THE DAVIDSON

GOVERNING BOARD MEETING November 4, 2019



NOTICE OF MEETING

The regular meeting of the Governing Board of the Davidson Academy will be held starting at 2 p.m. on Monday, November 4, 2019, in the Tahoe Room at the Davidson Academy, located at 1164 North Virginia Street, Reno, Nevada 89503.

AGENDA

2 p.m.

- A. ROLL CALL*
- **B. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS***
- C. PUBLIC COMMENTS*

The public may comment on any subject that is not on the agenda that is pertinent to the Davidson Academy. Each speaker will be limited to three minutes. Public comment relating to an agenda item will be taken during discussion of that item. Comment will be limited to three minutes, but speaking time may be reduced at the discretion of the chair of the meeting, if there are a large number of speakers on a given subject. No comments will be restricted based upon viewpoint.

- D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (for possible action) Tab1 The Board will review and possibly approve minutes for the Governing Board Meeting held on September 16, 2019.
- E. APPROVAL OF AGENDA (for possible action)

The public is notified that the Governing Board may take items on the agenda out of order, combine two or more agenda items for consideration, remove an item from the agenda, or delay discussion relating to an item on the agenda.

F. REPORTS*

- 1. ACADEMY DIRECTOR* Tabs 2-4
 - a. Davidson Academy staff will provide general program updates for the Davidson Academy.
- 2. DIRECTOR OF ONLINE LEARNING* Tab 5
 - a. Davidson Academy staff will provide updates regarding the online learning program.
- 3. MEDIA AND OUTREACH* Tabs 6-7
 - a. Davidson Academy staff will provide updates regarding media and outreach efforts.

G. GENERAL BUSINESS (for possible action) Back Pocket

- 1. The Governing Board will review, discuss, and possibly approve a list of candidates for graduation in May 2020, subject to each candidate's completion of requirements for graduation.
- 2. The Governing Board will review, discuss, and possibly approve proposed meeting dates for 2020, as follows:
 - Monday, February 10, 2020
 - Monday, May 11, 2020, Public Hearing (at KNPB)
 - Tuesday, May 26, 2020
 - Monday, September 21, 2020
 - Monday, November 9, 2020

H. PUBLIC COMMENTS*

The public may comment on any subject that is not on the agenda that is pertinent to the Davidson Academy. Each speaker will be limited to three minutes. Public comment relating to an agenda item will be taken during discussion of that item. Comment will be limited to three minutes, but speaking time may be reduced at the discretion of the chair of the meeting, if there are a large number of speakers on a given subject. No comments will be restricted based upon viewpoint.

I. ADJOURNMENT (for possible action)

CERTIFICATE OF POSTING OF THIS AGENDA

I hereby certify that In accordance with NRS 241.020, on or before Wednesday, October 30, 2019, at 9:00 a.m., a copy of this agenda was delivered to the post office used by the Davidson Academy addressed to each person who has requested to receive copies of Davidson Academy Governing Board meeting agendas; a copy of this agenda was emailed to each person who agreed to receive copies of Davidson Academy Governing Board meeting agendas by electronic mail; and a copy has been posted at the following locations:

- 1. The Davidson Academy, Reno, NV
- 2. Notice.NV.gov
- 3. The E.L. Cord Public Telecommunications Center, Reno, NV
- 4. Washoe County Library Downtown Reno Branch, Reno, NV
- 5. Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center, University of Nevada, Reno
- 6. Offices of Davidson Institute for Talent Development, Reno, NV

<u>(s/ August Reich</u> Clerk of the Board Email: <u>areich@davidsonacademy.unr.edu</u> Phone: **775**-682-5800

Governing Board: Bob Davidson, Roger Davidson, Hon. Brian Krolicki, Mark Herron, Lauralyn Lovell McCarthy Sandoval, Richard Trachok, and Annette Whittemore; Ex-Officio: Dr. Kristen McNeill, Jhone Ebert, and Dr. Marc Johnson

Note: The Governing Board may take items on the agenda out of order, combine two or more agenda items for consideration, remove an item from the agenda, or delay discussion relating to an item on the agenda.

Those items followed by an asterisk (*) are items on the agenda upon which the Governing Board will take no action.

Members of the public who are disabled and require special accommodations or assistance at the meeting are requested to call Colleen Harsin at 775-682-5800 at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

Copies of the packets containing supporting material for an item on the agenda are available for public inspection at the business office of the Academy at 9665 Gateway Drive, Ste. B, Reno, NV 89521, and may be requested by contacting Aimee Fredericks at 775-682-5800.

Meeting agendas and minutes are available on the Academy's website (http://www.DavidsonAcademy.UNR.edu/).

Minutes of the Meeting The Davidson Academy Governing Board September 16, 2019

These minutes are not yet approved and are subject to revision at the next meeting of the Governing Board.

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Governing Board was called to order at 2:10 p.m. in the Tahoe Room at the Davidson Academy located at 1164 N Virginia St, Reno Nevada 89503.

A. Roll Call

Roll call was completed by board member Mark Herron. Board members Richard Trachok, Brian Krolicki, Lauralyn McCarthy Sandoval, Marc Johnson, and Mark Herron were present. Board members Annette Whittemore and Kristen McNeill joined the meeting by conference call. Roger Davidson was not present. Deputy Superintendent Jonathan Moore was present in place of Nevada Department of Education Superintendent Jhone Ebert. Academy Director Colleen Harsin and controller Karin Dixson were present. Academy legal counsel, Ann Alexander, was also present.

B. Welcome and Introductions

Mark Herron welcomed the Board members present. No individuals from the public attended. Director Colleen Harsin introduced the new Clerk of the Board, August Reich.

C. Public Comments

There were no comments from the public.

D. Approval of Minutes for Meeting of May 13, 2019

Bob Davidson requested approval of the minutes for the meeting of May 13, 2019, under Tab 1 of the Board book. Motion was made and seconded for approval of the minutes as submitted. There was no discussion and the motion carried unanimously.

E. Approval of Agenda

Bob Davidson requested approval of the Agenda as submitted to the Board. Motion was made and seconded for approval of the meeting Agenda. There was no discussion and the motion carried unanimously.

F. Reports

1. Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

a. Presentation of independent auditor's report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2019

Mark Herron, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, referred to the back pocket of the Board book with the audit letter and audit report, and introduced Morris Zlotowitz and Kimberly Hastings of the accounting firm Holthouse, Carlin & Van Trigt LLP (HCVT).

Mr. Zlotowitz began by introducing himself as the audit partner and explained that this is his second year on this account after being rotated in last year. Mr. Zlotowitz provided a summary of the meeting agenda stating that the auditors will address the financial statements, the audit results letter, and the audit representation letter. Prior to providing the auditors opinion, Mr. Zlotowitz explained that the two deliverables they provide are the audit results letter and auditor's opinion. Everything else that was provided comes from the management team.

Mr. Zlotowitz stated that their audit opinion is unmodified, and the report is clean. The audit report had no significant findings, and the most significant estimates are related to the pre-paid lease for the Jot Travis building space. Mr. Zlotowitz recognized that this finding had already been presented to the board but wanted to address it again since this was the most significant finding in this report. There were no difficulties or disagreements with management when conducting the audit, and the management representation letter was delivered to the auditors. Mr. Zlotowitz thanked Karin and Mark.

Ms. Hastings referred to the copy of the financial statements and the AU260 letter. Ms. Hastings stated that there were no significant changes to the financial statements. The management discussion analysis and the budget comparison were provided by management. Ms. Hastings stated that the documents were clear for the reader and there were no issues found. Ms. Hastings also explained that there were post-closing adjustments that were not audit related. The adjustments were primarily made for disclosure purposes and to adhere to GAAP standards. Ms. Hastings then provided information to the board regarding upcoming changes. The first change requires the student activities fund to provide an additional statement to be submitted with the statement for net position. This addition does not change the function of the fund, rather it provides further documentation. The second upcoming change is that there will be new guidance, time frame, and changes to presentations due to GASB. Ms. Hastings stated that these changes to GASB will not cause a significant effect, but in the future, there will be changes to financial statements.

Mr. Zlotowitz concluded the presentation by stating that sound accounting practices start at the top. These strong practices will ensure the long-term financial health of the Academy while also meeting program goals. Mr. Zlotowitz mentioned that if important changes occur to the financial world of accounting, they will work with Karin and Mark to see how the changes affect this organization.

Governing board member, Richard Trachok, asked if there were any concerns for how similar the total expenses are for regular instruction and general administration. Karin Dixson explained that regular instruction only refers to those who are working in the classroom and that general administration covers a broader range of job duties such as counseling services, human resources, the office of the principal, and other school related roles. Mr. Trachok followed this by asking how these numbers compared to similar schools. Karin Dixson explained that they do not currently have any comparisons to share, but that she can look into these numbers to be shared at a later date.

Motion for acceptance of the audit report was made and seconded. There was no further discussion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Herron thanked the auditors and Ms. Dixson.

2. Academy Director

a. General Program Updates

Davidson Academy Director, Colleen Harsin, referred to Tab 2 for the final report of the Pupil Enrollment and Attendance Audit for the school year 2018-2019. The Reno campus has a total enrollment of 140 students for the 2019-2020 school year. Ms. Harsin stated that this number is lower than expected but explained that there were no concerns regarding the decrease in student enrollment. For the 2020-2021 school year, the Davidson Academy has already accepted 6 new students who deferred this school year so their families can move to Reno. The application for the Reno campus opened on September 16, 2019, and will remain open until January 31, 2020.

Mr. Davidson asked how many students is the Academy planning to graduate this year. Ms. Harsin explained that we have 23 students who will graduate this school year which has remained rather consistent.

Ms. Harsin referred to Tab 3 with the Davidson Academy calendar for 2019-2020 school year. The schedule follows the University of Nevada Reno's calendar and has worked well for the Davidson Academy. The calendar has a total of 153 days in session, with longer than average school days. This combination makes the total hours at school for students similar to a typical public school.

Ms. Harsin referred to Tab 4 with the Academy's Reno campus weekly course schedule. The classes are listed by subject areas and the numbers listed after the course are the class periods in which that class is taught. Ms. Harsin explained that some courses are middle school only, but in general students are eligible to take high school level courses. Friday elective courses differ from the Monday through Thursday schedule because on Fridays the school operates on two-hour blocks. Many of the Friday elective options are led by students with oversight from Academy staff. Some of the student led electives that are currently offered are Zumba, Rock Climbing, and Mindfulness.

Ms. Harsin referred to the front pocket to display a handout for a new program called Safe Voice. Safe Voice is an anonymous reporting application that allows students and families to report problems they see in the community. Davidson Academy students were trained on how to use the program and the importance of reporting. Ms. Harsin also noted that there is a small team of staff members at the school who have been trained to address tips that are associated with the Academy.

