

# DaVTA Newsletter

## Spirit Week This Week

Just for fun, our Student Council has proclaimed this week Spirit Week! The kids have already been told about it and participation is optional. If your kids would like to have some fun with us, the themes are below. Please keep all outfits within the school dress code. :)

Day	Theme
Monday	Main Character Day - Dress as your fav main character from books, TV, or movies!
Tuesday	Twin Day - Partner up with a friend or sibling and dress the same!
Wednesday	Pink or Red Day - Enjoy Valentines with your friends
Thursday	Y2K Day - Bell bottoms, puka shell necklaces, denim skirts, cargo pants, early 2000's!
Friday	Jersey Day - Wear your favorite sports jersey. Could be yours, could be a famous athlete!



# Grades and the Trophy Challenge

As promised since December, the Exact Path Trophy Challenge was added to students' grade books this past week. DON'T WORRY, students have until March 1st to complete the challenge. Grades will be updated each week on Thursday or Friday. Students have an amazing chance to get extra credit by getting 11 trophies in each of the three categories.

If students would like to earn Target Gift Cards, students can win \$30 in gift cards by getting 21 trophies in each subject! The first 11 count for a grade, the last 10 count for money. \$5 gift cards are awarded for each of the first two subjects, then \$20 for the third.

For students in 5th-8th grade, please note that the trophy challenge does impact Academic Probation. We will be making the final lists of students being put on 2024 Academic Probation on Tuesday.

## Exact Path Trophy Challenge and IEPs

We have received a number of questions about students with special needs and how the Trophy Challenge will hurt or help their grades. If your student has an IEP that impacts Language Arts or Math, the Exceptional Student Services Team under the guidance of Director Rodriguez has put your student into one of three categories depending on their IEP and their ability level.

- Exempt - Due to the student's special needs, it is unrealistic to expect this student to be able to complete the Trophy Challenge with the current settings (that are unchangeable given the developer not having that feature available yet) so they are excused from the assignment.
- Doubled - Due to the student's special needs, it takes the student roughly twice as long to complete assignments at grade level by themselves and/or with assistance. As such, each of their trophies will count as if they were two trophies. Five trophies will equal 100%. Six trophies will equal 110%.
- Tripled - Due to the student's special needs, it takes the student roughly three times as long to complete assignments at grade level by themselves and/or with assistance. As such, each of their trophies will count as if they were three trophies. Three trophies will equal 90%. Four trophies will equal 110%.

It is important not to discount students with IEPs and learning disabilities but to expect great things from them. A learning disability or IEP does NOT mean that a student should automatically get A's or that they shouldn't have to work hard. An IEP simply levels the playing field so that kids with disabilities have a realistic and achievable chance for success. It changes the expectation so that if a child works hard at their own, individualized level, they will be rewarded.

The main reason why Da Vinci Tree's IEP students are so successful is our awesome ESS Team. Another reason however, is that we do our best to avoid what has been called, "the soft bigotry of low expectations." All Da Vinci Tree Students are expected to work and do well, each according to their own abilities.

## Basketball Games

Da Vinci Tree Academy has been competing in TUSD's 41st Annual Roskruge Cougar Classic. This past Saturday we faced off against three different schools, Miller, Roskruge, and Pueblo Gardens. We are waiting to find out if we made it to the third and final week of the tournament. Regardless, we are very proud of our basketball teams representing our school with dignity and maturity!



Da Vinci Tree students and Coach Amari talk before their first game in the 41st Roskruge Cougar Classic.

## Retiring the 441-0137 Phone Number

The school is no longer using a cellular phone with the old phone number 520-441-0137. Please use the school's main number, 520-372-4606.

## Online Tutoring Setup Delay

Due to unforeseen circumstances, it is taking longer than originally planned to get the Online Tutoring set up for our families. We apologize for the delay, and are hoping to get the signup page out this next week on or before Wednesday.

## First Grade Farm Photos

As promised, here are a few more photos from 1st grade's field trip to the farm a few weeks ago!

