



Greetings Parents:

The academic success of our students is the most important concern for every member of the HFA: SCS community. From our Board of Directors to every single one of you, how well students are educated is the truest measure of whether this school will become one of Detroit's finest educational institutions. The unique focus on the creative studies is coupled with the traditional core subjects to provide what we believe is the type of learning experience that 21st century students need before they approach college and the world of work.

In reviewing our first quarter grade point averages, I can see that while we have some areas to celebrate, we also have more work to do. I am proud of two young ladies in the sixth grade, Ms. Simone Rhodes and Ms. Paisley Sutton, who each earned a 4.0! I was, however, disappointed by the number of students that earned a failing GPA – we must change this statistic immediately. Several initiatives that tackle academic performance are launching or continuing this quarter. They include: Academic Coaching (in school tutoring program), Before & After School Tutoring and special programs like the Dean's Club for 9th Grade Boys and the Principal's Academy for students who need an extra push to be at a passing level. Please look for information on these initiatives further in this newsletter and in the weeks to come.



During a recent one on one parent meeting, a father shared that his son described his Art class as hard. I took this statement as a compliment because it shows that we're applying rigor to a subject that is our main focus but also one that is neglected or cut out of many other schools. Our intent is not to make classes hard just because, but instead to prepare students for the vigorous learning they'll experience in the post-secondary world. Please assure your student that it will all be worth it in the end.

I am asking parents to attend a special meeting with me on Thursday, December 10th from 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. I'd like to share some important updates about concerns that you have as well as highlight some of our successes. If there is a general concern (or success or compliment) that you'd like me to address at the meeting, please email me at mwhite@hfasc.org by Tuesday, December 8th. There will also be a presentation on the Parent Organization from 5:30-6:00 p.m.

In closing, I'd like to share a quote by Henry Ford that I believe is very fitting for this work of establishing HFA: SCS: **"Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success."**

Best,
Ms. White

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Dean's Blog

This month we will focus on the first of the 3Rs- RESPECT! Carrying yourself with a sense of dignity, supporting, and encouraging others and their work are a few ways students can demonstrate respect in the HFA:SCS learning community. The student handbook provides 6 examples of how students can exhibit respect within the learning community: Respect for Self, Respect to Peers, Respect for all Adults, Respect for Differences, Respect for the work of Others, and Respect for Property. Students who report to school in full uniform, follow the instructions given by staff, and have positive interactions amongst their peers demonstrate the type of respect expected of all students here at HFA:SCS. We encourage parents to discuss the importance of RESPECT with their children. This discussion helps support our efforts of ensuring a comfortable and safe learning environment for all!

Counselor's Corner



Greetings Parents! In the month of **December** the guidance lesson that I will be teaching in the classroom is on **Organizational Skills**. All of our students are in transition, whether it is from elementary school to middle school, middle school to high

school, or just moving to a new school. The majority of our students haven't gotten the hang of traveling from class to class, using a locker with a combination lock, and/or using a planner. In my guidance lesson for this month, I will be teaching our students the importance of being organized. I will be giving quick tips and fun exercises that will help your student(s) become and stay organized. Parents you can help by simply checking your child's backpack for loose homework assignments once a week and checking their planner to see if they are recording their assignments every day. With your support and our guidance, our students will be the best students they can be.

Counselor Franklin

Curriculum Spotlight

An important component of our curriculum at HFA:SCS is Academic Coaching. We are committed to addressing our students' individual learning needs whether the students need remediation or acceleration. Academic Coaching occurs on our Flex Days, where we partially suspend our regular instructional schedule and adopt a flexible grouping schedule to support students according to their needs. One way we are addressing gaps in Reading and Math is through an outsourced coaching program called LEAP, or the "Learning Enhancement Academic Program". Students selected for the Reading portion of this program receive one on one attention to address difficulties in decoding, comprehension, or fluency. Students selected for the Math services will focus on basic numbers and operations. Students not selected for the LEAP program will still participate in other academic coaching activities sponsored by their general education instructors. The Flex Days for December are:

Thursday December 10
Friday December 11
Thursday December 17
Friday December 18

On behalf of Creative Urban Education (CUE), the management organization for HFA:SCS, we would like to introduce, Carla Hogan, our Parent Representative that serves on the Board of Directors. She has a 6th and 9th grader that attend SCS and is a very involved parent. She will be an integral liaison for the CUE Board of Directors, the Parent Teacher Organization and with school staff and parents.

Ms. Hogan will be able to provide insight, make suggestions from the parent point of view, and be a useful and viable connection for the HFA:SCS Community.

Business Operations/Facilities Updates

Access to the Taubman Center & SCS after 4 P.M. weekdays and for weekend events is provided only at the Baltimore Street entrance. The Baltimore Street entrance is across from a parking garage and is next to the loading dock.