Bob Davidson asked Mark Johnson if the University of Nevada Reno uses Safe Voice. Mark Johnson responded that the university has their own reporting system call Safe Pack. Ms. Harsin stated that she will include an announcement about Safe Pack in the weekly dispatch to remind returning students and to notify new students about the Safe Pack application.

Ms. Harsin referred to Tab 5 with a list of National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist from the Davidson Academy. There is a total of 14 students who have been selected as semi-finalists. These individuals are currently preparing their finalist applications.

Mr. Trachok asked of the 23 students graduating, do all student take the test. Ms. Harsin explained that not all students took the exam, and some students may have not scored high enough to qualify.

3. Director of Online Learning

a. General Program

Stacy Hawthorne, Director of Online Learning, referred to Tab 6 with a 2019-2020 Enrollment report, including a map of where the 48 Online students live throughout the U.S. One online student relocated to Nevada this past summer to attend the Reno campus. There are two students who are expected to graduate from the Davidson Academy Online program this year. These students are not eligible for the National Merit Scholarship application because they did not take the PSAT exam. Ms. Hawthorne explained that the lack of online campus students taking the PSAT is often due to local schools not allowing non-enrolled students to register for the PSAT.

Deputy Superintendent, Jonathan Moore, asked Ms. Hawthorne if they have contacted those local school boards. Ms. Hawthorne responded that they have not, but that is something to consider for the future.

Ms. Hawthorne stated that the First-Year Seminar is a new, two-week orientation session that teaches new students how to utilize and access all of the materials needed for the Davidson Academy Online campus. This addition has made the start of this school year the best start the program has seen thus far.

There are 44 online courses currently available and some online campus students are taking courses at the Reno campus using telepresence robots. Ms. Hawthorne explains that, when appropriate, online campus students have the ability to use a robot that is located at the Reno campus to electronically attend class. Online Technology Manager, Ben Brown, provided a brief demonstration of one of the telepresence robots in action. Mr. Davidson explains that these robots provide more opportunities for online students to interact with their peers.

Ms. Hawthorne referred back to Tab 6 stating that this year the recruiting for the 2020-2021 school year will focus on 250 U.S. schools offering K-8 gifted education that are not affiliated with a high school.

4. Media and Outreach

Ms. Hawthorne referred to Tab 7 with Media and Outreach report, which included: recent media reports, social media links, upcoming on-site tours, and conferences. The

Davidson Academy received the Blackboard Catalyst Award for the second year in a row.

Mr. Krolicki asked if the online program has an enrollment goal, to which Ms. Hawthorne responded they target 25 new students each year. She added that there is no physical space limitation to the maximum number of students that attend the Online campus. Mr. Davidson asked if any Online campus students did not return from last year. Ms. Hawthorne indicated that nine students did not return. Many of these students enrolled in local schools as the online format was not a good fit.

G. Training on Requirements of Nevada's Open Meeting Law Under Nevada Revised Statutes, Chapter 241

Legal counsel for the Davidson Academy, Ann Alexander, provided members a slide show presentation to fulfill the required training on open meeting law. This training was required by the Office of the Attorney General to correct a violation that was made in preparing the governing board meeting on February 19, 2019. The violation committed was the failure to provide notice at least 3 business days before the meeting date to an individual who requested notification.

H. Correspondence

There was no correspondence received by the Board for this meeting.

I. General Business

The following 2020 proposed meeting dates with meetings at 2 p.m. were reviewed and will be confirmed on the next meeting date.

Proposed meeting Dates for 2020

- February 10, 2020
- May 11, 2020- Public Hearing (at KNPB)
- May 26, 2020 (Tuesday)
- September 21, 2020
- November 9, 2020

J. Public Comments

There were no comments from the public at this time.

K. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board in public meeting, motion was made and seconded for adjournment; motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 4:13 p.m.

August Reich

Respectfully submitted by August Reich, Clerk of the Board

Colleen Harsin

From:	Colleen Harsin
Sent:	Tuesday, October 22, 2019 4:46 PM
То:	academy_students_broadcast@ditdlyris.davdgrp.com
Subject:	Week 9 Dispatch
То:	$a cademy_students_broadcast@ditdlyris.davdgrp.com$

IMPORTANT DATES:

		OCTOBER
Tuesday	10/22	STUDENTS ONLY: Research Proposal Writing Workshop, JCSU Room 422 (more
	5:00 p.m.	info below)
	6:00 p.m.	College Night presentation by Academy college counselor, Alex Ellison; Tahoe Room (more info below)
Thursday	10/24	Activity fees due for Academy classes (more info below)
	lunch	DECA Pizza Day (more info below)
	5:00 p.m.	STUDENTS ONLY: Research Proposal Writing Workshop, JCSU Room 422 (more info below)
	5:00 p.m.	Bronfman Fellowship virtual info session (more info below)
	6:00 p.m.	3 Minute Film Competition screening (more info below)
Friday	10/25	No School! Nevada Day (observed)
·	10:00 a.m.	STUDENTS ONLY: Speech & Debate tournament list due for all who wish to
	11:00 a m	participate in Speech 7 Debate this school year (more info below)
Caturday	11:00 a.m.	Dine & Donate Event at Raising Cane's (more info below)
Saturday	10/26	STUDENTS ONLY: MathLeague Middle School Math Contest (more info below)
Tuesday	10/29	School picture retakes (more info below)
	lunch	STUDENTS ONLY: Drama Club bake sale fundraiser
Thursday	10/31	Last day to withdraw from an Academy class (more info below)
	lunch	STUDENTS ONLY: Halloween costume contest
		NOVEMBER
Friday	11/1	AP Exam registration and payment due (more info below)
		UNR priority registration begins
		Name the NASA Mars Rover application due (more info on Blackboard)
		Yearbook surveys & photos due (more info below)
	8:00 a.m.	Parent breakfast (more info on Blackboard)
	6:00 p.m.	Family Night (more info below & on Blackboard)
Monday	11/4 2:00 p.m.	Quarterly Governing Board Meeting, Tahoe Room
Tuesday	11/5	Prudential Spirit of Community Awards applications due (more info on Blackboard)
Wednesday	11/6	STUDENTS ONLY: GECKO Club bake sale fundraiser
Thursday	11/7	Appelley Publishing Student Poetry Contest mailing deadline (more info on Blackboard)
	4:00 p.m.	STUDENTS ONLY: Mastering Research Series, Lecture 2: Knowledge Center Rotunda (more info below)
Saturday	11/9	STUDENTS ONLY: MathLeague Elementary School Math Contest (more info below)
•	7:30 p.m.	Reno Philharmonic Featured Performer – Oliver Leitner (more info below)

	4:00 p.m.	
Monday	11/11	Painting Party at Pinot's Palette (more info below)
	2:00 p.m.	
Tuesday	11/12	STUDENTS ONLY: AMC 8 math competition (more info below)
······	lunch	
Wednesday	11/13	Regeneron Science Talent Search application deadline (more info on Blackboard)
Thursday	11/14	Angst video showing, Tahoe Room (more info on Blackboard)
	6:00 p.m.	
Tuesday	11/26	Urban Air FUNdraiser (more info below)
	4:00 p.m.	
		DECEMBER
Tuesday	12/3	Scholastic Arts & Writing Award writing submissions due (more info on
***********		Blackboard)
Thursday	12/5	STUDENTS ONLY: Mastering Research Series, Lecture 3: Knowledge Center
	4:00 p.m.	Rotunda (more info below)
Tuesday	12/10	Kemper Human Rights Education Foundation Essay Contest submission deadline
		(more info on Blackboard)
Thursday	12/12	Scholastic Arts & Writing Award artwork submissions due (more info on
		Blackboard)
Wednesday	12/18	Last Day of Fall Semester 😊

• For more info on these dates/events, and to see additional upcoming dates/events, please see https://davidsongifted.blackboard.com, Calendars tab; click on the event of interest to see details.

• Where "(more info below)" follows an item, details are included in the following narrative sections of this Dispatch.

- Where " (more info on Blackboard)" follows an item, details are included in the Contests & Competitions module, the Weekly Dispatches Module or the Calendars tab accessible via your Welcome page in Blackboard.
- Please remember to have any intended Dispatch items to me by 10:00 p.m. on Mondays (Dispatch@davidsonacademy.unr.edu).

DIRECTOR'S NOTES:

Good afternoon!

I have really appreciated the opportunity to meet with groups of parents as scheduled last week, as well as with several students. Working together we continue to achieve great things!

A presenter today at the 2nd Annual Summit of State Tip Lines conference I'm attending over the course of a few days this week said, "don't let perfect get in the way of great." I found it to be a poignant reminder that a commitment to continuous improvement doesn't mean an endless search for perfection. Nothing is perfect, and many things are great. That's my highlight on perspective taking during a particularly busy time. Perhaps it can help anyone who may need a nudge to keep moving forward rather than becoming paralyzed by perfectionism.

Speaking of the conference I'm attending this week, it's a pretty amazing group of professionals in education, behavioral and mental health services, and law enforcement from all over the country who are focused on various aspects of school safety. SafeVoice serves as a solid example of a statewide system that others are seeking to access, and other tip line services are represented as well. For example, check out the bio of the presenter I referenced above, Susan Payne <u>https://www.safeandsoundschools.org/susan-payne/</u>. "Tip line" doesn't really do justice to the comprehensive nature of the framework that SafeVoice provides, and I'm pleased that we now have it on board as an option for reporting concerns and following up on student safety and well-being. I am also very pleased that students and parents continue to reach out to trusted staff members with questions and concerns on these topics as needed.

With regard to the parent meetings held last week that were organized by their students' graduating classes, I can assure you that follow-up on key items has been initiated. I have talked with the appropriate staff members about increasing activities that provide differentiation for middle and high schoolers, potential homework policy adjustments, and other suggested adjustments to how students may best be supported. As I noted in the meetings, adjustments can take a minute and there are a number of folks involved, so I appreciate your patience as we work through the feedback. By the end of this week, I anticipate seeing some information and proposed updates to our homework policy that we hope are helpful and address expressed concerns. I will share summary notes with the respective elists as soon as I can. Stay tuned for the next scheduled dates for a meeting with both Erin Vienneau and me hosted via Zoom for each of the three parent groups.

