



Families/Parents/Guardians of 9<sup>th</sup> grade Da Vinci Design Students,

We are thrilled to share with you that we will be launching the **Career Pathways** courses with our freshman class this spring. Long term, there will be two Career Pathways students will be able to choose from once they reach grade 11: **Architecture/Environmental Design or Graphic Design**. Students will take all of the same classes in 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade via their Art & Design courses to gain exposure to both fields, and then they will choose a pathway before the start of their 11<sup>th</sup> grade year to become more focused in their coursework.

We have been working alongside **El Camino College (ECC)** for our Architecture/Environmental Design pathway. Students will be eligible to earn credits in the Architecture courses listed below. The tentative course sequence for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade classes is as follows:

Grade	FALL	SPRING
9 <sup>th</sup>	-----	Arc 100 (Orientation to Architecture via ECC) 1.0 units
10 <sup>th</sup>	Introduction to Graphic Design (currently seeking post-secondary partner)	Arc 170 (Architectural Graphic Techniques via ECC) 3.0 units

We also have courses tentatively planned for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade each semester for this pathway that will cover architectural drafting, Computer Aided Drafting (CAD) and modeling, and sustainable design. These options will be released next year and you will be able to discuss them in further detail with the counselors at family meetings which will begin next spring for your student.

The long term goal of this particular pathway is that students would be able to earn up to 16 units in Architecture and Environmental Design by the end of their senior year. There is also an additional CAD class that students can take in the summer at El Camino College after their 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade year. All of the units/credits earned could be applied toward a certificate or an Associate’s Degree (A.S) in Architecture from El Camino College. These could also prove transferable to a 4-year college or university, although that is program dependent and determined by those colleges and universities, not Da Vinci. Our college counselors can help you navigate that process when the time comes. We hope to secure a similar course sequence for graphic design in the near future.

All of the pathway classes will be co-taught by our Da Vinci teachers and an expert in the field who will serve as the professor from El Camino College. We are seeking this balance to ensure that the project-based learning and culture we value at Da Vinci Design is still present while students learn the content from these college courses.

The first class, Orientation to Architecture, is a 1-unit class, and students will cover the course content through the 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Exhibition project this spring. Cari Werz, the Art & Design 1 teacher, will teach the content alongside the professor, Jaine Sanchez, who is experienced in the field and has her Master’s Degree in Architecture from SciArc in Los Angeles.

**In order for students to receive their much deserved college credit, they will need to apply to El Camino College online and complete a Concurrent Enrollment form.** Our counselors will aid students in the application process this Friday, 1/29, during their Art & Design classes.

**To prepare students for applying, we need your help with the following:**

- Please fill out the El Camino College Application Checklist
  - Students will use this while filling out the online application this Friday, 1/29 during class with counselors
- Please fill out the Concurrent Enrollment Form – “Student Information” and “Parent Consent” sections
  - Da Vinci will turn in these forms to ECC for families

- Students will need their Social Security number to apply (this links to financial aid in the future)
  - If you have any concerns about this, please contact Kate Parsons, Principal, at [kparsons@davincischools.org](mailto:kparsons@davincischools.org) or 310-725-5800 ext. 2801.
  - If for whatever reason a student does not have a social security number, please contact an administrator or a counselor for further details and information. Students **can** still enroll in the courses in this case.

At Da Vinci Schools, we believe in creating college-ready and career-prepared students. We are excited for the Class of 2019 to be the first at Da Vinci Design to experience a complete 4-year career pathway that provides them with the skills necessary to succeed in post-secondary programs and the workforce.

Thank you for your continued support for our school and programs. Please to not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Kate Parsons  
Principal – Da Vinci Design  
[kparsons@davincischools.org](mailto:kparsons@davincischools.org)  
310-725-5800

Megan Martin  
Assistant Principal – Da Vinci Design  
[mmartin@davincischools.org](mailto:mmartin@davincischools.org)  
310-725-5800