DaVTA Newsletter

Trophy Challenge Round 2 Underway

Age Level	Number Needed for Grades per subject	Percentage of Class Grade per subject	Number Needed for Extra Credit per subject	Number Needed for Gift Card per subject
Kinder - First	1	10%	2	N/A
Second	3	20%	4	N/A
Third - Eighth	6	20%	7	13
Students with IEP/ 504 K-1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Students with IEP/ 504 2nd	1	20%	2	N/A
Students with IEP/ 504 3rd-8th	2	20%	3	5

For the second round of the trophy challenge, students will still need to get a minimum number of trophies in order to get an in-class grade. The three different subjects students need to get their trophies in are **Math**, **Reading**, and **Language Arts**. Due to Round Two of the trophy challenge being significantly shorter, the number of trophies and percentage of the overall grade will be lower.
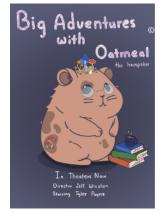
For Round Two, students in Kindergarten through Second Grade will still be able to earn extra credit. Students in these grade levels will not be able to earn gift cards however.

Students in Third through Eight Grades will still be able to earn both extra credit and gift cards. The Target gift card amounts remain the same as they did in the first challenge even though they only have to earn 13 trophies rather than 21. $5 for the first subject, $5 for the second subject, and $20 for all three subjects.

Our Graphic Design class finished their final projects! They had to make a movie poster of their own design. We were very impressed with the results! Here are three samples.

Third Grade Conferences

Unfortunately, Mrs. Lee will be unable to make conferences on Friday due to a family issue. She will be making herself available next week on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday for more conferences. Please email her at clee@davincitree.academy if you would like to meet with her next week.

State Testing Dates Announced

The state testing will be the week of April 8th with makeups April 15th. Specifics are below. As always, kids will be encouraged to do their best and will get all kinds of snacks and treats to make the testing experience as pleasant and motivating as possible!

April 2024					
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
7	8	9	10	11	12
	AASA: 3rd-8th Writing AASA: 5th/8th Science ECLIPSE!	AASA: 3rd-8th Reading 1 AASA: 3rd-8th Math 1	AASA: 3rd-8th Reading... AASA: 3rd-8th Math 2	AASA: 3rd Oral Fluency AASA: Makeup Writing AASA: Makeup Science	AASA: Makeup Writing AASA: Makeup Science

The Eclipse is Coming!

As a STEM school, we are all super excited for the **big eclipse that is coming on April 8th**. The entire school will interrupt our day (and maybe our state testing) to go outside and witness this wonder of nature. We will not see another eclipse this impressive until 2044, so it is something we are going to be sure not to miss.

We will also be selling solar glasses at the front desk starting next week for $3 for any parents or family members that want to watch the eclipse at home. DO NOT USE REGULAR SUN GLASSES TO LOOK AT THE SUN. The eclipse glasses we are selling are specially designed to protect your eyes for eclipses.

(Above) Mr. Roll and two friends kayaking in the ocean with the island in the background. (Below) Ms. Hanson hanging out at the dock with a group of beach combing kiddos.

Catalina Island Marine Institute is Coming Soon!

It is that time of year again already, time for our sixth through eighth grade students to get excited for Marine Biology, Oceanography, and island living! We will sending out a notice to all parents who have expressed interest letting you know what documents or funds we are still needing for your kiddo next week.

Exact Path Trophy Challenge FAQ!

1. Why are we doing this? Does Principal Roll hate us? 😭

Da Vinci Tree Academy does not teach to the state test, so it is important that our students have a special tool that help them prepare. The state test is unlike anything else we normally do in school.

2. Why does Mr. Roll think Exact Path may help students on their state test? 🤔

Mr. Roll thinks this for several reasons, all of which are data related:

A. US Department of Education measures how well a specific preparatory program help kids. Exact Path is at a level two on the ESSA Tiered Evidence system[1] and meets the 2022 What Works Clearing House design standards with reservations.[2]

B. With a sampling of around 10,000 real Arizona students who used Exact Path benchmarking in 2023, a clear correlation can be seen between how a student performed in Exact Path and how they did on the state test.[3] This helps us target certain subjects with specific kids.

C. An independent government study in 2018 on the previous state test showed that Exact Path helped increase student scores between 2 and 7.5 percentiles.[4]

D. A study commissioned by Edmentum that was outsourced to a group of three researchers from 2022-2023 found positive test increases in those who used Exact Path from 17%-27%.[5]

3. Some of these questions are horrible! It is like they want to test kids over how carefully they can read directions, not whether or not they learned the academics!

