an "I" in any class must stay after school from 1:30pm to 3:30pm and work		Students with an "I" in any class must stay after school from 1:30pm to 3:30pm and work		Students with an "I" in any class must stay after school from 1:30pm to 3:30pm and work	

Presentations of Learning (POLs)

During Presentations of Learning, the school operates on a minimum day schedule so that teachers can participate in panel-style evaluations of their students' content mastery. Students are expected to be in school from either 8:00am - 12:30pm (morning session, applicable to most students) or from 11:30 – 4:00pm (afternoon session, a few students). Students are expected to be present for the duration of their assigned session, and students are expected to be on-time for their scheduled Presentation of Learning.

Morning POL Group		Afternoon POL Group	
POLs	8:00 - 12:00	LUNCH	11:30 - 12:00
LUNCH	12:00-12:30	POLs	12:00 - 4:00
Tutoring*	12:45 - 1:30		
Re-presents*	1:30 - 3:30		

* Tutoring and representation time is mandatory for students who are failing any courses or who need to represent any piece of their POL. Students who are passing all of their courses do not need to stay after 12:30pm on POL days if they are in the morning group.

4. TRANSPORTATION

Pick-Up & Drop-Off Procedures

The doors of the school open for office hours at 8:00am, and students are permitted to wait outside the front doors of the school if they are dropped off before then. The school building will not be open to students, however, until 8:00am. Students who enter the school between 8:00am and 8:15am will be permitted to attend office hours. At 8:15am, students are no longer permitted to enter the school for office hours. The doors to the school then re-open at 8:50am, when all students make their way to the classes that begin promptly at 9:00am. The front office remains open for inquiries and appointments for both students and parents from 8:00am – 4:00pm Monday through Thursday, and 9:00am to 4:00pm on Fridays.

When dropping off students at school, please proceed into the back parking lot or designated drop off line in front of campus before stopping to let the student out of the car. Parents and guardians are permitted to park in any spaces available in the school's parking lot.

Student Parking

Students may park in the back parking lot closest to the Da Vinci Communications office and entrance.

Skateboards, Bicycles, Scooters, Rollerblades & Other Wheeled Devices

Wheeled devices are not permitted in classrooms. The school provides places to lock up these items, but the locks are not provided by the school. Students should purchase their own lock to secure their skateboard, bicycle, scooter, or rollerblades throughout the school day. The school is not responsible for any loss or damage to skateboards, bicycles, scooters, or rollerblades brought to campus.

To maintain the safety of all students, students are not permitted to ride their skateboards, bicycles, scooters, or rollerblades anywhere on campus. Signs are displayed prohibiting this behavior at the front of the school and in the parking lot. Students who use skateboards, bicycles, scooters, or rollerblades to get to school can place them in the designated location once on campus.

If a student brings the wheeled device into the classroom, or is found to be using the wheeled device on campus, it may be confiscated and returned only to the student's parent, guardian or individual listed on their emergency contacts list.

5. COURSE CREDITS, GRADING, CREDIT RECOVERY, & NON-PROMOTION

Student Schedules

Students' course schedules will be determined by the school administration and/or counseling staff based on the student's needs and progress toward graduation. Requests for schedule changes or alternative schedules will be handled at the discretion of the school administration and/or counseling staff.

Course Credit

All students who earn a C- or higher in a core course will be awarded 5 units of credit per semester for most courses, and 10 credits per semester for double blocked courses such as world history, U.S. history, chemistry and biology. Da Vinci Communications does award or use "D" grades.

Credit Recovery

All students who have received an "F" in core courses and are not on track for graduation must enroll in credit recovery courses in order to graduate on schedule. Families and students may choose to recover credits through summer school, classes embedded into the school day or through approved outside providers including outside summer school options. Students and families will meet with counselors in order to determine their best path for recovering credits.

Mastery Based Grading

Mastery based grading (MBG) is a system that provides meaningful feedback to students and parents so that excellence can be achieved. Mastery based grading pushes students to focus on skill development and showing evidence of their mastery rather than calculating points necessary to achieve a letter grade without reference to academic progress. MBG gives students and parents specific feedback about what skills they have learned and not learned, which can be used to direct learning. Students are graded on a four point scale:

Points	Meaning	Letter Grade Equivalent
4	Evidence demonstrates detailed understanding	A
3	Evidence demonstrates understanding	B
2	Evidence demonstrates basic understanding	C
1	Evidence demonstrates partial understanding	I
0	No evidence (Generally a missing or incomplete assignment)	I

Grades become final at the end of each semester, at which point the final grades the student earns that semester goes on the student's transcript. The first semester ends in December before winter break, and the second semester ends in June before summer break. Transcripts reflect the letter grade students' earned in that course that semester. Students must earn a C- or higher in an academic course in order to earn credit for that course. If a student has a grade of "I" in a course at the end of the semester, that grade will be reported on the transcript as a grade of "F" and the student will not receive credit for that semester of the course.

