



Principal's Message

Dear Henry Ford Academy Elementary School Families,

February is off to a fantastic start. We truly value the support and commitment of all families, and community partners. This month our schedule is replete with fun and exciting events and activities. Our students are doing a phenomenal job with their Design Thinking Challenge projects. As a Design Thinking school our goal is to foster creative thinking and design in practice. Our scholars are applying their creative skills to solve some amazing challenges. Take some time and talk with your child about the process and their plans.

Families if you have not completed the 5Essentials Survey you still have time to take the survey. You have the option of completing while picking up your child on the desk top computers in the Welcome Center. You can also find the link on your child's teacher's website.

The window closes to complete on February 9th. Our students have completed all MAP Assessments for the Winter Term. Your child will receive their report cards on February 13th. Winter Break is from February 16-17th. Please remember our scholars are to continue reading even during breaks. Great readers read regularly.

Our fourth grade scholars will soon take the NAEP. The National Assessment of Educational Progress selects schools and students that are representative of schools nationally. We need all fourth grade students in school on February 19th. Our fourth grade students will receive lunch and free dress on that day.

We invite all families to our Literacy Night on February 24th. The evening will begin at 5:30 with refreshments. The event will include an overview of our reading performance goals and how we teach reading. The night will include a book fair, literacy games and giveaways. All purchases will have to be done with cash or credit cards. Please come out and enjoy a night of reading and fun.

Seth Petty, M.Ed.
Principal, Henry Ford Academy: Elementary School

Important Dates

- Feb. 2: Start of 3rd Quarter
- Feb. 13: 2nd Quarter Report Cards go home
- Feb. 16 - 17th: NO SCHOOL - Winter Break
- Feb. 24 - Literacy Night
- Mar. 10 - Meeting for 5th Grade Parents
- Mar. 12 & 13: Parent-Teacher Conferences

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Please Note

We are now accepting applications from new students for Fall 2015!

District News



TMBR Project: HFA: SCS Students Work with Successful Entrepreneur to Design New Wood Products

For Jonathan Spooner, one of the owners of TMBR, creating hand crafted wood accessories is a labor of love. He takes pride in the design, quality, and craftsmanship of TMBR's products. He challenged the students in the HFA: SCS Product Design class to develop a potential new product for TMBR -- beyond the successful line of cellphone covers, sunglasses and watches the company already sells.

Mr. Spooner visited with the high school students a number of times during the semester. All of TMBR's products incorporate wood elements, and he provided great insight not only in regards to the company's product lines, but also about sourcing renewable and cost-effective materials and the unique considerations when using wood in product design. Through the school's unique partnership with the College for Creative Studies and location in the CCS Taubman Center, our students were able to learn from CCS product design experts and utilize the Materials Lab located right in their own building to create their final design and presentation.

At their final exhibition on January 23rd, Mr. Spooner and a panel of judges picked the top designs based on the students' oral presentations and curated work and provided feedback to the students. The top three winners received specially made trophies crafted from orange wood and \$100 TMBR vouchers. Naomi Cook, whose bike design took first place, was also awarded a Samsung Galaxy tablet. Jaylen Tate-Lucas' cuff watch design was chosen for second place, and Christian Spring took home the third place trophy for his pocket watch/compass design. Three runners up received cellphone cases. All of the awards were generously provided by TMBR.

Mr. Spooner sees promise in our young designers. "Working with the students, seeing different ideas, designs, concepts, just how their minds work, how they come up with designs, has been fantastic. I'm thoroughly impressed with their drawing, what they can create just with their hands and how they can really relate it to my business, TMBR. I loved working with them."



Jaylen Tate-Lucas presents his design to Daniel Boatner V, HFA: SCS Class of 2014/CCS Class of 2018 and a TMBR Project judge.



