



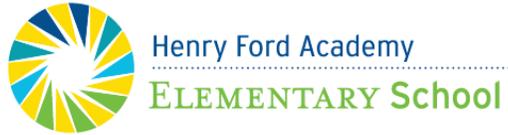
For Immediate Release

A New Henry Ford Academy Opens to Serve Elementary School Families in Detroit's Greater Boston-Edison Area

DETROIT, August 31, 2012 – Public School Academies of Detroit's **Henry Ford Academy: Elementary School** opens on September 4th, welcoming more than 330 students in grades K-5 and reclaiming a treasure for a new generation of learners in one of Detroit's most well-known neighborhoods. Located in the newly transformed Duane Doty School, a historic elementary school in the Greater Boston-Edison area, the new Henry Ford Academy serves one of the City of Detroit's focus areas for long-term stabilization efforts. HFA: Elementary School will prepare students to read, write, and do math at, or above grade level, engage all students through project-based learning, equip students with design thinking as a process for innovation and creativity, and provide a strong foundation in art and design.

The new elementary school is part of the Thompson Educational Foundation's more than \$100 million investment in Public School Academies of Detroit (PSAD), which will serve over 3,000 students during the 2012-2013 school year, including students at Henry Ford Academy: School for Creative Studies, University Preparatory Academy Schools, and University Prep Science + Math Schools, which are all located within the City of Detroit. All PSAD schools, which are authorized to operate by Grand Valley State University, share a commitment to providing an educational program that graduates at least 90 percent of ninth-grade students and sends at least 90 percent of graduates on to college. HFA: Elementary School is developed and managed by Henry Ford Learning Institute.

"Henry Ford Academy: Elementary School is committed to being a stellar educational option for families and a catalyst for a brighter future in our community," said Curtis Lewis, Ph.D., Founding Principal. Supporting student success at the new school are small class sizes, twenty-five highly qualified teachers, a dedicated support staff, along with personalized learning through iPads, SMART Boards and other technology. HFA: Elementary School is based on the nationally recognized model first implemented at



Henry Ford Academy in Dearborn, Mich., which opened in 1997 through a partnership between Ford Motor Company, The Henry Ford, and Wayne RESA. Recognized by Excellent Schools Detroit as a top high school serving families from Detroit, 100 percent of HFA: Dearborn’s graduating students for the last 5 years were accepted to colleges and universities.

“The growth and stabilization of the Greater Boston-Edison area, like the entire City of Detroit, is contingent upon quality neighborhoods and quality schools. A Henry Ford Academy is the answer for our community. Its founders believe in excellence, are committed to this community, and know how to deliver a successful educational model. I am personally excited, and am excited on behalf of the community, for the opening of Henry Ford Academy: Elementary School at the corner of Third and Calvert,” said Lisa Johanon, Executive Director of Central Detroit Christian Community Development Corporation (CDC). An estimated one-third of HFA: Elementary School students live in Central Detroit Christian CDC’s served area.

Students who complete the 5th grade at HFA: Elementary School will have the opportunity to automatically enroll in the 6th grade at Public School Academies of Detroit’s **Henry Ford Academy: School for Creative Studies**, an existing public charter middle/high school located at the College for Creative Studies inside the A. Alfred Taubman Center for Design Education. An estimated one-fifth of HFA: Elementary School’s students have a sibling at the middle/high school. HFA: Elementary School is tuition-free and academic ability is not a factor in admission. For more information, visit www.hfaelementary.org or call (313) 231-8613.

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