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Dear Parents / Guardians,

As the third year of DaVinci Academy comes to a close, there is a lot of planning and decision-making that has been taking place to ensure we continue to deliver the quality educational experience all of you have come to expect from our school.

We are planning to do this by adding an activities coordinator, a science coordinator, a librarian/keyboarding teacher and three lead teacher positions. We are adding pre-advanced placement programming for grades six through eight which will require some curriculum and training for our teaching staff. We are also planning to use RTI (Response to Intervention), additional Title I offerings and a more structured approach to homework club. These additions require additional staffing. All of these positions and programs will help us excel even more and ensure our students are receiving the highest quality of education.

In our recent Family Survey, of which you will soon be receiving the results, our stakeholders ranked the attraction and retention of quality staff as the number one priority as our school grows and develops. To accomplish this, one of the things we must be able to do is offer a competitive compensation package. We will be reviewing our total compensation package and plan to expand our bonus program for our talented teachers to help achieve this.

Our original charter contract with our Authorizer, Friends of Education (FOE), expires June 30, 2011 and we are going to be renewed for a three year period. We are in the final negotiations with FOE regarding the goals and other terms of our renewal contract. One stipulation in this renewal contract is that we need to implement limited enrollment by the 2013-14 school year.

Limited enrollment means that new students would be able to enter DaVinci Academy in specific grades (called entry points), but would not be replaced in other grades as children left the school. For example, if we were to designate grades one and six as our entry points, new students would be able to enter DaVinci Academy in first grade and sixth grade only. If students left in grades two through five, they would not be replaced by new students until sixth grade. The board and administration are investigating adopting limited enrollment within the required timeframe. The key benefits of limited enrollment are improved test scores and higher student academic performance, as instructional time is not diverted from

students familiar with our curriculum and teaching strategies to new students who need extra help. In entry point grades other than first grade, extra tutoring help during the school days can then be focused on the new students until they demonstrate an understanding of the curriculum and teaching strategies.

Once implemented, class sizes for grades other than entry point grades will be lower due to attrition. With all of this in mind, the school board and administration made the decision to add one student per classroom in grades one through five and two extra students to the afternoon kindergarten class for the 2011-2012 school year. In kindergarten, the maximum number of children will remain at 18 and class sizes in grades six through eight will remain at 25 for the 2011-2012 school year.

With these additional twelve students, our student-to-teacher ratio will still be 16:1, which is lower than any of our surrounding schools. With our differentiated instruction, there will be only certain times that there might be 26 students in a class at one time. We are fully confident that these added students will have no impact on the quality education we are delivering to all of our students. In fact, with the other items described above, the education will become even better than it is today. In addition, the small increase in class size should enable us to enroll all children currently on our sibling waiting list for the 2011-2012 school year.

We are excited about the future of DaVinci Academy and thank you for your tremendous support. If you have any questions or concerns about the above information, please feel free to contact the administration or any member of the school board.

Sincerely,

Cory Klabunde, School Director

Terry Moffatt, Academic Director