



# 2023 HANDBOOK

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Summer@DavidsonGifted.org

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**Welcome**

Welcome to Davidson Summer Programs! We are pleased to offer residential summer opportunities to profoundly gifted students. Great care has been taken in developing dynamic, multifaceted summer programs. Our staff is committed to providing each participant with every opportunity to have an enjoyable experience. We look forward to working, growing, and learning this summer.

Our mission is to provide gifted students an academically engaging residential experience which fosters social connections and personal growth.

**Staff****Leadership Staff**

Our leadership team works year-round to plan and implement a memorable summer experience. We are proud members of the American Camp Association and participate in yearly summer camp conferences, training, and program development events to continually improve the summer programs we offer. Our team is on-site daily and is primarily responsible for program and staff management, as well as facilitating parent communication.

**Program Assistants**

Program assistants (PAs) assist in daily and evening activities as well as supervise participants while they are in the residence halls. PAs are responsible for enforcing program policies, building community amongst all participants, and creating a close knit environment. PAs are carefully selected and hired through a multi-step interview process and complete a background check, drug screening, and CPR/first aid certification before completing our multiday training program. Program assistants are paired with a small group of participants and provide 24-hour supervision.

**Instructors**

Instructors for STARS and REACH are Davidson Academy instructors. THINK instructors are faculty from the University of Nevada, Reno.

**Support Staff**

Some academic sessions may have a teaching assistant present to help facilitate the classroom or activity. Teaching assistants are current Davidson Academy students.

Other support staff members include University of Nevada, Reno affiliates.

**Contact Information**

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775-852-3483

[summer@davidsongifted.org](mailto:summer@davidsongifted.org)

### **Location**

Davidson Summer Programs take place at the University of Nevada, Reno campus. This University is home to the Davidson Academy, which acts as the homebase for much of the summer activities and programming.

### **Living Accommodations**

Participants are housed in dormitories on the University of Nevada, Reno campus. Each student is paired with one or two roommates; assignments are made on the basis of gender identification. Dorm rooms include:

- Single beds with 80" long mattresses
- Private bathroom with a shower
- Desks, chairs, and dressers
- Wastebasket
- Window coverings on all windows
- Air conditioning

Please see the program-specific packing list for a list of what dorm room necessities are required and/or provided.

Laundry machines, detergent, and funds to access the machines are provided. At the end of the program, participants will be billed for any damages and/or excessive trash and filth.



### **Meals**

Davidson Summer Program participants are provided three meals a day. Meals are offered at the resident dining hall, which is buffet-style dining that features food from multiple venues including Asian cuisine, fire grill, freshly made pizza, fresh salad, and a variety of alternatives based on dietary needs. Snacks will also be provided inbetween meals each day. Please note any dietary restrictions in the health history section of the required participant forms, so appropriate accommodations can be made.

### **Food Allergies and Special Diets**

The University dining facility is experienced at accommodating special dietary needs. We work closely with the dining staff to create a food allergy plan to determine what accommodations can be made for specific student needs.

Each year, participants who have food allergies or special diets successfully attend; however, we cannot guarantee an allergy free environment given that the program takes place in many shared spaces and in an uncontrolled environment. We welcome you to contact us to discuss specific concerns and determine if Davidson Summer Programs is a good fit based on the participant's level of comfort and needs.

### **Supervision**

Participants are ultimately responsible for their own behavior. Leadership staff, program assistants, and instructors work in partnership with participants to uphold program policies with the shared goal of creating and maintaining a safe, healthy program environment. Participants are assigned a program assistant, who will serve as their primary contact during the program. Program assistants live in the dorms alongside students, attend classes, and supervise activities. They are available to offer assistance and support during the program and as well as implement program policies.

Due to the University's minor policies, as well as safety being of the utmost importance in our programs, participants must be supervised by staff at all times.

## **Arrival and Departure**

### **Check In/Check Out**

Please refer to the [travel webpage](#) for further details and policies regarding check in/check out times. A specific arrival or departure time may be assigned to your family for an efficient check-in/out process. The drop off and pick up location is at the residence hall on the campus of the University of Nevada, Reno. Participants must be signed-in and signed-out by a parent or legal guardian. If other arrangements are made, a parent or legal guardian must provide written permission to the Institute for an adult over the age of 25 to check your student in and/or out prior to arrival. Students are not able to check-in or check-out alone and Davidson staff do not provide an airport shuttle or supervision to pick up or drop off students.



We use a "kiss and go" check-in process. Outside of the dormitory building, our staff will be ready to help parent(s) check-in their student, drop off medications with the health supervisor, and label their luggage. After those steps are completed, it's time to say goodbyes. A staff member will then accompany the participant into the dormitory building for group activities and unpacking.

A limited timeframe for arrival and departure is necessary due to staffing demands for program setup and breakdown. We are unable to check students into the program early. If there is an emergency that delays you, please call the emergency

number provided prior to the program. Once students are officially checked into camp, they are in our care. Supervision of participants ends on the final day of the program at the check out time.

## **Section Three: *Policies and Procedures***

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### **Cancellations and Refunds**

All Program fees, including deposits and tuition, are non-refundable. Participants cancelling their enrollment must provide written notice via email to [summer@davidsongifted.org](mailto:summer@davidsongifted.org).

A non-refundable deposit per child per session is required to secure your student's space in the program. STARS deposits are due February 10. REACH and THINK deposits are due two weeks after notification of your student's official acceptance into the program. All remaining tuition fees are due by April 28. If you have not paid your students' tuition fees by April 28, your credit card on file will be automatically charged on May 1.