Grade Appeals

Teachers are solely responsible for assessing the level of mastery their students have demonstrated on each of the essential skills of the course. If a student or parent wishes to appeal the student's demonstrated level of mastery on any of the essential skills, they should notify the school administration and make an appointment for a meeting at which the teacher and a school administrator may be present. The final decision with regards to the grade will rest with the teacher. Grade appeals must be made via email within one month of the end of a semester.

Retention / Non-promotion

Student promotion into the next grade level is determined by number of course credits earned toward graduation. Students who are not making satisfactory progress toward graduation may be required to repeat a grade level. If a student is at risk of retention, a counselor will meet with the student and family to discuss which courses must be completed before the student can move onto the next grade level.

6. GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Earning a high school diploma from Da Vinci Communications is dependent upon completion of the University of California / California State University a - g requirements. *Certain exceptions may apply for students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs). For more information, please contact the Director of Special Education.*

Students must complete all of the University of California / California State University a - g requirements in order to graduate from Da Vinci Communications. The requirements and courses that satisfy these requirements are listed as follows:

UC "a-g" Course Requirements*	Da Vinci Communications Graduation Requirements	Da Vinci Courses Offered
a. History/Social Science – 2 years required	Social Science 2 years required (20 credits) 5 credits per semester	World History
		US History
		Government & Economics
b. English – 4 years required	English 4 years required (40 credits) 5 credits per semester	English 9
		English 10
		English 11
		English 12
c. Mathematics – 3 years required, 4 years recommended	Mathematics 3 years required (30 credits) 5 credits per semester	Algebra
		Geometry
		Algebra 2
		Pre-Calculus
		Calculus
d. Laboratory Science – 2 years required, 3 years recommended	Science 2 years required (30 credits) 5 credits per semester	Physics
		Chemistry
		Biology
e. Language Other than English – 2 years required, 3 years recommended	Foreign Language 2 years required (20 credits) 5 credits per semester	Spanish 1, 2, 3
		Other languages offered through Rosetta Stone
f. Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) – 1 year required	Art 1 years required (10 credits) 5 credits per semester	Cinematic Arts

g. College-Preparatory Electives – 1 year required	College Prep Elective 1 year required (10 credits) 5 credits per semester	PLTW: Intro. to Engineering Design
		PLTW: Computer Science and Software Engineering
		PLTW: Computer Science Applications

Graduation Ceremony

The graduation ceremony for seniors at Da Vinci Communications will be held each year in late May or early June. In order to participate in the graduation ceremony, the following qualifications must be met:

- Completed graduation requirements*
- No discipline issues or suspensions during last three months of school
- No misconduct at any school-sponsored events / activities during the last 3 months of school
- Completion of senior POL
- In good standing per senior contract (if applicable)

Failure to meet any of these requirements may result in removal from the graduation ceremony at administrator discretion.

*Certain exceptions may apply for students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs). For more information, please contact the Director of Special Education.

Student Privacy

School staff do not discuss student information, including attendance and academic progress, with persons other than the parent/guardian listed in school records, unless the parent/guardian is also present.

7. SCHOOL PROGRAMS & SIGNATURE PRACTICES

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Da Vinci values and recognizes the importance of parent involvement in their student's education, and as such we expect all families to attend certain school events and highly encourage parents to attend others if possible:

<i>Events parents are expected to attend</i>	<i>Events parents are highly encouraged to attend</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fall Student-Led Conference (SLC) • Fall Exhibition • Spring Student-Led Conference (SLC) • Spring Exhibition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Back to School Night • Fall Presentation of Learning (POL) • Spring College Meeting (Grade Level Specific) • College Knowledge Night • Spring Presentation of Learning

SIGNATURE PRACTICES

Project Based Learning (PBL)

Da Vinci core courses are taught using a project based learning pedagogy. Project-based learning is learn-by-doing curriculum that integrates core subjects with real-life problems to be solved. Teachers work in teams with one another to identify content area essential skills that need to be addressed at the grade-level. Teachers work backwards to plan their curriculum, creating engaging, interdisciplinary projects that center on a big idea and a real-world connection that is rigorous, relevant and meaningful to students' lives. Students work in teams to create a final product that demonstrates mastery of content standards and a demonstration of key skills such as critical thinking, collaboration, and communication.

