



**Governing Board Meeting  
Wednesday, November 17 2021**



## NOTICE OF MEETING

The regular meeting of the Governing Board of the Davidson Academy will be held starting at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, November 17, 2021.

This public meeting will be held via videoconference and there will be no physical location for the meeting. Members of the public wishing to hear and observe the meeting may do so using the following link: <https://davidsongifted.zoom.us/j/84149793480>

Public comment for this meeting will be received via email, videoconference participation, and telephone. Those wishing to provide public comment via email may email their public comments to [boardcomments@davidsonacademy.unr.edu](mailto:boardcomments@davidsonacademy.unr.edu). All public comments received via email before and during the meeting will be forwarded to the Governing Board of the Davidson Academy for their consideration and will be included in the public record as minutes but will not be read aloud during the meeting. Those wishing to provide live public comment via videoconference may do so using the following link <https://davidsongifted.zoom.us/j/84149793480>. Those wishing to provide live public comment via telephone may dial (253) 215-8782 and use participant code 841 4979 3480.

## AGENDA

2 p.m.

- A. ROLL CALL\*
- B. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS\*
- C. PUBLIC COMMENTS\*
 

*The public may comment on any subject that is not on the agenda that is pertinent to the Davidson Academy. Each speaker will be limited to three minutes. Public comment relating to an agenda item will be taken during discussion of that item. Comment will be limited to three minutes, but speaking time may be reduced at the discretion of the chair of the meeting, if there are a large number of speakers on a given subject. No comments will be restricted based upon viewpoint.*
- D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA (for possible action)
 

*The public is notified that the Governing Board may take items on the agenda out of order; combine two or more agenda items for consideration; remove an item from the agenda; or delay discussion relating to an item on the agenda.*
- E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Meeting of September 29, 2021 (for possible action) | [TAB 1](#) |
- F. REPORTS\*
  - 1. ACADEMY DIRECTOR\*
    - a. General Program Updates | [TAB 2](#) |
  - 2. DIRECTOR OF ONLINE LEARNING\*
    - a. General Program Updates | [TAB 3](#) |
  - 3. MEDIA AND OUTREACH\* | [TAB 4](#) |
- G. PUBLIC COMMENTS\*
 

*The public may comment on any subject that is not on the agenda that is pertinent to the Davidson*

Academy. Each speaker will be limited to three minutes. Public comment relating to an agenda item will be taken during discussion of that item. Comment will be limited to three minutes, but speaking time may be reduced at the discretion of the chair of the meeting, if there are a large number of speakers on a given subject. No comments will be restricted based upon viewpoint.

#### H. ADJOURNMENT (for possible action)

##### Meeting Dates for 2022

- Tuesday, February 15, 2022
- Monday, May 9, 2022 (Public Hearing)
- Monday, May 23, 2022
- Wednesday, September 28, 2022
- Monday, November 14, 2022

### CERTIFICATE OF POSTING OF THIS AGENDA

I hereby certify that In accordance with NRS 241.020, on or before Friday, November 12, at 9:00 a.m., a copy of this agenda was delivered to the post office used by the Davidson Academy addressed to each person who has requested to receive copies of Davidson Academy Governing Board meeting agendas; a copy of this agenda was emailed to each person who agreed to receive copies of Davidson Academy Governing Board meeting agendas by electronic mail; and a copy has been posted online at Notice.NV.gov and at the Academy's website(<http://www.DavidsonAcademy.UNR.edu/>). A physical copy was posted at the Davidson Academy, Reno NV, per Section 2 of AB 253 (2021 Legislature).

/s/ Aimee Fredericks  
Governing Board Clerk  
Email: [afredericks@davidsonacademy.unr.edu](mailto:afredericks@davidsonacademy.unr.edu)  
Phone: 775-682-5800

**Governing Board:** Bob Davidson, Roger Davidson, Hon. Brian Krolicki, Mark Herron, Lauralyn Lovell McCarthy Sandoval, Richard Trachok, and Annette Whittemore; Ex-Officio: Dr. Kristen McNeill, Jhone Ebert, and Hon. Brian Sandoval.

**Note:** The Governing Board may take items on the agenda out of order; combine two or more agenda items for consideration; remove an item from the agenda; or delay discussion relating to an item on the agenda.