*STARS ONLY:* In cases where STARS enrollment is cancelled prior to April 14, a partial refund may be offered if we are able to fill the spot with someone from the waitlist. This courtesy will be extended on a case-by-case basis and is not a guarantee.

### **Early Dismissal or Departure Refunds**

Participants unable to check-in as well as those departing and/or dismissed early from camp, no matter the reason, are subject to a complete loss of fees. Dismissals or departures due to medical reasons, including sickness from COVID-19,

are subject to complete loss of fees depending on the circumstances and time spent at camp. Refunds are not available for loss of programming or changes to programming made to safely accommodate any medical concerns. Additionally, students who have departed and/or are dismissed early from camp, no matter the reason, are unable to return to camp.

*THINK ONLY:* THINK courses may or may not be completed from home due to an early dismissal. It is up to the discretion of the THINK staff and academic instructor(s) to determine if it is appropriate and feasible for a student to finish a course remotely. This decision is based on a number of factors which are subject to evaluation on a case-by-case basis only. Students are subject to receiving a withdraw, or a “W” on their transcript for any course(s) they are unable to finish. Please see the early dismissal or departure refund policy above.

### **Fully Connected Policy**

Davidson Summer Programs are “fully connected” communities. Being fully connected means focusing on making connections with other participants without the distractions of electronic devices. Often, a summer program is the only place students can truly unplug and be electronic free. This provides the opportunity to build new skills, to gain friendships, and to be independent from parents for a short period of time. While cell phones may be a convenient tool to check-in with your student, this same access changes the dynamics of the student experience during the summer. At Davidson Summer Programs, students are able to bring concerns directly to their peers, program assistants, and/or leadership staff, which for many is a new method of communication. This often results in a boost of confidence when students realize they can be successful as self-advocates. We will be unplugged, but fully connected.

Some electronics are permitted based on program function. See “Electronic Devices” in each Section, Four – Six: Program-Specific Information.

### **Dress Code**

The dress code requirements exist to create a productive, uninterrupted, and safe learning environment. This dress code is intended to support participants in preparing for appropriate dress expectations in education and professional settings, and to assist parents when they purchase summer wardrobes.

#### **Clothing**

- There should not be a gap between tops and bottoms that exposes skin or undergarments.
- Clothing should cover all undergarments.
- Tops should cover the entire chest area. Low cut tops or muscle shirts are not permitted.
- Pants, shorts, skirts, and dresses must be at least mid-thigh in length, including when bending or sitting.

#### **Shoes**

- Shoes must be worn outside of the dorm room at all times.
- Shoes appropriate for weather and outside conditions and walking long distances are recommended.
- Closed toe shoes may be required during labs and physical activities for safety purposes.

#### **Language/Illustrations on Clothing**

- No obscene, vulgar, profane, or derogatory language or illustrations are allowed.
- Anything that promotes weapons, alcohol, drugs, tobacco, violence, sex or hate speech is prohibited.

Participants in violations of the dress code will be asked to change immediately. Please feel free to contact us at [summer@davidsongifted.org](mailto:summer@davidsongifted.org) with any questions regarding the dress code prior to arriving.

### **Packing List**

We encourage parents to involve their student in packing. It can be a helpful way to reduce anxiety and help participants become familiar with their belongings. You can access a handy [downloadable packing list](#) on our website.

Reno is a very dry “high desert” environment which is generally warm during the day (80s – 100s) and cooler in the evenings (50s – 70s). Participants are expected to dress appropriately and conservatively.

### **Personal Property**

It’s rare that items go missing during the program, but we still recommend that students do not bring items to the program that are not easily replaceable. If any such items do need to be brought, we recommend that the participant plan to keep the item with them at all times, or check it in at the staff room when not in use. Participants should put their names on everything possible in order to minimize searching for lost items. We have a lost and found bin located in the common room of the residence hall, which is the centrally located and used for daily announcements, studying, and other fun activities. Smaller and more noticeably expensive lost items, such as eReaders, flash drives, and jewelry, are kept in the staff room until found by the appropriate owner.



### **Guests & Leaving Campus**

Davidson Summer Programs are intended to offer participants a short-term, residential summer experience. Each participant is a vital part of an academic learning team and social community. As such, visits and phone calls from family can significantly reduce the quality of the experience for all participants. To address the issues surrounding being away from home and temporarily separated from family members, program staff will remain in close contact with both participants and parents throughout the duration of the program. Additionally, participants are not permitted to leave the program to attend outside events including, but not limited to, music lessons, concerts, sporting events, athletic practice, try-outs, etc. Outside guests are not permitted.

Due to the short nature of STARS and REACH, there are no family visit days available. Due to the longer duration of THINK, two optional family visit days are offered during the program.

### **Health Care Services**

We care deeply about each of our student’s physical and mental well-being while at camp. Safety is our absolute top priority. All program personnel are CPR and First Aid certified. Our staff is trained to engage in supportive conversations with campers who need a little extra TLC, such as addressing homesickness and other feelings that may come up at camp as part of the sleep-away experience. Students should be in a stable physical, emotional and mental state when they arrive at camp. Keep in mind that regardless of the positive and empowering nature of camp, it can be a physically and emotionally demanding experience outside of the comfort and familiarity of home.

Our health supervisor, a registered nurse, is on-site every day to address student needs. The supervisor reviews all medical information submitted prior to students’ arrival and follows up with families should any more information or clarification be requested or required to allow us to prepare to provide appropriate support and care. On arrival day, the health supervisor will briefly meet with each student to collect medications and conduct a health screening.