Presentations of Learning (POLs)

Each semester, students complete a presentations of learning in which they demonstrate mastery of content in their courses in a formal presentation setting. Schedules on these days are different to accommodate the presentation format. Students' presentations are a separate one credit course on their transcripts, and their demonstration of mastery can also affect their course grades.

Student Led Conferences (SLCs)

Student Led Conferences occur each semester and provide students the opportunity to share their academic progress with their family in a structured setting, focusing on content mastery and growth over the semester and year. Student led conferences occur after school on minimum days, and families are expected to sign up for and attend their student's SLC each semester.

Exhibition

Each semester Da Vinci Communications hosts a school-wide exhibition night where students show off their final products and demonstrate their mastery of essential skills throughout the semester. All families are expected to attend to see the students' work. Exhibition nights occur in the evening the week before Thanksgiving Break and the week before Spring Break each year.

Core Courses and Honors

A student's schedule from 9:00am to 3:00pm each day (periods 1 through 6) is generally comprised of core courses that fulfill the University of California's course requirements for admission. Students' core

courses are organized by grade level and teachers work as a grade level team to create interdisciplinary projects which involve all content areas around a joint focus. Because of this team interdisciplinary curriculum, students' schedules are largely set based on grade level.

Students may pursue honors credit in many courses by completing more complex work in the course, designated as "honors options" by the teacher. Students who complete the necessary honors options will receive honors credit on their transcript and an extra GPA point in their weighted GPA calculations.

Advisory

Every student is enrolled in a cross-grade level advisory class that they stay with for their high school careers. The advisory curriculum covers academic and non-academic content essential for students' development as young people. Curriculum is adjusted each year to the students' needs, and has included college admissions, psychological health and habits of effective teenagers.

Sex-ed curriculum is taught in advisory classes because of academic research that shows that sex-ed is most effective when taught in a mixed gender environment with a school faculty member, rather than an outside program or adult unfamiliar to students. All staff are trained in the sex-ed curriculum, and all families have the ability to opt-out of the sex-ed curriculum and have their student work on an alternate assignment.

Seminars

Seminar classes are courses students elect to take during their last period of the day. Students can elect new seminars each semester, and these courses provide students with exposure to a variety of different professional fields, hobbies and activities. Students can also choose to take sports or music seminars which flow into the corresponding extracurricular programs. Past seminars have included: speech and debate, rock band, music production, crocheting, soccer, cybersecurity competitions, and much more.

Dual Enrollment Early College Courses and Year 13

Students may take dual enrollment courses, which allow students to earn both college credit and high school credit for their course. Dual enrollment courses are offered through partnerships with individual colleges. If a student earns college credit in a course, their high school transcript will reflect the completion of an advanced course for high school credit, and students will also receive a transcript from the partner college reflecting the course and grade earned. When applying to colleges, students submit both transcripts, and should meet with their college's counseling department to ensure the credits earned in dual enrollment courses transfer into the college they choose to attend.

Year 13

Students who wish to complete additional dual enrollment college courses after their senior year may elect into the year 13 program at Da Vinci Communications. These students will complete dual enrollment college courses with the opportunity to complete either their IGETC (Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum) or Associates' Degree, based on which early college courses they completed during their 10th through 12th grade years. Before electing to stay for the year 13 program students and families must attend a mandatory meeting with the counseling department or administration to discuss their student's projected credits earned and path to college completion.

8. EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Sports

Da Vinci Communications students play on CIF sports teams alongside Da Vinci Design and Da Vinci Science students under the Wiseburn-Da Vinci banner. Sports teams practice after school hours, and sports seminars are also offered for additional practice time. Students on sports teams are highly encouraged but not required to enroll in the corresponding sports seminars, and students who are not on the sports teams are welcome to enroll in the sports seminars. Student must maintain a 2.0 GPA in the current semester in order to participate in athletic competitions. Eligibility is also dependent upon attendance and behavior, as determined by administration, coaches and the athletic director.