*Those items followed by an asterisk (\*) are items on the agenda upon which the Governing Board will take no action.*

*Members of the public who are disabled and require special accommodations or assistance at the meeting are requested to call Colleen Harsin at 775-682-5800 at least 24 hours prior to the meetin*

Copies of the packets containing support material for this agenda are available at no charge on the Davidson Academy website at <http://DavidsonAcademy.UNR.edu>. Copies may also be obtained by sending a request via email to [charsin@davidsonacademy.unr.edu](mailto:charsin@davidsonacademy.unr.edu) or by contacting Aimee Fredericks by mail at Davidson Academy, 9665 Gateway Drive, Ste. B, Reno, NV 89521, or by telephone at 775-682-5800

Meeting agendas and minutes are available on the Academy's website (<http://www.DavidsonAcademy.UNR.edu/>).

# Minutes of the Meeting

## The Davidson Academy Governing Board

### September 29, 2021

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#### CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Governing Board of the Davidson Academy was called to order at 2:02 p.m. This public meeting was held by videoconference allowing members of the public to hear and observe the meeting. Members of the public were invited to provide comments by telephone, through videoconference, or by email.

#### A. ROLL CALL

Roll call was completed by Meeting Chair, Mark Herron. In attendance were Roger Davidson, Bob Davidson, Richard Trachok, Lauralyn McCarthy-Sandoval, Jhone Ebert, Brian Krolicki, and Brian Sandoval. Also present were Controller, Karin Dixson; Academy Director, Colleen Harsin; Director of Online Learning, Dr. Stacy Hawthorne; Legal Counsel, Ann Alexander; and Clerk of the Board, Aimee Fredericks. Kristen McNeill, and Annette Whittemore were not present. Following completion of roll call, a quorum of voting members was confirmed.

#### B. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Mark Herron welcomed Board members and members of the public in attendance. He thanked Holly Lorge' for her service to the Board as Clerk and welcomed Aimee Fredericks as the new Clerk of the Board. He thanked Ben Brown for providing technical support for the meeting.

Mr. Herron introduced guests, Morris Zlotowitz and Kimberley Hastings, from the independent auditing firm, Holthouse, Carlin & Van Trigt, who would be reporting on the submitted audit report

#### C. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mark Herron provided instructions concerning public comment as stated under item C. of the meeting agenda.

Mark Herron stated that this meeting would be held without a physical location, but in compliance with Nevada legislation, was available for visual participation, and audio call-in for public comments. He referenced the public comment details provided in the agenda and confirmed that public comments, if made, would be received by email or by telephone. No comments were received.

#### D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mark Herron requested a motion to move agenda item G.1.a. for presentation and consideration by the Board, prior to item F. Reports. Motion was made, and seconded for approval of the amended meeting agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

#### E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mark Herron requested approval of the minutes for the meeting of August 17, 2021, included in the board book for this meeting. Motion was made and seconded for approval of the minutes as submitted. There was no discussion and the motion carried unanimously.

## **F. REPORTS**

### **1. Academy Director a. General Program Updates**

Colleen Harsin, Director, began her report by referring Board members to Tab 2 of their board books for a copy of the Pupil and Attendance Audit for school year 2020–2021 received from the State of Nevada, Department of Education. There were no findings noted in the audit, and the average daily enrollment was verified for each quarter. Moving to Tab 3, Ms. Harsin reported that the Davidson Academy's updated Emergency Operating Plan was submitted by the deadline. There are some updates forthcoming from the Nevada Department of Education (NDE). Once the changes are confirmed and approved by the NDE, those changes will be implemented in the Davidson Academy Emergency Operating Plan.

Referring to Tab 4, concerning the Memorandum from Amelia Thibault, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent of Public Instruction regarding the Path Forward Program of Distance Education, Ms. Harsin confirmed that the Davidson Academy (Reno Campus) started the current school year with fulltime, in-person learning as the primary model, with allowances for a distance/hybrid learning model to be used as needed. Students and staff members have been instructed to stay home if they are experiencing any symptoms of illness and they may learn or teach from home via Zoom. The Davidson Academy is fortunate to have access to technology to support a remote learning option in real time.

Under Tab 5, Ms. Harsin noted that the Academy's Chemistry Instructor, Ms. Elizabeth Walenta received written recognition from MIT as a teacher who positively influenced a Davidson Academy graduate, now attending MIT.

Concerning current enrollment at the Davidson Academy (Reno Campus), Ms. Harsin confirmed that 144 students are receiving in-person learning in compliance with mask wearing mandates and the three feet social distancing recommendation. Back to school night was successfully completed via Zoom. The National Merit Semi-finalist List was received. Fourteen out of 24 upcoming graduates are semi-finalists, with 12 students being from the Reno Campus and two from Davidson Academy Online. Three additional students are also recognized as Commended Students.

This past summer the Davidson Academy moved its student information system to the Infinite Campus platform. Ms. Harsin reported that while the transition was arduous, implementation of Infinite Campus is seen as an upgrade in terms of time savings. It has also allowed more access to student academic information for students and families, not available in the previous system. The Davidson Academy is now utilizing the same student information system as all other school districts in the state of Nevada.

