August 2020

Dear Henry Ford Academy Student and Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

In just a few short weeks, school will be back in session. This letter is to inform you of our plan to open school this fall.

Henry Ford Academy submitted a “Preparedness and Response plan” to our Board of Directors, our authorizer, Wayne Regional Educational Agency, and to the Michigan Department of Education. They have approved our plan to reopen school. The plan requires us to come up with three scenarios: All Virtual, Virtual + In-Person, All In-Person. You can view the plan in its entirety on our website, www.hfa-dearborn.org. We have decided to go with a version of the Virtual + In-Person option, “Virtual Plus”.

In the Virtual Plus model, students will be enrolled in an online curriculum using Moodle as their Learning Management System (LMS) for all of their courses. The curriculum will be primarily the HFA curriculum, enhanced with modules from Florida Virtual School and Michigan Virtual Academy.

In addition, we will provide learning opportunities for students to come to our campus and work on projects in small groups, limited to the number allowed for inside gatherings (currently ten) by Governor Whitmer. These learning opportunities will be cross curricular and utilize the one of a kind assets of The Henry Ford. Stay tuned to alerts from teachers to schedule dates and times for your student to report to campus. Students with special needs, at-risk students, and English Learners will be provided opportunities to receive extra help as outlined in their Individual Educational Plan, 504 plan, or other support plan. Extra curricular activities and sports will be approved on a case by case basis following the guidelines of Governor Whitmer’s task force to reopen schools and the Michigan High School Athletic Association.

HFA is investing its summer Staff Professional Development time to understand best practices in virtual instruction and planning experiences for your student that is personalized and interactive. So you can start to prepare, please note that the online experience will be robust, structured, with high expectations for all. To that end, online attendance will be taken daily for all courses according to a specific Virtual Bell Schedule. Students will need to be in uniform and project their face on the screen in order to be counted as present for attendance. Letter grades (A, B, C, D, F) will be given for each course. When students are on campus they will also need to be in uniform, wear an ID card, and wear a mask. You can purchase Academy shirts from the Embroidery Shoppe by clicking here.
The State of Michigan requires a parent/guardian to accompany a student in order to register him/her into a new school. Registration for incoming ninth graders and for students new to the Academy will take place at the museum campus on August 19, 20, and 21. In order to practice social distancing we ask that you sign up for a time slot using the following link www.hfa-dearborn.org. Additional information regarding registration will be sent to you electronically in the next week.

Parents/guardians of students new to a school are required to present the student’s birth certificate, immunization record, proof of residency in Wayne County (utility bill, lease agreement, mortgage) at registration. If your child has received special services in the past, you should bring a copy of the most recent I.E.P. or 504 plan.

School begins on Tuesday, September 8, 2020. The Virtual Plus model will be in effect for the entire first trimester which ends Friday, December 4, 2020. This model will be constantly reviewed to determine if and when we can move to an all in-person learning environment for Trimester 2.

Watch your email, texts, and phone messages for communications from Henry Ford Academy. You can sign up for text messages from Principal Christmas by texting 81010 and entering HFA1997. We will also post all important announcements on our website, www.hfa-dearborn.org

We believe the Virtual Plus option is the best of both worlds and the best way to keep staff and students safe. We will have a virtual Town Hall to answer questions on Monday, August 17, 2020 at 5:00pm. The link to the meeting will be posted on our website.

Enjoy the remainder of your summer vacation. We look forward to working with your student as he/she develops academically and socially. Students’ college career begins the first year of high school. We hope it will be the most successful year ever!

Work Hard! ~ Be Nice!

Ms. Cora J. Christmas
Principal

Learn to Love ~ Love to Learn