2015-16 Sports Teams

Fall Sports

- Girls Volleyball
- Cross Country (co-ed)

Winter Sports

- Girls Basketball
- Boys Basketball
- Girls Soccer
- Boys Soccer

Spring Sports

- Boys Volleyball
- Track and Field (co-ed)
- Archery (non-CIF, but really cool!)
- Girls Softball (tentative for 2016-17)

Music

Da Vinci offers a joint music program across all three high schools. Students can elect to take a music seminar, and join in after and before school music programs.

Clubs

Students are encouraged to join or start a student club on campus. Clubs are student-run, overseen by a faculty sponsor and generally meet after school once or more per week. Clubs change each year, and in the past have included class committees, cultural clubs and glee and honors society among many others.

Off Campus Courses

Some courses offered each semester, generally seminar courses, involve significant time off campus. For these courses parents will be informed via a permission slip and be given the option to opt out of the course. If parents opt-out of the course students will be enrolled in an alternate seminar if possible.

Overnighter

Each year 9th grade students go on a two day/one night trip during the first month of high school. This overnighter is an essential piece of culture building for students, and is often one of their greatest lasting memories of high school, and as such all 9th grade students are expected to attend.

Field Trips and College Visits

Students may attend off campus field trips throughout the school year. Under the California Education Code and Board Policy, teachers and support staff may take students on field trips to enrich and complement their educational experience. Such trips are always under the supervision of at least one teacher and/or school administrator, or certified athletic coach in the case of a same day athletic event, and all precautions are taken to ensure each student's welfare. Teachers and the school may ask parents for a donation for some field trips. Such donations are always voluntary, and a student's grades or academic standing will never be affected by their ability to pay for a field trip or activity.

Work Experience

Students may enroll in the work experience program, which generally takes place during the seminar period of the day. Students in the work experience program are placed in a professional workplace, usually for two days each week. Students are responsible for their own transportation to and from their workplace, and can organize transportation with other families by completing an authorization form. Students are held to high professional expectations when participating in this program, and if any issues arise with the workplace or Work Experience coordinators or staff, the student may be immediately removed from the Work Experience Program.

Independent Study

Any student who is absent five or more consecutive days must fulfill the commitments of a CIS (Student Contract for Independent Study). For more information about how to request a CIS, please call your school's main office.

9. STUDENT SERVICES

Student Success Teams (SST)

Students who demonstrate a need for additional support may be referred to a Student Success Team (SST). SSTs are a school-based problem solving team, utilized to review individual student problems and to recommend alternative strategies/interventions to be implemented in the general education classroom. As such, SSTs are a function of general education, and the focus of the SST is a student's success in the general education setting.

504 Plans

Da Vinci Communications provides 504 plans for qualifying students. A 504 plan is a legal document falling under the provisions of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. It is a plan for the provision of regular education and related aids and services designed to meet the student's individual educational needs. To qualify for a 504 plan, a student must have a documented disability that causes a substantial limitation on the student's ability to learn or another major life activity.

English Language Learners

Da Vinci offers full-inclusion support for students with English Language Learner designation. These students take the regular A-G sequence of courses offered by the school with all native English speakers. These students may be given the California English Language Development Test yearly to measure progress. This information will be shared with parents and the student's teachers to support their growth. Accommodations and differentiation support is provided by teachers, as all students participate in the mainstream curriculum. In addition, English Language Learners are also offered a variety of supports.

ELL DESIGNATION

An English Language Learner (ELL) is defined as a student whose first language was one other than English OR who uses a language other than English at home AND who has not previously been identified as "Initially Fluent English Proficient (I-FEP)" or "Redesignated Fluent English Proficient (R-FEP)". English Language Learners who score Early Advanced or below on the CELDT will receive appropriate services within the mainstream curriculum.

ELL REDESIGNATION

Each English Learner who meets the established redesignation criteria is reclassified as Fluent English Proficient (R-FEP). Each former English Learner who has been redesignated as R-FEP has demonstrated English language proficiency comparable to that of an average native English speaker and will participate equally in the school's regular instructional program. Da Vinci utilizes the CELDT, grade history and teacher recommendation as a basis for evaluating and redesignating students.

HEALTH

Lunch

Lunch is served and managed through an outside vendor. All students need to complete a lunch application after submitting their enrollment application. The application determines the student's eligibility for free meals, reduced-cost meals, or full-priced meals. Meals must be paid in

advance online or in the school office. Cash, checks and credit card payments are accepted. MealTime Online can be found at www.mymealtime.com.