Health care needs or concerns outside the scope of what can be provided by program staff and our health supervisor may be directed to either St. Mary’s Regional Medical Center, Renown Regional Medical Center, or Northern Nevada Regional Hospital. Parents will be responsible for all costs of any/all services rendered, regardless of the location. Additionally, participants must have medical insurance coverage to attend Davidson Summer Programs. The Davidson Institute does not provide medical insurance for participants. THINK students are enrolled as university students; therefore they also have access to the University’s Student Health Center, which is open on weekdays.

Parents/guardians will be contacted by the health supervisor by phone or email in the event your child experiences an illness, injury or other health concern. When physical or mental health needs exceed our abilities to address at camp as

determined by the health supervisor and/or program staff, early dismissal from the program may be necessary to ensure appropriate safety and care needs can be met. In these cases, parents must pick up their student within 24 hours of notification. Please see our cancellations, refunds, and payment policies on your program's tuition and fees page for more information about early dismissal or departure due to sickness or injury.

### **Medication Administration**

Any medication brought to the program, including prescription medications, over-the-counter medications, vitamins, alternative remedies and/or supplements must be listed on the Health History Form found in the online portal. The information submitted on the Health History Form will be reviewed by our health supervisor prior to the beginning of the program. If a medication is not listed on this form, then we will not be able to collect it nor make it available to the participant during the program. If a medication is prescribed after the form has been completed, please email the program staff at [summer@DavidsonGifted.org](mailto:summer@DavidsonGifted.org) prior to the program start date. Upon check-in, the health supervisor will collect all medications. All medications must be in their original containers with original labeling, and will be given according to physician and/or package directions. Participants may not keep medications with them other than asthma inhalers, insulin, EpiPens and topical medications. All medications will be locked in a secure area and made available to the participants per physician and/or package directions. If there are special storage instructions for certain medications, e.g. refrigerate, please include this information on the Health History Form. Once the medication has been made available to the participant, it is the responsibility of the participant to take their medication.

### **Communicable Illness Plan and Policies**

The health and safety of participants and staff is Davidson Summer Program's top priority. Communicable diseases, both acute and chronic, exist everywhere and are present every summer. Hosting residential summer programs that draw from a national audience requires an immense amount of planning and careful risk mitigation. Our staff is trained annually on our communicable disease plan and how to incorporate prevention practices into daily programming.

We continually evaluate and modify our operational procedures to ensure we are in compliance with any requirements of our host site, the University of Nevada, Reno, which are subject to change between now and the program start dates. This includes requirements for any testing and vaccination status of communicable diseases. Thank you for helping us support a safe and healthy program experience for all our participants.

### **Pre-Program**

Prior to your arrival, we will connect with you on how you can contribute to health and safety before the program even begins. Each family will receive information on practices and recommendations to follow in the spring newsletter. Parents and participants will also review and agree to the program handbook, which outlines communicable disease-related policies and practices.

### *Health History*

Participants are required to submit a health physical, immunization records and health history information. This health information is reviewed by the health supervisor, who will contact families for further information prior to the program as needed.

### *Immunization Records*

We currently follow the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health for age-appropriate vaccination recommendations. Participants must provide a current record of completed immunizations as part of enrollment. Please refer to [Nevada's School Immunization Requirements](#) for specific details.

Immunization requirements and policies will be updated based on new circumstances and updated recommended practices. *While not required, participants and summer staff are highly encouraged to be "fully vaccinated" and "up to date," including any eligible boosters, for COVID-19, [as defined by the CDC](#).*



*As affiliates of UNR using on-campus buildings, housing, and food services, we are obligated to follow their directives at the time of programming which are subject to change between now and the program/event start dates. This may or may not include updated policies for COVID-19, such as, testing for entrance into the residence halls, which may affect participant ability to check-into a program. Please see our refund and cancellation policies on your program's tuition and fees page for further information.*

We recognize that individuals have received vaccination waivers for various reasons. If a participant has not received one or more required vaccinations, they will need to submit exemption documentation to be reviewed by the health supervisor, who may follow-up for further details and clarification.

#### *Vaccine-Preventable Disease Policy*

If a vaccine-preventable disease or outbreak occurs in the participant's local region at any point prior to the program, they may be required to not attend the program in order to protect both the participant and other program participants that may be at risk.

If a vaccine-preventable disease or outbreak occurs in the Reno/Tahoe area, and the participant is not immunized for that illness, they may be dismissed immediately for their safety and the safety of others. Parents will need to make travel arrangements to have their child return home within 24 hours of notification.

In either of the scenarios listed above, no refunds will be given for any program costs. Please see our cancellations, refunds, and payment policies in Section Three for more information about early dismissal or departure due to sickness or injury.

#### **During Program**

##### *Health Screening*

Upon arrival, a health screening will be conducted by the health supervisor for each participant and staff member. The health supervisor will determine if a person poses a health risk to the group, or if they have a concerning symptom(s). On a case-by-case basis, the health supervisor will determine what action needs to be taken, including but not limited to testing for a communicable disease, not admitting the person into the program, closely monitoring the individual or isolating the person at the program until symptom free.