Parking for SCS parents is available in the fenced lot between the student drop off entrance to our building and Woodward Avenue. This lot is accessed from Baltimore Street and you need to use the call box at that entrance to gain access to the lot.

Hand sanitization stations are provided in each classroom. Please encourage your child to use them to avoid colds and the flu!

Most student accounts are significantly behind in payment for breakfasts and lunches. We will not be able to continue to serve meals to students that have unpaid accounts. Please make payments at the SCS front desk on Tuesdays and Fridays from 7:30 A.M. - 4:15 P.M. We accept cash, money orders, and cashier's checks.

Get Ready! Get Set! GO

Sports News

Our Lady Mustangs middle school basketball team finished 3rd with a 7-3 record in the Western Division of the Think Detroit PAL league! Playoffs begin this month, including two home games on December 2nd and 7th. In addition, seventh graders, Talaya Bates and Stephanie Fordhum, played in the PAL All-Star hosted at in our very own Thompson Gym on Nov. 23rd. Go Mustangs!

Try-outs for middle school boys' basketball and girls' volleyball will begin this month. For more information contact the Athletic Coordinator, Mr. McKoy at ext. 1220.

Tutoring

Does your child need extra help? Make sure you take advantage of before and after-school tutoring offered by each instructor. Schedule of dates and times are available in the Main Office.

Enrichment Activities

Several after-school clubs begin this month. Students should look for posters with information or in their forum groups. Listed below are current activities and their contact person:

Math Club – Mr. Cornelissen, ext. 1230

Girls Self Image – Ms. Franklin, ext. 1209

iLife Computer Club – Mrs. Bates, ext. 1131

Student Newspaper- Mrs. Nowicki, ext. 1204

Saxophone Club - Mr. Hemming, ext. 1201

Positive Peer Group - Ms. Redmond, ext. 1135

MS Girls Volleyball - Mr. McKoy, ext. 1220

For other questions about school programs contact Ms. Burris, Director of Student Programs at ext. 1104.

News from the Ninth

Season's greetings parents! I hope that this communication finds you all in great spirits and good health. On behalf of the entire 9th grade team, I would like to wish you a happy 2nd quarter. There are lots of things cooking in the 9th grade hallway as we begin our second design challenge that has a focus on food and the different roles that it plays in our lives. Each course this quarter will be discussing some aspect of food, from writing food reviews in English Language Arts class, to quantifying what is healthy food in Math class. In addition to these engaging daily lessons, students will also be working on creating a new menu item for our lunchroom! Along with this new focus, we also have another important change in the 9th grade. This quarter we are welcoming Ms. Kadyr as our new Innovations of Design/ Art teacher! While we are busy working to make sure these transitions are smooth for your child, we need your help in a couple of ways. These include checking your child's planner and notebooks for daily homework (they have daily homework assignments); talking with your student about the student code of conduct and what it means to be an HFA:SCS student; and lastly contacting us if you have any questions or concerns about what is going on in class. As usual, we look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely and on behalf of the 9th grade team,

Ms. C. Williams

HFA: SCS

9th grade Lead Teacher

cwill@hfasc.org

7th Grade Update

Happy Holidays Parents & Guardians,

As we enter into the second quarter of this academic school year, the 7th grade student body will be exploring many new concepts. The students will be participating in their second yearly "Stop, Drop and Design Challenge" (SDD), which will focus on bullying and teen violence. The students will also be studying different aspects of these topics in each of their respective content classes.

In Mathematics, the students will be creating and issuing a survey to collect data and statistics about bullying and teen violence. After collecting this data, the students will create a variety of graphs to display their results/findings.

In ELA and Social Studies the students will be participating in an interdisciplinary unit. Currently they are reading the novel *Night John*. As a final project, students will create a documentary.

In Science, the students are studying the influence of invasive species (species that are not natural to their environment and/or ecosystems).

Ms. Daniels

7th Grade Lead Teacher

udaniels@hfasc.org



The sixth grade is full of character! In forum, the sixth grade team presents a new character value every week. Some of the character values include respect, responsibility, sense of humor, compassion and others. At the end of each week the sixth grade gathers together and one forum presents the character value for that week. Then we acknowledge different students that exhibit the characteristic for that week. The students have a great time and appreciate the positive recognition.

How might you respond to a natural disaster? This is the design challenge for Quarter 2. In Innovative Design, students will design an emergency rescue vehicle that can respond to natural disasters. The design challenge topic is also interlaced throughout the curriculum. In math and science, students study weather patterns and learn to compile, organize and display weather data. In language arts and social studies students will recognize the effects of limited resources and exploring the elements of belief systems around the world.