Concerning Nevada Accountability updates, Ms. Harsin reported that due to COVID-19, results are not considered informative or complete for the 2020–2021 school year test administrations. There was, however, solid participation on behalf of the Davidson Academy with a >95% performance level in English Language Arts and Mathematics on the CRT and ACT, as well as for the High School Science exam. There was a <5% chronic absenteeism rate.

Ms. Harsin confirmed that she is currently working with the University on how COVID-19 vaccination requirements apply to for Davidson Academy students taking courses and accessing University facilities in spring 2022. Currently, about 30 students are taking one or more classes at the University.

In closing, Ms. Harsin advised that the Davidson Academy Reno Campus welcomed 38 new students for the 2021–2022 school year, of which 23 are from the Reno–Tahoe area, four are from California, seven are from other states including Virginia, North Carolina, Texas, New York, Florida, Illinois, and Washington; four are siblings of current or graduated Davidson Academy students.



## **2. Director of Online Learning**

### **a. General Program Updates**

Dr. Stacy Hawthorne, Director of Online Learning, began her report by referring Board members to Tab 6 of their board books for a map of where students and staff members currently live in the United States. Ninety-six students are currently enrolled in Davidson Academy Online; enrollment as of the first day of school was 100 students. During the application review process more applicants completed assessment which resulted in a lower acceptance rate. Davidson Academy Online currently has their largest enrollment in 8th and 9th grade classes and will propose six students for graduation in the spring.

Also under Tab 6, Dr. Hawthorne referred to the included course list. She confirmed that course offerings have increased as well as sections available. All courses, other than the advanced (beyond multivariable calculus) math series have been approved by the University of California System for A-G credit. Unapproved Dr. Hawthorne confirmed that Davidson Academy Online continues to focus on and develop social and emotional learning. The first Friday of each month, differing arts events including talent shows and poetry readings are offered. The first school dance is scheduled for October 28th. Davidson Academy Online has received national recognition for its social emotional learning program. Dr. Hawthorne reported that a press release on this would be available on October 12th.

### **3. Media and Outreach**

Concerning Media and Outreach, Dr. Stacy Hawthorne advised that Davidson Academy Online Instructor, Dr. James Bonderchuk, was interviewed by local news station KOLO 8 at the Reno Campus along with Director, Colleen Harsin, as a result of the Davidson Academy being named as the nation's number one public middle and high school by Niche.com. Davidson Academy was named in the number two spot for best online schools.

Former Davidson Academy Online student, Marvin Mao, and Davidson Academy Online were recognized for Mr. Mao's winning the National MATHCOUNTS competition. Mr. Mao was also interviewed on ABC's Live with Kelly and Ryan on July 12, 2021.

The Davidson Academy Online Team was recognized as a 2021 Blackboard Catalyst Awards winner in the Training & Professional Development category.

Davidson Academy Reno campus student Samantha Glover was featured in a number of news stories for her bill to abolish "Period Poverty" by requiring free menstrual products at public high schools and middle schools in Nevada. Davidson Academy Reno campus student Claire Burkhardt was named a "National Cyber Scholar" after winning a nationwide competition. Claire is one of only 10 students in Nevada to be recognized.

The new Davidson Academy website was launched and now includes a Blog feature. Outreach staff continues to work toward improving web traffic.

## **G. GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **1. VICE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

#### **a. Presentation of independent auditor's report for the fiscal year ended**

June 30, 2021 (for possible action)

Mark Herron, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, referred to Kimberly Hastings and Morris Zlotowitz for presentation of the independent auditor's report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021.

Mr. Zlotowitz began his presentation with discussion of the audit results letter; the required communication from the auditors to those in charge of governance of Davidson Academy financials. He advised that an unmodified opinion, without qualification, was provided following completion of the audit. The financial statements were confirmed as prepared properly and in accordance with Government Accounting Standards. Concerning the accounting policies, there were no transactions entered that lacked authoritative consensus. The financial statements include an entry for original construction costs, which is an estimate of amortized prepaid rent costs. This is not a new entry and was previously communicated to the Board. The financial statements are neutral, consistent, and clear. There were no difficulties in performing the audit. There were two minor adjustments recorded, which Ms. Hastings would further

describe in her comments. There were no uncorrected misstatements or disagreements with management and no recommendations indicated.

Mr. Zlotowitz referred to Ms. Hastings for further comments. Ms. Hastings advised that recommendations were provided in last year's audit related to time allocation between various entities, specifically education and non-education related time. The audit staff worked with Karin Dixson and Mark Herron following the previous audit to clarify the recommendation, and new processes were implemented during the year which satisfied the audit requirement.