##### *Preventative Practices*

While participants are in our care, we remain diligent in reducing the risk of illnesses spreading. Each day, staff and participants will engage in several practices to keep our program community safe and clean, including the following:

- Encourage regular handwashing, especially before meals. Water and soap and/or sanitizing pumps will be available prior to every meal.
- Sanitizing pumps placed in key locations throughout the campus.
- Scheduled, regular times to sanitize frequently touched objects.
- Coach participants to cough/sneeze "into their sleeve" and to avoid touching their faces.
- Student orientation to include training on daily preventative practices, with visual reminders provided in commonly accessed areas
- Emphasize that personal supplies belong to the owner and are not to be shared with others, this includes water bottles and drinks.
- Increase social distance between people when possible, especially in dining rooms.
- Sleep head-to-toe rather than nose-to-nose. (Create the greatest distance between sleeping heads).
- Train staff to recognize and report signs and indications of illness, as well as guidance on how to encourage healthy practices within small groups and during program activities
- Any further program-specific check-in protocols will be emailed directly to registered families

## *Response to Illness*

Should a communicable disease occur, Davidson Summer Programs will implement our response plan. In this response, the health supervisor and staff work to identify the problem and isolate those with the confirmed or suspected communicable disease. Arrangements will be made for carry-out meals, delivered by program staff, if the health supervisor determines that an individual should be temporarily isolated. An isolated participant will be unable to join daily activities until symptom free or as directed by the health supervisor and/or other medical professionals. Families whose children are ill at camp will be contacted by the health supervisor and will be given daily updates to communicate their treatment and progress.

Regular daily programming for unaffected persons will continue during an outbreak. Daily prevention practices will be evaluated and altered to provide more care and reduce further spread. Families of unaffected participants will be

informed by the director regarding the situation and response through email. The frequency of these emails will be determined by the severity of the outbreak.

Our staff will meet daily to address our response plan and ensure we are meeting everyone's needs. Continual assessment of an outbreak will occur, including the following potential action items:

- A participant or staff member may be sent home as determined by the health supervisor and director, and all other professional or expert entities informed of the outbreak. Part of this assessment will determine if the person's medical needs exceed what the program is able to provide, and if their presence poses significant harm to others.

- If an outbreak is severe, the program may be ordered to close by government officials. Even without an order to close, Davidson Summer Programs may make the determination to close or cancel the program to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all participants and staff.

## **Personal Hygiene**

Participants are expected to maintain their own personal hygiene, including showering, wearing clean clothes and utilizing appropriate personal care products daily, or more frequently if needed, due to warm temperatures and long, active days.

## **Photos**

At Davidson Summer Programs, we take photos daily of students participating in activities. We know it is important to capture the memorable experiences made here, and we want to share them with parents! Throughout the program, we will share photo highlights with you. We hope to capture photos of most students each day. Our small team will do our best to do so, but please know the number and quality of photos shared will vary. At the end of the program, our team creates a slideshow for students to view at the closing event. We love hearing all the giggles and "Oh, look—it's me!" comments from the students as they remember all the fun they had. A link for parents to view the slideshow will be sent out in the weeks following departure day.

We use these photos to explain what the program experience is like, as they capture the heart of what we do so much better than any narrative can. For this reason, we share some of the photos taken each summer on our website and in Davidson Institute and Academy marketing materials. When we publish program photos, we do not include any student names or identifying information.



## **Residence Hall Damage Policy**

Any damage or vandalism to the halls is the financial responsibility of the participant. If responsibility for damages or excessive cleaning cannot be determined, participants will be invoiced as follows:

- Damage within a room: Charges will be divided equally between both/all participants living in the room.
- Damage to public areas: Charges will be divided equally among all participants residing in the suite.

University officials and authorized program staff reserve the right to enter and inspect residence hall rooms at any time without prior notification. Inspections will occur when necessary to protect and maintain the property of the University, the health and safety of the participants and/or whenever it is deemed necessary by the staff.

## **Transportation**

During the program, participants may be transported to off-campus events by a chartered bus service or walk as a group to nearby, off-campus events. Participants will be escorted by program staff and are expected to stay with the group and/or a staff member at all times. In the event requiring non-emergency medical care, participant(s) may be transported by no less than two program staff members to an urgent care facility or the hospital. In case of an emergency, an ambulance will be summoned.

## ***Section Four: STARS Program-Specific Information***

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### **Schedule**

Below is a tentative schedule for STARS; exact times and activities are subject to change.

**Sunday- Arrival Day** – Participants arrive between 12 – 2 p.m., \* community building; program orientation

#### **Monday – Wednesday**

8:00 a.m.....Breakfast  
9:00 a.m.....Campus Field Trip  
11:30 a.m..... Dorm Time  
12:30 p.m. ... Lunch  
2:00 p.m.....Academic Session  
5:00 p.m.....Recreational Activity  
5:30 p.m.....Dinner  
6:30 p.m.....Evening Activity  
8.00 p.m. .... Nighttime routines  
9:00 p.m.....Lights Out

**Thursday- Departure Day** – Closing activities, packing; Program ends, and participant departure is 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.\*

\*A specific arrival or departure time may be assigned to your family for an efficient check-in/out process. Please refer to the [travel webpage](#) for further details and policies regarding travel times.

### **Electronic Devices**

Davidson STARS Summer Camp is a “fully connected” community. Being fully connected means focusing on making connections with other participants without the distractions of electronic devices. Often, camp is the only place students can truly unplug and be electronic free. Camp provides the opportunity to build new skills, to gain friendships, and to be independent from parents for a short period of time. While cell phones may be a convenient tool to check-in with your student, this same access changes the dynamics of the student experience during the summer. At STARS, students are able to bring concerns directly to their peers, program assistants, and/or leadership staff, which for many is a new

method of communication. This often results in a boost of confidence when students realize they can be successful self-advocates. We'll be unplugged but fully connected.