Students are responsible for paying the full cost of lunch until their application is processed. Students who need to pay can do so at the school office or can charge money on the student's account throughout the school year. Parents are encouraged to deposit money ahead of time in their student's lunch account. The price of lunch will be advertised at the beginning of each school year. Students with outstanding lunch balances may forfeit permission to participate in extracurricular student activities.

First Aid & Student Medications

The front office staff is the health center point of contact. They have first aid kits and EpiPen Auto-Injectors available for student use. Upon parent or guardian written request, the school can store a supply of prescription medicines for the students to keep on hand in case of an emergency. There is a form to complete and all medication must be in its original container clearly marked with the name of student, the name of medicine, and the appropriate dosage instructions as prescribed by the doctor.

Students may keep in their possession, unless parents or guardians wish to make other arrangements, inhalers for asthma conditions, EpiPens and over-the-counter medicines and supplements, such as Tylenol and glucose tablets. These may not be shared with other students.

For all medical-related concerns, please see the school's Office Manager.

10. SPECIAL EDUCATION

Da Vinci Communications offers a full inclusion model in which both special education students and general education students learn within the same classroom. Resource Specialists provide push-in support, learning seminars, and collaboration with general education teachers in accordance with students' IEPs. For students requiring additional support, a plan will be implemented in accordance with their IEP.

Rights

In California, special education is provided to children with disabilities between birth and twenty-one years of age. Federal and state laws protect families and their child throughout the procedures for evaluation and identification of special education placement and services. Parents of children with disabilities have the right to participate in the individual education program process, including development of the IEP, and be informed of the availability of a free appropriate public education and of all available alternative programs, including public and nonpublic programs. Da Vinci Communications operates under the El Dorado County Charter Special Education Local Plan Area.

Procedures

All children will have access to Da Vinci Schools and no student shall be denied admission due to disability. Students with IEPs will be provided services in accordance with their current IEP. Special Education referrals are accepted from parents, general education teachers, Student Success Teams, and all other school staff. Once a referral is received, the School Psychologist and Special Education Director review the referral and all relevant student records to determine the appropriateness of the referral. If assessment is deemed necessary, the school team will comply with the 60 day assessment timeline once the assessment plan is signed and returned.

11. STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

In order to provide an effective, safe, focused, and enjoyable learning environment, Da Vinci Schools has behavioral expectations for all students. The following is an outline of what is expected for our students and consequences for misconduct.

Please adhere to the Da Vinci Code of Conduct at all times.

- I will treat everyone with courtesy and respect.
- I will treat personal and school property with respect.
- I will help create and maintain a positive and safe environment.
- I will come to school prepared for learning.
- I will act responsibly and accept consequences for my actions.
- I will connect and contribute to the community and world around me.
- I will strive to make my community a safe, healthy learning environment for all.

Respect for Self and Others

Da Vinci students, parents and guardians, and staff are expected to respect others and support teaching and learning. Prohibited behavior by any member of this community includes using offensive language, ignoring a staff request, disrupting the learning process, disrespecting a staff member, employing intimidation, threatening another with physical or other harm, slander, sexual harassment or misconduct, lying, theft, and fighting. Anyone engaging in prohibited behavior may be subject to discipline including the possibility of being subject to an expulsion hearing. Willfully causing physical harm to another member of our school community is grounds for immediate expulsion. Any student who steals from the school, another student, or staff member is subject to suspension and may be subject to an expulsion hearing. Respect for the rights of others is expected from all members of the school toward other school members, school neighbors, nearby businesses, and other schools.

Dress Code

Da Vinci Communications enforces a dress code to foster a professional and respectful school environment. The dress code is in effect from the time students arrive to school and until they leave. The dress code applies to field trips, site visits, academic internships, and other school-related activities, unless the supervising adult informs the students otherwise. Students may receive lunch or after school detention if they are in violation of the dress code. In some cases as determined by the school administration, students will be required to change their clothes before going to class.

