



january 2015

team twelve parent newsletter



Upcoming Dates:

January 4: First Kickoff
January 19: MLK Jr. Holiday
January 20: Seminars start
January 21: Shadow dates start
January 24: SAT
February 6: No School

WELCOME to winter at DVS!

At the beginning of the second semester, the twelfth grade team would love to extend an update on our coursework!

This is our twelfth grade teachers and subjects!

- **Aaron Tostado** *..project lead the way..*
- **Yamara Barba** *..resource..*
- **Katie Kondo** *..calculus..*
- **Gerard Besina** *..anatomy/physiology/psychology..*
- **Scott Weatherford** *..us government..*
- **Darcey Whitmore** *..english..*
- **Molly Mclean** *..college writing..*
- **Francisca Marquez** *..counselor..*
- **Tristen McClendon** *..counselor..*

What we're working on in...**English.**

Happy 2015, parents! I'm looking forward to diving in to one more semester with the senior class. Our first few weeks back, we'll be exploring the question: How can words set people free? Our primary text will be the 1845 Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an autobiography that rocked the U.S. and helped to further the cause of abolitionists. We'll also be reading some modern-day "slave narratives" and researching issues of modern-day slavery.

As we analyze our first non-fiction texts this year, we'll focus on rhetorical strategies and journalistic writing. The students will be creating a website to educate and influence DVS students and families about forms of modern-day slavery. This project will require a good deal of research, synthesizing, interviewing, citing, and writing to inform and persuade. Ultimately, the website will explore the theme of how language can be used to set people free—both metaphorically and literally.

This first unit, students will be assessed for:

- * Reading: Analysis of Non-fiction (EKS 10) – 25%
- * Writing: Evidence, Commentary, Word Choice and Style (EKS 7, 8, 3) – 50%
- * Discussion (EKS 13) – 10%
- * Accountability – 10%
- * Quality – 5%

Please encourage your son or daughter to attend English office hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:00 to 8:50. Office hours are a great time to interact one-on-one with me and clarify or discuss concepts from class. In addition, students who wish to re-submit work must do so in office hours. Please be aware that late work will only be accepted (at my discretion) if a student requests an extension before the due date and, in most cases, the student will be asked to attend the next office hours session.

Thank you for your support and your involvement at DVS this year! Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions, concerns, or ideas about 12-grade English class.

Darcey Whitmore



Calculus.

Happy New Year! I'm so excited to welcome our 12th graders back for 2nd semester! There is a lot to look forward to this semester. In our Calculus courses, we will begin with finally learning what a derivative is and the many ways it can be used to analyze functions. The project will be the Optimal Dorm project where students will be designing their own college residential communities. In the College Calculus course, we will begin by learning the Fundamental Theorem of the Calculus. The project attached to this will be a continuation of the Identity project from Pre-calculus where they will apply integrals to fill in their logo from last year! I can't wait to get started!

*Katie Kondo
B.A., Mathematics (UC Berkeley)
M.Ed., Math Education (UCLA)*



Project Lead The Way.

Prototype and Build Plan: A well-designed and well-built prototype will make testing and evaluation of the test data more realistic and valuable. Students typically view building the prototype as the most exciting step in the process and sometimes neglect or rush through the planning stage. However, a good plan will result in a better finished prototype. Because individual team members may have different ideas about how to build the prototype, teams should come to consensus on a step-by-step explanation of the assembly directions. Continued emphasis using brainstorming techniques will result in a better assembly procedure for their prototype. Well-written directions will provide better guidance for others who choose to continue research on the product and will result in more comparable prototypes if multiple models are built.

Aaron Tostado



Government

Welcome to the new semester in Economics! Economics is a completely new subject for almost all students, and one that can be a bit intimidating at first. However, we will make it both fun and challenging with projects and lessons this semester on a wide variety of topics, including balancing the US budget, fixing the economy, Behavioral Economics, The Economics of a college degree, and inequality. Students will explore these topics through a variety of projects, activities, and lessons throughout the semester. The 12th grade team will also be helping prepare our Da Vinci Students for college next year by providing more typical “college like” lessons, quizzes, and tests in addition to the regular projects students will still work on throughout the semester. We believe that by having more opportunities to practice for these types of typical tests students will be better prepared for the world of higher education next year. As always, if you have any questions just shoot me an email at sweatherford@davincischools.org

Dr. Scott Weatherford



College Writing.

Welcome back and Happy New Year! It is hard to believe that we are beginning the final semester of high school this week. It is an exciting time, but can also be overwhelming: some students are still completing college applications for private and out of state schools; other students are feverishly looking for scholarships and pouring over the FAFSA application. And all students are doing this while balancing their academics and the new anxiety as they await acceptances.

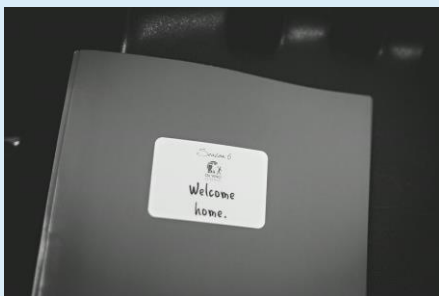
This semester will, large in part, be dedicated to getting students ready for college. They spent all first semester researching, planning, and applying. Second semester will be dedicated to exploring the ideas of *How to Win at College*. We'll talk personal finances as well as financial aid; practice sitting through lectures and taking good notes; we'll prepare for college entrance/placements exams many students will take in the spring; we'll dedicate time to researching, writing, and reading.

Parents and Guardians, your role over the next five months is paramount! Please encourage your student to check his or her school portals for each college on a consistent basis as that is how universities communicate with students. Keep them focused with their eye on the prize. It's important to remember that all acceptances are conditional and it's expected that students finish strong.

As always, if you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me. I can be reached during school hours at (310) 725-5800 and via email at mmclean@davincischools.org.

Molly Mclean





Science.

Anatomy, Physiology + Disease

Happy New Year! Welcome back! This semester, we will be finishing off the year delving into various systems in the body, exploring their structure, function, and dysfunction. Our big units will surround the Respiratory System, the Cardiovascular System, the Digestive System, the Reproductive System (along with pregnancy and birth), and possibly even a little about Forensics. In our first big project, The Optimal College Experience, you will take steps to combat the phenomenon of the weight gain in college freshmen and the even larger looming threat of metabolic syndrome, a condition linked to hypertension, diabetes, and heart disease. You will use what you learn about the Digestive System, Cardiovascular and Respiratory Systems, nutrition, and exercise to design and prepare a college student-friendly (ie. cheap, easy-to-prepare, and tasty) meal that is nutritionally sound. You will also compare and contrast different exercise regiments to create a sustainable and effective one for a college student. Take that, "Freshman 15!"

Psychology

Welcome back, DVS Psychologists! This is a really exciting semester in Psychology! We are starting off by learning about sleep and the states of consciousness. Students will learn about current theories around the function of sleep and maintain a sleep log that will give them meaningful data about their own sleeping habits and help them reflect on the role of sleep on their success and learning. In the process, we will also learn about theories surrounding dreams, sleep disorders, meditation, and other altered states of consciousness. After this unit, we will discuss learning theories. This will be a really hands-on unit, and we will be performing labs and activities that demonstrate the concept of classical conditioning. During a mini project on classical conditioning, you will document the process of classical conditioning as you classically condition a friend, family member, or pet. It's going to be an exciting next few weeks!

Gerard Besina