**STARS Summer Camp's cell phone policy is simple: NO cell phones.**

**We ask parents to please help us enforce this policy.** If you are personally dropping off your student at STARS, please take the cell phone(s) with you or check them into your student's program assistant upon arrival. For those arriving by air, we understand and fully expect parents to request that their student carry a cell phone while they are traveling by themselves. Again, we simply ask that you remind your student to check-in their phone to their program assistant once you have received the phone call that they have arrived safely.

What message does it send to have your student "sneak" a cell phone into camp? It may convey that you are not sure your student will be safe at camp or be able to turn to our staff if they need help. If you choose to send your student to STARS, it's important that both you and your child feel comfortable with the camp's staff and leadership team and that you trust your student's needs will be met at camp – whether they are physical, social, or emotional. When your student knows that you are confident, they will in turn be more confident with the experience.

**Other electronic devices:** Music players, tablets, computers and cameras are among a list of electronic devices that campers tend to bring. As many of these devices have multiple functions, the rules tend to get a little fuzzy. Our guideline is that any electronic device that has the ability to communicate, either through the internet or cellular data plans, including those who have the capability disabled, **are prohibited**. Laptops and tablet computers are also not allowed. Digital cameras and noise machines are welcome, as are many music players. Please keep in mind, there are a number of music players that have Wi-Fi capability and can connect to the internet and these types of devices are not permitted.

**Mail**

Due to the short duration of STARS and the complex University delivery system, mail (including letters and packages) will **NOT BE ACCEPTED**. Instead, parents are welcome to bring item(s) for program assistants to distribute throughout the week per parent directions. Items will only be accepted in person upon check-in. Letters and/or packages mailed to the Davidson Institute and/or the University addressed to STARS participants will be returned to sender.

**Section Five: REACH Program-Specific Information**

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**Schedule**

Below is a tentative schedule for REACH; exact times and activities are subject to change.

**Sunday- Arrival Day** – Participants arrive between 3 p.m.- 4:30p.m., \* orientation, community building

**Monday – Thursday**

- 7:30 a.m.....Breakfast
- 8:30 a.m.....Field Trip
- 12:00 p.m. ....Lunch
- 1:00 p.m.....Seminar Course
- 4:30 p.m.....Study Time/Computer Access
- 5:30 p.m.....Dinner
- 6:30 p.m.....Evening Activity
- 9:00 p.m.....Dorm Time/Evening Routines
- 9:30 p.m.....Lights Out

**Friday- Departure Day** – Final seminar course presentations, closing activities, packing; Participant departure is 10 a.m.- 12 p.m.\*

\*A specific arrival or departure time may be assigned to your family for an efficient check-in/out process. Please refer to the [travel webpage](#) for further details and policies regarding travel times.

## **Electronic Devices**

Davidson REACH Summer Seminar is a “fully connected” community. Being fully connected means focusing on making connections with other participants without the distractions of electronic devices. Often, a summer program is the only place students can truly unplug and be electronic free. This provides the opportunity to build new skills, to gain friendships, and to be independent from parents for a short period of time. While cell phones may be a convenient tool to check-in with your student, this same access changes the dynamics of the student experience during the summer. At REACH, students are able to bring concerns directly to their peers, program assistants, and/or leadership staff, which for many is a new method of communication. This often results in a boost of confidence when students realize they can be successful as self-advocates. We’ll be unplugged but fully connected.

### **REACH Summer Seminar’s cell phone policy is simple: NO cell phones.**

**We ask parents to please help us enforce this policy.** If you are personally dropping your student at REACH, please take the cell phone(s) with you or check them into your student’s program assistant upon arrival. For those arriving by air, we understand and fully expect parents to request that their student carry a cell phone while they are traveling by themselves. Again, we simply ask that you remind your student to check-in their phone to their program assistant once you have received the phone call that they have arrived safely.

What message does it send to have your student “sneak” a cell phone into camp? It may convey that you are not sure your student will be safe at REACH or be able to turn to our staff if they need help. If you choose to send your student to REACH, it’s important that both you and your child feel comfortable with the staff and leadership team and that you trust your student’s needs will be met– whether they are physical, social, or emotional. When your student knows that you are confident, they will in turn be more confident with the experience.

**Other electronic devices:** Music players, tablets, computers and cameras are among a list of electronic devices that campers tend to bring. As many of these devices have multiple functions, the rules tend to get a little fuzzy. Our guideline is that any electronic device that has the ability to communicate, either through the internet or cellular data plans, including those who have the capability disabled, **are prohibited.**

Laptops and tablet computers are also not allowed. REACH will provide your student with a laptop for course work. Digital cameras and noise machines are welcome, as are many music players. Please keep in mind, there are a number of music players that have Wi-Fi capability and can connect to the internet and these types of devices are not permitted.



## **Keys and Building Access**

Each participant will be provided a key which grants them access to their specific room and designated floor in the residence hall. Lost keys must be reported to program staff, as they must be replaced immediately to ensure the security of all participants and staff. Replacing a lost key costs \$40. Charges will be invoiced directly to parents at the end of the program.

## **Mail**

Due to the short duration of REACH and the complex University delivery system, mail (including letters and packages) will **NOT BE ACCEPTED**. Instead, parents are welcome to bring item(s) for program assistants to distribute throughout

the week per parent directions. Items will only be accepted in person upon check-in. Letters and/or packages mailed to the Davidson Institute and/or the University addressed to REACH participants will be returned to sender.