Visual Art and Physical Education



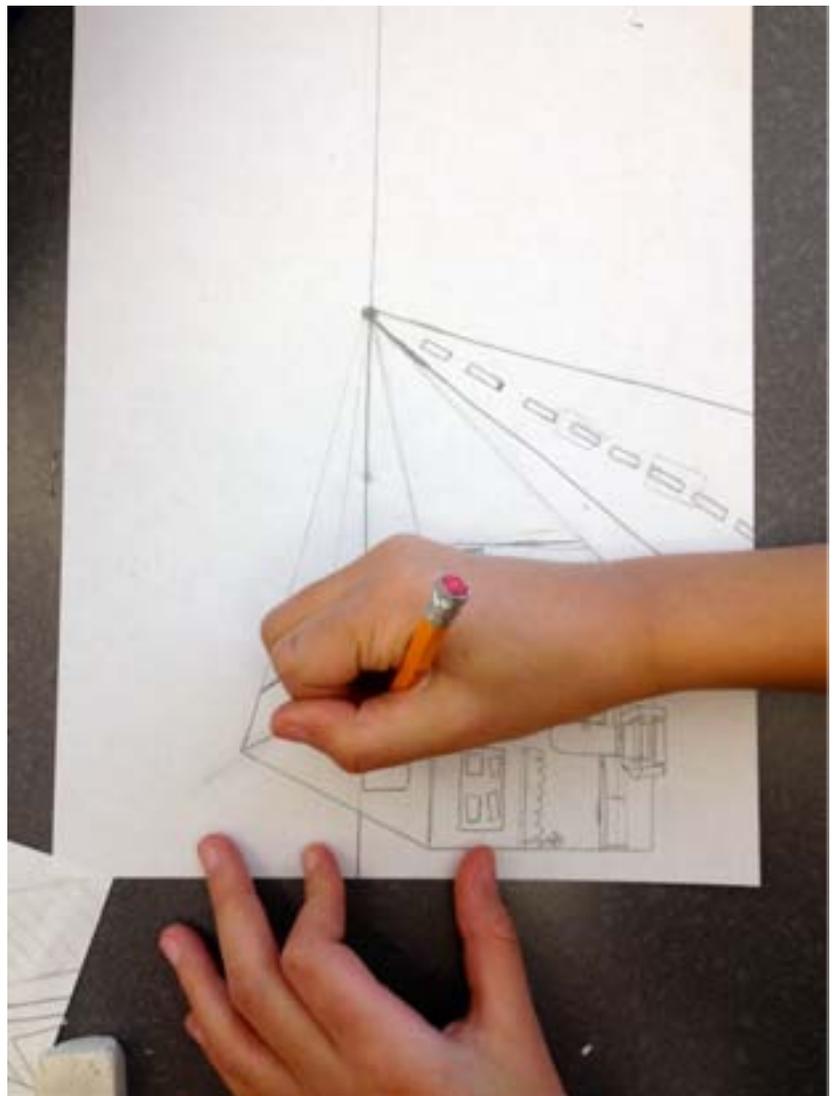
Visual Art

In Ms. Hyduk's art studio, students are going on a trip to Egypt! Scholars in all grades are learning about the pyramids, pharaohs and the importance of the Nile River to the ancient civilization. In kindergarten and first grade, students are creating jewelry with patterns. While the second and third graders are carving hieroglyphics into clay cartouches, a royal name plate. In the fourth and fifth grade, scholars are working diligently to print hieroglyphics and to emboss a drawing of an Egyptian animal god onto foil. In Ms. Brott's studio artists K-5 have been exploring space, line, texture and color through learning about OP-Art and perspective landscapes.

Physical Education

Winter time outside should not mean less movement and we are living proof of that in the gym. We finished up our dynamic gymnastics routines and have moved on to basketball. Throughout this basketball unit of study, students will experience the promotion of effective movement development and fitness through basketball skills and game participation. Skill development will include focusing on the development of dribbling, shooting (foul shots and layups), passing (chest and bounce passes), rebounding, game rules, sportsmanship and safety. The scholars are excited to show off their basketball skills and learn new ones. We are also playing math related games that connect academic lessons to physical activity. Ask your child to share their discoveries.

As we are being active in the school environment, Ms. Marbry encourages scholars to get active at home. Play in the snow, throw snow balls, go sledding, play tag, and simply have fun! Remember to be safe outdoors and indoors. For a safe environment in the gym ALL scholars need to wear their gym shoes to physical education. If they are not able to bring their gym shoes to school for any reason, just contact Ms. Marbry to let her know. We are working hard to be safe, respectful, and to always do our best in the gym. Let's get moving!



Studio Updates

Kindergarten

As we finish out our second quarter and move into the third quarter, Kindergarteners will be working on more conventional reading and writing strategies--talking about things that are happening in our stories, and making predictions and connections to stories. At home, ask your child questions about stories they read, such as "What happened to your main character?", "What happened at the end of the story?" or "Did you make any connections to the story you read?". We are writing how-to books, thinking about things that we are experts at and teaching others how to do these things. At home, work with your children to find the steps in little routines you do--cooking dinner, getting dressed, brushing teeth, etc.--and use transition words (first, next, last) to talk about these things. Encourage students to write the steps down to make their own "how-to" books at home!

In math, we are moving into the study of measurement and data--measuring length, width, and height of everyday items. Cooking is a great place to incorporate measurement--have students use measurement vocabulary (length, width, and weight) to talk about ingredients you put in your dinner and to use different measurement tools (measuring cups, rulers, scales) to describe what each tool does.

In social studies, we are discussing how to be a good helper in school and talking about our neighborhoods. We will also be discussing Black History Month to prepare us for a K-1 Black History Month Assembly on February 27 from 2:45-3:30. Each studio will prepare a song, dance, or poem to perform! Parents and families are encouraged to attend. We look forward to showcasing our scholars' talents!



First Grade

First graders have been working hard this quarter! In phonics, first graders are using their prior knowledge about words as a strategy to fluently decode unknown words. They have also been busy sorting and learning new contractions. Continue to allow your scholar opportunities to read for 20 minutes each day. This will increase their reading fluency and comprehension.

