



# HFA Curriculum News

News About Learning & Doing at  
Henry Ford Academy - May 2020



**Congratulations Class of 2020!**  
We honor all of your  
accomplishments and hard  
work! You will always  
have a special place  
in our hearts  
at HFA!


## Class of 2020: The World Needs You Now More Than Ever !

Dear HFA Seniors, Class of 2020:

Of all the classes ever to graduate from Henry Ford Academy, I believe this will be true of the class of 2020: you will be best prepared to handle **anything** the world throws at you. You are **flexible, resilient**, and I'm confident that you will always be able to make **lemonade out of lemons**. There will be lots of new problems that need creative, complex, and compassionate solutions. Sometimes you will be thrown into a situation you never expected. You learned the principles of Design Thinking - use that process, working with others, to develop the best solutions possible. Every Navigator has an obligation to make



The HFA Seniors had a chance to paint their names on the Rock in September in front of the Senior Campus, normally a May tradition.

We  our Seniors!

our world better. There is an old adage, "*necessity is the mother of invention.*" You are entering the "adult world" at a time when the "necessity" is to do things differently. We need a generation who can look at things the way they are now and think of ways to do them better, smarter and more efficiently. I'm positive several great inventions will emerge from this class. You have what it takes. I leave you with a quote from our founder, Mr. Steven K. Hamp. "**As you think about moving forward, let me urge you always to act with energy, imagination, intelligence, and love.**"

Your Principal, Ms. Christmas



# Frequently Asked Questions in COVID 19 Closure

**How Will I Be Graded?** For Trimester 3, students will receive a “P” (Pass) or “I” (Incomplete) in courses during the COVID 19 Online Learning Plan. Students must receive a minimum **60%** to get a “P” in a class. Students will be awarded high school credit for “P” or passed classes. Although it will put them in a difficult position, students will be able to make up “I” courses, because many are required for graduation.

**Do Electives Matter?** Yes they matter! Students must complete Henry Ford Academy’s requirements for graduation. In addition to required credits in Math (4), English Language Arts (4), Science (3) and Social Studies (3), students must complete courses in Technology, Arts, Music, Senior Mastery Process, and other elective credit. All students should make every effort to get a “P” in all classes.

**Seniors - How will I know if I have enough credits to graduate?** An email was sent in mid April to alert seniors of their graduation status. Seniors fall into one of three categories: **ON TRACK**, **ACADEMIC CONCERN**, or **NOT ON TRACK**. If you have any questions about your graduation status contact Mrs. Redwine-Ferguson at credwine@hfa-dearborn.org. Students with an IEP should contact Ms. Barr at nbarr@hfa-dearborn.org or Mrs. Clemons at pclemmons@hfa-dearborn.org about their graduation status.

**Seniors - Will I Get a Refund for Senior Dues?** Seniors will receive a \$75 refund which is the amount not being utilized in the breakdown of senior dues. The refund will be given by June 30, 2020 after Senior Check-out has been completed and all outstanding books, supplies, chromebooks, have been returned along with any outstanding balances. Parents may logon to MiStar Parent to check current balances.

## Senior Dues, Check Out Process, & Cap and Gown Pick-Up:

HFA is planning the check-out process for seniors in a manner that respects safe distancing guidelines:

- The 3rd scheduled payment for Senior Dues is cancelled
- Senior Dues Payments 1 and 2 are still required and need to be paid to check-out. If all Senior Dues payments are complete, and there are no further debts, a refund of \$75 will be given.
- Families will receive communication in advance of drop-off of debts they may owe (for example: Senior Dues payments 1 and 2, previously lost books / supplies, lunch balances, etc)
- Seniors will receive pictures (Cap and Gown Pictures, NOT actual Cap and Gown) on the May 18 and 19 Supplies Drop Off event. Contact trhaney@hfa-dearborn.org with questions.
- Money from Senior Dues payments 1 and 2 have paid for costs which preceded the school closure including: Cap and Gown, Diploma/Diploma Covers, Yearbook.

## Seniors - May 18th and 19th - Drop Off:

This event will take place at the HFA Museum Campus. Students will drop off any materials that need to be returned.

