

TO: Leonardo da Vinci Families
FROM: Devon Davis, Principal
RE: LdV Reopening of School Information
DATE: August 14, 2020

Important Dates

Aug. 19	Class Rosters Available
Aug. 24-28	Grade level distribution of Chromebook (request needed ahead of time), First Day Packets, and grade level curriculum materials. Schedule for grade level times TBD
Aug. 31	LdV Parent Meeting, 5:00 (video format)
Sept. 1	New Parent Meeting, 5:00 and 6:15PM (zoom information to follow)
Sept. 2	First Day packets returned to site, 1-4:00PM
Sept. 1 and 2	Individual Parent Meetings with Ms. Davis and Ms. Ballard (9-12)
Sept. 3	First Day of School! 9:00AM Classes Begin!
Sept. 9	School Site Council Meeting, 5:00PM (zoom information to follow)
Sept. 9	Parent Teacher Council Meeting, 6:30PM (zoom information to follow)

Dear Families,

We hope that this *welcome back* letter finds you feeling healthy and good! Our hearts and resources will continue to pour out to serve our community. We recognize that even though we have sought to find silver linings over the last five months, our lives and our world has dramatically changed. From the health crisis with COVID19 *and* the call for community-school action to end institutionalized racism- we are raising our children in times of uncertainty and civil unrest. Keeping our child or children feeling connected to us emotionally, physically, and emotionally safe, and content is our role. Our families are to be commended.

We want to share some important information as we prepare for the reopening of Leonardo da Vinci for 2020-2021 school year.

Congratulations to our students and families who committed the time and energy to participate in our opportunity to provide a 2020 summer school program. The students we most wanted in the program- attended! We had 125 students enrolled and the best summer school attendance in the district (thank you, parents!). We worked with a community organization, Ashley Johnson led spirit week, and helped coordinate afternoon enrichment and SEL activities. We want every child making grade level progress and our summer school team, committed families, and community partners helped to bridge our efforts for a bright 2020-2021.

Thank you for your feedback and support during March-June Distance Learning! LdV has always prided itself on celebrating the whole child, recognizing multiple intelligences through inclusive practices and GATE for all curriculum, and anti-racist classroom communities. We know these core principles are needed as we continue into 2020-2021.

We heard the following primary comments from parents about Distance Learning and Instruction from March-June: weekly schedules needed, more teacher-led direct instruction, assignments, assessments, and projects should be aligned to teacher instruction and NOT “instructional apps or videos”, frequent progress monitoring and feedback is needed, continuing dedication to our school thematic instruction, continuing relationship building and interweaving SEL (social emotional learning) principles.

We recognize we were in an unexpected and shocking spring situation of redefining education and standard-focused instructional practices without the ability to have the all the typical teaching-protocols in place (moving forward with checks for understanding, summative assessments throughout the day to monitor student well-being and understanding, teacher led whole class or one on one: opportunities for reteaching, extended learning, and praising. Not to mention the hugs. Not to mention the routine of relationship connections as we as educators instill in our students the life skills of hard work and perseverance. All the education opportunities, equity, and aspirations we set forth for our children move slower and more removed in a distance-learning format. We worked hard in the spring, we know improvement is needed and we have prepared to have an even stronger Distance Learning and Instruction Program in the fall!

Class Rosters will be available Wednesday, August 19, 2020 at 4:00PM. We will be emailing out the class lists Wednesday afternoon. We will not be able to

move students. If you are seeking a pod arrangement or buddy learning situation, please work within the assigned classroom.

Chromebooks: if a SCUSD Chromebook was checked out to you in the spring- your student may continue to use this Chromebook. **DO NOT FILL OUT THE FORM BELOW**, please. If the sound is not working or not working well, as some quiet or young voices are not heard well, please seek an external speaker (anywhere from \$2-\$15.00 through Amazon/Walmart). The district is dedicated to making sure each SCUSD student has a Chromebook.

If you need a Chromebook, please fill out this link:

[LdV Chromebook Request](#)

Material collection dates will be in afternoon of August 24-28: Grade level drive thru events are being arranged. Schedules will be sent soon. At the drive thru event: students and families will meet the teacher and make a 1:1 connection. There will be safety protocols in place (staying in cars, wearing masks, wearing gloves, and keeping social distance). The following will be distributed:

- 1) First Day Packets (to be returned on campus Sept. 1 8:30-12:30)
- 2) Grade level textbooks and workbooks
- 3) Grade level handouts

August 31, 2020, 5:00PM: Parent Information Meeting as we support our families with resources to help their children during this time, share daily schedules, policies and procedures. Information will follow. Due to zoom limits and schools size, this will likely be a video.

September 1, 2020, 5:00PM and 6:15PM: New LdV Parent Meetings to welcome and support our new parents to the LdV community! We are limited to 100 sign-ins per zooms, so we ask families to sign on with one device (if possible!).

Return First Day Packet Materials: Sept. 2 from 1:00-4:00PM (drop off at school)

Principal and Assistant Principal office hours for meetings regarding student specific questions/comments/solutions, phone calls or zoom sessions: Sept. 1 and Sept. 2 from 9-12:00 (please email devon-davis@scusd.edu or tiffany-ballrd@scusd.edu to set up an appointment).

Behind the scenes at LdV, we are offering trainings on instructional practices, improving upon instruction time, improving our schedules and feedback, utilizing Universal Design, Leading the work of John Hattie' *Distance Learning Playbook*, and brain compatible anti-racist class communities. Ms. Ballard, our Assistant Principal is offering grade level and individual best practice training with online teaching tools and supporting curriculum distribution. We are ready to bring our thematic instruction- emphasizing core standards- into the hands and minds of your child or children. SCUSD is providing google, Universal Design, new science adoption training, and math and ELA scope and sequences guides.

Parent leaders and supporters: please continue our thirty-year-old tradition of being the foundation, thread and spark of our successful parent participation program. Please consider joining our School Site Council (meetings held the first Wednesday of the month at 5:00PM), the Parent Teacher Council (PTC) who meet the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30PM, English Language Advisory Council (for a parents who speak English as a second language) we meet the second Tuesday of the month at 9:00AM), and classroom volunteer roles (allowed after volunteer clearances are on file). There are other committees to consider: garden, Culturally Inclusive Committee, Whole Child Wellness, Sports Committee, and others. A meeting calendar for the year will be in your first day packet. When LdV parents commit ideas and time- the unimaginable happens to inspire our Renaissance learners.

Thank you to the fireworks hard-working team headed by Barry Dunn! The number will be confirmed soon but it is thought they raised over \$10,000 this year. Each dollar will support our students! Amazing!

We miss our in-person community connections! The conversations, work study groups, close relationships, and loving plans for each child will continue to thrive in our new format. With our strong foundation and shared goals, we will continue to celebrate the unique talents and strengths of each LdV dolphin. Our wonderful community will start 2020-2021 ready to go!

Sincerely,

Devon Davis