

04/15/2011**Quick Links****Paideia Website**www.paideiaacademy.org**PIE Committee**pie@paideiaacademy.org**SchoolView Questions**mnufer@paideiaacademy.org**Lunch Balance**www.paypams.com**Uniforms**www.donaldsuniform.com**Attendance**swatkins@paideiaacademy.org
952-953-6200**Generation Green**[Find us on Facebook](#) **Save the Date:****April 16 - Lower Academy Spring Concerts at Rosemount Community Center**

12:00 - Grades K-2 Concert

2:00 - Grades 3 & 4 Concert

April 18, 19, 20 & 21 - MCA Testing (8:45-9:45 & 1:45 - 2:45)

* No band or orchestra on Wednesday April 20 (MCA Testing)

April 22 - No School - Teacher work day.

* YMCA School Age program visiting Como Zoo babies! Sign up now!

April 29 - Eco Expo Open to the public!**May 7 - Upper Academy Spring Concerts at Rosemount Community Center:**

11:00 - Band Performance

1:00 - Grades 5/6 and 7/8 General Music Concert

3:00 - Strings Performance

FLOWER ORDERS DUE NOW!**Extra order forms available at the office**

Dear Families,

Welcome back! I trust that you had a lovely spring break as well as first week back!

On April 7 and 8, the final two days of spring break, 8 teachers and I attended the Data-Driven Instruction (DDI) Conference that was sponsored by our authorizer, Friends of Education. Thank you to the following teachers who voluntarily attended: Erica Marshall, Zac Holm, Lynda Cavanaugh, Kristie Chaffee, Joelle Buth, Crystal Creighton, Rachel Chamley, Kristin Schnase. The speaker was Paul Bambrick-Santoyo, who has worked with over 1,000 schools across the nation and is the Managing Director of the North Star Academy Network of charter schools in New Jersey, one of the highest performing urban schools in the state.

We learned that there are four pillars of data-driven instruction (DDI):

- Assessment (Interim--every 6-8 weeks; Transparent; Aligned, Re-assess)
- Analysis (Quick; User-friendly data; Teacher-owned; Test-in-hand; Deep)
- Action (Planned; Ongoing; Accountability; Engaged)
- Culture (Leadership; Professional Development; Calendar/Scheduled; Build by borrowing)

During this conference, the 9 of us worked as a team to schedule-in our grade-level assessments--one every 6-8 weeks. That was the easy part. The next step is for teachers to develop common assessments to be used at each grade level for math and language arts, which we are planning to do over the summer. These assessments must be aligned to state standards but also must align in rigor to the state standardized tests (MCA). For example, if a student were to show mastery of percentages, which of the following 3 questions would require the deepest level of understanding about percentages and which would convince you the most that your child understood percentages?

1) 50% of 20 =

2) Shawn got 7 correct answers out of 12 possible answers on his science test. What percent of questions did he get correct?

3) Justin Morneau and Joe Mauer (both of the Minnesota Twins) are competing for the best on base percentage. Morneau made it on base 23% of his first 15 times at bat, while Mauer made it on base 27% of his first 12 times at bat.

- Which one made it on base more often?
- In the next game, Morneau got on base 3 out of 5 times at bat while Mauer got on base 1 out of 4 times at bat. What are each of their new overall on base percentages? Who is the better batter?

While all three questions measure understanding of calculating percentages, question 3 reflects the rigor found on the MCA. It is a much deeper understanding of calculating percentages and application of the concept.

Our plan is to use a good portion of the weekly collaboration time next year to write common assessments by grade level, give the assessments quarterly (3 times a year), analyze the results question by question, student by student, in order to understand what students missed, and potentially tweak questions as needed for the next assessment cycle. Then we'll make action plans to re-teach and reassess for learning. Too often students are assessed, and then it's left at that without ever going back to the students' answers to see what they were missing. This assessment process gives the teachers a meaningful set of data with which to drive their conversation well as design reteaching and future teaching.

I also wanted to address the difference between prep time and collaboration time to clear up any misinformation. Prep time takes place during the school day (when students are with specialists such as Art) and is for: communicating with parents, making copies, getting the classroom set up for the next lesson, grading papers, organizing, and the general nitty gritty work of being a teacher. Prep time is not necessarily common time across a grade level due to the constraints in

scheduling and even in the few instances that it is common, it is roughly 35 minutes of actual meeting time. Collaboration time is for: professional dialogue, analyzing data, planning lessons as a team, discussing specific students and their progress/needs, planning with the art and computer teachers to integrate them into my lesson about the Civil War, and articulation between grade level teachers. Collaboration time is common time for the entire staff so that any group of teachers that need to meet can do so.