Another work in progress is our school wellness policy. We have reviewed the upcoming events that were already approved for student fundraisers and activities, as well as any pending as of this week. As we seek to phase in a comprehensive policy without upending club plans at this time, we are allowing the events to proceed at no more than one per week of the same type (no more than one bake sale per week) and no additional food-based fundraisers for this semester. I expect our policy to be developed/implemented next semester with input from students and parents where there is room to do so. The student store is adding healthy snack options based on feedback received, and we look forward to expanding those options throughout the school year. We are also looking at how best to address the surplus items already purchased by Student Council that will not be sold at the student store. As for the Overlook, there are no changes to Academy student access to it at this time. Please let me know if you have any questions on this and I will do my best to address them in a timely manner, <u>charsin@davidsonacademy.unr.edu</u>.

You may notice that the Contests & Competitions section has been removed from the Dispatch. It is now located in a module on your Welcome page in Blackboard. Previous dispatches are located in a module there as well, in case you wish to reference them.

I look forward to welcoming Alex Ellison for College Night this evening, as well as seeing many of you here for that event.

I hope you have a great rest of the week! Colleen [©]

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

DECA Pizza Day

Bring your money to lunch this **Thursday (10/24)** because DECA is hosting Pizza Day! Pizza is \$1.50 per slice, and \$10 for the whole pizza. In addition to pizza, there will be delicious baked goods! This may be the finale, so remember to show up!

Class Withdrawal Deadline

This is a friendly reminder that the **October 31** deadline to withdraw from a DA class is right around the corner. If a class you selected is not what you thought it would be, or if you do not have the time to devote to it as much as you'd like, you have the option to request a withdrawal. If approved, your current grade in the class will be deleted from your record and a "W" will be entered onto your transcript. After October 31, you will not have the option to withdraw from a class; you will receive the grade you earn at the end of the semester. To request a course withdrawal, please complete an add/drop/change of status form and include your teacher's and a parent's signature. Forms must be submitted by the end of the day on Thursday, October 31, 2019. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Rochelle at rbaxley@davidsonacademy.unr.edu.

Fall Festival Feedback

Hi students,

Student Council would appreciate your participation in filling out this survey regarding the Fall Festival. If you came to the event, please fill out the survey honestly so that we can take this feedback and make improvements for future Fall Festivals. Please email Jodi Allen (jallen@davidsonacademy.unr.edu) with any questions or comments about the event. Thanks so much!

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdu2hGlmInH98WfspVTeH0AHD-7ilm1EA8ZGdfJQnPvHbAvJQ/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1

Bronfman Fellowship

The Bronfman Fellowship is an extraordinary opportunity for Jewish 11th graders that begins with a free, five-week summer in Israel (2020 Bronfman Fellowship cohort). Applications are due by **December 1.** The organization is looking for people with a diverse set of backgrounds, talents, and interests, who can bring many different perspectives to the group, and who want to explore their Jewish identity in an intellectually stimulating environment.

They're not just looking for students with the best grades or academic record. They are also looking for:

- 1. Teens who enjoy having conversations with others and who have unique, insightful things to say.
- 2. Teens who ask intelligent, thought-provoking questions who want to learn for the sake of learning.
- 3. Teens who excel outside of the classroom setting e.g., in art programs or clubs, dance, creative writing, sports teams, etc.
- 4. Teens with strong character and emotional maturity.
- 5. Teens who are influencers in other words, who are positive role models for their peers.

If interested, please learn more and apply at <u>bronfman.org</u>. There will be a **virtual information session** for educators, prospective applicants and their parents on **Thursday**, **October 24th at 8:00 p.m., EST**. Hear from our Executive Director, our Education & Programming Director, and recent fellows about the application process and our summer curriculum. **Video Link:** <u>https://zoom.us/j/411806565</u>

Dial-in Information:

United States: 646-876-9923 (East Coast) or 669-900-6833 (West Coast); Canada: +1-647-558-0588; Israel: +972 55 330 1762

Meeting ID: 411 806 565

Speech & Debate

All students interested in Speech & Debate must email Bailee (<u>bbarber@davidsonacademy.unr.edu</u>) by **10:00 a.m.**, **Friday, October 25th** (Nevada Day, no school), with a list of all of the tournaments you intend to attend this school year, including which events you will compete at each tournament. We need this information in order to register you for events and determine budget, staffing, travel and lodging details. Students who do not submit this information on time risk not being able to compete in Speech & Debate tournament this school year.

Dine & Donate Event at Raising Cane's

Enjoy a delicious lunch on your day off, **Friday, October 25 (Nevada Day) 11am-2pm**, with your DA friends and families, and 15% of sales will be donated to DA for our Educational Opportunities Fund! No RSVP needed; just show up and mention Davidson Academy when you place your order. And please spread the word; anyone who mentions Davidson Academy will count towards our total (not just DA families). Good at the 2175 N Virginia St Raising Cane's location (between DA and the bus stop).

MathLeague Registration

MathLeague hosts six monthly elementary school contests for 2nd through 6th graders, which will lead to state and national/world championships in the late spring.

Next month's MathLeague Elementary School Math Contest will be held on **November 9th**. Interested 2nd through 6th graders should register at <u>https://www.artofdoingmath.org/</u>

Davidson Academy students in 5th through 8th grade are also invited to join Alexander in MathLeague's Middle School Math Contest next **Saturday, October 26**. Register at <u>https://www.artofdoingmath.org/</u>

AMC 8 Registration

The AMC 8 will be held on **Tuesday, November 12th** during lunch at the Academy. The competition is open to students in 8th grade and below. To sign up, please email Mr. Marshall (<u>imarshall@davidsonacademy.unr.edu</u>). There is no charge to participate.

Art & Activism Club

Art and Activism Club is moving days and location from Thursdays in room 234 (Mr. Braik's room) to **Mondays in room** 233 (Ms. Walenta's room). We are currently working on organizing a school wide post it note art gallery/competition so if that sounds interesting to you come check us out next Monday! More details on that are coming soon! Hope to see you all there!

Poetry Out Loud

Poetry Club will be hosting their annual school Poetry Out Loud competition at the end of this semester or the beginning of next semester, and are looking to get a general idea of attendance. The way the competition works is you memorize two poems and perform them for a panel of judges who grade your performance based on both accuracy, creative interpretation, and stage presence. If you're at all interested in poetry, drama, or performance, please look into joining. You can sign up via the google forms link below or go to Matt Baker's room and sign up on paper. https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf2QR6_oPMBixn1DabdL3h_epmrx_HfDGFt1TqCsguVXifeQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

The Immerse Education Essay Competition 2020

The Immerse Education Essay Competition offers students the opportunity to win a 100% scholarship to participate on an Immerse academic summer programme in Cambridge, UK. Immerse academic enrichment programmes are unique study abroad experiences designed for motivated young learners from around the world.

In order to enter, students aged 13-18 are required to submit essay responses to a pre-set question relating to their chosen subject and age group. From Medicine, Computer Science, Physics to Engineering, Creative Writing, English Literature, and many more subjects, there is a category for every area of interest. Students from all nationalities are welcome to enter the competition.

Essay competition submission due by January 20, 2020. For further details, and to enter, visit <u>https://www.immerse.education/essay-competition/</u>

REMINDERS:

Activity Fees Due

Activity fees for the students' courses have been entered into PowerSchool. Please log in to PowerSchool and look up your student's **fee balance**. Activity Fees are due by Thursday, October 24, 2019. A \$20 late fee will be assessed on accounts not paid in full by the due date. Students with an outstanding balance after **October 24**th may be ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities or clubs. Activity fees should be paid by exact cash or check made out to the "Davidson Academy". Each course does not need its own check – one check is sufficient for all activity fees. More information about activity fees can be found on pages 16 & 17 of the Academy Handbook. If activity fees create a hardship, please complete an Educational Opportunities Fund Request from, available via Blackboard, under the Policies & Forms tab. Please contact Scooby if you have any questions, <u>smeredith@davidsonacademy.unr.edu</u>.

Educational Opportunities Fund Pledge Drive

Parents heard about it during the DA Parent Dinner on October 4th. And now it's time! We've launched the DA Pledge Drive to raise funds for hard working DA students. Your gift goes directly to the Educational Opportunities Fund (EOF), which provides need-based scholarships for DA students. By now, you should have received a letter asking you to take part as generously as your resources allow. You can drop off a check at the DA or make your gift online right now by clicking the "Donate" button on the right side of the page next to Educational Opportunities Fund: <u>www.davidsonacademy.unr.edu/About-Us/Donate</u>.

Note: The Davidson Academy is a division of the Davidson Institute for Talent Development, a Nevada non-profit corporation which is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)3 tax-exempt private operating foundation. We are dedicated to supporting the intellectual and social development of profoundly gifted students age 18 and under through a variety of programs. Contributions are tax deductible. EIN 88-0427864.

School Pictures

School pictures have been delivered to student lockers. If you did not order school pictures, you have received a proof in case you want to still order pictures. Class Composite photos will be delivered all with retake photos in November. Retakes are scheduled for the morning of **Tuesday**, **10/29**. If you want retakes, please let Scooby know by Wednesday, October 23rd (<u>smeredith@davidsonacademy.unr.edu</u>). If you missed picture day, you will have to get your photo taken on 10/29. If you have issues with your order, please contact Bell Photo directly at 1-800-678-2355 or <u>www.bellphoto.com</u>.

Caution in Construction Areas

UNR is constructing a temporary campus dining facility on the lawn behind the Academy, **10/10 through 11/22**. There will be construction crews and equipment in the area, plus some dust and noise. Please pay attention to signs and directions from flaggers, and do not enter any barricaded areas. Make sure you're watching and listening – stay safe!

Statistics Class Available for Spring Semester

A semester-long Introductory Statistics course is being offered at the Reno Campus for Spring 2020. This course will cover the topics of Experimental Design, Data Collection and Presentation, Probability, Statistical Inference, and Confidence Intervals. The course is meant to be a fast-paced, challenging class in Introductory Statistics and should prepare students to take the AP Statistics Exam at the end of the semester. Students hoping to take the course should have completed Algebra II and have a strong mathematical background because of the semester-long nature of the course. We are looking for at least five students to have the course run and are flexible as far as times. 1st, 5th and 6th periods are presently available and we seek feedback from interested students to ensure maximum participation. Please let Ms. Vienneau <u>evienneau@davidsonacademy.unr.edu</u> or Dr. Ripley <u>drpiley@davidsonacademy.unr.edu</u> know if you might be interested and have one of the aforementioned periods available.

Yearbook Request

Please contribute to the yearbook! We would greatly appreciate it if you could fill out some fun surveys – check out the new superlatives one!