Ms. Robertson

6th Grade Lead Teacher

kroberts@hfasc.org

DECEMBER 2009

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	1 9th Grade Boys Study Group 3:50 - 6 PM	2 9th Grade Boys Study Group 3:50 - 6 PM MS Girls B-Ball Pplayoffs 4:30 PM	3 9th Grade Boys Study Group 3:50 - 6 P.M. All About Me - 4 PM Math Club - 4 PM	4 Free Dress Day Award Ceremony during Grade level Forum Positive Peer Influence - 4 PM
7 9th Grade Boys Study Group 3:50 - 6 P.M. Sax Club - 4 PM Math Club - 4 PM MS Girls B-Ball Playoffs 4:30 PM	8 9th Grade Boys Study Group 3:50 - 6 P.M. HS Boys B-Ball- 4:30 PM	9 9th Grade Boys Study Group 3:50 - 6 P.M. iLife Club Intro Mtg - 4 PM Student Newspaper- 4 PM	10 Parent Meeting with Ms. White 4:30 P.M. 9th Grade Boys Study Group 3:50 - 6 P.M. Math Club - 4 PM	11 Positive Peer Influence 4 PM HS Boys B-Ball Game 4:30 PM (Home)
14 9th Grade Boys Study Group 3:50 - 6 P.M. Sax Club - 4 PM Math Club - 4 PM	15 \$2 Free Dress Day 9th Grade Boys Study Group 3:50 - 6 P.M. iLife Club - 4 PM HS Boys B-Ball Game 4:30 PM (Home)	16 9th Grade Boys Study Group 3:50 - 6 P.M. Student Newspaper- 4 PM	17 9th Grade Boys Study Group 3:50 - 6 P.M. Culinary Arts Fair- 1:35 PM Math Club - 4 PM All About Me - 4 PM	18 Classroom Holiday Parties 2:30 P.M. Last Day of School Talent Show - 2 PM Positive Peer Influence - 4 PM
21 Winter Break School Closed	22 Winter Break School Closed	23 Winter Break School Closed	24 Winter Break School Closed	25 Winter Break School Closed
28 Winter Break School Closed	29 Winter Break School Closed	30 Winter Break School Closed	31 Winter Break School Closed	1 Winter Break School Closed
4 Back to School!!! 9th Grade Boys Study Group 3:50 - 6 P.M.	5	6	7	8 Free Dress Day

ACADEMIC ACHIEVERS

Principal's Award (3.9 - 4.0 GPA) Recipients: Matthew Ford, James Pillot, Tess Rennalls, Simone Rhodes, Paisley Sutton

High Honors Award (3.5 - 3.89 GPA) Recipients: Amera Allison, Mikaela Armstead, Jalyn Baity, Darius Boatner, Tyahsha Brown, William Brown, Taylor Childs, Evan Crawford, Rachel Fernandez, Joshua Fields, Stephanie Fordum, DaVielle Fountain, Justus Hampton, Jaylan Hobson, Sean Hodges, Isiah Jackson-Williams, Miles Johnson, Quintin Johnson, Sydney Johnson, Jonathan Kimble, James Meadows, Michael Miner, Morgan Parker, Khalil Robinson, Felix Sawyer, Nijah Slaughter, Samantha Turner, Eljonna Williams, Jubilee Williams

Honor Roll (3.0 - 3.49 GPA) Recipients: Clayborn Allen, Atiyah Anderson, Talaya Bates, Akira Bell, Aleah Betts, Shawn Byrd, Sierra Carpenter, Jalen Clark, Khalil Clark, Tasharra Cobb, Valencia Cornelius, Brionna Cutright, Gabrielle Dapremont, Micheal Davis, Zarius Davis, Markyia Douglas, Jordan Egger-Jackson, Bryce Ferguson, Kendall Graves, Alice Greene, Kaylan Grigsby, Candace Guice, Nia Hall, Joshua Hardy, Boris Hines, Taryn Holliday, Skyler Hogan, Timothy Jackson, Zoe Jackson, Maria Jaime, Dareno Johnson, Cornisha Kendrick, Kneia McCallum, De' Jhah McClung, Billy McCullum, Jordan Meadows, Justice Miller, Matsimela Miller, Bailey Morgan, Micah Myers, Deja Nance, Erin Odoms, Malcolm Oglesby, Cassia Orange, Hidea' Palmer, Alexis Pierce, Elijah Ramey, Cieara Reeves, Matthew Render, Iyona Rimson, Kennedy Robinson, Nilah Robinson, Toria Saulter, Sharon Simmons, Sierra Simmons, Jasmine Smith, Tanisha Spencer, Augusta Spors, Jaylen Tate-LucasBranden Turner, Karmel Ussery, Kaylynn Walton, Infiniti Williams

Office Memo

- In preparation for winter, you are now able to place uniform orders in the Main Office. We have expanded our selection to include long sleeve polo shirts, v-neck cardigans, zip up hoodies, sweatpants and sweaters. Additional order forms are available in the office.
- The school has collected an expansive amount of lost & found items. Please have your child check the office, gym and 2nd floor lost & founds for their missing items.