We have been working hard in math. First graders have learned strategies for finding missing numbers in both addition and subtraction problems. We have also started to assess our fact fluency. The goal for the middle

of first grade is to solve 25 or more addition facts in five minutes. You can help at home by encouraging scholars to solve addition facts as quickly as possible. Simple flash cards work well for this. We will begin our unit on measurement and data next week. Our first graders are becoming great writers! We have been working on our conventions, including capitalizations, proper punctuation, and spacing. Exciting things are also happening in social studies! We are currently working on a Design Thinking topic called "Taming the Toys", where students have the opportunity to discuss an action plan and create a "prototype" that will help a person who is struggling with organizing and maintaining toys. Check out the pictures of their visit to the Design Thinking Studio!



Studio Updates



Second Grade

In January, the Design Thinkers of second grade were hard at work identifying areas of improvement in public transportation. While striving to build their awareness scholars investigated the topic through literature, informative videos, and a field study to the North American International Auto Show. After ensuring a strong background in the present function of transportation across the USA, the students were able to put their ideas to work by designing creative prototypes in the Design Thinking Studio. Following their group's creation the scholars were given the opportunity to present their intuitive models, gather insightful feedback, and redesign their prototype in an effort to improve it further.



As we dive into the third quarter, second grade scholars are motivated to achieve new learning goals following the recent MAP assessment. In reading, scholars will deepen their understanding of non-fiction texts by using comprehension strategies to synthesize information and compare information across multiple sources. Second grade scholars are engaged in a cross-curricular writing unit this month. They will have the opportunity to explore real-life science experiments and transform them into scientific lab reports. In math, students will be putting their knowledge of measurement to the test as they wield rulers, meter sticks, and tape measures inside the studio. Put your student's newly acquired skills to the test by encouraging them to measure various objects around the home and while cooking.

Throughout the month of February second graders will learn about historical figures and monumental events in Black History. Towards the end of the month they will be given the opportunity to select an influential African American to showcase in our February Black History Gallery Walk.

Third Grade

February will be filled with excitement as the the third grade scholars complete Black History Month Projects. Scholars will choose an influential African American and conduct extensive research as they explore how these various figures have impacted our world in both the past and the present. This month, third grade studios will also host Valentine's Day publishing parties. They will not only enjoy sweet treats and fun, but it will also be an opportunity for them to invite their families in to share their informational writing pieces.

In math, scholars will continue to gain knowledge in the area of multiplication and division. Third grade scholars are working hard to learn and memorize their facts as well as learning to work through multi-step story problems. In reading, our exploration of informational text continues as scholars learn to identify the main idea and refer to the text as the basis for answers to text related questions. This connects well with our writing unit as students gain a well-rounded understanding of the non-fiction genre through both reading and writing.



Studio Updates

Fourth Grade

In January, our fourth grade Design Thinkers were working hard to create low-tech activities. Scholars were given the task of designing ways for middle school students to entertain themselves during a 3-4 day power outage. That's right, no technology of any kind! Students dove into the past to find out how kids entertained themselves and sparked their interests before the days of the internet, iPads, and smart phones. For children of the 21st century, this required them to push their imaginations and connect to a time that is very foreign to them. Needless to say, our fourth grade scholars rose to the challenge!

In February, our scholars will begin a new unit in Math, Measurement and Data. It's important to study these skills at home. At home you can talk to our scholars about time, graphs, shapes, and other things concerning measurement and data.

February is Black History Month! Fourth grade historians will be bringing Black History Month to life by "becoming" a hero/heroine from Black History. Our scholars will research the lives of their heroes, dress up as the person, and give a presentation in the school's Black History Comes Alive Museum. Scholars and parents will be able to come take the tour of the museum Friday, February 27, 2015 from 9am-4pm. Come see our scholars bring Black History Month to life!



Fifth Grade

February is Black History Month! Our historians will reenact the lives of famous African Americans from the past to the present. We are planning to commemorate by having a tour in the Black History Comes Alive Museum. The tour date will be Friday, February 27, 2015 from 9am-4pm. Come check out our scholars in action! Our Scientists are beginning a new unit titled Forces and Motion. Through inquiry-focused activities, building models, and designing investigations, scholars explore the force of gravity, friction, air resistance, and the effect of mass on the motion of an object. Our Design Thinkers just finished their second challenge: design a way to increase civic engagement. We have one more challenge before the Design Thinking Expo, which is scheduled for June 2015.

In February, fifth grade scholars will complete memoirs and preparing to publish their very own book using one of the memoirs or personal narratives they have written this year. They will use class time and work at home to complete the stories and pictures for their books. We will also begin working on research-based argument essays. Scholars will research a topic, form their own opinion, and write an essay supporting their view.

In math, we are preparing to begin our next unit which is "Measurement and Data". In this unit, your scholar will explore concepts related to converting measurements between different standard units, determining the volume of shapes, plotting data on line plots, and, subsequently, interpreting data.