Out of Context: <u>https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=S4fFDILD_0m6AEDvGZjIJrxAEboT0K5PkJjgVB-Fb_BUQIhPN0RXVIBLVTYzUFhJV09ETVY1RIIWRC4u</u>

You Know You're a DA Student

If... <u>https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=S4fFDILD_0m6AEDvGZjIJg8kIjTlasFKo8MZE_qEbYhUOExNV0J</u> DNU1DQU1PWEVKUkY0Vko0VE5VSy4u

Extracurriculars: <u>https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=S4fFDILD_0m6AEDvGZjlJuT95k0HhkJJkV2fmrsy</u> QDdUMzZEVjVYR1pVSDM3TlJIREFYOFc2QkYxUi4

Theme

Page: https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=S4fFDILD_0m6AEDvGZjlJg8kljTlasFKo8MZE_qEbYhUNUVF NDRISjIHTUNXQ1VDTzAwVkRSWIFQVy4u

NEW! Superlatives:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=S4fFDILD_0m6AEDvGZjIJju00fzR4BIDkoaVUNelLw5UMkwxSkJKRI A3RIFXSINJVTNSUjY2VFBMUi4u

Every year, our goal is to get everyone in the yearbook at least three times. If you aren't someone who loves getting your picture taken in the moment, another great way to get in would be by sending some: Baby Pictures to Olivia Garrison at <u>ogarrison@davidsonacademy.unr.edu</u>

Extracurricular Pictures to Audrey Lim at <u>alim@davidsonacademy.unr.edu</u> (please add a few sentences of what you're doing, where you are, and anything else you feel is relevant)

Please keep your pictures under 10mb. The deadline to submit this information is November 1st 2019.

Advanced Placement (AP) Exam Sign-Up and Payment Information

Did you miss the AP Sign-Up Sessions? Have you changed your mind about taking an exam? Updates can be made to your registration until 11/1. Please contact Rebecca <u>rcoleman@davidsonacademy.unr.edu</u> for assistance.

Students, please communicate with your parent(s) so you all know how many exams they signed up for and how much payment is due. Each exam is \$94. Payment is due to the deposit box by the elevator by **Friday 11/1**.

- Payments for multiple exams may be combined. Checks should be made payable to The Davidson Academy with student name(s) and AP listed in the memo line. Place payment and form in the deposit box located by the elevator on the 2nd floor at the Academy.
- There will be a \$40 fee for late registration after the order deadline (Nov. 15) and a \$40 cancelation or unused exam fee.

To view the 2020 exam calendar, what Academy courses correspond and can help you prepare for AP Exams, and FAQs about AP exams please visit Blackboard > Counseling > Standardized Testing.

Semester Advising Meetings

Over the next few weeks, Rochelle Baxley will be scheduling semester advising meetings <u>for students who are currently</u> <u>enrolled in UNR courses in preparation for spring semester, as well as for students interested in taking UNR classes</u> <u>during wintermester</u>. For everyone else, because your schedule will remain the same in the spring, your meeting will be held sometime between February and April in preparation for the 2020-2021 school year.

UNR students: To schedule your appointment, please provide at least 3 dates and times for when you are available to meet.

Semester advising meetings began on Wednesday, October 2. It's recommended that students schedule their appointments sooner rather than later, especially if classes of interest have prerequisites and/or honors designation.

Please note the following:

1. Students will not be allowed to switch class sections at the Academy to accommodate UNR classes. Spring UNR classes must be scheduled during study hall periods, after school, or at the same time UNR classes are currently scheduled.

2. Per the agreement made between UNR and DA allowing students to access UNR classes, DA staff must make initial contact with professors and department chairs for overrides and prerequisite waivers. Parents and students: Please do <u>not</u> contact UNR faculty for these requests. If the professor/department chair needs to communicate directly with students, a DA staff member will facilitate that process.

3. Students intending to enroll in UNR courses during wintermester or spring semester must participate in a semester advising meeting in order to register for classes. UNR holds will be lifted from student accounts after all Davidson Academy requirements have been met.

Summary of important dates:

 Tuesday, October 1 – UNR wintermester and spring semester class schedules will be available online through UNR's MyNEVADA.

• Wednesday, October 2 – DA semester advising meetings begin for students taking UNR classes during wintermester and/or spring semester.

• Friday, November 1 – UNR priority registration begins. Students should check their MyNEVADA account for their assigned registration time.

Girls International Three Minute Science Competition

There's a new science competition for girls aged 13-19 funded by the United Nations Foundation: The Girls Three Minute Science Competition. Submit a 3-minute video speech on a science topic of choice. All participants, regardless of whether they receive any official recognition for their video, will be invited to attend a panel discussion with women scientists and professors.

For competition details, please visit www.girlsthreeminutescience.org; deadline to submit videos is November 10th.

Note: As this is the first year of the competition, under 100 entries are expected, so the chance of winning is high. Additionally, the winners' schools will also receive a \$100 cash prize.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Mastering Research/Proposal Writing

The <u>Office of Undergraduate Research</u> at UNR cordially invites students to attend a Research Proposal Writing workshop and the Mastering Research series of lectures:

<u>Research Proposal Writing Workshop (separate workshops):</u> Tuesday, **October 22, 2019.** Joe Crowley Student Union room 422, 5-6 pm Thursday, **October 24, 2019.** Joe Crowley Student Union room 422, 5-6 pm

Mastering Research Series:

Lecture 1: Thursday, October 3, 2019. Knowledge Center Rotunda 4-5 pm Lecture 2: **Thursday, November 7, 2019**. Knowledge Center Rotunda 4-5 pm Lecture 3: **Thursday, December 5, 2019**. Knowledge Center Rotunda 4-5 pm

The Office of Undergraduate Research welcomes any Academy student to participate in academic research. More than just an open invitation, they actively provide 1:1 assistance to you get started. For more information please visit the <u>UNR Undergraduate Research</u> web site, or contact <u>tbonser@davidsonacademy.unr.edu</u>.

3 Minute Film Competition Screening

The Nevada Museum of Art, KNPB channel 5, and the Holland Project present the 11th Annual 3 Minute Film Competition screening on **Thursday**, **10/24**, **at 6:00 p.m.**, Nevada Museum of Art. There is a \$5.00 charge for this event. To register and pay, please see the Nevada Museum of Art <u>https://www.nevadaart.org/calendar/</u>.

Family Night at Davidson Academy

Family Night is here again on **Friday, November 1, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.** at the Reno Campus for DA families to hang out, eat, play games, and watch student performances. Students, parents, and siblings are welcome. Parents may stay or drop off their students; siblings must be accompanied by their parents. Bring some food or drinks to share. There will be games available, or bring your own!

Student Musical Performances in the Tahoe Room - Open to any performances of music and poetry in any and all genres as long as the performances are school appropriate. Please contact Wendy Thompson at www.withompson@davidsonacademy.unr.edu by Wednesday, October 30 with student's name, piece, and instrument/voice if you are interested in participating.

RSVP by noon on Thursday, October 30 at <u>https://davidsongifted.wufoo.com/forms/davidson-academy-family-night-</u> rsvp/ and sign up to bring a dish <u>here</u>.

Reno Philharmonic Featured Performer - Oliver Leitner

Our very own Davidson Academy alum and Davidson Fellows award recipient, Oliver Leitner, will be performing alongside the Reno Phil in November. Please join us in supporting Oliver! Performances will be held **Saturday**, **November 9 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday**, **November 10 at 4:00 p.m.** To purchase tickets, please visit the <u>online</u> Box Office. It's worth noting that as of now there is more inventory and better seating options for the Saturday evening performance. Also, discounted tickets for a group of 10 or more ranging from 15%-25% off each ticket are available, and anyone 26 and under is eligible for the youth rate at \$9 per ticket.

Painting Party at Pinot's Palette

Come create your own painting of a phoenix (the school mascot) on **Monday, November 11 (Veteran's Day)**, **2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.** at Pinot's Palette, 5110 Mae Anne Avenue, Ste 702! Doors open at 1:30 and they ask that everyone arrive by 1:45 so that painting can start promptly at 2:00. Students are welcome to come on their own, or bring the whole family (ages 7 and up). You are welcome to bring a snack for yourself, or to share. No outside beverages allowed; complimentary water will be provided, and other drinks will be available for sale.

Register online at https://www.pinotspalette.com/renowest/event/375748

FUNdraiser at Urban Air

Kick off the long holiday weekend by jumping, climbing, flying, and more with friends and family at Urban Air (2210 Harvard Way) on **Tuesday, November 26. 4:00 p.m.** – **6:00 p.m.** We have a discounted rate of \$19.99 for an all-access pass (reg. \$24.99), plus 20% of the proceeds will be donated to DA's Educational Opportunities Fund!!! Urban Air socks are required for all participants, and are an additional \$2.50 if you do not already have some. This takes place during a public session, and anyone who mentions DA will get the discount AND have 20% donated to DA, so spread the word! No RSVP needed; just mention Davidson Academy when purchasing your pass.

SHOUT – OUTS

Math Kangaroo Competition

In the 2019 Math Kangaroo competition, Alex Davi placed 3rd in Nevada and 17th nationally in Level 6, Lucas Flach placed 16th nationally, and Darsh Patel and Megan Davi tied for 1st in Nevada and 1st nationally in Level 8. Way to go, Mathletes!





Math Prize for Girls Competition

In the 2019 Math Prize for Girls competition, a competition at MIT for the top 300 female high school math competitors in the US and Canada, Sophie Liu placed 67th and Megan Davi placed 102nd. Congratulations, you two!!!

MathLeague Contest

Alexander Weaver competed at Saturday's MathLeague contest hosted by Art of Doing Math, earning the school 1st Place among Division 6 schools (schools with 6th grade)! He won 1st Place in the team competition round, and earned 1st Place in the 6th grade individual competition. Alexander also delivered a perfect score in the Number Sense test, an 80-question, 10-minute mental math test. This is an incredible accomplishment achieved by only a couple students out of over 30,000 competitors each year!!! Amazing job, Alexander!

Speech & Debate

Firstly, congratulations to everyone who competed in speech and debate at Spanish Springs High School this weekend! We had a very successful tournament!

Speech awards:

- 2nd in Novice Informative -- Nai'a Keith-Handschuh
- 2nd in Novice Domestic Extemporaneous -- Erika Filter
- 1st in Senior Dramatic Interpretation -- Delaney Plecha
- 1st in Senior Domestic Extemporaneous -- Emhyr Subramanian
- 2nd in Senior Domestic Extemporaneous -- Tyler Burkhardt
- 3rd in Senior Domestic Extemporaneous -- Claire Burkhardt
- 4th in Senior Domestic Extemporaneous -- Asher Hansen
- 1st in Senior Storytelling -- Akaash Krishnan

Debate awards:

- 3rd in Senior Public Forum -- Emhyr and Tyler
- 3rd in Congress -- William Kramer
- 7th in Congress -- Leo Phelan
- Speaker awards:
 - o Senior Public Forum: 1st- Tyler Burkhardt, 4th- Emhyr Subramanian, 10th- Sam Hasegawa
 - Novice Lincoln-Douglas: 2nd- Nai'a Keith-Handschuh, 8th- Faisal Quraishi

Davidson Speech and Debate would also like to thank Bailee for her commitment to the team. Thank you for your endless support, guidance, and advocacy on our behalf!"

