

# Seminar Descriptions and Statuses

## Season 15 Spring 2024



The deadline for **Seminar Change Requests** is **Friday, January 26th at 2:30 pm**.  
Note that not all new seminars may be offered based on interest and logistics.

Seminar Name	Days Offered	Staff	Description	Status
Acting: Monologue & Scene Study	Wed	Diane Feldman	Explore, advance, and strengthen your ability to establish characters and tell their stories. Through solo, small group and ensemble exercises and activities, you will have an opportunity to participate in various foundations and fundamentals of acting, as well as build the skills you need to achieve and share truth on stage. Material we engage with will be both published and (your) original works. From discovering parallels between your own lives and the characters you portray, to learning how to research a role, to recognizing the powerful nature of non-verbal communication, this Seminar will provide you with the tools you need to be successful on stage and off.	OPEN
Advanced Calculus Seminar	Tues/Thurs (AM) Tues/Thurs (PM)	Kondo	Year-long seminar. Mandatory seminar for students in Advanced Calculus (must take both the regular class period and a seminar period).	CLOSED
Art and Works of Tolkien (a.k.a. Tea Time with Tolkie)	Wed	McGregor	"The world is indeed full of peril, and in it there are many dark places; but still there is much that is fair, and though in all lands love is now mingled with grief, it grows perhaps the greater." - Haldir of Lorien Join us as we read through "The Fellowship of the Ring" by J.R.R Tolkien. Student run, we will discuss the fellowship and how their journey relates to our lives. Tea, chocolate, and charcuterie will be customary.	OPEN
Art Studio (a.k.a. CEA & Art Studio)	Tues/Thurs	Prendergast	For students currently enrolled in the CEA/Art pathway to have a space and support with their projects.	OPEN
Aviation	Tues/Thurs	Jessi	<b>*enrolling new students for semester 2*</b> Learn, practice, experience, and experiment with all facets of the aviation world. We will build models, experiment with principles and mechanics, fly simulators, talk to professionals, and have fun with aviation.	OPEN
Basketball	Wed	Mr. V	Students will develop skills and play basketball. Reserved for those who are NOT on the basketball team.	OPEN
Chess	Wed	Creencia	Whether you're a beginner looking to learn the basics or an experienced player aiming to refine your skills, this student-led seminar offers comprehensive insights into openings, tactics,	OPEN

			endgames, and more.	
Comics as Literature (a.k.a. Comic Books)	Tues/Thurs	Frank	Who is ready for Comic-Con? We will read and share about comics and graphic novels, many of which we have already and some that we can purchase and reserve from the local library. Come on by if you want to just read, relax, and recharge! We will plan to go to our 2nd Annual Comic-Con field trip together.	OPEN
Computer Science Seminar (Fundamentals of Web Development)	Wed	Mitchell	Our seminar is geared towards working on personal projects related to Computer Science. This is a continuation of the Fundamentals of Web Development seminar. Students are encouraged to learn Javascript through freeCodeCamp and Code Wars.	OPEN
Cooking	Wed	Brooke	<b>*enrolling new students for semester 2*</b> Students will be participating in hands-on activities learning essential cooking skills. We will be learning how to read and execute cooking recipes, how to care for your cooking space, and deepen understanding of the cultural importance of food. Students will also eat their creations!	FULL
CrossFit	Tues/Thurs	Ali	We will be combining endurance conditioning, gymnastic movements, and weightlifting for an advanced and rigorous workout. Open to all levels of fitness and experience. Come ready to work hard and have fun!	OPEN
DVS News	Tues/Thurs	Kurczek	Are you interested in being a part of delivering weekly announcements and managing various social media for DVS? Join Mr. Kurczek for the DVS News seminar! We've got roles both behind and in front of the camera and we always need video editors!	FULL
Fabrication Lab (a.k.a. Fabrication Shop)	Tues/Thurs	Wallis	Have you ever wanted to learn how to make things out of wood and metal? In the fabrication shop seminar, you'll learn woodworking and metalworking skills as you build a project of your own. This seminar will meet in the new fabrication shop downstairs in the CTE Lab. Beginners welcome!	FULL
Futsal	Wed	Change: Sy	We play pickup games in the gym with small goals. We occasionally play games with/against DVC	FULL
Health & Wellness (a.k.a. Mental Wellness - Senior Seminar)	Wed	Ali	This seminar is tailored for seniors. We will explore strategies and practices to help navigate mental wellness in their senior year and beyond.	OPEN
History of Skateboarding	Wed	Sandoval	You won't learn how to do a kickflip in this class (that's for a later class) but you also don't need to know how to do a kickflip for this class! We will explore the history, skaters, and culture that created the art of skating.	OPEN
Houseplants 101	Wed	Ichiroku	How to learn the basics of caring for and (hopefully) keeping houseplants alive!	FULL
Improv	Wed	Kurczek	Learn the skills of improv comedy in the style of Whose Line is it	OPEN