## **Academics**

Students will attend their assigned seminar which involves four and a half days of instruction and hands-on learning. Through the seminar, students will create an end-of-session project to present to the instructor and classmates. No grades or credit are given at REACH; however, instructors will provide a short evaluation to each student, which may include accomplishments and areas of growth. This evaluation will be emailed to your family in August.

## **Section Six: *THINK Program-Specific Information***

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### **Schedule**

Below is a tentative schedule for THINK; exact times and activities are subject to change.

#### **Monday – Friday (every weekday)**

8:00-8:45 a.m. .... Breakfast  
9:00-12:00 a.m. .... Morning Academic Course  
12:00-2:15 p.m. .... Lunch & Dorm Time  
2:30-5:30 p.m. .... Afternoon Academic Lab or Study Time (dependent on course enrollment)  
5:30-6:15 p.m. .... Dinner  
6:15-6:30 p.m. .... Floor Meeting  
6:30-10:30 p.m. .... Independent Study Time/Gym/Outdoor Activity  
10:30 p.m..... Lights Out

**Saturdays**– Off campus field trip, scheduled activities, and independent study time

**Sundays** – Optional parent visits, off campus field trip, scheduled activities, and independent study time

Exceptions to the schedule above are **arrival and departure days**:

**Saturday- Arrival Day** – Participants arrive 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.; \* orientation; community building

**Saturday- Departure Day** — Participants depart 6 a.m. to 9 a.m.\*

\*A specific arrival or departure time may be assigned to your family for an efficient check-in/out process.

### **Electronic Devices**

**Davidson THINK Summer Institute is a “fully connected” community.** Being fully connected means focusing on making connections with other participants without the distractions of electronic devices. Often, a summer program is the only place students can truly unplug and be electronic free. This provides the opportunity to build new skills, to gain friendships, and to be independent from parents for a short period of time. While cell phones may be a convenient tool to check-in with your student, this same access changes the dynamics of the student experience during the summer. At THINK, students are able to bring concerns directly to their peers, program assistants, and/or leadership staff, which for many is a new method of communication. This often results in a boost of confidence when students realize they can be successful self-advocates. We’ll be unplugged but fully connected.

**THINK Summer Institute’s cell phone policy is simple: Cell phone use is limited to the residence hall only.**

**We ask parents to please help us enforce this policy.** If you are personally dropping your student at THINK, please have them check with staff to locate the cell phone drop off location for when students are leaving the dorms each day. Not

sure what time of day you will be able to check-in with your student? Check the schedule and talk with a staff member to find out the permitted times.

What message does it send to have your student “sneak” a cell phone out of the residence hall? It may convey that you are not sure your student will be safe at THINK or be able to turn to our staff if they need help. If you choose to send your student to THINK, it’s important that both you and your student feel comfortable with the staff and leadership team and that you trust your student’s needs will be met– whether they are physical, social, or emotional. When your student knows that you are confident, they will in turn be more confident with the experience.



**Other electronic devices:** Music players, tablets, and cameras are among a list of electronic devices that campers tend to bring. As many of these devices have multiple functions, the rules tend to get a little fuzzy. Our guideline is that any electronic device that has the ability to communicate, either through the internet or cellular data plans, including those who have the capability disabled, **are prohibited outside of the residence hall.** Personal laptops and tablet computers are also not allowed. THINK will provide your student with a laptop for course work. Digital cameras and noise machines are welcome, as are many music players. Please keep in mind, there are a number of music players that have Wi-Fi capability and can connect to the internet and these types of devices are not permitted outside of the residence hall.

#### **Keys and Building Access**

Each participant will be provided a key which grants them access to their specific room and designated floor in the residence hall. Lost keys must be reported to program staff, as they must be replaced immediately to ensure the security of all participants and staff. Replacing a lost key costs \$40. Charges will be invoiced directly to parents at the end of the program.

#### **Mail**

**The U.S. Postal Service does not deliver to the residence halls.** Deliveries by major carriers such as UPS and FedEx may be sent to the address below. Packages will NOT be accepted prior to the program start date. Any packages received before this time will not be accepted and will be returned to the sender.

**Argenta Hall**

**Attn: THINK Summer Institute**

**Participant’s First and Last Name**

1201 N Virginia St

Reno, NV 89503\*\*\**Please note: Our staff will check the residence hall front desk once each evening for daily package deliveries and will NOT be responsible for tracking package deliveries.*

#### **Parent Visits**

THINK Summer Institute is intended to offer participants a full-immersion academic and residential summer experience. Each participant is a vital part of an academic learning team and social community. As such, visits from family outside of the prescheduled times on Sundays can significantly reduce the quality of the experience for all participants. To address the issues surrounding being away from home and temporarily separated from family members, program staff will remain in close contact with both participants and parents throughout the program. It is anticipated some participants will experience some level of homesickness, as this is a natural part of a residential program experience. Parents are welcome to request a short visit during the mornings of Sunday, July 16 and Sunday, July 23. To arrange a time to pick up your student, please email [THINK@davidsongifted.org](mailto:THINK@davidsongifted.org) no later than 24 hours prior to these dates. **DUE TO DORM SECURITY, ALL VISITS NEED TO BE ARRANGED IN ADVANCE.**

Additionally, participants are not permitted to leave the program to attend outside events including, but not limited to, music lessons, concerts, sporting events, athletic practice, try-outs, etc. Outside guests are not permitted.