Please arrive according to this alphabetized schedule, choosing Monday or Tuesday:

**Monday May 18, Last Names A-L 10:00-11:30am, M-Z 1:30-3:00pm**

**Tuesday May 19 Last Names M-Z, 10:00-11:30am, A-L 1:30-3:00pm**

*(Please see information continued on page 5)*



In case you have missed it! The senior teachers and Mr. Pazur have created a weekly video called SENIORVID-20, hosted by HFA students and staff, to help keep Seniors connected, up-to-date, focused, and celebrated. Stay tuned for this weekly series, it's awesome!



### Did You Know?

Remind: You can receive important school info and messages by [texting @hfa1997 to 81010](#). You can also have the messages translated into different languages by tapping the "see translation" button



Above: Seniors Kaylin Smith, Dynasty Webb, Caroline Williams, and Aaron Orsette show off their college choices for Decision Day 2020!

## Decision Day 2020! ❤️

Despite the cancellation of most senior events, HFA was able to virtually host a Decision Day event, celebrating our Class of 2020's college commitments! HFA College Adviser Kendra Ollis organized and led this process with the counseling team. The seniors, joined by **HFA staff, parents and college admissions reps**, were able to showcase and celebrate each others' successes by cheering on their classmates as their college commitments were revealed. Students were also given some great tips and words of wisdom from General Motors Engineer, Jonathan King. While unable to gather in person, the Class of 2020 maintained great spirits in participating in the virtual celebration in true **Navigator** fashion. The event was fun, lively, and a true celebration of the next steps for our seniors. Congrats again Class of 2020; we are so proud of you all!!

## Study & Mental Health Resources

*The following are study tips and strategies from HFA's School Psychologist, Dr. Maria Sella:*

If you're trying to improve your school performance or don't have a good handle on how to study effectively, please check out resources on the [HFA home page](#) under **Parent/Student Resources -> Study Tips & Strategies** and also under **Mental Health and Other Resources**. Good study skills are learned & take dedication, but you will see the benefits in your grades, confidence, and throughout your life. You'll find helpful information on topics such as effective study strategies, improving reading comprehension, motivation, test taking, test taking anxiety, time management, memorization, reducing procrastination, & more! There is a wealth of information on various **Mental Health** & related topics such as anxiety, stress & coping strategies, managing school during virtual learning, ADHD, and engagement & motivation with academics at home.

All resources are at [www.hfa-dearborn.org](http://www.hfa-dearborn.org)




Above: We all miss face-to-face learning! Students in Mr. Pazur's class create a hands-on Bungee Jump simulation. See the article above for resources from Dr. Sella during this "new kind" of learning

### Did You Know?

If you are in need of food during the COVID 19 Crisis - there is a list of all "Feeding Sites" in Wayne County on the Wayne County RESA webpage [www.resa.net](http://www.resa.net) and linked on the HFA Webpage: [www.hfa-dearborn.org](http://www.hfa-dearborn.org)



## An Interview with Dr. Leclerc

*Dr. Robert Leclerc will be retiring at the end of this school year. He is a much ed HFA teacher and a key part of what has made this school a success.*

**When did you start at HFA?** I was hired in June of 2000. I was here for the first graduating class of HFA. I taught 10th grade Integrated Science, 12th grade Integrated Science, and became the 10th grade Biology teacher in 2011.

**Did you always want to be a teacher?** From grade school up until college I was working towards becoming a medical doctor. I took 4 years of pre-med studies, majoring in Biology. I obtained my doctorate degree from Wayne State doing molecular biology research. After I obtained my Ph.D., I conducted molecular biology research and realized that, in order to have my own lab, I would have to be an expert in three areas: teaching students, doing research, and writing for grants. I

changed my course of study again in the late 90's, obtained my Masters in Teaching from Johns Hopkins University and I have been a teacher for 22½ years since then, and have greatly enjoyed it.