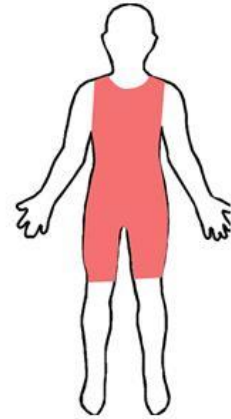
DVC Dress Code 2016-17

Acceptable

- Shirts (t-shirts, polos, button-downs, Da Vinci apparel)
- Pants (Khaki pants, slacks, jeans)
- Shorts, skirts, dresses (no shorter than mid-thigh)
- Leggings, jeggings or tights (as long as they are paired with a top, skirt, or dress that is mid-thigh in length)
- Collared blazers, jackets or sweatshirts (Da Vinci, college, sweaters, jean jackets, track jackets, etc. with school appropriate tops underneath)
- Close-toed shoes, sandals or professional footwear

Unacceptable

- Indecent exposure of any kind (midriffs, low-cut tops, large rips in jeans, etc.)
- Skirts, dresses and shorts that are shorter than mid-thigh, with or without leggings/tights/stockings underneath
- Spaghetti strap tops
- See-through shirts of any kind, unless paired with an acceptable top underneath
- Pajamas
- Inappropriate content of any kind
- Hats, beanies or caps in class, unless otherwise stated by the teacher



Personal Electronics

All personal electronics must be on silent/vibrate or turned off during class time, unless the teacher specifies otherwise. If a student is using their device without permission in class, their devices may be confiscated by the teacher and returned at the end of the day. If the student is repeatedly using an electronic device without permission the device may be confiscated and given to the school administration, who will contact the parent. Repeated offenses may lead to the electronic being returned only to the student's parent or guardian. Da Vinci Schools is not responsible for lost or damaged personal electronics items. Students bring these to school at their own risk.

Academic Honesty

Da Vinci Communications values academic honesty and ethical behavior in the learning environment in order to promote honesty, courtesy, consideration, and integrity. Consequences for not following the code of academic integrity may include receiving a zero on the assignment, a family meeting, completing academic work or a reflection paper, service hours, failing the course, disciplinary action, suspension or expulsion. Teachers or administration, based on severity and whether it is a repeated offense, will use their professional judgment to determine the consequences, subject to the appeal process in this handbook.

Cheating

Cheating is defined as the act of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for academic work not one's own, or assisting others in doing so. Cheating includes copying from another's test, submitting plagiarized work (see guidelines below), submitting work previously graded without approval by the faculty member accepting the work, altering grades, or aiding another student who is cheating.

Plagiarism

Any of the following actions, without giving full credit to the original source, is plagiarism:

- Direct duplication - by copying (or allowing to be copied) another's work, whether from a book, article, website, video, another student's assignment, a test, or any other source
- Paraphrasing another's work so closely that the essential meaning and form should be credited to someone else
- Piecing together sections of the work of others into a new whole
- Producing assignments in conjunction with other people which should be your independent work

Bullying and Harassment

Bullying is not tolerated at Da Vinci Schools. Students should report any type of harassment/bullying by other student(s) to a teacher, counselor, or principal. Harassment/bullying includes threats, name-calling, intimidation, hazing, inappropriate touching, cyberbullying, gestures, symbol display or verbal/non-verbal/written communication that makes a student feel uncomfortable or unsafe even if the person engaging in such behavior does not feel he/she is harassing/bullying. This includes harassment/bullying of a racial, sexual, or non-sexual nature. Students who engage in bullying will receive consequences according to the guidelines set forth in this handbook and the provisions of this charter.

DVC may, at the discretion of the administration and/or counseling staff, require that students attend mediation with other students. DVC does not arrange or facilitate mediation meetings between parents or with parents present, and does not arrange or facilitate mediations between DVC students and students from other schools.

Vandalism

All students are expected to treat the school property with care and respect. No one is to injure, destroy, deface, or trespass on school property. Parents and guardians will be responsible for paying for any damage done to the building by their child. Writing or spray painting, inappropriately on or around campus, carving on school furniture/fixtures, mishandling a book, damaging technology, destroying equipment are all infringements on the right of the Da Vinci community.

Controlled Substance Policy

Unlawfully possessing, using, selling, being under the influence of or otherwise furnishing to others a controlled substance or alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind, at any school activity or on any school district or adjacent property, is considered to be a threat to the educational process. For these offenses, the student may be subject to community service, suspension, expulsion and/or an obligation to complete a counseling requirement.

Prohibited Items

Students may not bring the following items on campus:

- Weapons of any kind, including items that appear to be weapons, could be used as weapons or are toy weapons
- Drugs or drug paraphernalia
- Tobacco or tobacco-related items
- Vaporizers or vaporizer related items

Guns, knives, Tasers, explosives, or weapons of any type are not permitted in the school, on the campus, or at school functions on or off the premises. Violations may lead to a recommendation for expulsion. Items that appear to be weapons are also prohibited.