Thank you so much! Akaash K.

Spanish Springs Speech & Debate Judges

Many thanks to the parents who participated in judging at the Speech & Debate competition held at Spanish Springs high School last Friday and Saturday! Way to support our students and to make a positive difference in the community!

Event Organizer

Like all the fun stuff and FUNdraiser listed above? Shout-out to Katie Davi for making them happen!!! If you have any questions or comments about any of these events, or would like to help plan social activities for DA families, please email <u>thekatiedavi@gmail.com</u>

Colleen M. Harsin / Director charsin@davidsonacademy.unr.edu

Davidson Academy

Office: (775) 682-5803 / Fax: (775) 682-5801 P.O. Box 9119 Reno, Nevada 89507 (pacific time zone) DavidsonAcademy.unr.edu & DavidsonGifted.org

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	DA Ciub Schedule 2019-2020				
Г	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Future Dr.	Chess Club	Drama Club	Art & Activism	Baking
	Braik	Ripley	Lorge	Vienneau	Cummings
	Rm 234	Rm 205	Rm 246	Rm 234	Rm 234
Г	GECKO	Game Design	Math Club	Messenger/Writing	Bionicle Club
	Guisti	Lawhead K. Davi		Baker	Baker
	Rm 225	Rm 238	Rm 206	Rm 239	Rm 205
Г	Helping Hands	Endangered Species	Microbiology	PALS Mtg.	Science Bowl
	V. Huh	Ingle	U. Okpukpara	Baxley	Guisti
	Rm 241	Rm 244	Rm 234	Rm 206	Rm 225
Dumin of	World Affairs	Engineering Club		Print 3D	
During Lunch	Lawhead	Brewer		Smith Barrios	
Lunon	Rm 239	Rm 239		Rm 241	
Γ		Math Club		Science Bowl	
		K. Davi		Guisti	
		Rm 206		Rm 225	
		Psychology Club		Video Production	
		Wirth		Cummings	
		Rm 233		Room 245	
		Slam / Poetry		WiiPlay Sports	
		Baker		Wirth	
		RM 245		Room 244	
	Strategic Games Club	DECA Officer Mtg.	Science Bowl	Mock Trial	Science Bowl
	C. Mauk/B. Thornton	Reich	Guisti	Griffin	Guisti
	3:30-4:45	3:20-4:30	3:20-4:30	3:15-5:00	3:20-4:30
After	Rm 239	Room 205	Rm 225	Room 239	Rm 225
School		Running Club	Speech & Debate	Running Club	
		Allen	Barber	Reich	
		3:30-5:00pm	3:30-4:45	3:30-5:00pm	
		Couches	Rm 244	Couches	

DA Club Schedule 2019-2020

10/23/19



October 15, 2019

Dear Reno Campus Parents,

When a Reno Campus student takes their first class at UNR, or qualifies to participate in a state – or even national – competition, their excitement is truly palpable. However, not all families have the financial means to support these educational opportunities for their students. That's why we need your help.

The Educational Opportunities Fund (EOF) is a need-based fund to help cover the costs of university tuition for courses that are in addition to minimum high school graduation requirements, textbooks, competition fees and related travel and lodging expenses, standardized testing fees, and activity fees.

You can make a positive difference for our students by donating to the Educational Opportunities Fund. Fact: 100% of your gift will directly benefit Reno Campus students.

Here's a summary of the EOF transactions for the 2018-2019 school year:

\$61,149	September 2018 beginning balance
\$16,454	Funds raised through DA Pledge Drive
\$11,697	Private donations and employer matching
\$6,700	DA Silent Auction
(\$45,000)	Dispersed to Reno Campus families
\$51,000	September 2019 beginning balance

To date, families indicating need are receiving a total of \$21,070 for fall semester university tuition and textbooks. We expect spring semester tuition and textbook needs to be similar, and that most of the competition and testing-based expenses will be requested during spring semester.

Please donate to the Educational Opportunities Fund today! You are welcome to reach out to friends and extended family members as well; we will happily accept their donations.

Donors may write a check payable to the Davidson Academy and indicate that it is for the "EOF" on the check. Donations may be dropped off at the Academy front desk or mailed back in the enclosed envelope.

Online donations can be made at <u>www.davidsonacademy.unr.edu/About-</u> <u>Us/Donate</u>. PayPal serves as a secure method of payment via debit or credit card. Please note that this method requires a two percent transaction fee to be deducted from each donation.

Thank you for your generous support of our students' academic interests and successes!

With sincere gratitude,

Colleen M. Harsin Director

The following disclosure is provided pursuant to Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 598.1305:

The Davidson Academy is a division of the Davidson Institute for Talent Development, a Nevada non-profit corporation which is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)3 tax-exempt private operating foundation. We are dedicated to supporting the intellectual and social development of profoundly gifted students age 18 and under through a variety of programs. Contributions are tax deductible.

If you have questions, please email <u>donate@davidsonacademy.unr.edu</u>.

Application Update

We have more than fifteen applications for the Online campus in our application system. Four of those applications were completed by the end of September and invited to assessment in October. This puts us well ahead of previous years where our first assessment was typically in January. The application is open through March 31, 2020.

Assessment Update

We have revised our assessment process this year. Students that are invited to assess complete all assessments over the course of four days. The assessment starts on a Thursday where members of our team hold a live session for students to read and discuss a short story before writing their rough draft. The curriculum team meets on Friday mornings to review and provide feedback on the rough draft submissions. On Fridays, students join our team again for their second live session where they review the feedback on their essay and write their final submission. Over the weekend, students complete objective assessments in math, science, and reading. All of the objective assessments are proctored. Students also complete an online learning readiness indicator which provides us and them with valuable information about their readiness to be an online student. This assessment process brings the Online campus admissions process closer to the Reno campus admissions process.

Recruiting Update

We are collaborating with our current families to host regional recruiting events in strategic locations. Recruiting events are currently scheduled in southern California Georgia. Planning for events in Houston and Philadelphia is underway.

<u>Podcast</u>

Dr. Jessica Potts, Curriculum Coordinator, and Stacy Hawthorne, Director of Online Programs, were invited to present "The Davidson Institute Supporting and Educating Profoundly Gifted Children" on TILT Parenting. This podcast has a wide international audience. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and has led to numerous conversations with parents about Davidson Academy.

Open Houses

The Online campus offers monthly open houses. These have been updated and now feature a panel of students, parents, and staff members sharing their perspectives on why Davidson Academy's Online campus is the right fit for them. The Online campus team has created a series of videos on assessment, student services, assessment, technology, and frequently asked questions that are available on the Academy website on demand. This allows us to keep the open houses fresh each month. The first open house on October 23 was well received by attendees.

Disaster Update

We routinely monitor weather patterns across the US to ensure that Online campus students are safe. So far this year we have had eight students in the northeast impacted by a bomb cyclone weather phenomenon. Despite being excused from live sessions due to loss of power, our students (with parental support) found a bank and library with power so they would not miss out on class time.

Another student was impacted by a tornado in the Dallas metro area. This student traveled to a coffee shop to attend live sessions.

These examples show what a difference live sessions means to our students, especially when they are facing adverse circumstances.

Student Stories

The online campus is making a positive impact on our students and their families. One parent said this about her son:

We've changed his life, he has never been happier. He just had his well-child and the doctor asked him what was different and why he was so happy. He said "I found a school where my friends get my jokes and I love doing homework."

Another parent recently emailed to thank us for reaching out during an extreme weather situation and followed up by sharing what her son told her at dinner:

"That Stacy Hawthorne is amazing." He went on to tell me about the 'don't compare grades' situation. He said you really know how to keep everyone safe. Thanks for making my kid feel safe.

One of the Online campus seniors received a qualifying score for National Merit finalist. He has completed his application for this award.

Connor Keeney was awarded a Carolyn D. Bradley scholarship. The Caroline D. Bradley Scholarship is a full four-year, merit-based high school scholarship. The Scholarship can be used nationally toward any high school or approved alternative educational program that best fits the Scholar's individual intellectual, academic, and personal needs and goals. The Scholarship enables highly able middle school students to explore and access unlimited high school and early college opportunities that provide these young adults with the optimal educational match for their high school career.

Meghana Dodda's paper, Positron Emission Tomography: Updates on Imaging of Addiction, was published in the Journal of Neuropsychiatry <u>https://neuro.psychiatryonline.org/doi/10.1176/appi.neuropsych.19080169</u>.

UC Status

For the second year in a row, all Davidson Academy Online campus courses are approved for A-G credit from the University of California system. This is an important piece for our California residents and adds another layer of credibility and reputability to our online courses.

DAVIDSON

Media Updates

- The Davidson Institute on Supporting & Educating Profoundly Gifted Children
 October 8, 2019 TiLT Parenting Podcast
 http://www.tiltparenting.com/2019/10/08/episode-178-the-davidson-institute-on-supportingeducating-profoundly-gifted-children/ (Davidson Academy Online staff interview on one of the most
 popular gifted education-related podcasts; DAO prominently featured)
- 2020 Best Public High Schools in Nevada August 2019 – Niche.com <u>https://www.niche.com/k12/search/best-public-high-schools/s/nevada/ (Very favorable ranking of</u> Davidson Academy)

Ongoing Outreach

Davidson Academy eNewsletter – distributed every other month to more than 6,200 recipients **eNews-Update** – Often prominently features the Davidson Academy; distributed every other month to more than 15,200 recipients

Social Media postings

- Facebook https://www.facebook.com/TheDavidsonAcademy/
- Twitter <u>https://twitter.com/TheDavidsonAcad</u>
- LinkedIn https://www.linkedin.com/company/davidsonacademy

On-site Tours - Davidson Academy Reno

- September 6, 2019 (27 attendees)
- October 18, 2019 (22 attendees)
- November 15, 2019
- December 6, 2019

In-Person Regional Events - Davidson Academy Online

- Oct. 23, 2019
- Thurs., Oct. 24, 2019

Virtual Open Houses - Davidson Academy Online

- October 23, 2019
- November 14, 2019
- December 10, 2019
- January 22, 2020
- February 6, 2020
- March 9, 2020

Conferences – Davidson Institute and Davidson Academy outreach

- Florida Association for the Gifted (FLAG) Oct. 11-12, Cape Canaveral, FL
- 2 Days of 2e Virtual Conference Oct. 29-30, Online
- Independent Educational Consultants Association (IECA) Nov. 6-8, Atlanta, GA
- National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) Nov. 7-10, Albuquerque, NM
- Texas Association for the Gifted & Talented (TAGT) Dec. 4-6, San Antonio, TX
- Chicago Gifted Resource Fair Jan. 12, Chicago, IL

2019 Summary



Google Analytics - tracks all of our public websites

DavidsonGifted.org: Jan. 1 - Oct. 1, 2019

Analysis – Organic, direct, and social media traffic are all up from 2018. The biggest increase is among organic traffic (12.93%) which can be attributed to increased efforts with SEO, awareness, and site clean-up. What is dropping our overall number down is significant restrictions imposed by the Google Ads Grant outside our control that limit how we can advertise. While it would be great if the numbers from the Grant could be improved, the organic search, direct, and social traffic are most important because they tend to result in more meaningful traffic, time on site, pages visited, and ultimately applications. The Google Ads great for pulling in people unfamiliar with our programs, but traffic is not as meaningful as people tend to exit quicker without visiting multiple pages. Overall, I see the increases here as a net positive and further step in the right direction.