**What are some of your fondest memories of HFA?** Taking Biology students on an overnight camping trip to mid-Michigan in 2008 and having one student during that camping trip ask me to identify the constellations in the night sky, having former students stopping into my room to say hello, stepping out of my comfort zone when performing a skit during the teacher orientation talent show in 2011, seeing the students all dressed up during prom nights.

**What do you love about teaching science?** I think every teacher enjoys teaching their specific subjects, but also making connections between what is being taught and the 'real' world, having students experience "AHA" moments, making an impact on students' lives, and opening students' eyes to issues around them

**What will you miss most about teaching every day?** For starters, I am going to miss the students. They have been so much of my life for the past 20 plus years that I would be lying if I said I would not miss them. Yes, even the challenging ones. I am going to miss the "Aha!" moments that students had, when they finally understood a difficult concept. What kept me going as a teacher, was to try and have the students make the connections between what they learned and the world in which they live. I will miss the visits I would get from former students who would stop by and tell me that my class really wasn't 'THAT' hard. I will certainly miss the wonderful colleagues that have been a part of my life for the past 20 years. Truly, the staff at HFA was like family to me. One colleague in particular, Mr. Koslowski, was instrumental in helping me make it through the day, usually with a smile on my face. Most students think that we were mortal enemies; for the record - it was just the opposite. It was our way of having fun while teaching and keeping students interested in the schooling process.

**If you could tell students anything, what would it be?** Life is what you make of it. If you have a real passion for something, go for it, but also have a 'Plan B' just in case it doesn't work out. Don't be afraid to ask for help when you need it to achieve your goals. Lastly, whatever you do in life, you have to enjoy it as best you can. As Emerson said, "Life is a journey, not a destination." I am ready to continue on my journey.



Above: A champion of HFA's philosophy of "Learning by Doing" - Students in Dr. Leclerc's class test the strengths of student-designed bones

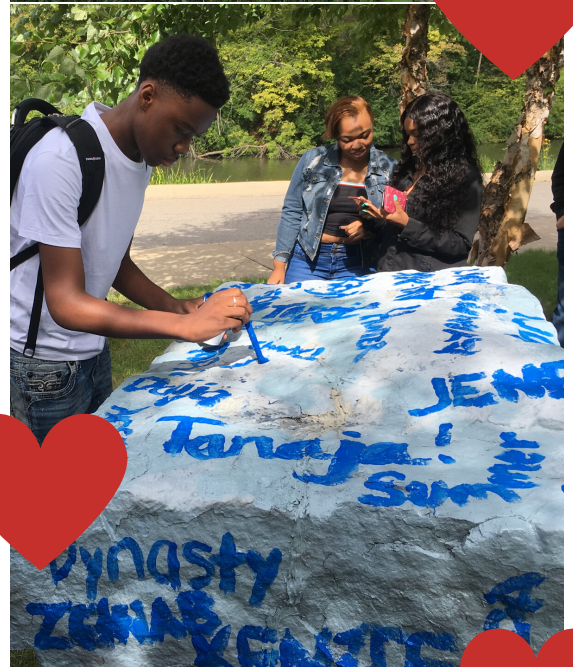


# A Student's Advice for On-Line Learning

*The following was written by HFA sophomore  
**Tyler Van Andel** for Mr. Lebert's Journalism Class:*

Have you felt like you are living the same day over and over again? No one knows the date or day of the week anymore. The monotony can be overwhelming. Over the past weeks I set a strict schedule for all of my classes. I woke up at 9:00 each morning, ate breakfast until 9:30, and then jumped into school work. I worked until 10:45, then took a 15 minute break and returned to the rest of the assignments. It worked for a couple weeks and then got really old. My life has turned into the movie Groundhog Day. If you haven't seen it, the main character, Phil, wakes up on the same day over and over. He has to relive the same 24 hours of his life and struggles to find out what to do. Just like for Phil, our days have started to blend into each other.

