What is a Design Challenge?

What will the city of the future look like? How can we create the ideal study space? How can we design a healthy yet delicious school lunch? At HFA, students engage in a structured process for problem-solving and creative thinking. Students follow a series of steps to work through these problems and design prototype solutions. The steps are **Empathy, Define, Ideate, Prototype, and Test**. Students work together to solve their challenge problems and must learn important skills like collaboration, being creative, presenting to groups, critical thinking, and putting themselves in the place of others. The challenges take place once a month and students build their solutions throughout the school year. If your student says they worked on a Design Challenge today, ask them about how they contributed and how they were a creative problem solver!

**Does Your Student Need Extra Help?**

**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 re-takes, work with classmates, or just read.

**After-School Tutoring** - Teachers are available from 4-5pm in the Museum Campus classrooms on the following Schedule:

**Tuesday:** Science / ELA
**Wednesday:** Foreign Language / Social Studies
**Thursday:** Math

(continued on next page)
Students in Ms. Werner's Math in Daily Life class realize how far their monthly income really goes

Extra Help (continued)

**Khan Academy**: khanacademy.org is a great website for help in math and other subjects. There is a likely a module in the website to explain the concept your student is working on (videos), as well as practice problems or questions.

**Put in the Time**: 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 1-1.5 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](http://www.hfa-dearborn.org)

**Cocoa and Cram**: Stay tuned for this annual study session to help 9th grade students start the process of studying for final exams

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**Juniors and Seniors: Preparing for Senior Practicum starts now!**

The Senior Mastery Process is the capstone experience at HFA. Juniors should be thinking now about where they want to do their 75 hour practicum placement. They should research and network places of work that connect to the careers they researched in Junior Workshop or a career that interests them. This process is the responsibility of students and families, and Ms. Kesavan is a resource. If you have questions or are looking for the next step in your placement approval process, contact her at skesavan@hfa-dearborn.org

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**Is Your Student Reading at Home?**

You should be catching your student reading at home. Students are assigned novels and other readings in their ELA classes, as well as readings in Science and Social Studies. Additionally, have your students read books, magazines, and other materials independently of school. Dedicating time to reading is a research proven method for improving student reading levels. Reading is like a muscle – you have to continue to exercise it, every day, over and over to continue to improve. Reading well is also a key to success in other subjects and on standardized tests like the SAT. Read, Read, Read!

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**curriculum questions? email dgraves@hfa-dearborn.org**