			Anyway and have fun playing various games that improve your skills at thinking on the spot.	
Independent Reading	Tues/Thurs	Hernandez	Students will have a quiet space for independent reading on a book of their choice. You will do a monthly share out of the book you are reading.	OPEN
Intro to Jiu Jitsu	Tues/Thurs	Enrique Gabuardi & Jeremy	Jiu Jitsu is a predominantly ground-based martial art, using the principles of leverage, angles, pressure and timing, as well as knowledge of the human anatomy, in order to achieve a non-violent submission of one's opponent.	OPEN
Latin American Arts & Crafts	Wed	Magana	This seminar will focus on making traditional Latin crafts such as: tissue paper flowers, Huichol yarn painting, Guatemalan Worry Dolls and so much more.	OPEN
Leadership	Tues/Thurs	Besina, Brooke, Sandoval	Leadership's role is to build school culture and pride while serving the diverse community at DVS. Leadership is responsible for planning and executing culture-building events like CD, school dances, community events, and senior activities.	CLOSED
Math Competition	Tues/Thurs	Frank	Structured math, unstructured math, both will be done in this seminar as we research and prepare for Math Competitions. Learning for a grade is one thing, learning to compete is another. Let's goooooo!!!!	OPEN
Music Production	Wed	Alex Ritchie / Yamara	Students will learn the basics of how to produce music that sounds like their favorite artists. This will include how to make beats, the basics of mixing, and how to create songs from scratch. This is a great course for anyone who has ever wanted to try making music! (No previous experience necessary)	OPEN
Musical Theatre Production: Spring Musical	Tues/Thurs	Diane Feldman	All those who intend to participate as CAST members in our upcoming Spring Musical [THE ADDAMS FAMILY] must enroll in the Musical Theater Production Seminar. This will provide us with an opportunity to spend moments steeped in deeper learning with themes, characters, storylines, and musical theatre history, as well as allow time to rehearse, fine tune and solidify production material.	OPEN
Painting (with Bob Ross)	Tues/Thurs	Mitchell	We paint with acrylics while watching a Bob Ross video. Some may follow along with the video. Others may work on their own projects.	OPEN
Percussion Ensemble	Tues/Thurs	Josh Thomas / Alexi Paraschos	An introductory class covering the basics of rhythm and drumming. Students will learn how to drum in a group setting, follow a consistent tempo, and make beats with an ensemble. A great intro course for anyone with no musical background! No previous experience necessary. This seminar will be in conjunction with DVC and DVD students.	OPEN
Philosophy of Mind	Wed	Wimer	It's been said, "Be kind to your mind." But what is your mind and who exactly is being kind to that mind? In this seminar we will explore a suite of philosophical and psychological insights to help us see the nature of our minds. In this highly practical philosophical seminar, you will learn strategies on how to observe your mind, and implement ancient and contemporary strategies to find calm and stillness in the most chaotic and tragic aspects of life.	OPEN