12. TECHNOLOGY USE POLICY

We are pleased to offer our students access to the school computer network. Access to the Internet and e-mail enables students to explore thousands of online resources, libraries, and databases while exchanging messages with Internet users throughout the world.

Families should be warned that some material accessible via the Internet might contain items that are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, or potentially offensive to some people. While our intent is to make Internet access available to further educational goals and objectives, students may find ways to access undesirable materials as well. We believe that the benefits to students from access to the Internet in the form of information resources and opportunities for collaboration exceed the disadvantages. Ultimately, parents and guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using electronic and other resources.

Classrooms will be networked with each other and with the school office for ongoing efficiency in communication. Classroom teachers will use the data system for managing grades, student performance data, and internal school and network communication. Students are responsible for good behavior on school computer networks just as they are everywhere in the school environment. Communications on the network are often public in nature. General school rules for behavior and communications apply. The network is provided for students to conduct research and communicate with others. Access to network services is given to students who agree to act in a considerate and responsible manner. Access is a privilege not a right. Access entails responsibility.

Individual users of the computer networks are responsible for their behavior and communications over these networks and must comply with school standards. Beyond the clarification of such standards, Da Vinci is not responsible for restricting, monitoring, or controlling the communications of individuals utilizing the network.

Network administrators may access storage areas to review files and communications, maintain the integrity of the system, and ensure that users are using the system responsibly. Students should have no expectation of personal privacy in any matters stored in, created, received, or sent over the school computer networks, computers, e-mail system, the intranet, Internet, or any other school technology equipment. These are subject to review by the school at any time, with or without notice, with or without cause and without the permission of any student, parent, or guardian. The school reserves the right to monitor access, retrieve, download, copy, listen to, or delete anything stored in, created, received or sent over school computer networks, computers, e-mail system or any other school equipment, without notice and without the permission of any user.

To protect the integrity of technology systems and the users against unauthorized or improper use of these systems, the school reserves the right, without notice, to limit or restrict any individual's use, and to inspect, copy, remove, or delete any unauthorized use of this technology upon authorization of the school director or his or her designee.

Students are prohibited from using technology for any unauthorized or unlawful purpose. Using technology to send, save, view, forward, or create harassing or offensive content or message is strictly prohibited. Offensive material includes, but is not limited to pornographic, obscene, or sexual material or comments, jokes or images that would violate the school policies. The school policies against harassment and discrimination apply to the use of technology.

Students must respect all copyrights and licenses to software and other on-line information, and may not upload, download, or copy software or other material without the prior written authorization of the director of technology or his or her designee.

The following are some of the actions that are not permitted, and violations may result in a loss of access as well as other disciplinary or legal action, including expulsion.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Any attempt to guess passwords, break in to other accounts, or gain unauthorized access to administrator accounts· Sending or displaying offensive messages or pictures· Using obscene language· Harassing, insulting, or attacking others	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Damaging computers, computer systems, or computer networks· Violating copyright laws· Using another's password· Trespassing in another's folders, work, or files· Intentionally wasting limited resources· Employing the network for commercial purposes
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Monitoring of E-Mail/Internet/Computer Usage

Activity in the Da Vinci Schools computing resources is not confidential. The system administrators or other employees can and will access user files at any time. User files may also be subject to search by law enforcement agencies under court order. All computer usage, including, but not limited to, e-mail, word processing, or internet usage is subject to monitoring and recording. Users are notified that the network administrators, system operators, or the administration may and will access the system and any files located thereon, including data files, in order to monitor the activity on the Da Vinci School owned network. **This system is to be used for academic and administrative purposes only. While using the system there are no confidential and/or private messages or usage.**

13. DISCIPLINE

Consequences for negative behavior choices will include:

- Verbal warning
- Teacher-student conference
- Detention
- Parent phone call
- Campus beautification
- Service assignment
- Behavior contracts
- Parent meetings
- Parent shadows
- Home visit
- Class suspension
- In-school suspension
- Out-of-school Suspension
- Expulsion

Consequences may or may not proceed in this order

Detention or School Service Hours

Detention or service hours may be assigned by an administrator or teacher for not adhering to the school's code of conduct. Other immediate consequences may coincide with the assigned detention if directed by an existing behavior plan and/or is connected to other, more severe school policy violations. Detention and service assignments vary in length depending on the behavioral issue. Teachers may organize, assign and conduct their own detention or service assignments in their classrooms.