## **Grades**

Participants are enrolled in the University of Nevada, Reno's summer session as a non-degree seeking student. It is the responsibility of the participant to be aware of their grades throughout the program and to communicate with their instructor for any questions/concerns. To assist with this communication, instructors will update grades online via WebCampus/Canvas. Davidson staff will send a progress report to parents/guardians before the final week of class. This will serve as the primary academic check-in concerning grades with parents.

If the student is enrolled as a Davidson Academy or Davidson Academy Online student, all THINK courses will be listed on their official Davidson Academy transcript and will be factored into their GPA. Additionally, the THINK course credits will be reflected on a University of Nevada, Reno transcript.

As THINK is a single-course enrollment program, our goal is to help students successfully complete their course for credit with a letter grade. THINK is designed to be an academically challenging and rigorous experience. The expectation is that students are to complete their course to the best of their ability. Support is offered to students in a number of ways, including but not limited to regular staff check-ins, dedicated study and homework time, office hours with instructors outside of instruction time if needed, and an overall focus on academic success within a semi-independent college setting. In cases where a student experiences unexpected difficulty performing to the standards of college course work, the choice to audit the course rather than receive a letter grade may be available. There are strict timelines surrounding the decision to audit, and the decision itself involves the student, the parents/legal guardian(s), program staff, and the instructors all agreeing on the plan. Auditing a course at THINK is an individualized decision handled strictly on a case-by-case basis and therefore is not generalized to a standard policy. If the decision is made to audit a course, the student is expected to continue attending class and completing coursework for the program's duration. Otherwise, the student will be dismissed from the program as academic participation and performance is a main component of the program experience.

Final grades can be viewed in WebCampus approximately one week after the program conclusion. In the event a student disagrees with the final grade received in a course, the student shall contact the instructor directly to discuss the matter. If the grade is still in dispute after consultation with the instructor, then the student may initiate a grade appeal with the University. Per the University's grade appeal policy, the grade appeal must be filed no later than ten (10) working days after the start of the next spring or fall semester (whichever comes first) after the grade is assigned. Please reference the [University's Grade Appeal Policy](#) for further information.

Grades reflected on a transcript are not available until September when they will be posted to each participant's permanent University transcript and record. THINK staff will email families an unofficial copy when they are available. Participants can order copies of transcripts (unofficial and/or official) online after they are available.

As with a typical university class, family emergencies, illnesses and other outlying circumstances bring a number of factors into play: timing (how far into the course the student is), the course instructor, the course structure, and student and family desires. Such situations will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

## **Section Seven: *Core Values***

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At Davidson Summer Programs, a well-balanced summer experience is highly valued. It is expected the participants not only gain exposure to various academic material, but that they also learn about themselves and how to interact



effectively with those around them. Within the community, strong character and solid core values are integral components to general well-being and success.

The following core values serve as guiding principles for all policies and procedures included in this program handbook as well as day-to-day practices and interactions during the program. It is the shared responsibility of participants and program staff to strive to emulate and promote the following core values:

### **Integrity**

Be honest with myself and others.  
Do my own work.  
Be honorable in my words, actions and deeds.

### **Pursuit of Knowledge**

Be dedicated to personal and intellectual growth and discovery.  
Collaborate with others to gain understanding and perspective.  
Listen thoughtfully and carefully.  
Strive for personal excellence.

### **Respect**

Be kind, polite, courteous, and inclusive of all participants.  
Recognize perspectives that vary from my own and accept that I will not always agree.  
Follow the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you."

### **Responsibility**

Communicate appropriately and effectively with others.  
Take ownership of my choices and actions.  
Be patient and exercise self-control.

### **Balance**

Have realistic expectations of myself and others.  
Be flexible and resilient in pursuing desired outcomes.  
Manage my time to include friendship, fun and scholarship.  
Seek assistance from those with experience.

### **Leadership**

Master the ability to lead myself, and then take responsibility to lead others.  
Recognize and respect others' leadership qualities.  
Take personal responsibility to improve my relationships, particularly with fellow participants and program staff.  
Represent Davidson Summer Programs in a positive light.



## **Section Eight: Code of Conduct**

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### **Code of Conduct**

In order to create a safe and successful learning community in accordance with the core values previously outlined, participants and parents are responsible for being aware of and abiding by the following codes of conduct:

- 1) **Participants will adhere to high standards of conduct at all times.** While traveling around campus, walking through university buildings and in the Davidson Academy, participants will represent Davidson Summer Programs in a

mature and responsible manner. Participants will be considerate, polite, and well-behaved at all times, including minimizing noise in the residence hall.