Ms. Hastings referred to the financial statements, which she reported as consistent with the prior year. With regard to the management discussion analysis, prepared by Karin Dixson, there were few differences with prior years except for the addition of communications concerning COVID-19.

Concerning the footnotes, there is a new note including the creation of Online Resources AZ, LLC (ORAZ) to employ out-of-state staff. Additionally, under risk management and contingencies, there is an expanded note concerning the effects of the COVID-19 outbreak and how the Davidson Academy has responded, and a comment on current uncertainty.

There is an additional footnote under subsequent events with regard to the forming of Davidson Academy Online, LLC, an Oregon limited liability company. Beginning July 1, 2022, Davidson Academy Online, LLC, intends to operate as an independent school in the state of Oregon.

A budgetary footnote is included relating to reduced costs during the fiscal year. Karin Dixson commented that the Davidson Academy was under budget in all categories and that the cost savings was due to cancelation of events and travel of due to COVID-19.

Ms. Hastings reconfirmed there were no findings that need disclosure and no issues with internal controls. She thanked Karin Dixson for her work in providing the audit materials. Unapproved Board member Brian Krolicki thanked Karin Dixson for her work on preparing the audit and congratulated her on it being so well done. Ms. Hastings confirmed that there may be further guidance and requirements forthcoming for non-profit corporations from the Government Accounting Standards Board. She will keep the Board apprised and advise Karin Dixson of changes. Mr. Herron asked if the Board had any questions or comments.

There being no further questions coming before the Board concerning the audit report, Mark Herron requested motion to accept the auditor's report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2021. Motion was made and seconded for approval of the auditor's report as submitted. There was no discussion and the motion carried unanimously.

#### H. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from the public at this time.

#### I. ADJOURNMENT

Chair of the Meeting, Mark Herron, requested that due to scheduling conflicts, the next Board meeting be moved to Wednesday, November 17, 2021, at 2:00 p.m., which was confirmed by Board members.

There being no further business coming before the Board in public meeting, Mr. Herron asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 3:03 p.m

Aimee Fredericks

Respectfully submitted by Aimee Fredericks, Clerk of the Board

# Academy Director

## The Davidson Academy Governing Board Updates

### November 17, 2021



SCHOOL PROFILE | 2021 – 2022

### INTRODUCTION

Established in 2006, the Davidson Academy offers profoundly gifted students, who are prepared to progress through a middle and/or high school curriculum in a rigorous academic setting these two educational options:

- ▶ **Online Campus**  
 an online school for students living anywhere in the US and Canada
- ▶ **Reno Campus**  
 a public day school on the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) campus for local residents

The Academy is designated by Nevada legislation as a “university school for profoundly gifted pupils” (NRS Chapter 392A). Driven by our mission to provide profoundly gifted young people an advanced educational opportunity matched to their abilities, strengths, and interests, students are grouped by ability, not by age or grade. All students, at both campuses, must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- ▶ A score of 99.9% or above on nationally normed intelligence tests and/or nationally normed tests.
- ▶ Demonstration of superior academic achievement and intellectual potential.
- ▶ Motivation, social and emotional maturity, and overall readiness for an accelerated educational environment.

### BY THE NUMBERS

<i>Davidson Academy</i>	<b>242</b> Students Enrolled	<b>63%</b> Students of Color	<b>24</b> Seniors Class of 2022
	<b>7:1</b> Student/Teacher Ratio	<b>10%</b> Eligible for Financial Aid	<b>14</b> National Merit Semifinalists
<i>Online Campus</i>	<b>98</b> Students Enrolled	<b>28</b> States	<b>13</b> Student Led Clubs
<i>Reno Campus</i>	<b>144</b> Students Enrolled	<b>17</b> Zip Codes	<b>18</b> Student Led Clubs

### CURRICULUM

Each Academy student develops a **Prospective Learning Plan (PLP)** to serve as a roadmap for academic and personal goals. These plans guide students through a rigorous core curriculum and help them make elective decisions based on their interests and abilities. PLPs are consistent with the Academy’s philosophy to treat students as individuals invested in their own learning. High school students engage in a blend of advanced high school, undergraduate, and graduate level courses. We emphasize breadth and depth rather than teaching to any particular standardized test or curriculum. Our coursework stresses high-level thinking skills, critical and creative engagement, collaborative discussion with fellow classmates, as well as opportunities for experiential learning. Our classes are small and designed so students must be active in their learning.

Academy students must take at least five graded courses each semester. During senior year, students are required to take four graded courses each semester. Core subject classes take place Monday-Thursday, and most electives take place on Fridays.

