What is VIP?  hint: it will give students unlimited power!

VIP stands for Vocabulary is Power. It is a 15 minute daily vocabulary program that teaches students new vocabulary words, the parts of words, use of context clues, and teaches students how to use new vocabulary in their speech and writing. There are also portions of VIP that deal with reading comprehension and writing skills. School-wide, each teacher instructs VIP in a 15 minute time block added to the beginning of 2nd period. It lasts the entire year.

What does my student need for the VIP Program?  
No supplies are needed for VIP - each student is provided a VIP composition book where they record their work. There are weekly quizzes and 5-week tests taken in class.

Congratulations Summer Book Battle Winners!  
Each summer HFA students are challenged to read books and answer online questions. The Academic Coaching (AC) with the most books read, recieves a party. HFA’s 2nd annual Summer Book Battle winners are as follows:

9th: Ajah Baker & Zachary Montes (tie - 4)  
10th: Sydney Hemp (8)  
11th: Jenna Priest (13)

School-wide we read 53 books this summer!
HFA Hosts Educators from Belarus
(it’s near Russia)

On September 21, Henry Ford Academy hosted a delegation of educators from the country of Belarus (near Russia). The purpose of the visit was for the Belarusian team to learn more about the Academy’s approach to educating students about innovation and entrepreneurship. The visiting group included ten Belarusian teachers and administrators, several local liaisons, and an interpreter. The delegation met with HFA administrators, teachers, and students who described various aspects of innovation education at HFA. Students and staff spoke through interpreters to the delegation and they greatly enjoyed the visit.

Accessing PSAT Scores and Using Khan Academy

Last year students in 9th and 10th grade took the April PSAT and 11th graders took the SAT. They receive scores through The College Board’s website: www.collegeboard.org. Students have set up a username and password in school and can access their scores from this website. There is detailed help for this important college entrance test as well as links to Khan Academy, a FREE website that helps students with their academic skills. Research shows that 20 hours on Khan Academy SAT Prep can result in an average 110 point gain on the SAT.

What is Design Thinking?

Students at HFA engage in a structured process for problem-solving called Design Thinking. All students take Foundations of Innovation as a freshman introductory Design Thinking course. Additionally, there are grade-level Design Challenges each trimester. These are problem solving challenges that allow students to work through problems in groups, using the Design Thinking method.

Sample Stop, Drop & Design Challenges:
Egg Drop, Study Buddy, Exhibit Design, Backpack, Future City, Community Challenge, Mentorship Challenge, Honoring Veterans

curriculum questions? email dgraves@hfa-dearborn.org