



Principal's Message

Henry Ford Academy: Elementary School Families:

The staff at Henry Ford Academy: Elementary School extends a warm welcome to you as the 2015-2016 school year begins. The opportunities that can be found through education are limitless. I am thrilled to be a member of a school community that develops scholars who gain knowledge and skills needed to be successful in school and college; pursue a career of choice and address challenges with creativity and innovative thinking.

My main goals for this school year are to continue to increase student achievement and develop opportunities for parent and community involvement. I believe that each student deserves a well-rounded education that is relevant, engaging and meaningful, supported by high quality teacher leaders, who motivate and encourage them to take risks, embrace differences, and develop into productive scholars and lifelong learners. That's why we ask that every student come to school every school day on time and prepared to learn; when students are late or absent from school, they miss out on life-changing opportunities.



Having a successful school is a team effort and every player (students, parents, teachers, administrators, and board members) is an integral part of the team. When every player does his or her best, everyone wins. Thank you for choosing Henry Ford Academy: Elementary School for your child. We look forward to partnering with you for a successful and rewarding 2015-2016 school year.

Felicia Brimage
Principal
Henry Ford Academy: Elementary School

Important Dates

- Sept. 16
Early Dismissal at 1:45 pm
- Sept. 23
Curriculum Night, 4:30-6:30 pm
- Sept. 30
Early Dismissal at 1:45 pm

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Please Note

We encourage both parents and scholars to visit our teachers' web pages for studio updates, pictures, and homework help.

Go to www.hfaelementary.org >> Digital Campus >> Teacher Pages

District News

Collaboration Brings HFA: SCS High School Student's Design to Woodward Avenue

A Henry Ford Academy: School for Creative Studies (HFA: SCS) partnership with the Woodward Avenue Action Association (WA3), Summer in the City, and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) has people looking at a familiar section of Woodward Avenue in a whole new way.

During the last semester of the 2014-2015 school year, members of the HFA: SCS Advanced Art Club learned about the historic Highland Park Ford Plant and the revitalization of Woodward Ave. from WA3 Executive Director Debbie Schutt.

Ms. Schutt then challenged our HFA: SCS students to develop an innovation-themed mural design that would cover the Michigan MDOT building on Woodward Avenue, southeast of the railroad viaduct in Highland Park.

She and Bob Spence, Summer in the City Board President and Paint Director, provided our students with direct feedback on initial designs and invited community members, including leaders from the City of Highland Park and the MDOT to our school to narrow the field down to two finalists: Torri Richardson (top right) and Natasha Guest (top left).

Torri's design was selected through an online public competition. Both Torri and Natasha were recognized at a recent WA3 board meeting and were awarded certificates, gift cards and t-shirts.

Volunteers from Summer in the City, a nonprofit that brings together young people in the city to do community service, adapted Torri's design for 3D application, painted the mural, and have just completed the finishing touches.

We are so grateful to these community partners for their investment of time, their expertise, and this opportunity for students in our district to learn from, and make a very visual difference in, our community.

Please be sure to point out the mural to your elementary school scholar as you drive or walk by!

Reminder: Early Dismissal Days

In the past, all professional development days for teachers (no school for student days) have been planned in full day sessions.

For the 2015-16 school year, you will continue to see a few full days of teacher professional development in the calendar, but you will also see a number of half days.

This change was made to provide staff with more frequent opportunities to work together in reviewing student learning progress and making plans to adjust teaching to better serve your children. This is a very common practice in high performing schools and one that we feel will help us reach our goals.



Visual Art and Physical Education

Visual Art

This year the art department at Henry Ford Academy Elementary School has two new teachers, Miss Ruttan and Miss Smith! This will be Miss Ruttan's first year teaching art at HFA: Elementary School. Ms. Ruttan received her bachelor's in Art Education in 2007 from Wayne State University. In 2012 she completed her Masters in the Art of Teaching through Marygrove College. This is Ms. Ruttan's eighth year teaching art. Ms. Ruttan is looking forward to providing a studio where scholars will be encouraged and confident in their art creation and reflection processes. Ms. Ruttan will hold office hours on Mondays from 7:30-8:15 am in studio # 308, as well as by appointment. You can reach Ms. Ruttan at (313) 415-0227 or sruttan@hfaes.org.

It will be Miss Smith's first year teaching for HFA: Elementary School but her fourth year as an elementary art educator. She is incredibly excited to be working in Detroit again since she received her BFA in Fine Arts and K-12 Art Teaching Certification from the College for Creative Studies - just down the road!

She looks forward to bringing a new variety of art mediums and techniques to the studio and cannot wait

Physical Education

Returning to the gym this school year is Coach Marbry. She often brags that she has the best job in education because she gets to play all day with kids in the gym. Although students will play hard, rest assured that she is a highly qualified teacher who is certified in physical and dance education. She received her bachelor's and master's degrees in education and athletic administration at Wayne State University. Coach Marbry is excited to celebrate her 11th anniversary of teaching this school year! So not only will your child have fun in physical education class, but the fun will be wrapped up in best practices in the field of education.