With the implementation of DDI and weekly collaboration time next year, we look forward to a more regular, school-wide look at how our students are doing to ensure that they are learning at a level of rigor that we expect of them.

Below is a copy of the handout that was given during the parent meeting on Thursday evening. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

We're in the home stretch for the 2010-11 school year. Let's make the final 9 weeks the best ones yet, because it isn't just how you start - It's how you finish.

Warmly,
Joyce

Here is the link the Survey regarding Collaboration.
Survey will closed April 22 at 3pm.
One survey per family will be accepted.
[2011 Collaboration Survey](#)

PS. Ask me how the Cubs are doing.

Paideia Academy * Collaboration Time Key Points

➤ The data tells us:

HISTORICALLY, PAIDEIA TEACHERS AND STAFF HAVE NOT HAD AN OPPORTUNITY OR TIME SET ASIDE TO LOOK OVER THE STATE TEST DATA. WHEN THIS DATA WAS SHARED WITH THEM RECENTLY, THERE WAS AN OVERWHELMING SENSE OF URGENCY AND WILL TO IMPLEMENT DATA-DRIVEN INSTRUCTION AND ANALYZE MEANINGFUL DATA.

WE WANT TO OUTPERFORM 196!

According to the 2010 MCA (state test grades 3-8) results, while some performance rates are very close and quite high in some cases, Paideia Academy did not outperform District 196 in school wide proficiency rates in math (except for grade 7):

Math Proficiency Rates

Comparison
schools

Year	Grade	Paideia	Greenleaf/ Valley Middle	District 196
2010	3	91%	92%	90%
	4	82%	89%	87%
	5	70%	91%	81%
	6	66%	63%	77%
	7	72%	52%	70%
	8	58%	48%	63%
	All	74%	66%	78%

In math, Paideia has not outperformed District 196 in school wide proficiency rates in math (except for 2010 grade 7) for the past 3 years.

In Language Arts/Reading, while some performance rates are very close and quite high in some cases, Paideia Academy did not outperform District 196 in school wide proficiency rates in grades 3, 5, 6, and 7:

Reading Proficiency Rates				
Year	Grade	Paideia	Greenleaf/ Valley Middle	District 196
2010	3	84%	85%	83%
	4	84%	77%	81%
	5	84%	93%	84%
	6	77%	66%	78%
	7	72%	62%	74%
	8	85%	64%	78%
	All	81%	71%	80%

In reading, Paideia has not outperformed District 196 in school wide proficiency rates in reading in grades 5 and 6 for the past 3 years. Grades 4 & 7 did not outperform District 196, 2 out of the past 3 years.

➤ **Collaboration time:**

One hour early release, on the same day of the week, every week. (any day but Friday)

Late start is not viable due to the kindergarten schedule

Collaboration time (full staff availability) versus Prep time (during the day, usually not common time):

Prep Individual goals	Collaboration- Shared goals
Making photocopies	Creating common assessments for reading and math
Responding to parent emails	Discuss concerns about individual students and make action plans
Writing lesson plans	Plan with colleagues: cross-curricular units, lessons and projects
Grading papers	Analyze assessment data with colleagues, determine what instructional strategies work and figure out ways to reach struggling

	students
Entering grades into TIES	Brainstorm strategies for utilizing technology in lessons

➤ **Use of time:**

- Primarily Data-Driven Instruction (DDI)
 - Create quarterly assessments by grade-level
 - Analyze data by grade-level, by student, by question
- Sharing of best-practices, instructional strategies
- School-wide discussions and decision-making
- Cross grade-level and cross curricular-area articulation
- Professional development

➤ **K-2:**

- DDI, in one sense, is even more critical at K-2 to ensure that these students are also meeting benchmark standards along the way since the MCA only measures grades 3-8.

➤ **Accountability:**

- Regular and open communication with parents regarding products/outcomes
- Analysis of data and follow up re-teaching and re-assessing of students to show mastery
- To each other as colleagues

➤ **On-site Child Care YMCA-SAC**

Fall rates for regular School-Age Care (SAC) program (Option 1) will be \$10.25/session for the AM sessions and \$10.75/session for the PM session. The PM rate is a little higher because it is a longer session.

The rate for the one day option for the early release day (Option 2) will be \$11.75/session. That will be only for those who are using it for just that one day/week. This is not a drop-in program. **For students who are already signed up for our regular SAC program they would be paying their regular \$10.75/session rate for that day even though it will be a longer session than normal.**

There is a \$50 registration fee for either option due at the time of registration.

All rates are per child.

➤ **Off-site Child Care**

- There are viable alternative options outside of Paideia, which we are unable to advertise due to a non-compete clause in our agreement with the Y.