Sometimes it feels like we are living the same day repeatedly. I initially found that my schedule made that worse. Everyone should try to make sure that their schedule doesn't make life repetitive. Schedules should be used to get work done efficiently, not to control people. A varying schedule can be helpful, but don't have the same schedule every day or the days will lose meaning. Change up your schedule so that you can get outside in the morning and then do work in the afternoon. Try to learn a new skill such as: exercising, playing a new instrument, or writing short stories. Going different places helped us assign meaning to different days before the lockdown and going outside can help to break up the thoughtless drudgery now. At the end of Groundhog Day, Phil decides to use his power for good, preventing emergencies before they happen, and he escapes the time loop. Just like him, we need to use this time to the best of our abilities and even push ourselves to get through this together. Reach out to friends that you haven't talked to in a long time to break the monotonous loop. Go shopping for at-risk people in your community. Donate to organizations that support medical personnel. This may be a tough time, but bonding together makes every day special.





# Frequently Asked Questions (continued from Page 2)

## **Senior Materials Drop Off Continued**

Drop-off materials include: laptops, textbooks, calculators, and sports uniforms. We will follow social distancing guidelines for this event. Please stay in your car and form a line with your vehicle as directed. You will drop off materials when you get to the drop-off point at the front of the line. After drop-off, the week of May 20-29, families will receive updated notices about remaining balances. [mkisch@hfa-dearborn](mailto:mkisch@hfa-dearborn) is the contact for payments.

**Seniors - June 1 and 2 - Cap and Gown Pick Up:** Counselors will review senior transcripts one last time to ensure that all of the graduation requirements are met. If the graduation requirements are not met, seniors will be asked to complete them before receiving their cap, gown, and diploma.

Please arrive according to this alphabetized schedule, choosing Monday or Tuesday:

**Monday June 1, Last Names A-L 10:00-11:30am, M-Z 1:30-3:00pm**

**Tuesday June 2 Last Names M-Z, 10:00-11:30am, A-L 1:30-3:00pm**

Students must settle balance and clear graduation requirements to pick up items. Students will get the following items: Jostens Cap and Gown, Tassels, Medals, Honors Cords, Prom Favors, Honors Certificates, Transcript Copy, Alumni Instructions

**How will Seniors Receive their Yearbook?** HFA Yearbooks always arrive in mid-September - they will be distributed at that time. Contact the museum office in mid-September for more information.

**Seniors - Will There be a Commencement Ceremony?** Henry Ford Academy's administrative and Senior team are making plans to hold Commencement Ceremonies in some form despite the challenges of Social Distancing orders. We will partner with The Henry Ford to plan an event that celebrates your student's accomplishments and recognizes their hard work, but also respects the safety of HFA graduates, families, and staff. Please stay tuned for details and instructions on this event

**Seniors - Post Secondary Plans (College, Trade School, Military):** Final transcripts will be emailed to the post secondary institution you've decided to attend in the fall. Please be sure to make a virtual appointment with Ms. Kendra to confirm this information (<https://ms-kendra.appointlet.com>). If the school you plan to attend in the Fall is not the school you listed in the Decision Day survey, please contact Ms. Kendra ASAP to make sure that update is recorded by June 5th. Final Transcripts will be sent out the week of June 15th.

**All Grades - Will There Be Summer School?** HFA will hold summer school in an on-line format using the Edgenuity online program. Counselors will email students and who are in need of summer school. The summer school sessions will begin on July 6 through July 24, 2020 and this will be a remote attendance summer school.

## **Grades 9-11 - Check-Out, Materials Drop-Off**

**Materials Drop Off:** This event will take place at the HFA Museum Campus. Students will drop off any materials that need to be returned.

Please arrive according to this alphabetized schedule, choosing Monday or Tuesday:

**Monday June 15, Last Names A-L 10-11:30am, M-Z 1:30-3:00pm**

**Tuesday June 16 Last Names M-Z, 10-11:30am, A-L 1:30-3:00pm**

Drop-off materials include: laptops, textbooks, calculators, and sports uniforms. We will also return contents of lockers at this time. We will follow social distancing guidelines for this event. Please stay in your car and form a line with your vehicle as directed. You will drop off materials when you get to the drop-off point at the front of the line. When returned materials are inventoried you will receive an account balance that must be paid before registration, via mail. Parents may logon to MiStar Parent to check current balances:

<https://sisweb.resa.net/ParentPortal/>