In order for your child to be most successful, he or she will need GYM SHOES in order to participate in all gym activities. Coach Marbry's office hours are Tuesday - Friday mornings from 8:30 to 9:00 am and Tuesday evenings until 4:30 pm. Please contact her at 313-414-9961 or smarbry@hfaes.org. For more information about what is happening in PE class, please visit her web site: <https://sites.google.com/a/hfaes.org/pe-with-coach-marbry/>



Studio Updates

Kindergarten



Meet the Kindergarten Team!

Ms. Joshua is thrilled to be returning to her fourth year of teaching at HFA: Elementary School. She graduated from Eastern Michigan University with a BA in Elementary Education with a focus in Special Education. Ms. Joshua is excited to learn more about each of her kindergarten students this year and build a safe, caring, and academically challenging environment for her students. She also looks forward to getting to know and develop relationships with each family in her studio. She can be reached Monday-Friday from 4:30-6:30 pm at (313) 414-9972.

Ms. Cantu is excited to return for her second year at HFA: Elementary School and her fifth year of teaching. She graduated from the University of Michigan with a BA in Elementary Education and is currently pursuing a dual-title Master's degree from Wayne State University in Early Childhood Education and Infant Mental Health. Ms. Cantu look forward to getting to know the new kindergarten scholars and building a classroom community that fosters strong home-to-school relationships and learning through exploration. She can be reached at (313) 303-3048.

Ms. Fowler is pumped to be starting her second year at HFA: Elementary School and this is her second year of teaching. She is a proud graduate of Michigan State University, with a BA in Elementary Education. She is excited to create and build lasting relationships with her new bundle of scholars. She can be reached Monday-Friday from 4:30-6:30 pm at (313) 414-9953.

This is Ms. O'Donnell's second year at HFA: Elementary School and fourth year of teaching elementary school in Detroit. She has a BA in English and Sociology and a Master's Degree in Urban Education, both from the University of Michigan. Ms. O'Donnell is excited to build strong relationships with students and families and create a strong classroom community that encourages students to learn, grow, take risks, and challenge themselves. Her office hours are on Mondays from 4:00-4:30 pm and by appointment. She can be reached at (313) 414-9989.

1st Grade



Meet the First Grade Team!

Mrs. Davis graduated from Clark Atlanta University with a Bachelor's in History and the University of Phoenix with a Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education. Mrs. Davis is looking forward to the new school year and getting to know her scholars. Her office hours are Mondays from 4:00-4:30 pm. She can be reached at (313)-212-2120, Monday-Friday from 4:30-5:30 p.m. and at kdavis@hfaes.org

Ms. McKenna studied at Michigan State University (Go Green!) and graduated in 2013. This will be her third year teaching first grade in Detroit. She is excited to work with a new group of scholars and get to know all of their individual talents! She can be reached at smckenna@hfaes.org or by calling or texting (313) 414-9964 before 6:00 pm on weekdays or by attending office hours every Monday until 4:30 pm.

Ms. Holloway graduated from the University of Michigan with a BA in English and a Masters in Early Childhood Education. She continued her education at Wayne State University where she obtained her teaching certification, an Early Childhood Endorsement as well as a master's degree in Teaching. She can be reached at jholloway@hfaes.org or by calling or texting (313) 318-5219. She also has office hours on Tuesdays from 7:45-8:15 am or after school by request.

Ms. Lyons is looking forward to a fantastic year with her scholars. She graduated with triple honors from Oakland University in 2006 with her Bachelor's in Communication. She went back to Oakland University and received her teaching certification in 2012 as part of a Master's in Education with teaching certification program. She can be reached at alyons@hfaes.org or by phone at (313) 212-2500. Her office hours are on Mondays from 7:45 -8:15 am or after school by request.

2nd Grade

Welcome back scholars! Drum roll please...meet your second grade teachers.

This is Ms. Barrett's third year teaching second grade at HFA: Elementary School and she is thrilled to start a new year full of fun, engagement, and growth. Ms. Barrett is a proud Spartan with a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and a master's degree in Teaching and Curriculum, both from Michigan State University. Ms. Barrett looks forward to incorporating her student's talents and interests into the studio's learning experiences this year. Ms. Barrett is also eager to build strong relationships with her scholars and families to make this possible. Ms. Barrett will hold office hours every Tuesday morning 7:30-8:15 am in studio 213.

Mrs. Caldwell is one of our founding teachers and she is so excited to return and teach second grade this year. Mrs. Caldwell received her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. Mrs. Caldwell is passionate about family and relationships and looks forward to forging strong relationships with you this year. Mrs. Caldwell is very excited about the new incoming second graders and can not wait for all they will explore together. Mrs. Caldwell will be holding office hours this year before school on Wednesday morning from 7:30-8:15 am and afternoons by request.

