

## What's happening

### Ongoing

■ **Be a part of the excitement, glitz and glam that is Grad Night 2014!** Even if you are not a parent of a high school senior, Grad Night organizers appreciate help from everyone. Openings are available for a variety of helpers. Choose a shift(s) for Thursday, Friday or Saturday (June 12-14). For more information and to sign up, see <http://www.davisgradnight.org/volunteers>

■ **Davis High School's Blue Devil basketball camp** will run June 16-19 in the gym, 315 W. 14th St. Camp for fourth- and fifth-graders is 8 a.m. to noon; camp for sixth- through eighth-graders is noon to 4 p.m. Future Blue Devil basketball players will learn what is necessary for competitive basketball at the next level, while getting to know the program and staff. The registration fee is \$100. Go to [www.dhsbluedevels.com](http://www.dhsbluedevels.com) to download a camp flier.

### Friday; and Friday, June 6

■ Kids between the ages of 1 and 12 are invited to **Friday Night Live** from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the city of Davis Gymnastics and Dance Center. For a \$5 fee, children can work on gymnastics skills, jump on the trampoline and more. Gymnastics and dance staff will be available for coaching questions, supervision and fun. Children under 4 must be supervised on the gym floor by a parent or guardian. For more information, call 530-757-5626.

### Saturday, June 7

■ Save the date for a **sports physical clinic** at Sutter Family Medicine, 2030 Sutter Place, Davis, from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. A \$20 donation is requested, which benefits the Davis High School athletics department. Athletes, grades 7-12 are encouraged to complete their sports physicals this spring to be ready for the 2014-15 school year. For more information, call athletic secretary Laurie Williams at 530-757-5400 x125.

### Thursday, June 12

■ All sixth-graders are invited to the city of Davis' annual **Sixth-Grade Graduation Party** from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the Veterans' Memorial Center, 203 E. 14th St. Tickets are \$10 and may be purchased at the Community Services Department, 600 A St., Suite C. This event sells out every year. The evening includes dancing, foosball, video games and much more. An informational packet will be distributed to sixth-grade classrooms later this month and will include more detailed information on the party and a liability waiver. For more information, call 530-757-5626.

### June 23 - Aug. 15

■ Teens, are you looking for somewhere fun to kick it this summer? Come hang with **Teen Camp, the coolest camp for teens entering grades 7-10.** Spend this summer exploring Davis, making new friends, playing awesome games and going out of town once a week on our field trips. All of this is available for \$133 a week or \$45 for just the field trip. Camp runs Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Contact the city of Davis at 530-757-5626.

### Monday, June 23

■ The city of Davis' summer **teen drop-in program, The Vault**, opens for business at 3:30 p.m. and runs through Friday, Aug. 15. The program, at King High School, 635 B St., will be open Monday through Thursday from 3:30 to 8 p.m. and Fridays from 3:30 to 9 p.m. Youths in grades 7-12 are invited to come hang out with friends, play video games, board games, air hockey, foosball and outdoor activities.

Throughout the summer, there also will be sports tournaments, cooking projects, crafts and water games. The cost is \$2 per day or \$30 for an all-summer pass. For more information, call 530-757-5626.

# Speaking up

## Student reps bring unique insight to school board

By Anna Seban

SPECIAL TO THE ENTERPRISE

Much is up in the air as far as who will serve on the Davis school board next year, with the November elections yet to determine who will fill the five elected seats.

But one thing that is known is that the terms of the two student board members will be drawing to a close before then.

Yasmin Kouchesfahani, a senior at Da Vinci Charter Academy, and Mad-die Asta, a senior at Davis High School, have served as student representatives to the board during the spring semester, bringing insight and input from their classmates to board discussions.

Both are highly involved in their school communities and say that involvement is what drove them to seek a place on the school board.

"I've always been involved with school, and I thought that I could take it to the next level and be a representative of Da Vinci," Kouchesfahani said.

A board members, they focus in particular on topics affecting Davis students.

"I use my experience and others' experiences in elementary and junior high schools to speak on those matters," Asta said.

Their input, in turn, gives the adult members of the board a student perspective, ensuring that students have a say in what is happening around them, especially on their campuses, Kouchesfahani and Asta said.



At Davis High, Asta uses student forums to listen to her peers and find out what the students think about certain issues.

"If there is an issue that the school board is discussing that directly relates to high school students, I make sure to talk to the students on campus about how they feel about the issue so I can speak with a more well-rounded opinion at school board meetings," she explained.

Kouchesfahani's main goal is to make sure Da Vinci is being included in discussions. As an enthusiastic student who is passionate about her school, she makes sure that the board and the greater community of Davis don't forget about Da Vinci or let it become overshadowed by Davis High.

"I like to comment about things going on



WAYNE TILCOCK/ENTERPRISE PHOTOS

Da Vinci student Yasmin Kouchesfahani and Davis school board trustee Tim Taylor, top, and above, listen to a comment during a recent meeting. "I've always been involved with school, and I thought that I could take it to the next level and be a representative of Da Vinci," Kouchesfahani said.

at Da Vinci, and ways that Da Vinci is doing well or could be improved on," Kouchesfahani said. "I hope to continue to bring it up because Da Vinci is such a successful high school and I want it to be recognized."

