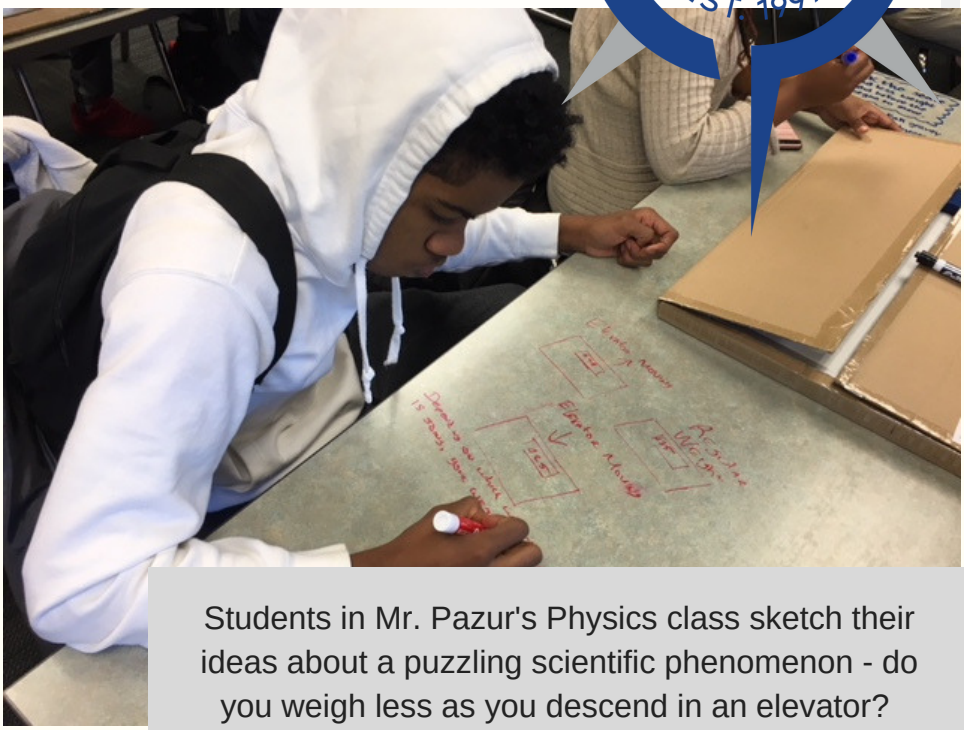
# HFA Curriculum News

News About Learning & Doing at Henry Ford Academy - Nov. 2018

## When the Going gets Tough, Navigators get GRITTY!



Students in Mr. Pazur's Physics class sketch their ideas about a puzzling scientific phenomenon - do you weigh less as you descend in an elevator?

Final Exams for Trimester 1 are just around the corner! We know students may begin to feel stressed and anxious. But now is not the time to get frustrated and just hope it goes away . . . now is the time to buckle down and show academic **GRIT**! At HFA we believe that academic success is not something that just comes to students effortlessly, but rather it's the result of **hard work** and never giving up. The brain is like a muscle - it needs to be worked out everyday! At HFA, the staff has studied the idea of **Growth Mindset**, meaning that every student can succeed if they believe that hard work and dedication will get them there. Students may fail sometimes, but the important thing is to learn from your mistakes and *keep going*. We also call this **GRIT** - taking a bad grade and making it a learning lesson, buckling down and studying for a big test, putting down the video games and working hard on that big project. In our school-wide VIP session, we will study grit - talk to your student about words like *perseverance* and *resilience* and make sure grittiness is part of their mindset.

HFA Senior Jamison Van Andel has qualified as a National Merit Semi-Finalist, one of a handful in all of Wayne County

## Homework Lab is Open!

Students are welcome to attend Homework Lab for extra help with assignments, help from teachers, or just a quiet place to work. Students must be in place by 4:00, dismissal is at 4:50. Late pick-up fees apply. Students can get help in any subject, but the subject themes are as follows:

**Tuesdays: ELA/Science**
**Wednesdays: ELA/Social Studies**
**Thursdays: Math**

# Eating an Elephant . . . Studying Tips from HFA Teachers!

Students need to have "GRIT" and study - but how? Here are some quotes from HFA teachers on how to study and make the most of your time: Both Sra. Baldwin and Ms. Goodman believe a big task like studying for a test or final exam cannot be done at the last minute: "**Study the same way you would eat an elephant- start early, one bite at a time**." So rule #1 is don't procrastinate! Most teachers give out **study** guides to help you prepare for the test, but be warned: Ms. Goodman says, "Filling them out *on your own*, is a vital part of the studying process. Completing your study guide by getting the answers from another student is **practically useless**." Be motivated and remember the big picture goals that you have for college and career; Mr. Haney says, "Studying is not an obligation, it's a priority." Mr. Sipos identifies probably the biggest distraction to studying: **"Get off your PHONE!"** Students should find a quiet place where they are free of distractions, both human and digital. You might use a study buddy, but if you work with friends try to **keep focused**! Finally, use flashcards, digital flashcards like Quizlet, review old assignments, and, according to Mr. Kumbier, "Be proactive and take advantage of opportunities to get help before school, during review sessions, in **Homework Lab** and in **Academic Coaching.**"

HFA Seniors celebrate at the 2018 Spirit Games. The Juniors took 1st place for the overall Spirit Week

# Congratulations Summer Book Battle Winners!

Congratulations! The following students were the top readers in their class and received gift cards from the HFA Parent Group at the September Town Hall Meeting:

Draper Marnon (9)
Molly Oliver (9)
Ajah Baker (10)
Sydney Hemp (11)

Students in Ms. Anttila's ELA class compete in a vocabulary review competition using Quizlet Live