

March 6th, 2018

Hello Da Vinci Design families!

This letter is to inform you about an exciting opportunity for the senior class. Your student will be a part of the next class of Da Vinci graduates to experience Senior Projects. This student-driven project will give Da Vinci Designers the opportunity to explore a project topic of their choosing, and each student will design a project meant to address a need of the Da Vinci Schools or of our local community. Working in a group, the students will collect research, take action through fieldwork and consult with experts or target groups off campus. Each group will be assigned an advisor to guide them through the project design process, and through a series POLs. The project will culminate in an exhibition with students explaining their research and solutions that they have created in response to their topic.

Some examples of Senior Projects could be uniquely designed products, Senior-led workshops, student produced documentary films, fundraising events, or outreach programs to local schools.

Completing a comprehensive project of this magnitude means that students may have to complete work out 'in the field'. There will be some days of scheduled early release in order to accommodate senior project work time. Any field work necessary outside of those times would need prior approval of early release from the school grounds.

We understand that second semester of senior year is hard time to stay focused and motivated, and rightfully so, as students often have all their credits and are simply waiting to graduate and move on to the next phase in their lives. The Senior Project was created so that this last semester of high school can leave a meaningful impact on our students. We hope that students will take full advantage of this opportunity to leave a positive, lasting impression on the Da Vinci Schools and Los Angeles community.

(PLEASE SEE OTHER SIDE BEFORE SIGNING BELOW AND RETURNING BOTTOM HALF WITH STUDENT)

For additional information, please attend an informational meeting for parents on March 15th @ 5:30pm. The meeting will be hosted at the Da Vinci Design campus in Mr. Solis.

Sincerely,
The 12th Grade Da Vinci Team

(cut here and send back to school with student)

Senior Graduation Project Return Form

Returning this acknowledges that both parent/guardian and student are aware of project requirements and schedule change starting April 30th:

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

PLEASE NOTE THAT IF A STUDENT HAS ONE OR MORE INCOMPLETES, THEY WILL BE UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SENIOR PROJECT FIELD WORK SCHEDULE UNTIL THEY ARE PASSING.

Before participating fully in Senior Project, all students must:

- Be eligible for graduation.
- Pass all 12th grade classes (no “I”s).
- Return this parent notification form.
- Compose a written proposal of their individual project ideas.
- Form a pathways blended group of both Architects and Graphic Designers.
- Present group project idea for Spring Exhibition.
- Create a project pitch and present final project idea for approval.

Deadlines

Phase 1:

Senior Project Roll Out:..... Feb. 9th
Individual Proposals Due:..... Feb. 23rd
Project Groupings:..... Mar. 2nd
Parent Informational Meeting
@ 5:30pm (Solis’s Room).....Mar. 15th
Parent/Guardian Signatures Due and
Advisors begin meeting with students..... Mar. 23rd
Exhibition Presentation:..... Mar. 27th

Phase 2:

Content Wrap-Up and Finals Begin:..... Week of April 9th
Pitch POL Prep: Week of April 16th
Project Pitch POLs:..... Week of April 23rd

Phase 3:

Field Work Schedule Begins:..... Week of April 30th
Midway POLs:..... Week of May 14th
Senior Showcase:..... May 31st
Final POLs:..... Week of June 4th

Field Work Expectations & Requirements

These guidelines apply to students’ schedules and daily activities as of 4/30 provided that they pass their Pitch POL

- Students must be on campus from 9am till 1:15pm daily.
- Unless students are participating in an approved Field Work day, each student will remain on campus for Office Hours from 1:15pm-3pm, and will attend seminar.
- All students must still be present for Advisory and CD at regularly scheduled times.
See Sample Senior Project Schedule on page 3 of Senior Project Overview
- Groups are required to receive mentorship from experts in relevant industries, and to seek opportunities to work off-campus and “in the field” to do research and complete project deliverables.
- Each group will present to the rest of their cohort for feedback and ideas once per week.
- Students will regularly meet with advisors and keep advisors updated daily.
See Advisors & Scheduling on page 2 of Senior Project Overview
- Throughout the project, all students will be expected to keep a daily blog or journal to track their progress and their Field Work locations. This daily log will be included in weekly and final assessments and serve as a data source for a final, group process paper.
- Students will also be held accountable to track all funds raised and how they are used.
- Students must complete all Senior Project presentations and expectations, remaining in good academic and disciplinary standing, in order to walk the stage at graduation.
See page 12 of Da Vinci Design Student and Family Handbook

Please contact any of your student’s 12th grade teachers via email if you have any further questions, suggestions or comments. Thank you!