Both students' insights and perspective ensure that the school board never makes a decision without the opinions and well-being of students in mind.

— Anna Seban is a student at Da Vinci Charter Academy.

# 'Redesigned': The SAT gets a makeover

Finally some good news about college admissions tests!

Even though standardized testing for college admission is my least favorite subject, I am happy to make it the focus of this column because I finally have some good news to share.

Namely, starting in the spring of 2016, there will be a "redesigned" Scholastic Aptitude Test. Not just a cosmetic makeover, this is a substantive overhaul. The aim is to better measure a student's grasp of salient topics, align with Common Core and more accurately reflect college readiness. All for the good.

### Why the change?

With more than 1.6 million students taking the SAT every year and thousands of high school counselors and college admission officers using it for various assessments, the SAT test prep industry has become an \$840 million behemoth. For more on that topic, read *The Washington Post's* story at <http://tinyurl.com/moovl2x>.

One of the main reasons for the redesign was to respond to the growing chorus of skepticism about the SAT's predictive validity and fairness. The College Board, a not-for-profit organization in charge of administering the test, solicited input and advice from its members, its partner organizations — such as the National Merit Scholarship Corporation — and postsecondary and K-12 experts as part of the process. While the resulting changes go a long way to address these concerns, there is another reason for this redesign — market forces. More high school students took the rival ACT for the first time in 2012 according to Fair Test, a testing-watchdog organization, and this trend is growing.

### What are the changes to the SAT?

The SAT has undergone eight main areas of revision:

1. **Relevant words in context.** No more need to memorize



*Students who will be sophomores next year, may actually have the chance to take both SATs. If this is you, make sure to submit scores from both tests when applying.*

esoteric vocabulary words. The focus will be to interpret the meaning of words based on context clues.

2. **Command of evidence.** Students will be asked to interpret data provided and analyze evidence in answering questions and writing essays.

3. **Essay analyzing a source.** Students will be required to read a passage and analyze how the author develops a persuasive argument.

4. **Focus on math that matters most.** Now the test will zero in on three main areas: problem-solving and data analysis, the heart of algebra and passport to advanced math. See the College Board website, <https://www.collegeboard.org/delivering-opportunity/sat>, for more details.

5. **Problems grounded in real-world context.** There is more emphasis on tying

questions to the real world in both the English (soon to be called evidence-based reading and writing section) and math sections.

6. **Analysis of science, history and social studies.** Students will be required to apply their skills to answer questions in science, history and social studies.

7. **Founding documents and great global conversation.** Each time a student takes the redesigned SAT there will be a question related to the U.S. founding documents (Bill of Rights or the Federalist Papers, etc.) or from a text that addresses these issues.

8. **No penalty for wrong answers.** Points will no longer be deducted for answers that are incorrect or left blank!

One of the most notable improvements is that the essay component will no longer be mandatory, which started in 2005, but instead will be optional. Of course, some school districts and colleges, however, will still require it (most likely the more selective ones). The maximum score will return to the days of yore ... 1600, with maximums of 800 each in the evidence-based reading and writing section and the math section. Additional good news is that College Board is teaming up with the Khan Academy to provide free online tutoring.

See the chart below for comparison of test formats; and to read more on the redesign, visit <https://www.collegeboard.org/delivering-opportunity/sat/redesign/compare-tests>.

### Transition plan

If you are taking the SAT before March 2016, you are under the prior regime. In this case I recommend taking both the SAT and the ACT in your junior year and see which test you prefer once you receive your scores. Take the preferred one again in the fall of the senior year. (Refer to my column from September 2012 on my website for more information).

Students who will be sophomores next year, may actually have the chance to take both SATs. If this is you, make sure to submit scores from both tests when applying.

For students who will be juniors after March 2016, I still recommend taking both the redesigned SAT and the ACT to see which is preferable.

Despite the fact that the test differences will have narrowed, it will be too soon to tell which test is optimal. Eventually, it should become clear which test allows students to put their best foot forward.

### Until next time

Although this redesign is good news, taking tests is never pleasant. So if all of this testing talk has brought you down, remember that you can always apply to a test-optional college and avoid the whole thing!

— Jennifer Borenstein is an independent college adviser in Davis and owner of *The Right College For You*. Her column is published on the fourth Tuesday of the month. She lives in Davis with her family. Reach her at [jenniferborenstein@therightcollegeforyou.org](mailto:jenniferborenstein@therightcollegeforyou.org), or visit [www.therightcollegeforyou.org](http://www.therightcollegeforyou.org).

Section	Old SAT: time allowed (minutes)	Old SAT: number of questions/tasks	Redesigned SAT: time allowed (minutes)	Redesigned SAT: number of questions/tasks
Reading	70	67	65	52
Writing	60	49	35	44
Essay	25	1	Optional – 50	Optional – 1
Math	70	54	80	57
<b>Total</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>180 (230 with essay)</b>	<b>153 (154 with essay)</b>