Yes! Exactly! That is the way the state test has been written in the past. Hopefully, by experiencing this in their trophy challenge they will be ready for it on the test. We agree that these questions often do not do a great job testing whether or not the kids know the content.

4. Math seems okay, but Reading and Language Arts are very poorly worded. Why does Da Vinci use this tool when the questions are so frustrating?

Exact Path is patterned after the state test. **If the state test is frustrating and poorly worded, then so are the Exact Path questions which are deliberately written to mirror it.** Again, we are simply

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[1] https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs/regions/midwest/pdf/blogs/RELMW-ESSA-Tiers-Video-Handout-508.pdf

[2] https://www.edmentum.com/about/newsroom/edmentum-exact-path-earns-learnplatforms-impact-ready-certification-and-3-level-ii-essa-badges/

[3] https://cdn.edmentum.com/assets/pdf/XPDiagnosticandAASAStudy.pdf

[4] https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED605131.pdf

[5] https://cdn.edmentum.com/assets/pdf/Exact-Path-Research-Report-Arizona-2023.pdf

trying to prepare our students for the test using a tool that is similar to the test. We agree that these questions are frustrating and no fun.

5. Research shows that too much screen time is bad for children's development. Why doesn't Da Vinci use a paper based test prep tool?

Many of our classrooms supplement the Exact Path test prep with paper-based or group-based work. **The fact remains that the state test will be on the iPad, so our test prep is on the iPad as well.**

6. I hear that Edmentum is stealing our students' data and selling it. Why is the school allowing that?

Edmentum is not stealing your student's data. The school pays for the service. The service has typical ad trackers and cookies to save passwords and the like, but no student privacy violations or student monetization activities (in the form of tracking for ads) are taking place.[6]

7. I heard that the school isn't allowed to set up services like this for my student without me agreeing to it. Is Exact Path therefore illegal?

This one seems pretty far fetched, but several people have asked about it. Page 11 of our enrollment document takes care of this. Additionally, the judicial doctrine of *in loco parentis* also probably covers the school in this matter. Newer laws such as COPPA (Children's Online Privacy Protection Act) do not apply to Edmentum as the service is not surreptitiously collecting and selling student data. Older laws such as FERPA (Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act) also do not apply to this as Edmentum only has the most basic directory data on our students and keeps this information behind privacy barriers that are consistent with the law and online best practices.

8. What if in the end it doesn't help our kids?

Then we won't use it next year. We used a school-wide test prep tool last year that didn't help us, so we scrapped it and switched to Exact Path.

9. I work and I don't have time to do Exact Path with my kids. Isn't this whole thing unfair to working parents?

Most kids can do Exact Path on their own. If not, Da Vinci Tree provides the following for you:

- Free, daily after-school tutoring from 3:45-5:00.
- Free, weekly online tutoring that can your student can do anywhere with an internet connection (this is only for a limited time).
- Affordable ($10) Saturday School every Saturday from 10-noon.

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[6] https://www.edmentum.com/privacy-policy/#personal-information-we-collect

Positive Pro

Summer Camp!

Contact us!

When?

6/17/24 - 7/19/24

Promoting
student
success
through the
power of
positivity!

REGISTER

www.positive-pro.com/summercamp

positivepro.information@gmail.com

520-329-7795

www.positive-pro.com

@positive.pros

8055 E. 22nd Street
Tucson, AZ 85710

DA VINCI! SUMMER! Camp '24'

POSITIVE PRO

Summer Camp

Participation in Summer Camp at Da Vinci Tree Academy will be an enriching and fun adventure for students! Positive Pro will provide students with valuable academic preparedness filled with fun-packed activities ranging from sports, gaming, arts and crafts, field trips & more!

Information

POSITIVE PRO — Monday - Friday 9:00am - 3:00pm

POSITIVE PRO — Before care provided from 7am - 9am. After care from 3pm - 5pm.

POSITIVE PRO — Students from kinder to 8th grade

POSITIVE PRO — ~~$150 per week~~

LIMITED OFFER

$125/week!

ENROLL YOUR CHILD!

Activities

- Sports 3x a week at Palo Verde High School
- Gaming
- Water activities
- Arts & Crafts
- Technology
- Group talks about the power of positivity!
- Participate on multiple, exciting field trips!

And Many MORE!