### EXTRACURRICULAR AND CLUB OPPORTUNITIES

Due to the rigor of the curriculum, we encourage our students to take part in a modest, but meaningful amount of extracurricular activities within and outside the school community.

sampling of extra-curricular activities	DECA Science Olympiad Club and high school athletics Graduate level research	Math Competitions Science Bowl First Lego League Robotics Scholastic Arts & Writing	Music Ensembles Theater and Dance Speech and Debate Martial Arts
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**Director**  
Colleen Harsin

**Director of Online Learning**  
Stacy Hawthorne, Ed.D.

**Counseling Team**  
Alexandra Ellison, Jesse Kachurak, Erin McKenna, Laurie Parish, Erica Shumaker

[collegeadvising@davidsonacademy.unr.edu](mailto:collegeadvising@davidsonacademy.unr.edu)  
[www.DavidsonAcademy.unr.edu](http://www.DavidsonAcademy.unr.edu)

Davidson Academy  
P.O. Box 9119  
Reno, NV 89507  
775-682-5800

CEEB Code: 290207

#### Accreditation

Special Purpose School by the Northwest Accreditation Commission (NWAC), a division of Cognia.

#### School Recognitions

- ▶ Named one of the "15 Best Online High Schools" in the nation by College Transitions
- ▶ Davidson Academy was named to the "Public Elites List" by the Washington Post's Jay Mathews
- ▶ Ranked as one of Newsweek's Top STEM High Schools for 2020
- ▶ Online Campus - 4x winner of the Blackboard Catalyst Award
- ▶ Reno Campus - ranked No.1 as the "Best Public High School" in Nevada by Niche.com's 2020 Best Schools in America Rankings and Grades
- ▶ Ranked #3 in "2021 Best Public High Schools" listing by US News and World Report

#### COVID-19 Response

*2020-2021 School Year*  
 The Reno Campus classes were available via our remote learning model for the entire 2020-2021 school year. Majority of the students choose to access this option for the duration of the year from home. However, students were welcomed to the school building by signing up to engage in remote learning from school via our hybrid learning model when in-person classes were an option. Similar to the spring, both the Online and Reno Campus recognized individual students experienced various effects of the pandemic. As a result, students and their families were offered options to consider in the context of their unique situation. Students were given the choice to continue with regular letter grades, or switch from letter to a pass/fail grade for select high school classes. A pass is 70% or higher.

#### 2021-2022 School Year

The Reno Campus resumed full in-person learning where state and local mandates, including masks and social distancing, are in place.

#### Transition to an Independent School

Davidson Academy's Online Campus will be transitioning to an independent school beginning with the 2022-23 academic year. The Reno Campus will continue to be a public school. Beginning with the 2022-23 academic year, Davidson Academy Online will have its own school profile.





**GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS AND COURSE OFFERINGS**

The Davidson Academy Diploma is considered an advanced high school diploma in the state of Nevada. Diplomas are awarded based on the following requirements:

- Cumulative unweighted GPA of 3.0
- 28 total credits required – 23 required, 5 electives

<b>English</b> 4 Credits	Composition & Analysis Rhetoric & Literary Analysis Intro to Research & Communication	Studies in American Literature British Literature Advanced Rhetoric	Science Writing & Communications Critical Theory
<b>Math</b> 4 Credits	Geometry Algebra II Algebra II/Pre-Calculus Statistics	Pre-Calculus Calculus I Calculus I/II Calculus II	Calculus III Year Calculus III Semester Linear Algebra Intro to Proofs and Special Topics
<b>Science</b> 4 Credits	Physical Science Biology Advanced Biology	Chemistry Advanced Chemistry	Physics Advanced Physics Advanced Geosystems
<b>History</b> 3 Credits: 1 World, 1 US, 1 Gov	Patterns in Modern History History of the United States Principles of American Government	Asian Studies Imperialism & Post-Colonialism Understanding the Post 9/11 World	
<b>World Language</b> 3 Credits	Chinese I Chinese II Chinese III/IV Chinese V/VI	Spanish Fundamentals I/II Intermediate Spanish I/II Advanced Spanish I/II	Hispanophone Literature & History Japanese 1A

**Electives**

The Davidson Academy offers over 40 different elective courses which change yearly based on student interest. Students may design and teach their own elective courses as approved by the administration.

