Get Ready for a Phenomenal 18-19 Year!

Henry Ford Academy is excited for its 22nd year as a place for hands-on learning, creating college and career ready students, and challenging students to reach their highest academic potential. HFA staff and teachers met in August to hone their craft as teachers and prepare for a year of challenging, high-interest teaching and learning. The year's theme is **Building a Positive School Culture**. Students and staff will work together to see the positive in all situations, support one another, and build strong school spirit. The second focus area is **Project Based Learning (PBL)**. This goes back to the foundation of Henry Ford Academy and even The Henry Ford, in the idea of "Learning by Doing", hands-on education, and connecting the classroom to real-world challenges. We are excited for this school year to start and look forward to working with parents and students to have a phenomenal 2018-2019 school year! *Go Navigators!*

Introducing Ms. Gibbs

**New Counselor, Grades 9 and 10**

We would like to extend a big Navigator welcome to Ms. Shatangela Gibbs. Ms. Gibbs is our new 9th and 10th Grade Counselor. Ms. Gibbs attended Wayne State University and Oakland University, and was a counseling intern at Clawson Middle School. She was also a social worker in Oakland County. As a counselor, Ms. Gibbs lives by the saying: "**Encourage Success and Instill Hope.**" Ms. Gibbs will be working in both the Village and Museum campus and can be reached at sgibbs@hfa-dearborn.org. *Welcome to the Navigator Family!*
**What is VIP?** (hint: it will unlock a world of possibilities)

VIP stands for Vocabulary is Power. It is a 15 minute daily vocabulary program that teaches students new vocabulary words, the parts of words, context clues, and how to use new vocabulary in 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.

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**PSAT Scores and 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 should have set up a username and password in school and can access their scores from this website. If not they should create a free account now. 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. Students will also receive paper copies of scores in September. Research shows that 20 hours on Khan Academy SAT Prep can result in an average 110 point gain on the SAT. Ask your student to login or create an account.

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**What is PBL?**

*When am I ever going to use this?* The HFA Curriculum is rooted in Project Based Learning (PBL) and aims to answer this exact question. In high school, many of us sat in chairs, listened to lectures, took notes, and did pages of textbook work - we know this is not how kids learn best in the 21st century. HFA believes in "Learning by Doing." Students take the information and skills they learn in math, science, English, social studies, and other subjects, and apply them to real life challenges and situations . . . they produce tangible products or presentations that demonstrate their understanding. In addition, students learn skills like problem solving, working in groups, communication, and creativity.