Suspension and Expulsion Policy

Students who present an immediate threat to the health and/or safety of others or themselves may be immediately suspended and later expelled by the Board of Directors upon recommendation of the Director. Da Vinci's policy is to provide all students with an opportunity for due process in conformity with applicable federal law regarding students with exceptional needs.

The decision to suspend a student will be at the discretion of the principal. All suspensions will be served at home unless otherwise noted on the suspension letter. A student who commits a school violation may be sent home for the remainder of that school day and for the next consecutive school day(s) depending on the circumstance of the suspension. The school shall call a suspension meeting in which a plan will be set out to support the student upon their return to school. The administration and/or counselor will be responsible for designing an appropriate behavior intervention plan. If the student or the parents fail to comply with the recommendations made by the team, the student will become eligible for expulsion. All disciplinary interventions enacted by the school will be done in accordance with the provisions set forth in the school's approved charter documents and, in the case of special education students, will conform to procedure outlines in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

When a student is suspended from school, the parent and student must meet with school administration before the student is allowed to return to class. School administration has the discretion

to suspend a student for up to five days depending on the severity and the frequency of the student's inappropriate behavior.

Appeals Process

All discipline may be appealed using the following procedures:

- Classroom consequences may be appealed to the school administration, who has final judgment over these consequences.
- Suspensions and other administrative consequences can be appealed to the executive director, who has final judgment over these consequences.
- Expulsion proceedings will be handled by an expulsion panel, as outlined in the school's charter.

14. EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

The school's staff is trained in order to provide for the safety of students, staff, and visitors during an emergency. Emergency preparedness includes fire, earthquake, and lockdown drills. These drills are run throughout the year so that students and staff know what to do in the event of an emergency. All alarms are treated as real; false alarms, emergency drills, and real alarms should elicit the same response by all staff, students, and visitors. Student failure to follow emergency procedures or the willful attempt to compromise emergency preparedness are grounds for consequences, including expulsion from school. In the case of a major emergency, parents and guardians should expect a telephone call from the school and an update posted to the school's website (dvc.davincischools.org) with further information regarding the emergency and the procedure for retrieving students from school.

Fire Alarm

If the fire alarm goes off, all students and staff are to evacuate to the back field. Students line up and staff members take attendance, noting any students who are missing. When the staff determines the drill is completed or that there was a false alarm, students return to classes.

15. ADMISSIONS & LOTTERY POLICIES

ADMISSIONS POLICY

All California students are eligible to attend charter schools pursuant to state and federal law. Students who live within the Wiseburn Unified School District boundaries are guaranteed enrollment at Da Vinci high schools provided they turn in an application on or before the priority application deadline.

As prescribed by state law, charter schools conduct an enrollment lottery—a public random drawing—for available enrollment spaces as a way to ensure equal opportunity of access for all students. (At most charter schools, there are more applications than enrollment spaces available.) During the lottery, all K-12 students are assigned enrollment spaces according to the order in which their names are drawn. For example, the first name places that student first on the enrollment list. Once all enrollment spaces have been filled, subsequent students are placed on a waiting list to fill any vacancies that may arise.

In accordance with applicable law, the following groups of students will be given preference in the Da Vinci Communications lottery:

1. Students who are currently enrolled at Da Vinci Communications (exempted from lottery)
2. Siblings of students currently attending Da Vinci Communications High School
3. Children of Da Vinci Communications founders or staff, not to exceed 10% of enrollment

In addition, as required by California Education Code Section 47605(d)(2)(b), Da Vinci Communications will offer admissions preference to residents of the Wiseburn Unified School District.

Waitlist Management

All student that do not receive a placement during the random, public lottery will be placed on a waiting list to enroll should space become available. Waitlist ranking will be assigned in the order selected. A student is allowed to be on multiple waitlists, and must be offered a placement should space become available, even if the student is enrolled in another Da Vinci school

Transfer Policy

No Da Vinci School will restrict the ability of parents/guardians to exit a particular school, apply for admission at any other school, enroll at another school, or maintain a waitlist slot at another school.

Transfers between Da Vinci high schools will be possible only during the summer. Students who wish to transfer must have parent/guardian consent and make the request in writing via a Transfer Request form beginning in March, during the Continuing Enrollment response period. Intra-school transfers are granted depending on available space, the student's good standing and the approval of releasing and receiving principals.