Pickleball	Tues/Thurs	Gamboa	Come play pickleball!	<b>FULL</b>
Self Care and Wellness (a.k.a. Glow & Grow)	Wed	McBee	Our seminar is dedicated to empowering students through the fusion of self-care and outer beauty enhancement. Through a blend of activities that promote both inner growth and outer radiance, our mission is to equip students with the tools to not only feel confident in their own skin but also to embrace self-care as a form of self-love.	<b>FULL</b>
Sewing	Wed	Gamboa	Want to learn how to sew? Or maybe you're a master that wants to practice your skill? Join the Sewing Seminar and sew with us!	<b>FULL</b>
Skills Cultivation (a.k.a. Hobby Hour)	Wed	Cha	Ever feel like you can't find the time and space for your favorite hobbies? Whether it's drawing, reading, knitting, or other creative pursuits, here's the seminar to work on something you love or get started on a new hobby!"	<b>OPEN</b>
Society of Women Engineers (SWE)	Wed	Taube	Join the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) seminar for a female empowering extension of the SWE club. We will spend time discussing future outreach events, plans, and connections with collegiate SWE chapters. This is a great opportunity to get exposure in STEM and build long-lasting friendships!	<b>OPEN</b>
Strength, Agility, and Cardio	Tues/Thurs	Sy	<del>This fun circuit training will get your heart rate up and build your strength with great music, fun pace, and always a surprise closing activity! For all fitness levels</del>	<b>NOT OFFERED</b>
Studio Orchestra	Tues/Thurs	Harwell	Da Vinci Studio Orchestra is a full-year performing ensemble that meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 2:45-4pm, and participates in several exciting concerts and events throughout the year, both in and outside of school hours. This seminar is open to any student with a minimum of 1 year of wind or string orchestra performance experience. Please direct any student questions to <a href="mailto:tharwell@davincischools.org">tharwell@davincischools.org</a> .	<b>CLOSED</b>
Study Skills	Wed Tues/Thurs	[DVS Staff]	Be productive and get your work done during school hours in this seminar. Staff will be regularly checking in with you and supporting you as well. What a great deal!	<b>OPEN</b>
Swimming	Tues/Thurs	Perez	Let's swim together in the Swimming Seminar!	<b>OPEN</b>
Tabletop Strategy (a.k.a. Tabletop/D&D)	Wed	Jeremy	Ever wanted to immerse yourself in fantastical worlds and environments? Learn how to play Magic: the Gathering, widely described as Chess in card form. Create your own Dungeons and Dragons character and play with other students!	<b>OPEN</b>
Teacher Assistance	Wed Tues/Thurs	[DVS Staff]	Help a teacher during your seminar time! Typical tasks for TAs include helping prepare classroom materials, organize class displays and supplies, and other helpful tasks. A teacher must request you to be their TA.	<b>CLOSED</b>
Test Prep Seminar	Wed	PJ Test Prep / Prendergast	Sign up for this seminar to receive SAT and ACT test prep from PJ Test Prep! PJ Test Prep is a small, boutique SAT/ACT prep and tutoring company based here in the South Bay and West LA. Their mission is to provide top-quality programs of a large company while retaining the affordability, intimacy, and flexibility of a small group, and to make academic achievement fun! This FREE Test Prep	<b>OPEN</b>

			Seminar is open to all DVS students. It's a deal!	
Walking	Tues/Thurs	Lodhy	Join us as we take weekly walks around the Da Vinci neighborhood! This seminar is great for students who desire some light exercise under the sun. Join us, and let's hold each other accountable to get out and walk!	<b>FULL</b>
Weightlifting	Wed	Besina & Kondo	Like to lift heavy or want to learn how to? We want to help you grow your fitness and strength, and will support you every step of the way. Both beginners or experienced lifters welcome!	<b>FULL</b>
Wellness Seminar	Wed	David / Beecham	This course is open to all DVS students who are eager to prioritize their mental health and well-being. Whether you're looking to have healthier relationships, build confidence, or simply learn more about yourself, this class is for you.	<b>OPEN</b>
Yearbook	Tues/Thurs	Wimer	Make a lasting impression that will last for generations. Find interesting stories, take captivating pictures, craft beautiful spreads. Whatever your talents, we can put them to a use that will last for decades.	<b>FULL</b>
Yoga	Tues/Thurs	Taube	Want to end your day with some stretching and mindfulness? Join Yoga seminar! All levels are welcome. This is a great place to build physical and mental strength.	<b>OPEN</b>
Youth & Government	Tues/Thurs	McBee & Creencia	Youth & Government is a place to practice public speaking, discuss/debate political topics, create close bonds with others, and have fun!	<b>CLOSED</b>