<b>sampling of current school year elective offerings</b>	The Actor Factor Animation Art Creative Writing Culinary Studies (taught by students)	Financial Literacy Health Horror Fiction Kung Fu Media Content Creation	Music Theory Mythology Photography Programming with Java
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**DUAL ENROLLMENT**

Students at the Davidson Academy may earn credit toward high school graduation by successfully completing coursework at the University of Nevada, Reno, or another approved college or university. Students dual enrolled at any point from Spring 2020–Spring 2021 had the option to change their final grade to S/U (Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory).

<b>sampling of current dual enrollment courses for academy students</b>	MATH486 Game Theory CS302 Data Structures PSY101 General Psychology BIOL314 Ecology and Population Biology PSY413 Measuring the Brain JPN305 Japanese Comp and Conversation I	ENG413A Sociolinguistics ECON359 Economic Development PSC304 The Legislative Process HIST211 History of East Asia I STAT352 Probability and Statistics ATMT121 Climate Change and Its Environmental Impacts
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**COLLEGE MATRICULATION: CLASSES 2016-2021**

161 Graduates, 74 Institutions

\*more than 1 student | \*\*more than 5 students

Agnes Scott; ASU*; Babson; Boston U.*; BYU; Brown*; Caltech*; Carnegie Mellon*; Champlain; Colorado School of Mines; Columbia U.*; Cornell; Dartmouth; Duke Kunshan; Fordham; GW; Georgia Tech*; Grinnell; Harvard*; Harvey Mudd*; Lewis & Clark; Macalester; MIT**; Neumont College of Comp Sci; NAU; Northwestern; Oberlin; Olin College of Engineering*;	Oxford College at Emory*; Pepperdine; Pitt; Pitzer; Pomona; Princeton*; Purdue; Rice*; Ringling College of Art and Design; Rose-Hulman Institute of Tech; Santa Clara U.; Sarah Lawrence; Soka University of America; SMU; Stanford**; Swarthmore; Trinity College Dublin; College of Wooster; U. of Alabama; UBC*; UC Berkeley**; UC Davis; UCLA; UCSD; UCSB*;	University of Chicago**; U of Colorado, Boulder; U of Edinburgh*; U of Hawaii, Manoa; U of Idaho*; UIUC; U of Maryland, College Park; UNLV; U of Nevada, Reno** BSMD*; U of Oklahoma*; U of Rochester; USC; U of Tennessee, Knoxville; UT Dallas**; U of Washington*; Vanderbilt; Washington State; WashU*; Western Washington; Yale*
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**Grading Scale**

GPA's are calculated on a traditional 4.0 scale for all courses.

Davidson Academy does not rank students.

Grade	Percent
A	93 – 100
A-	90 – 92
B+	87 – 89
B	83 – 86
B-	80 – 82
C+	77 – 79
C	73 – 76
C-	70 – 72
D+	67 – 69
D	63 – 66
D-	60 – 62
F	00 – 59

**Test Scores**

The Nevada State Board of Education chose the ACT as Nevada's CCR assessment. Nevada juniors take the ACT Plus Writing in the spring. Additionally, throughout the Covid-19 pandemic testing centers in the Reno area remained open but had limited capacities.

**Advanced Placement**

Davidson Academy does not offer Advanced Placement (AP) courses, but many students choose to take the tests

- 76 students
- 140 exams
- 96% of tests were 3 or above

**Notable Achievements in 2021**

Each year our students earn national and international distinction, including: 2 U.S. Presidential Scholars; 24 National Merit Finalist; 1 Coca Cola Scholar; 1 Carson Scholar; Nevada State Science Bowl Champions – Top 16 in the Nation; 2 Caroline D. Bradley scholars; 1 MathPrize for Girls Participant; 17 AIME/AMC participants; 2 USJMO Participants; 1 MATHCOUNTS National Champion; 1 Team of National Biology Bowl Champions; 1 National Cyber Scholar; Sweet 16 IPPF Team

## Davidson Academy Online Director The Davidson Academy Governing Board Updates November 17, 2021

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### Future of Schools Resilient District Grant

I am pleased to finally share with you that Davidson Academy Online was awarded a Resilient District Grant from Future of School. The award ceremony happened in the Reno Campus Tahoe Room on October 12, 2021. Three members of the Future of Schools team, including Chief Executive Officer and Education Evangelist Amy Valentine, were on hand to present us with the \$10,000 check. This grant recognizes the work the Online Campus team did to provide additional, sustainable supports for students and staff during the pandemic. The goal is for Davidson Academy Online to be a model for other schools to follow when it comes to supporting the whole student. This award is a testament to the efforts of the entire Davidson Academy Online team and we are grateful for the recognition from Future of Schools. The event was covered by local news station KOLO and the communications team from UNR. Please see the Media Outreach report for links to the press coverage.