- 2) **Weapons of any kind are prohibited at a Davidson Summer Program and on campus.** Participants agree not to bring weapons, or objects in the likeness of weapons, to the program including but not limited to personal squirt guns, firearms, BB guns, paint ball guns, pellet guns, bows and arrows, bullets, martial arts weapons, knives, including pocketknives, and/or any item that is a reasonable facsimile of such a weapon.
- 3) **Participants will treat all facilities, equipment and property with respect and care.** This includes respecting the property of fellow participants and keeping one's own property safely stored in assigned rooms. Neither the University nor Davidson Summer Programs is responsible for lost, stolen or damaged personal property.
- 4) **The laptops provided for REACH and THINK are Davidson property and are intended to be used solely for the purposes of course completion.** Accessing inappropriate and/or explicit material is strictly prohibited.
- 5) **Participants agree not bring, use, or transfer alcohol, drugs or tobacco.** Participants are not permitted to share over-the-counter medications, such as vitamins, or any other medication, such as asthma inhalers, insulin, EpiPens and topical medications, with other participants.
- 6) **Participants agree to treat all other participants, staff, and other persons on campus with respect.** Obscenities, harassment (including lewd or profane comments directed toward another participant), acts of violence, bullying, fighting, inappropriate behavior, or vandalism will NOT be tolerated. At Davidson Summer Programs, teasing is considered an inappropriate behavior that is taken very seriously. Any behavior (written, verbal or physical) that may threaten, devalue, demean, or incite an individual/group/self, directly or indirectly is strictly prohibited.
- 7) **Participants are expected to think before they act, exercise common courtesy, and imagine how others might be feeling.** By doing so, everyone will help make the program experience a pleasant one for all participants. Participants will act with respect, honesty, and personal integrity, including maintaining mature and appropriate behavior at all times.
- 8) **Participants will remain on campus at all times unless accompanied by program staff.** Attendance at all scheduled activities, including academic sessions, is mandatory. Participants are not allowed to leave the site of any activity without prior permission from a Davidson staff member.
- 9) **Participants will not have or operate a car, scooter, motorcycle or any motorized vehicle while at a Davidson Summer Program.**
- 10) **Each room occupied by participants is intentionally organized to house individuals identifying as the same gender.** Respect for personal privacy is expected, and individual changing areas are widely accessible.
- 11) **With guidance from program staff, participants are responsible for self-management including sharing common space, arriving to activities on time, and getting into bed by lights out.** Participants are responsible for managing all individual property and belongings brought to the program.
- 12) **Living with a roommate can be a challenge and problems should immediately be discussed with designated PAs and/or program staff.** Participants are not permitted to change roommates once they have been assigned and/or to stay in another, unassigned room.
- 13) **Participants agree to help keep the residence hall, including personal rooms, common areas, and surrounding areas, as well as The Davidson Academy clean and tidy at all times.** Rooms may be inspected by program staff or university personnel with or without participants being present. At the end of the program, participants will be billed for any damages and/or excessive trash and filth.
- 14) **Participants will attend all meals served at the Resident Dining Hall.** All food must be eaten in the dining area, per the University dining service policy. Participants are required to sit as a group in the area designated by program staff. It is the responsibility of each participant to eat nutritionally balanced meals, clean up after meals, and to show

respect to fellow diners in the cafeteria.

- 15) **Participants must notify a program staff member immediately of any discomfort, illness or injury.** An assessment will then be made, and appropriate care provided.
- 16) **Participants agree to dress appropriately and will be asked to change if clothing is considered inappropriate in accordance with program policy.** Please refer to the “Davidson Summer Programs Dress Code” in this handbook for further details on appropriate attire.
- 17) **Participants may not have or use cell phones during STARS or REACH.** The functions provided by electronic devices, specifically cell phones, are not relevant to the program. Thus, STARS and REACH are electronic device free environments. **At THINK, participants will only be permitted to carry and use cell phones, smart phones, or other devices capable of voice and/or text communication while in their dorm room or on our designated floor of the residence hall.** Misuse will result in temporary or permanent confiscation during the program. If participants do not have a cell phone, they will be limited to email communication only.
- 18) **Participants will demonstrate academic integrity when completely all course work.** Any act of cheating or plagiarism will not be tolerated.
- 19) **Participants are expected to observe all program rules and agree to comply with all reasonable requests made by program staff, University personnel members and/or other authorized officials.** The consequences for violations will vary depending upon the severity of the incident and cumulative infractions. Consequences may include, but are not limited to verbal warning, loss of privileges, parent contact, and/or dismissal from the program.

## Dismissal

Participants may be dismissed early at the sole discretion of the Program Director for the reasons listed below, or for other behavior or health factors, deemed by the Health Supervisor and/or leadership staff, also at their sole discretion, to be detrimental to the program and/or the participant:

- Medical needs that exceed the level of care capable of being provided by program staff within a communal, residential setting, including 24/7 supervision during required isolation or individualized observation periods due to any health concerns or if potential harm to others is posed by continued attendance (i.e. contagious disease)
- Threat of harm to self or others, including but not limited to explicit or implicit demonstration or verbalization of self-harming thoughts, behaviors, actions, and/or recent history of self-harm or suicide ideation/attempt that was not disclosed to the staff prior to arrival at the program
- Participation in any form of sexual conduct
- Possession of or consumption of any form of tobacco, alcohol or other controlled substance
- Failure to take prescribed medication once it has been administered
- Possession of property belonging to another individual without the permission of that individual
- Possession of an object that can be considered a weapon of any kind
- Display of behavior (written, verbal or physical) that may threaten, devalue, demean or incite an individual/group/self, directly or indirectly; including but not limited to verbal abuse, offensive language, and derogatory group identity slurs (including but not limited to race, sexual orientation, gender, religion or socioeconomic status)
- Leaving the site of any activity without prior permission from program staff
- Willful or reckless property damage
- Violation of federal, state or local law
- Any other conduct considered by the Program Director to be material misconduct justifying immediate dismissal.

If a participant is dismissed from the program, all program fees are nonrefundable (see the early dismissal and departure refund policy in Section Three). In addition, parents/guardians are responsible for all cost associated with the

participant's return to home travel. A parent/guardian or designated adult over the age of 25 will be required to travel to Reno, Nevada to escort the dismissed participant home within 24 hours of notice of the participant's dismissal. If arrangements are not made by parents/guardians within this established timeframe, the Institute reserves the right to make the appropriate arrangements at the expense of the parents/guardians. Additionally, students who have departed and/or are dismissed early from camp, no matter the reason, are unable to return to camp.