Work Hard & Be Nice!

Welcome to the 2019-2020 School Year! This year our school theme is simple: Work Hard - Be Nice. Everything seems to boil down to these two guidelines: Working Hard (academics, getting extra help, not giving up, going the extra mile) and Being Nice (showing respect in the way you treat students and teachers, understanding differences, and making a difference in your community and world). If HFA students are Working Hard and Being Nice, everything else will just fall into place. 2019-2020 looks to be an exciting year of Learning by Doing at HFA! We are excited for year two of our TEALS Computer Coding Program and hands-on classes like STEAM, Village History, Food and Agriculture, Ecology of the Oxbow, Business Writing, Food Science, and AP Computer Science. To all of our students - and especially our new 9th graders - welcome back to what will be a great and exciting school year! To all of our parents, "It takes a Village (and a Museum)" so we need your help to have a successful school year (see article on page 3 about Parent Involvement).

Need Extra Help with School?

At HFA we strive to support all students in being successful. Here is a list of supporting programs for students who need extra academic support:

**Academic Coaching (AC)** - This is the 50 minute period that is built into each Tuesday and Thursday. Students can visit other teachers, get extra help, make up missed work or retakes, work with classmates, or just read.

**Homework Lab**: Teachers are dedicated to an after school classroom to help with assignments, studying for tests and overall assistance, 4-5pm, Tues, Wed, Thurs. Must be in classroom by 4pm. (continued on next page)
Extra Help (cont.'d)

Khan Academy:
khanacademy.org is a great website for help in math and other subjects. There is most likely a module in the website to explain the concept your student is working on (videos), as well as practice problems or questions. Can be linked to College Board accounts for personalized SAT practice.

Put in the Work!
Students often think some of their classmates are just naturally smart - but the fact is they are putting in time and effort. Find a quiet place and a consistent time for your student to do their homework. We expect there should be about 1.5 hours of homework on average weeknights. Students get Study Guides for tests.

Contact Teachers: Your student’s teacher is happy to help - their emails are all listed on the school website www.hfa-dearborn.org; allow 24 hours for a response.

Dates to Know:
Sept/Oct

9/3-9/6: Orientation Week
9/3-9/13: 9th Friday Dress Code
9/9: 10th-12th Uniform Begins
9/16: 9th Uniform Begins
9/12: First Academic Coaching (AC)
9/17: Town Hall Meeting (all report to Museum 8:30am) & Constitution Day
9/24: Senior Pinning (Sr. Parents only - 2:30pm Anderson Thr)
9/30-10/4: HFA Spirit Week
9/4: Spirit Games & Icebreaker Dance

IDs must be worn at all times and to access all school campuses, $5 for initial replacement, $10 for additional replacements
Parents Wanted! We Need Your Help . . .

Calling all HFA Parents! We can’t do this without your help. HFA parents are welcome to attend the Parents-As-Partners week September 23-27. This week we roll out the red carpet to parents and invite them to see HFA in action. Monday, Sept. 23, is Classroom Observations: parents are invited to sit in and observe classes with their students. Limit to just 1-2 classes, please schedule with Mr. Miller, 313-982-6022. Tuesday, Sept. 24 is Senior Pinning at 2:30pm in Anderson Theatre. This event is for 12th grade parents only, please enter through the Welcome Center and proceed to Anderson Theatre. Seniors should dress up for this event - no jeans or gym shoes. Wednesday morning (Sept. 25) is Breakfast with Administration - meet at the Museum main office at 8:30am. Sept 6th is the big event - at 6:00-8:00pm in the Village Campus (enter through Village Drive student gate) we will host our annual Parent Open House / Curriculum Night. Parents can meet with teachers and learn about their classes and see the Annual Report and Title 1 Meeting. There will be free hot dogs (all beef) and chips, pop for sale, and Motown music! Additionally, There are opportunities for Parent Involvement throughout the school year: working the school store and snack cart, volunteering for Picture Day, chaperoning or making food donations for school dance, working with the Sports Boosters, and other volunteer opportunities. Please attend the initial HFA Parent Organization Meeting on Tuesday, September 10th at 4:00pm in the Museum Campus. Parent Org. President Julie Tackett can be contacted at hfapoemail@gmail.com; HFA Sports Boosters also needs parent volunteers - contact Kathy Atkinson at katkinson519@gmail.com.

How to Check Grades in MiStar

Keep in the know! Parents can check student grades on MiStar. Go to hfa-dearborn.org and see “MiStar Parent” in the upper left. All parents should have a PIN number and a password. Please check that your PIN and password work. If not, please contact dmiller@hfa-dearborn.org to get your PIN and password or password reset. Once in Parent Connect, parents can set up alerts and notifications for student assignments and grades. You can check student grades as often as you wish - we suggest checking grades together, once or twice a week and letting students explain their grades. Remember teachers will need time to grade and enter scores for tests, quizzes, and class projects.
What is the STAR test?

All HFA students will take the Renaissance STAR test for math and reading. This Nationally recognized, 30-45 minute computer-based assessment will be taken during Academic Coaching and should have limited disruption to the regular school day. This test allows HFA to see students' current levels in math and reading and also allows us to measure their growth in their time at HFA. Once tests are completed in late Sept / early Oct., score reports will be mailed home to communicate your student's current math and reading level according to the test. This test allows teachers to understand student skill levels to tailor instruction and identify need areas for remediation. Questions? Please contact dgraves@hfa-dearborn.org

Did You Know? All HFA students need 40 hours of community service to graduate! Community Service verification forms and turn-in boxes are in both offices.

What Are HFA's Title 1 Programs?

Henry Ford Academy is a school-wide Title 1 school; this means we receive funds from the Federal Government to improve students' skills in math and reading, as well as parent communication. The following are programs funded by Title 1, Title 4 and 31a:

- Homework Lab (after school individualized help)
- Summer School Credit Recovery Program
- STEM SATurdays (STEM and SAT prep)
- Math Paraprofessional
- ASAP Program for At-Risk Students
- Curriculum Coordinator
- Liveschool PBIS System
- Homeless Services
- Parent Outreach Programs
- College Adviser

Students and Parents: Sign up for important HFA text message updates and info by texting @hfa1997 to 81010

Did you Know? Henry Ford Academy had one of only 2 local students in the local area to qualify as a National Merit Scholar? There is a practice SAT at HFA on Oct 16 for 10th and 11th graders - email dgraves@hfa-dearborn.org