### New Courses

We will be offering eight new electives this spring: Advanced Latin: Prose, Linguistics, Bible as Literature, Gender in East Asia, 3D Modeling, Music in Film, Data Science, Intro to Aviation, and Literary Magazine. Most of these courses are developed by current Davidson Academy Online staff.

### DAO Making a Difference

Here are just a few of the emails that I have received from parents over the past few months. It's always amazing to the team to hear how DAO is making a real difference in the lives of students across the U.S. and Canada.

#### A. Parent 1

I wanted to let you know that from my parental perspective DAO is working out very well for Student! He's always been even-keeled but I've noticed that since school started he's been more upbeat and playful (as a kid should be!). I credit this improved frame of mind to finding a good fit at DAO. Even though he was in gifted programs here in the Local area, he was not able to find the good fit that he's found at DAO.

I am so appreciative of all the great work that you and the rest of the DAO team do! Please pass my appreciation and regards along to the rest of the team.

#### B. Parent 2

I don't know how Student could survive the rest of the school without DAO. He really loves the school, the level of education, the teachers, and most importantly, he found true friends in DAO with whom he can share his thoughts and values, and be himself.

This semester, Student is especially enjoying Speech and Debate class and club. A related fact about Student: two years ago, he was asked to describe his life position in 3 words during an interview. His answer was ... "let us talk" :).

#### C. Parent 3

I asked Student if he wished he went to another school perhaps with his friends here locally. (just to see what he would say) He unequivocally said, "Nope, Davidson is the only place I want to be!!!" I love it!!

**D. Parent 4**

You are amazing. Honestly amazing. Thank you for being so supportive of our DAO debaters. Several teachers “teamsed” our competitors during the tournament words of encouragement. On a Saturday? WHO DOES THAT? DAO is one special place because of special people. Thanks for leading the way!

**Speech and Debate**

On Saturday, October 23rd, two Varsity Public Forum teams from the Davidson Academy Online Debate Team competed in the Henry Clay “Speak of the Devil” Speech & Debate tournament. Nathan K. and Nir P. had a great showing, with both speakers earning a perfect score of 30/30 in the first round. Ida C. and Elle G. persevered through five rounds, earned perfect or near perfect scores in the preliminaries, and wound up winning the entire tournament in the Varsity Public Forum division. The Online Campus Speech and Debate team is competing in nine tournaments this fall and has plans to compete in a similar number this spring. They set their sights on qualifying for the National Tournament in only their second year of existence.

**UC Status**

For the fourth consecutive year, Davidson Academy Online campus courses are approved for A–G credit from the University of California system. This is an important piece for our California residents and adds another layer of credibility and reputability to our online courses.

## Media and Outreach

# The Davidson Academy Governing Board Updates

## November 17, 2021

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### Media Updates/ Notable Website Mentions

#### A. Semifinalist for the 2022 Coca-Cola Scholars Program

November 9, 2021 – Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation (Reno campus student Julianna Schneider named a semifinalist)

Link available soon

#### B. EXPLAINER: Why are schools revisiting gifted education?

October 28, 2021 – Associated Press/AP News (Article on changing gifted education policies across the U.S. The Davidson Institute is referenced and Online Campus director Stacy Hawthorne is quoted.)

<https://apnews.com/article/science-new-york-education-new-york-city-race-and-ethnicity-of3d92179ff20b45c4747d3c84a026a2>

#### C. Davidson Academy's Online Campus (DAO) was awarded the Future of School Resilient Districts Prize. DAO was recognized in a ceremony and presented with the prize and a \$10,000 check from Future of School. DAO is being celebrated for supporting students' social/emotional health during the pandemic through creative, innovative strategies fostering connection.

##### 1. Davidson Academy Online Awarded the Future of School Resilient Districts Prize

October 12, 2021– KOLO 8 News

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mPxd7CZCD94>

##### 2. Davidson Academy Online Campus awarded Resilient Districts Prize from Future of School October 15, 2021– Nevada Today

<https://www.unr.edu/nevada-today/news/2021/davidson-academy-award>

##### 3. Press Release: Davidson Academy Online Awarded the Future of School Resilient Districts Prize

<https://www.davidsonacademy.unr.edu/davidson-academy-online-awarded-the-future-of-school-resilient-districts-prize/>

#### D. Best Public High Schools in Every State

October 5, 2021 – 24/7 Wall Street (List the Davidson Academy as the top school in Nevada)

<https://247wallst.com/special-report/2021/10/05/best-public-high-schools-in-every-state-3/7/>

#### E. Sagebrush to Sandstone: A Humanities Guide to Outdoor Nevada

October 2021 – Nevada Humanities (features Reno Campus instructor Michelle Wait, who is a contributing poet in “Sagebrush to Sandstone: A Humanities Guide to Outdoor Nevada”)

<https://www.nevahumanities.org/sagebrush-to-sandstone>

F. Teaching the Profoundly Gifted at Davidson Academy in Reno-Tahoe

August 2021 – WorkLivePlayRenoTahoe (Feature on the place of the Davidson Academy Reno Campus in the Northern Nevada community. Reno Campus director Colleen Harsin is quoted.)