Ms. Willard is new to HFA: Elementary School and is enthusiastic about joining the second grade team. Ms. Willard has eight years of teaching experience, much of it with second graders. A native of Colorado, Ms. Willard earned her bachelor's degree in English Literature from the University of Colorado before earning a Master's in the Art of Teaching from Wayne State University. Ms. Willard values creating a joyful classroom environment that celebrates each child's strengths and passions, while supporting one another in growth. Ms. Willard will hold office hours in her studio after school on Tuesdays from 4:00-4:45pm and in the morning before school by appointment.



3rd Grade

Welcome back and get ready to rock it out with the third grade team!

This year, third grade scholars will be working with Mr. Lemons, Ms. Harper, and Ms. Custodio. They have an exciting year planned, and are looking forward to meeting all of the third grade scholars and their families. This will be Mr. Lemons' third year here at HFA: Elementary School, and his energy is higher than ever before! The thing Mr. Lemons looks forward to most is the opportunity to intentionally infuse art into daily learning.

Ms. Harper is returning for her second year at HFA: Elementary School and her fourth year as a third grade teacher. Ms. Harper was born in Detroit and she is a University of Michigan graduate. She is excited to get the year off to a great start. The thing that Ms. Harper looks forward to most is building lasting and productive relationships with her scholars and their families.

This will be Ms. Custodio's first year at HFA: Elementary Schools as a third grade teacher. Ms. Custodio graduated from Michigan State University with her degree in Elementary Education. After completing her student teaching in the 2014-2015 school year in Detroit, she is excited to kick off her first year at HFA: Elementary School. The thing Ms. Custodio is looking forward to most is creating a strong community within her studio that is a fun, welcoming place for both her scholars and their families.



4th Grade



This year, fourth grade scholars will be working with Ms. Kirkland, Ms. Tcholakian, and Mrs. Ash.

Ms. Kirkland is returning to HFA: Elementary School this year as the fourth grade science, social studies, and design thinking teacher. Ms. Kirkland is from Detroit and graduated from the University of Detroit Mercy with a degree in Elementary Education. This is Ms. Kirkland's 2nd year at our school and she is extremely excited to get back in the classroom and jump start a new year full of fun, exploration, and design. Her office hours will be Monday-Thursday 4-4:30 pm. She can be contacted by phone 8:00 am-7:00 pm at (313) 204-3473 or at ckirkland@hfaes.org.

This will be Ms. Tcholakian's first year at HFA: Elementary School as the fourth grade math teacher. She is a Michigan State University graduate who completed her student teaching during the 2014-2015 school year in Waterford and is ready to apply all that she has learned throughout her undergraduate experience in the classroom. She has high hopes for all that will be accomplished! Her office hours will be on Tuesdays from 4:00-5:00 pm and can be contacted by phone from 8 am - 7pm at (313) 414-9970 or email at htcholakian@hfaes.org.

Mrs. Ash is also returning as the primary writing teacher and is so excited about meeting her fourth grade students. She has been teaching in Detroit for seven years and has a desire to inspire students to let their voice be heard through their writing and in their community. She graduated from Wayne State University and since has worked with young people in many capacities such as mentoring, tutoring and through community outreach. This will be her third year at our school and her goal is to develop a personal relationship with all of her scholars and their families to ensure academic and social success. Her office hours will be every Monday and Friday in Studio 312 from 4:00-4:30pm. You can also reach her at (313) 415-0286 Monday-Friday 8:00 am-7:00 pm or email at kash@hfaes.org.

5th Grade

This year, fifth grade scholars will be working with Ms. Landrum, Ms. Rossman and Ms. Tremaglio.

This will be Ms. Landrum's third year at our school. It is her hope that a true partnership forms between you, your child, and herself with the goal of your child growing significantly, both academically and socially. Throughout the year, you will get to know her very well, and she wants to get to know you. She is truly committed to seeing your child succeed in life. She believes in promoting creativity, leadership, mentorship, and embodying character education. You may contact her via phone Monday-Friday 8:00am - 7:00pm. She will also be available Mondays and Fridays ONLY, in her studio, from 4:00-4:30.

Ms. Rossman feels privileged to teach math to HFA: Elementary School's fifth grade scholars. Fifth grade is a significant and exciting age for the scholars as they mature, gain more responsibilities, and make important self-discoveries. Ms. Rossman was born in Detroit and has lived in just about every corner of Michigan. She graduated from Kalamazoo College in 2013, and has been living and teaching in Detroit ever since. This is her first year at HFA: Elementary School, and is eager to work with her new bunch of mathematicians. Ms. Rossman can be reached by emailing mrossman@hfaes.org, by calling or texting (313) 415-0240 before 7 pm on weekdays, or by attending her open office hours every Tuesday until 5 pm.

This will be Ms. Tremaglio's first year at our school, but she is not new to the city or to teaching. She has lived and taught in Detroit for the past two years. She recently received her Masters in Education from the University of Michigan. Ms. Tremaglio is excited to work with scholars on writing and to have a vibrant fifth grade writer's workshop! Ms. Tremaglio can be contacted by email (stremaglio@hfaes.org) and by phone Monday-Friday from 8:00 am-8:00 pm at 313-324-9127. She will hold office hours on Thursdays from 4:00- 5:00 pm.

