

# DVD Senior Family Newsletter

Jan.- Feb. 2019

## Grade Level Announcement!

### *Architecture Pathway Field Trip 02/07/19*

The 12<sup>th</sup> grade architecture students are working on an amazing project where they will design a new community center in the Watts area. Architecture students will be visiting the site on Thursday, February 7 to start the Design Process. These students are partnering with the Watts Century Latino Organization. Students will also visit the Watts Towers Arts Center. Please submit your field trip slips as soon as possible. Contact Katherine Simon ([ksimon@davincischools.org](mailto:ksimon@davincischools.org)) for more information.

### *We have a new English teacher!*



Welcome, Edwin Maldonado! We are so excited to add Mr. M to the 12<sup>th</sup> grade team! He has come on board, as Russell Stoll has assumed the position of assistant principal.

If you did not receive this newsletter in your e-mail, you can request to be added to the e-mail list by e-mailing Frank Solis at [fsolis@davincischools.org](mailto:fsolis@davincischools.org). We can also provide physical copies of the monthly newsletter upon request.



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design

## Senior All-Star

*Aziah Aguirre*



Aziah is a student who loves learning. He shows this enthusiasm to learn by his engagement in class activities and discussions. We see you Aziah! Congrats!

*Art History: Carmen Haas  
chaas@davincischools.org*

In class, we have begun our introduction to Art History. Students are learning how to analyze works of art using critical questioning, deductive reasoning, and visual analysis. Our first unit is on Mesoamerican art in which students will be diving into the culture, iconography, anthropology, and artworks of the Aztec people. This unit will contain both a test and project in which the students must show mastery on the content and how it relates to modern society.

*Math Explorations: Austin Anderson  
aanderson@davincischools.org*

In Math Explorations, we have been learning about various aspects of financial literacy prior to our upcoming project cycle in which students will choose from three areas of focus: personal finance, institutional finance, or entrepreneurship. Students are currently working on an assignment to track expenses using real receipts.

*Psychology: Erin Naymark  
enaymark@davincischools.org*

In Psychology, students began the semester with a series of short experiments on sensation & perception. We explored how taste is related to smell with a Skittles lab. We looked at our own taste buds and tasted various flavors including bitter, sweet, salty, and sour in a taste lab. We test our auditory and vestibular systems with snaps and balancing on one foot. We also looked at touch using a 2-point discriminator. In each mini lab we collected data and interpreted the results. Students are learning about how each of their senses contributes to their perceptions of the world. Next, we will move into vision and students will do a project where they create their own optical illusions. We will test for color blindness, the blind spot, look at after image illusions and other optical illusions involving depth perception and color.

*Advanced Architecture:  
Katherine Simon: ksimon@davincischools.org*

Students begin learning the industry software for Architecture, AutoCAD Revit. Through various tutorials, I have created, students practice creating a small building and creating construction sheets with the software. Students then apply their knowledge of design, residential codes, and the software to do their first real world project where they remodel a house for a client. Our very own Da Vinci basketball coach, Mr. Bernard is our client and he provided us with a classroom visit where he presented the project and brought his existing construction sheets for the students to analyze and ask questions about. The students will create a series of construction plan sheets for this remodel and present them to the client when complete.

*Economics: Frank Solis  
fsolis@davincischools.org*

Welcome to economics! This semester we are shifting from government to economics. In the month of January students will be introduced to fundamental concepts like scarcity and opportunity cost. In February, students will learn about the power of markets through supply, demand and market equilibrium. This semester students will learn about fundamental concepts in economics, practical personal financial skills and wealth and income inequality.

*Pre-Calculus/Calculus: Austin Anderson  
aanderson@davincischools.org*

In Calculus we are currently studying in great depth the relationships among a function, its derivative, and its second derivative, and how all this relates to the appearance of the graph. In Precalculus we have been delving into some of the advanced algebra topics such as simplifying rational expressions. Much of our work right now involves factoring, so students are getting a lot of practice factoring quadratic expressions!

*Advanced Graphic Design:  
Ralph Villalobos  
rvillalobos@davincischools.org*

Advanced Graphic Design students will be focusing on Game Design. Starting with a interactive background tutorial using Adobe Animate. The Background will show them the ropes of laying out a background design in the software as well as applying interactive buttons and looping movie clip animations. Once this tutorial is finished the students will focus exclusively on designing their own games with their studio groups. Each group will be responsible for creating their very own interactive puzzle game with every member being responsible for a scene and animation. once this section is completed, we push forward with character animation.

*English 12: Edwin Maldonado:  
emaldonado@davincischools.org*

Students will begin their second and final semester of English 12 by creating presentations where they reflect on and communicate their academic experience to their classmates. During this month, students will be introduced to the Expository Reading and Writing Course (ERWC), a college preparatory, rhetoric-based English language arts course for grade 12 designed to develop academic literacy. The ERWC offers advanced proficiency in rhetorical and analytical reading, writing, and thinking for seniors as they make their transition to college in the forthcoming months.