Dear Henry Ford Academy Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

To say this has been an unprecedented year is an understatement. Covid-19 has presented lots of challenges for students and teachers. Changing to an online environment was something we didn’t see coming, and frankly weren’t prepared to do. We learned a lot about best practices in online learning and if we have to do it again, we’ll be in a much better position. All in all, I want to thank our staff, our students, and parents for being flexible, patient, and committed to making it work.

In addition to Covid-19, mass protests against racism have presented another opportunity for educators. I believed strongly that education is a key ingredient to end racism in our country. The Academy is working to ensure that our students not only learn academics alongside each other, but learn about the history of racism and discrimination in our country and learn about each other's cultures. This generation can be the generation that lives up to the words in our constitution, “all men are created equal.” To that end, we are taking a deeper examination of our curriculum, business practices, staff hiring/training and other processes and procedures to ensure equity for all.

As of this writing, we await Governor Whitmer’s Return to Learn Advisory Council’s report to be issued on June 30th. After we review the recommendations from the council, the Academy will select a reopening plan from the following options:

- **Option 1** - Open September 8th with In-Person (Face-to-Face) instruction. Staff and students will abide by the recommendations set by the Center for Disease Control.

- **Option 2** - Open September 8th with a hybrid schedule. Divide the school into two groups. When Group A is in school, Group B is at home learning online. Then switch. This may be alternate days or alternate weeks. This will reduce the number of students in school at the same time and make it easier to socially distance. Staff and students will abide by the recommendations set by the Center for Disease Control.

- **Option 3** - Open September 8th with all Online learning.
Parent(s)/Guardian(s) will be notified by July 15, 2020 of our plan to reopen in the fall. Until then, please check the website (hfa-dearborn.org) periodically for updates.

Registration for incoming ninth graders and new students will take place on August 19-21. Registration for the fall will be done online for returning students. Students new to the school will need to come to the school in person with the student’s birth certificate, student’s immunization record, parent identification, and proof of residency. More information regarding registration will be available in early August.

After a storm, is when a rainbow appears. I look forward to a rainbow year this coming fall. Whatever comes our way, we will make it work and do what’s best for our students.


Have a safe and enjoyable summer vacation!

Cora Christmas
Principal