Future Goals – Continue to work on increasing organic and direct traffic to lead to new and returning visitors. Create new content and re-purpose existing content for SEO purposes. Despite limitation imposed by Google Grant, research methods to improve those numbers.

- Organic Search visitors who find us via Google and search engines. Improved by Search Engine Optimization (SEO)
- Direct visitors who directly visit our site or click saved bookmarks
- Social social media such as Facebook and Twitter
- Paid Search Google Ads click. Normally would be paid, but we have a grant from Google that allows us to advertise through their Ads program for free



DavidsonGifted.org: Website Traffic Compared to Last Year (Jan. 1 – Oct. 1, 2019)

		Users 🗸 🗸	New Users	Sessions
		1.12% ♥ 899,662 vs 909,817	1.69% * 880,013 vs 895,108	2.28% ₹ 1,183,013 vs 1,210,638
1.	Organic Search			
	Jan 1, 2019 - Oct 1, 2019	641,399 (69.51%)	609,553 (69.27%)	824,110 (69.66%)
	Jan 1, 2018 - Oct 1, 2018	567,967 (61.27%)	546,881 (61.10%)	755,479 (62.40%)
	% Change	12.93%	11.46%	9.08%
2.	Direct		E CONTRACTOR OF CONTRACTOR	· .
	Jan 1, 2019 - Oct 1, 2019	196,824 (21.33%)	194,401 (22.09%)	250,950 (21.21%)
	Jan 1, 2018 - Oct 1, 2018	182,184 (19.65%)	181,808 (20.31%)	239,774 (19.81%)
	% Change	8.04%	6.93%	4.66%
3.	Social			· · ·
	Jan 1, 2019 - Oct 1, 2019	29,817 (3.23%)	26,930 (3.06%)	40,082 (3.39%)
	Jan 1, 2018 - Oct 1, 2018	27,437 (2.96%)	23,435 (2.62%)	40,806 (3.37%)
	% Change	8.67%	14.91%	-1.77%
4.	Paid Search			
	Jan 1, 2019 - Oct 1, 2019	29,571 (3.20%)	28,461 (3.23%)	34,279 (2.90%)
	Jan 1, 2018 - Oct 1, 2018	113,426 (12.24%)	112,805 (12.60%)	125,621 (10.38%)
	% Change	-73.93%	-74.77%	-72.71%

Davidson Academy site: Jan. 1 – Oct. 1, 2019

Analysis – There are many similarities as talked about above with the DavidsonGifted.org site. **Organic, direct,** and social media traffic are all up from 2018. The biggest increase is among organic traffic (10.31%) which can be attributed to increased efforts with SEO, the creation of numerous pages, and awareness. There are two major differences. The first is the referral traffic that is down. Referral traffic comes from different websites. In this case, it is related to the Google Ad Grant restrictions mentioned above (when people click on the Davidson Academy Google Grants ad, they are taken to a page on the DavidsonGifted.org site that links to the DA). The "Paid Search" mentioned here is from a *paid* Google Ads campaign that we ran for Davidson Academy Online. **Again, an overall positive as we see increases across the board.**

Future Goals – Continue to work on increasing organic and direct traffic to lead to new and returning visitors. Create new content and re-purpose existing content for SEO purposes. Likely again implement a paid Google Ads campaign and possibly social media advertising.

400 300	m	MM	www	M	MM	-1	MMM	VV
February 20	19 March 2019	April 2019	May 2019 June 2	019 Juiy 201	9 Aug	pust 2019	Seplember 2019	Ocle
Users	New Users	Sessions	Number of Sessions per User	Pageviews		國 New Visitor	窗 Returning Visitor	
36,058	35,175	53,280	1.48	142,197	entre.	, ins		
Pages / Session 2.67	Avg. Session Duration 00:02:25	Bounce Rate 51.95%						

Davidson Academy: Website Traffic Compared to Last Year (Jan. 1 – Oct. 1, 2019)

	,	Users 👔 🗸	New Users	Sessions 7
		19.79% ≙ 36,058 vs 30,100	19.88% 35,192 vs 29,355	9.22%
1.	Organic Search		,	
	Jan 1, 2019 - Oct 1, 2019	1 5,288 (40.41%)	14,029 (39.86%)	23,226 (43.59%)
	Jan 1, 2018 - Oct 1, 2018	13,859 (44.02%)	12,852 (43.78%)	22,006 (45.11%)
	% Change	10.31%	9.16%	5.54%
2.	Direct			4 · · · · · .
	Jan 1, 2019 - Oct 1, 2019	11,249 (29.73%)	10,983 (31.21%)	15,178 (28.49%)
	Jan 1, 2018 - Oct 1, 2018	9,518 (30.23%)	9,277 (31.60%)	15,112 (30.98%)
	% Change	18.19%	18.39%	0.44%
З.	Referral			• • • •
	Jan 1, 2019 - Oct 1, 2019	4,583 (12.11%)	4,056 (11.53%)	6,252 (11.73%)
	Jan 1, 2018 - Oct 1, 2018	5,575 (17.71%)	5,034 (17.15%)	7,939 (16.27%)
	% Change	-17.79%	-19.43%	-21.25%
4.	Paid Search			1
	Jan 1, 2019 - Oct 1, 2019	3,576 (9.45%)	3,453 (9.81%)	4,101 (7.70%)
	Jan 1, 2018 - Oct 1, 2018	445 (1.41%)	434 (1.48%)	525 (1.08%)
	% Change	703.60%	695.62%	681.14%
5.	Social			i
	Jan 1, 2019 - Oct 1, 2019	3,117 (8.24%)	2,656 (7.55%)	4,501 (8.45%)
	Jan 1, 2018 - Oct 1, 2018	2,082 (6.61%)	1,753 (5.97%)	3,195 (6.55%)

O Users

Public Websites	Total Sessions	Mobile Sessions (Tablets & Phones)	Total Users
DavidsonGifted.org & Database	1,183,013	592,893 (50.1%)	899,662
Gifted Issues Discussion Forum	246,415	122,768 (58.4%)	176,175
Davidson Academy	53,280	26,387 (49.5%)	36,058
Total	1,482,708	742,048 (50%)	1,111,895

2019 Total Public Website Numbers (Jan. 1 – Oct. 1, 2019)

• Session = the period of time a user is actively engaged with website, app, etc. All usage data is associated with a session.

• User = have had at least one session within the selected date range. Includes both new and returning users.

There are increases in average time on pages and decreases in bounce rate, suggesting better user engagement for those who do visit the sites.

Top Channels	DavidsonGifted.org	Davids on Academy. UNR. edu
Acquisition	C1 356 69 556 C1 366 C1 366	8.25 40.456 12.186 12.186 12.186 10.456 10.456 ■ Organic Search ■ Direct ■ Referral ■ Paid Search ■ Social ■ (Other) ■ Display ■ Email
Top Metro	 Organic Search (Google, Bing, etc.) Direct (type URL or click bookmark) Social Media Google Ads Grant Referral (other websites) New York, NY Los Angeles CA Chicago IL San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose CA 	 Organic Search (Google, Bing, etc.) Direct (type URL or click bookmark) Referral (other websites) Paid Search (Google Ads) Social Media Reno NV San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose CA Los Angeles CA New York, NY
Areas Accessing Site (sessions in bold)	 Washington DC (Hagerstown MD) Atlanta GA Dallas-Ft. Worth TX Philadelphia PA Seattle-Tacoma WA 	 (not set) Sacramento-Stockton-Modesto CA Chicago IL Washington DC (Hagerstown MD) Seattle-Tacoma WA
	10. Houston TX	10. Dallas-Ft. Worth TX

Source	DavidsonGifted.org	DavidsonAcademy.UNR.edu
Top 10 Pages Visited (excluding main page and Database articles)	 Davidson Fellows – Main Page Davidson Fellows – How to Apply Young Scholars - Main Page Young Scholars Testing Requirements page Davidson Gifted Database – Main Page 2018 Davidson Fellows page Davidson Fellows FAQs page Young Scholars Applications Process THINK home page 2017 Davidson Fellows page 	 Qualification Criteria page Online School home page How to Apply page Admissions page Online Single Course Enrollments Online School Tuition Reno School Tuition Online Courses page Academic Calendar About Us page
Top 10 Referring Sites	 Facebook Davidson Gifted Issues Discussion Forum Twitter Niche Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University Highly Gifted Magnet (HGM) news.ditd.org (DA Newsletter and eNews- Update) hoagiesgifted.org Acceleration Institute Finaid.org 	 Facebook davidsongifted.org Niche.com Davidson Gifted Issues Discussion Forum Twitter news.ditd.org (DA Newsletter and eNews- Update) hoagiesgifted.org Wikipedia YouTube Zillow
Top 5 Browsers/ Operating Systems	 Chrome (51.1%) Safari (35.1%) Firefox (3%) Internet Explorer (2.8%) Edge (2.6%) 	 Chrome (46.2%) Safari (35.9%) Firefox (4.3%) Safari (in-app) (4%) Edge (2.8%)

2019 Davidson Gifted Database Overview

Articles and Resources

- 4,685 resources and 920 articles in the database as of Oct. 3, 2019
 - 4,635 resources and 911 articles in the database as of Oct. 3, 2018
- Massive clean-up up broken links/older resources; ongoing database maintenance (reprint permissions for full-text articles and adding new items).

Most Viewed Articles

- 1. Understanding, Diagnosing, Coping with Slow Processing Speed
- 2. Tips For Parents: AP vs. IB Which is best for my kid?
- 3. Existential depression in gifted individuals
- 4. Gifted children with Asperger's Syndrome
- 5. Small poppies: Highly gifted children in the early years
- 6. A Unique Challenge: Sorting Out the Differences Between Giftedness and Asperger's Disorder
- 7. Frequently Asked Questions About Extreme Intelligence in Very Young Children
- 8. Tiered Lessons: One Way to Differentiate Mathematics Instruction
- 9. Vulnerabilities of highly gifted children
- 10. A Place to Start: Is My Child Gifted?