From The Office

INFORMATION ABOUT THE MCA

The MCA (state testing) window is from April 18-22 for grades 3-8. During this time, please ensure that your child gets plenty of rest and has a good breakfast each morning. If your child is ill and misses a day of testing, we will have make up testing the following week. If at all possible, please do not schedule any appointments that would require your child to miss school during testing week. Students tend to do better when they are comfortable in their testing environment. For most students, that means in their classroom with their classmates during the regular testing time rather than pulled out of their regular classroom with a test proctor with whom they are not as familiar. Please arrive to school on time. If a student arrives late to school on any testing day, per state regulations s/he will NOT be able to take the test that day. S/he will take it during make up days. Lastly, please remind your child to his/her best as it is an opportunity to show all that they have learned this year.

HEAD LICE

*We have had many inquiries about our Lice Policy. As stated in the handbook: Students **MAY NOT** return to the Academy until treatment has been administered and all nits have been removed from the hair. Upon returning, the student will be checked to determine if any nits are still present before admission to class.* This policy is actually much more stringent than District 196.

A 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade Wordmasters Proclamation:

After months of *toil*, *accumulating* a vast quantity of *obscure* vocabulary, being *baffled* by three *persnickety* tests, and *steadfastly* finishing the contest without *faltering*, wordmasters is approaching this year's *finale*. We will hold a *jubilant* pizza *repast* on May 2nd from 12:15-12:45 where we will *exult* over our champions. We *implore* any parents who are not *hecklers* to come get a *glimpse* of their *fledgling* vocabulary stars. (Pack your own drink to *guzzle*.)

If this message seems *unintelligible*, ask your wordmaster to *enlighten* you on the italicized words which were selected from this year's vocabulary lists.

Fundraising

**Gas prices getting you down?
Come make a negative turn into a positive.**

We have scrip cards available for many different gas stations, so you can fill up your tank and give back to the school. **One example is.. Paideia earns 9% of your dollar amount spent on gas from**

KwikTrip! So fill your car with \$50 and we get \$4.50! Now multiple that by every Paideia family... **WOW easy fundraising!**

What is scrip? Simply purchase gift cards (with cash or check made to Paideia) from the front desk during school hours or at Monday morning meetings. You pay for the actual value of the card and the company gives the school a percentage back, plus you get to use the card at the pump. We currently have one hundred dollar cards for Kwik Trip and SuperAmerica and twenty or twenty five dollar cards for Holiday and Kwik Trip. While picking up your gas card, look at the other cards we have available also.

Silent Auction Contributions!

Theme Baskets..... New Process! Rather than a different theme for each classroom, we'll have 5 themes, and you can contribute to whatever theme you like. There will be **one contribution bin down by the office**. Our themes will be.....

- Family Fun Night - movies, games, etc
- Garden Basket - tools, seeds, stones, art, gift cards, etc
- Arts & Crafts - whatever!
- Grilling - tools, sauce, aprons, pot holders, etc...
- Toys - games, books, dolls, trucks, building toys, bubble stuff, dressup stuff - if your kids like to play with it, others will too!

Aside from theme baskets, we all have things we can contribute...teach the high bidder how to knit, or do origami, or geocache, or do digital scrapbooking, or go ice fishing. Do you know a carpenter, a master gardener, or a web page designer who might be willing to contribute 2 or 3 hours of their time? Maybe you could let another Paideia family enjoy a weekend at your cabin, when you won't be using it. If you know a local business owner or manager, ask if they might be willing to contribute something for the auction. Opportunities are everywhere!

Remember, this year we're raising money for **Smart Boards** in our kids' classrooms!

Questions, comments, concerns, ideas, contributions, contact Silent Auction
Co- chairs: Roxanne Mindeman newtbuster@prodigy.net and Susan Carter
carter@frontiernet.net

PAIDEIA K-4 "Make Me a Rainbow Concerts"

WHEN:

Saturday, April 16, 2011

WHERE:

Rosemount Community Center
 13885 South Robert Trail
 Rosemount, MN 55068

CONCERT LINE-UP:

12:00 p.m. Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd Grade

2:00 p.m. 3rd and 4th grade

We look forward to seeing you on Saturday!

From Paideia, turn left at Galaxie, turn right on 140th Street West, which will turn into Connemara Trail. Continue on Connemara Trail and turn right on Robert Trail South. (Robert Trail is Highway 3.)

Our Vision ~

We envision a new generation of engaged, productive global citizens.

~ Our Mission ~

The Mission of Paideia Academy is to challenge and inspire learners by providing a rigorous, content-rich, classical education incorporating languages, music, and the arts while nurturing positive character.

[Forward email](#)



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