<https://workliveplayrenotahoe.com/teaching-the-profoundly-gifted-at-davidson-academy-in-reno-tahoe/>

G. Reno academy tops list of nation’s best public high schools

September 20, 2021 – KOLO 8 News (Feature on the Davidson Academy, including interviews with Reno campus director Colleen Harsin and online campus instructor James Bondarchuk. Also recognizes Davidson Academy’s ranking as the top public school in the U.S. by Niche.com)

<https://www.kolotv.com/2021/09/21/reno-academy-tops-list-nations-best-public-high-schools/>

**Website Metrics**  
**(Oct 1, 2021 – Oct. 31, 2021)**

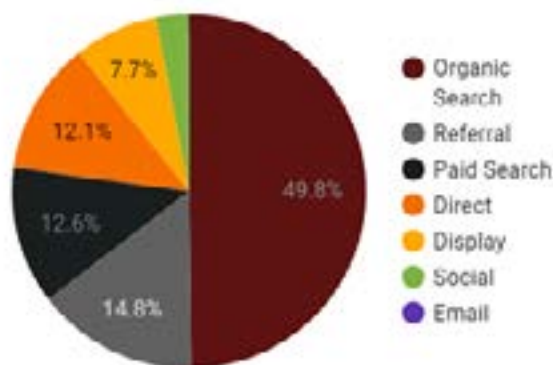
**Key Takeaways**

- A. Total website pageviews to the site are up 59% year-over-year (YOY) due primarily to organic search and referrals.
- B. Traffic coming from search engines (organic search) is up 73% YOY.
- C. Other improvements over last month: Number of sessions per user up 3.4%; New Users up 30%.
- D. Visits to Newsletter page way up to 205 this month, was averaging about 50 the past few months.

**Key Performance Indicators (Y/Y)**



**Top Acquisition Channels**



**Organic Sessions by City**

City	Session...	% Δ
1. Reno	759	40.0% ↑
2. (not set)	317	118.6% ↑
3. Las Vegas	263	81.4% ↑
4. New York	190	115.9% ↑
5. Los Angeles	174	102.3% ↑
6. San Francisco	143	104.3% ↑
7. Sparks	95	79.2% ↑
8. Chicago	93	45.3% ↑
9. Houston	87	148.6% ↑
10. Sacramento	86	152.9% ↑



- A. **Organic search:** search engines such as Google
- B. **Direct:** directly visiting our website
- C. **Referral:** Arriving on our website via a link from another website, such as NAGC or a news article
- D. **Social:** Social Media such as Facebook and Twitter

Keyword Rankings Gains		
Keyword	Pos.	Prev. Pos.
highly gifted program	6	26
school for the highly gifted	7	16
schools for gifted children	5	13
school for gifted children	7	14
school for highly gifted students	3	8
schools for geniuses	20	24
programs for gifted high school students	12	15
online gifted education	2	3
gifted and talented programs online	5	6

### Ongoing Outreach

#### Reno Campus Virtual Open Houses

- A. Wednesday, November 3rd at 4:30PM (PT)
- B. Wednesday, December 8th at 5:30PM (PT)
- C. Wednesday, January 12th at 5:00PM (PT)

#### Online Campus Virtual Open Houses

- A. Wednesday, November 17, 5pm PT (open to Davidson Young Scholars families only)
- B. Wednesday, December 15, 4PM PT
- C. Wednesday, January 5, 5pm PT
- D. Tuesday, January 25, 4pm PT

#### Online Campus In-Person Regional Events

In the planning phases of upcoming regional recruiting events in the following locations:

- A. Virginia
- B. Florida
- C. Georgia
- D. Las Vegas
- E. Chicago
- F. New York City

G. Arizona

H. Bay Area

I. Southern California

J. Houston

**Davidson Academy eNewsletter – distributed every other month to 6,000 recipients**

A. [September 2021](#)

**eNews-Update – Often prominently features the Davidson Academy; distributed every other month to more than 15,000 recipients**

A. [November 2021](#)

### **Social Media**

- Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/thedavidsonacademy/>
- Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/TheDavidsonAcademy/>
- Twitter - <https://twitter.com/TheDavidsonAcad>
- YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/user/DavidsonAcademyNV>