Other database tasks

- State Policy information, map and legislation updates
- Gifted Issues Discussion Forum 10,616 registered users as of Oct. 3, 2019, an increase of 289 from 10,327 as of Oct. 3, 2018. This is our second busiest website after www.DavidsonGifted.org.

Online Community & eNewsletters

eNews-Update

- 15,565 subscribers as of Oct. 3, 2019, an increase of 183 from 15,382 as of Oct. 3l 2019.
- Distributed five times so far in 2019, with one more issue to be distributed in November.

Davidson Academy eNewsletter

- 6,172 subscribers as of Oct. 3, 2019, an increase of 123 from 6,049 as of Oct. 3, 2018.
- Distributed four times so far in 2019, with two more issues to be distributed in October and December.

Social Media

- Facebook (DITD) 12,203 followers (Oct. 3, 2019); 1,890 increase from 10,313 on Oct. 3, 2018.
- Facebook (DA) 1,322 followers (Oct. 3, 2019)
- Facebook (Ed Guild) 2,124 members (Oct. 3, 2019); 137 increase from 1,987 on Oct. 3, 2018.
- Twitter (DITD) 9,805 followers (Oct. 3, 2019); 752 increase from 9,053 on Oct. 3, 2018.
- Twitter (DA) 407 followers (Oct. 3, 2019)
- YouTube DITD Channel launched in 2011 (43,218 total views; 5,198 views in 2018).
 - YouTube DA Channel launched in 2009 (37,329 total upload views; 3,877 views in 2018). o <u>2018 Davidson Fellows award ceremony</u> posted
- YouTube DA Channellaunched in 2009 (48,236 total upload views; 10,907 views in 2018).
 - o Davidson Academy Online Overview and Davidson Academy Alumni videos posted

DA Online 2018-2019 Google Ads campaign

Duration: November 14, 2018 – May 15, 2019 Total Spend: \$12,661.39 Statistics:

Type of Campaign	Clicks	Impressions	CTR	Cost
Main Campaign	5,381	233,373	2.31%	\$11,444.52
Single-Courses	515	31,596	1.63%	\$705.04
Display Network	133	32,873	0.40%	\$73.97

CTR = "click-through ratio"

The "Single Courses" campaign began after we made the decision to go forward with that offering. It consisted of separate ad copy, and clicks went to the "single course" landing page.

The "display network" campaign briefly ran in conjunction with the main campaign. This is when DA ads with graphics run on certain websites, rather than in the Google search. It wasn't performing as well so it only ran briefly.

Analysis: Previous two campaigns employed CPC bidding (cost per click – this focuses on gaining clicks to generate traffic to website). I started with this strategy again at the beginning of this campaign, but after doing some research and a consultation with their support staff determined that it would be bet ter to employ a Target CPA (cost-per-acquisition) bid strategy. This helps "increase conversions while targeting a specific cost-per-acquisition (CPA)". Conversions are actions that are counted when someone interacts with the ad in a more "powerful" or valuable way, such as visiting certain pre-defined websites (for example the "How to Apply" page and DA Online courses page). In my opinion, this results in us paying for more "meaningful" traffic, quality over quantity.

DA Online 2018-2019 Facebook Ad campaign

Duration: February 13, 2019 – April 9, 2019 Total Spend: \$3,224.12 (budget was \$3,050; overspent by \$174.12) Statistics:

Campaign Name	A Results	Reach	Impressions	Cost per Result	Amount Spent	Ends	Frequency	Unique Link Clicks	Link Clic
Conversions	View Content	58,953	123,042	Per Vew Content	\$1,538.89	Ongoing	2.09	446	4
DAO awareness	8,140 Estimated Ad Recall Lift (People)	58,613	117,229	\$0.09 Per Estimated A	\$700.00	Mar 19, 2019	2.00	145	1
[02/13/2019] Promoting http://www.davidsonacademy	1.267 Link Clicks	58,848	101,225	\$0.78 Per Link Click	\$985.23	Apr 15, 2019	1.72	1,192	1,2
› Results from 3 campaigns ⊗		164,977 People	341,496 Total		\$3,224.12 Total Spent		2.07 Per Person	1,736 Total	1,8 Tc

Analysis: Similar to with Google Ads, we changed up the ad objectives a few times to focus on conversions versus awareness, etc. I actually thought the performance was a little better than I expected. When people commented on the Facebook post it seemed like some were unfamiliar with DA Online, so it hopefully raised some awareness of the school. The question for next year is if we should keep the funding between Google Ads and the Facebook ad at the same rate (about 80% for Google Ads and 20% for the Facebook ad).

Google AdWords Grant

The Google Ad grant has generated a total of **\$2,987,683** (May 18, 2006 - Oct. 3, 2019) of free advertising, guiding web traffic to <u>www.DavidsonGifted.org</u> and <u>www.DavidsonAcademy.UNR.edu</u>, with **\$61,483** of free advertising generated in 2019 (Jan. 1 - Oct. 15). As mentioned above, significant restrictions imposed by the Google Ads Grant outside our control have largely impacted our numbers compared with past years.

"In House" Advertising

We have continued efforts on driving clicks and awareness by showing personalized Davidson "ads" on high-traffic pages that are searched for by highly searched keywords.

Math Games for Kids - a Listing of Resources

This article contains a listing of numerous math games and other resources for glited students. Find information on websites that contain math games, math game apps, and math board games, card games, books and software.

Topics: By Subject Area: Mathematics / For Gifted Students: Games & Puzzles Author: Davidson Institute for Talent Development Year: 2018

Davidson Academy's Online School - An Excellent Option for Exceptional Math Students

The fully accredited <u>Davidson Academy Online School</u> is a game changer for profoundly gifted students who score in the 99.9th percentile on IQ and achievement tests. For students living anywhere in the United States, this online school is designed to be different, building off the oneof-a-kind framework put in place by the Davidson Academy in Reno, Nev. The result is a robust online community where students thrive.

Unlike many traditional school settings, Academy classes are not grouped by age-based grades but by ability level. The primary focus of the curriculum is for Academy graduates to leave with a solid, broad-based foundation of knowledge. See the numerous Davidson Academy Online math course offerings.



Communications

- Communicate directly with local/regional reporters who are covering gifted education. For example, if a reporter writes about new policies/testing/etc., email them to comment on the piece, introduce DITD/DA, offer to assist for future stories and share information about DGD and the Gifted Issues Discussion Forum.
- Communicate with states/districts/schools/teachers who are involved with/discussing gifted education online. For example, when a reporter in Florida writes about the state updating its gifted testing policy, email the state officials to introduce DITD/DA/DGD
- Email reporters to forward information about DITD/DA to students/families they've written about. If a student is mentioned in local media for attending a talent search or joining MENSA, I email the reporter with info and ask them to share with the family.
- Create new media/outreach lists with these contacts. Email to share program announcements and DGD information as applicable.
- Research and interact with media/influencers/thought leaders online regarding trends in gifted education. Build relationships this way, again to build awareness.



Proposed Resolution Davidson Academy Governing Board Meeting November 4, 2019

Having made satisfactory progress toward the requirements specified in NRS 388C and other requirements for graduation from the Davidson Academy of Nevada, and pursuant to NRS 388C.120.4, the Governing Board of the Davidson Academy recommends the issuance of a high school diploma to each of the following students as members of the Class of 2020:

Haley Belsher Tyler Burkhardt Joseph Dalessi Darion Homayoon Jaren Hutchings William Kramer Akaash Krishnan Daniel Learv Jason Liu Selden Mauk Sky Noh Brandon Pan Leo Phelan Kevin Russo Zoe Stewart Corbin Stickley Emhyr Subramanian Deanna Sunnergren Jade Wang Joshua Wilmerding Miguel de los Reyes Si Chiang Wu

This recommendation is subject to satisfactory completion of the remaining scheduled coursework and standardized testing as noted in each student's Personalized Learning Plan and/or academic transcript.



EINDYOUR ACADEMIC HOME

Classes grouped by ability, not age.

Designed for profoundly gifted students who score in the 99.9th percentile on IQ and achievement tests.

www.DavidsonAcademy.unr.edu

THE DAVIDSON ACADEMY opened on the University of Nevada campus in Reno in 2006 as the first public school for profoundly gifted middle and high school students in the US. In 2017, the school launched its Online Campus to extend its reach on a tuition basis to US students outside of Nevada. As of school year 2017–2018, over 100 students are accessing Davidson Academy courses online. Unlike traditional schools, the Academy's classes group students by ability rather than age and this approach translates particularly well to an online instructional model.

NURTURE AND SUPPORT FOR THE PROFOUNDLY GIFTED STUDENT

In 1999, Bob and Ian Davidson cofounded the Davidson Institute for Talent Development, a nonprofit operating foundation whose mission is to recognize, nurture, and support profoundly intelligent young people and to provide opportunities for them to develop their talents to make a positive difference. Through their work with the Davidson Institute, the Davidsons saw the challenges that parents of profoundly gifted students faced finding appropriate public education placements for their children. They heard stories of countless profoundly gifted students experiencing gaps between their potential and the instruction they were provided in schools. These realizations led them to envision a new public school that would serve these students.

"The current, one-size-fitsall approach to education is not working for our brightest students. The Davidson Academy takes a different approach based on a student's ability not their age. Academy students will be vital to moving our state and nation forward with their talents and innovations while supporting our nation's position in the global economy."

66

—Bob Davidson, Davidson Academy Founder, Funder, and Board Member

2 | DAVIDSON ACADEMY ONLINE CAMPUS

THE FIRST UNIVERSITY SCHOOL FOR PROFOUNDLY GIFTED STUDENTS OPENS ITS DOORS

The Davidson Academy opened in 2006 as the first (and only) university school for profoundly gifted pupils and has grown from about 30 students to 160 students in school year 2017-2018 on its physical campus.

Despite this growth, school leaders recognized that geography was the limiting factor in student enrollment. The team considered opening schools in other locations but instead decided that opening an online campus would provide access to more qualified students than a series of campuses across the US.

AN ONLINE CAMPUS DESIGNED SPECIFICALLY FOR THE PROFOUNDLY GIFTED STUDENT

In 2014, the Davidson Academy started planning for the addition of an online campus. Extensive strategic planning was crucial as the Davidson Academy was looking to create a new kind of online school. School leaders leveraged existing research about online learning and best practices in gifted education to create a new model of online learning that addressed the specific needs of profoundly gifted students.

