

**DAVIDSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

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Dear Davidson Families

Welcome to this new school year, where the possibilities are endless! Our theme for this year is **DAVIDSON** for Possibilities. (I just love how we have AVID in our name.)

The past few years have presented unique challenges. We are still rising to our full potential since the effects of COVID on education, society, and our children. Albert Einstein said, “In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity.” We are in a position this year to turn our difficulties into amazing opportunities. The possibilities of what we can accomplish are only limited by our imaginations. I want us to dream big, think big, and act big. The possibilities for our students, school, and community are limitless!

Our theme, **DAVIDSON** for Possibilities, is also the culmination of our Davidson vision, IAP (Integrated Action Plan) goals, and AVID Site Team goals.

**Davidson’s Vision Statement:** *At Davidson Elementary, families, teachers, staff, and students work together to inspire students to love learning. Davidson celebrates the diversity of its students and works to close the opportunity gap by promoting high expectations, rigorous academics, the arts, self-regulation, and inclusivity, while fostering meaningful relationships in a nurturing environment.*

**IAP Goals:** *1. Cultivate high expectations and rigorous instruction for ALL students, 2. Sustain quality implementation of current school-wide initiatives, and 3. Provide culturally responsive practices that value the rich heritage of our community’s diverse cultures.*

**AVID Site Team Goals:** *1. All teachers will be AVID certified by the end of the 23/24 school year. The intended outcome is for students to have high quality instruction using AVID strategies with a focus on writing, and 2. The average number of WICOR strategies per lesson will increase from*

*the beginning of the year to the end of the year as measured through teacher observations/feedback forms.*

We have so many excellent systems in place at Davidson. Our climate and culture are incredibly strong with positive work in Social Emotional Learning. We've made great gains with school-wide implementation of math journals and anchor charts over the past two years and will continue that work this year. Our PBIS implementation is award-winning. AVID is in the third year of implementation. Our OMA Gold program is simply top notch. We have an excellent after school 21<sup>st</sup> Century Program to provide enrichment and support our students. We really have everything in place to excel and our possibilities are truly limitless!

Our first day of school is just around the corner, August 3. We open our gates at 7:15 AM so students can get breakfast. As a Community Extended Provisions site, all students receive free breakfast and lunch. Kindergarten students stay in the cafeteria until 7:40 and meet their teachers there. Students in first thru fifth grade may go to the playground from 7:25-7:40. Our first bell rings at 7:40 and students meet their teachers on the basketball courts. The late bell rings at 7:45. Please ensure that your student is at school before the late bell rings. The first 15 minutes of the day are critical to starting off the day on a positive note.

After the first few days of school, we ask that parents do not walk students to the classrooms. Part of being a PAX Leader at Davidson is that students learn responsibility and independence. You will be pleasantly surprised at how quickly even our youngest students become independent and they are so proud of themselves.

Dismissal is at 1:55 every day except for Wednesday when we dismiss at 12:55. Please keep in mind that we do not sign students out during the last 30 minutes of the day, starting at 1:25. Just as the first 15 minutes are important to start the day, the last 30 minutes are important to ending the day. Learning happens every minute of the day! Please schedule appointments so they do not conflict with our dismissal times. If you are picking up your student, please pull up next to the curb. Your child(ren) will be waiting with their teachers. The grade levels around the loop are numbered, starting with 1<sup>st</sup> grade at the beginning and ending with kindergarten.

We will have Meet the Teacher on Wednesday, August 2, from 2:00-3:00. Class lists will be posted and students and families will have an opportunity to go to their classrooms and see their classrooms before the first day. We look forward to welcoming you then!

This is going to be an amazing year! Thank you for sharing your children with us. As always, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call, email, or just stop by.

**DAVIDSON** for Possibilities,

Sarah Andricopoulos, Proud Principal of Davidson