The Davidson Academy team members spent several years in the design phase to ensure that they were building a model of online learning that would benefit their students. They found that online education offers several specific advantages to gifted students, including:

- Creating the opportunity to take advanced courses and provide gifted students with access to instructors with specializations that may not be available locally.
- Allowing gifted students to take coursework that is specifically targeted for their ability level.
- Offering gifted students the ability to interact and learn with their intellectual, similar-age peers.
- Providing an opportunity to learn using technology, which gifted students often enjoy and say is a motivating factor for them.

The result of this strategic design phase is a model of online education that is unique to the Davidson Academy.

The Davidson Academy began offering six à la carte online courses in the fall of 2016: two English courses, one history course, one science course, and two math courses. These courses were targeted toward students between the ages of eight and 13.

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES AND METHODS GUIDED BY SIX CORE VALUES

The Davidson Academy adheres to six core values in all of their online courses. All online courses should (a) be rigorous, (b) be personalized, (c) be flexible, (d) be collaborative, (e) include rich discourse collaborative, and (f) foster critical thinking.

- **RIGOROUS**—Courses will have an appropriate level of rigor that will challenge participants to achieve in a supportive online classroom that encourages academic risk and growth.
- **PERSONALIZED**—Courses will provide students with a highly supportive learning environment that will address the needs of individual learners and provide opportunities for student voice in learning.
- FLEXIBLE—Courses will have a flexible learning plan so that they are responsive to the needs of individual students.
- **COLLABORATIVE**—Courses will contain synchronous instructional elements that require collaboration among participants. While the courses will be online, it is important that the participants do not feel isolated in their learning experience.
- RICH DISCOURSE—Courses will rely on a rich and authentic two-way discourse between all participants.
- CRITICAL THINKING—Courses will provide opportunities for participants to think critically, form and support opinions, and experience a variety of perspectives.

IN-PERSON EDUCATION WITH THE FLEXIBILITY OF AN ONLINE MODEL

The Davidson Academy decided to build online courses that mirror the strengths of an in-person education while offering the flexibility of an online model by combining asynchronous and live components. Course material is delivered asynchronously through the learning management system where students read text, watch videos, or participate in forums to understand the basic concepts for each course. Students then come to a live session to deepen their understanding of course concepts and interact in real time with their classmates and instructor. During live sessions, students and the instructor are required to have their microphones and webcams enabled. All core courses meet twice a week for two 90-minute sessions. Elective courses hold live sessions on Fridays for up to two hours.

Communications—both asynchronous and real time—are central to Davidson's strategy for both academics and social emotional development. Without this level of interaction, students would not feel as connected to their learning community. Several students discussing their online learning experience at a panel presentation in June of 2018 agreed that A **math** course will typically see multiple students presenting their work on digital whiteboards while they discuss problemsolving strategies.

A live session in a **history** course will often take the form of a debate about a topic under study.

In **science** courses, students may use live session time to complete experiments with their classmates using the science equipment delivered to their home.

In **English** courses, Socratic discussions and workshopping are common.

some of their closest friends are their online classmates, even though they may have just met in person that morning.

REAL TIME COURSE PARTICIPATION USING TELEPRESENCE ROBOTS

In the fall of 2018, Davidson Academy Online deployed its first telepresence robot. The telepresence robot enables an online student to remotely control a robotic device in which the online student's live image is presented on a display and audio and video are shared in real time. Unlike traditional video conferencing, a telepresence robot allows the online student to move freely about the physical classroom to interact with peers and instructors. The addition of a telepresence robot gives Davidson Academy Online students the opportunity to access courses with classmates and instructors who are on the physical campus in Reno.

COLLEGE LEVEL COURSES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA

Davidson Academy students are also non-degree seeking students at the University of Nevada, Reno. This partnership with the University enables students to take college level coursework when it is appropriate. In the case of a 13-year-old student accessing Calculus III in school year 2018-19, he will take his remaining math courses at the University level while still being able to access his other core courses at Davidson Academy Online.

A FAMILY/SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP FOR EACH STUDENT'S PERSONALIZED LEARNING PLAN

The Davidson Academy's Reno campus has developed a series of student supports that have been adapted and adopted for their online campus. For example, neither campus places students in grade levels with a prescribed curriculum. Instead, the school partners with parents and students to develop a Personalized Learning Plan (PLP).

The PLP is an adaptable document used to guide students through a rigorous core curriculum and help them chose electives based upon their interests and commensurate to their levels of ability, achievement, and motivation.

The PLP is used to place students in courses based on their abilities and academic needs in each subject rather than age or grade level. The purpose of the PLP is to deepen and strengthen the learning experience for all Davidson Academy students. PLPs are consistent with the Davidson Academy philosophy of treating students as individuals who are invested in their own learning. With students and their parents participating in the process, PLPs are formally reviewed and revised at least once each academic year.

Students, with adult guidance, propose ideas for the personalization process. Personalization is not "doing your own thing" or altering the core requirements; it is the core experience with a variety of options based on student interest and competence. Personalization also refers to adapting individual classroom experiences to provide students with a pace and depth appropriate to their abilities and interests.

MASTER SCHEDULES BUILT FOR COURSES STUDENTS NEED

At the Davidson Academy, students are placed in the appropriate level of core courses first, and then the administrators create the master schedule to ensure each student gets the courses they need. In most schools the master schedule dictates which courses a student can take. Because of the model employed at the Davidson Academy, to give one example, a current 13-year-old student can take advanced courses, like Calculus III, but remain in grade-level courses in other subjects as needed.

SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE FOR A PERSONALIZED ROUTE TO SUCCESS AFTER GRADUATION

Just like the Personalized Learning Plan, college guidance is very individualized. The staff at the Davidson Academy Online works with students to help them find their personalized route to success after high school graduation. Most students begin college planning during their sophomore year, but some students begin sooner depending on their goals. Trained college admissions counselors meet with online students via video conferencing whenever students wish to begin the process. Students and parents are encouraged to co-enroll in the College Seminar course during the student's sophomore or junior year. This course is offered in the evening so that parents and students can participate in the process together. It gives a Davidson Academy Online college admissions counselor the opportunity to explain the college admissions process in detail with families each week. Students and parents work through activities that prepare them for the college admissions process. Other college guidance services include:

- building a resume
- building a college list based on the student's criteria and helping students know what to look for
- financial planning resources
- navigating college application software

- Common Application Boot Camp
- career planning assessments and development
- internship guidance
- College Day
- test preparation resources

GUIDANCE COUNSELORS OFFER SUPPORT SPECIFIC TO THE NEEDS OF THE PROFOUNDLY GIFTED STUDENT

The Davidson Academy also offers counseling services and student-led support to ensure that students have the resources they need to be

successful. Students meet regularly with their guidance counselor who helps them adjust to an online environment and provides support for a range of issues including (a) perfectionism, (b) time management, (c) social skills, (d) internships, (e) passion projects, (f) mindfulness, (g) study skills, and (h) healthy habits. The counseling staff also organizes monthly community meetings to bring students and staff together to foster communication in non-academic ways. In addition to all of the adult support, students at the Davidson Academy have access to student-led support in math mentors, a comprehensive writing center, clubs, and peer ambassadors.

INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF ARE EXPERTS IN CONTENT AREA AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE UNIQUE STUDENT POPULATION

Davidson Academy looks for staff members that first understand the needs of profoundly gifted students, second are experts in their content area, and lastly have the technical expertise to teach in an online environment. Since the Davidson Academy is located in Reno, Nevada, preference is given to hiring staff who reside in northern Nevada. However, since Davidson Academy Online students live anywhere in the U.S. or Canada, instructors can be remote as well. Having the flexibility to use instructors outside a limited geographic region enables Davidson Academy Online to ensure that it uses the best instructors.

Staff members meet regularly using the same video conferencing platform and principles as live sessions. This enables the staff to discuss student topics, plan collaboratively, and grow professionally. Staff members regularly attend conferences in their subject area and in online learning or technology topics. To adhere to their core values, classes often have fewer than 15 students enrolled. This model allows staff to focus on building relationships and offering specific and detailed feedback to all students which is essential for student growth.

info@DavidsonAcademy.unr.edu www.DavidsonAcademy.unr.edu

ACADEMY

FIND YOUR ACADEMIC HOME

When a student wants to be challenged...

They find their academic home at Davidson Academy Online.

They find a school made for them —and made for them to thrive.

DAVIDSON





SCHOOL BEYOND THE SCREEN

Much of Davidson happens online, but the day is also balanced with experiential activities that serve the whole child. Printed textbooks and paper notebooks are often an integral pats of homework. Biology classes typically include dissection labs, delivered in the mail. All students are required to participate in physical exercise and arts activities that they love, such as ocal ballet or swim classes, painting classes, or music lessons!



"Davidson Academy is an extremely force you to think, and busy needs. The assignments given that completely caters to student rigorous and challenging school work is nonexistent." -Juhi P.

0

Group Project



velcomes them as they are.

ONE SCHOOL, TWO CAMPUSES



As the first free public school of its kind, the opening of Davidson Academy was an epic day for profoundly gifted students. With the addition of the online campus, the Davidsons have fulfilled their dream of providing unique educational opportunities for profoundly gifted students across the country.

By creating a "One School, Two Campuses" partnership we are able to share resources and opportunities between both the Reno and Online campuses, as appropriate. We believe that developing a robust program for all of our students relies on this philosophy and partnership. However, it does not mean that campus options are identical or that everything is shared across programs. While our longterm plan is to be as consistent as possible between the two campuses, we will always err on the side of providing the best experience for students at individual campuses and being deliberate in our decision making about when it is appropriate to share resources across the two campuses.

Some benefits of our "One School, Two Campuses" partnership are:

- Students at both campuses have access to courses at the other campus when a course they need is not available at their home campus.
- Combined classes and Community Meetings offer opportunities for students across both campuses to connect and build friendships. The online campus schedule shares lunchtime with the Reno campus so that students may have more opportunities for shared clubs.
- Increasing the number of students at both campuses helps to build the reputation of Davidson Academy as the nation's premier educational option for profoundly gifted students. This benefits students as the Davidson Academy name continues to carry weight in the college admissions process as an academically rigorous educational environment that incorporates core values and recognizes the value of social and emotional well-being among students.



At my old school, there was no reward for a deep comprehension of the material. At Davidson, I've never gotten a single assignment that I can just blow off—every activity has a purpose, and encourages us to really think." —Jasmine P.



DAVIDSON ACADEMY

Davidson Academy Online P.O. Box 9119 Reno, Nevada 89507 Phone: (775) 682-5800

ADMISSIONS AND APPLICATION: applications@davidsonacademy.unr.edu

ONLINE HIGH SCHOOL: online@davidsonacademy.unr.edu

www.davidsonacademy.unr.edu