



Henry Ford Academy Power House High

An Introduction

Henry Ford Academy Power House High -- a Henry Ford Academy opening in August 2008 -- will be an exemplary school that prepares all students for college and career success.

Power House High is a partnership led by Homan Square, an award-winning community development project, and Henry Ford Learning Institute (HFLI), a non-profit organization dedicated to creating public schools in public spaces. Corporate, philanthropic, cultural, and community partners are joining in a shared vision of Power House High as an academically rigorous high school, deeply embedded in the community -- a key element in the ongoing revitalization of North Lawndale.

Preparing students to thrive
as members of the 21st
century global community

Preparing North Lawndale students for academic and career success requires a solid connection between the world of the classroom and the world all around. Power House High's distinctive location, creative school design, and innovative curriculum incorporate emerging lessons in environmental sustainability and green technology. Beyond the formidable brick walls of the Power House, local experts and the abundant resources of North Lawndale and the City of Chicago become unique learning opportunities.

Local community leaders, community organizations, businesses, and cultural institutions have already committed to provide resources -- such as time, materials, financial support, services, mentors or internships -- to support powerful learning experiences for Power House High students.

Like all successful Chicago high schools, Power House High will require students to master science, math, language arts, and social studies; foreign language, technology, art, and health will all be core requirements. Power House High will also offer something else: the tools to thrive as a member of the global community of the 21st century.

Preparing students for college and career success through a proven academic program and community involvement



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Daily attendance at the original Henry Ford Academy has averaged 96% since the school opened



HFA students are drawn by random lottery. In Dearborn, they represent 28 communities in Wayne County, with nearly 70% of students hailing from the City of Detroit

Power House High students will participate in the award-winning Ford PAS program which serves more than 15,000 students in 23 states



Power House High will be based on the model developed at the Henry Ford Academy (HFA), which is located on the grounds of The Henry Ford, a national cultural attraction in Dearborn, Michigan. The Academy in Dearborn was founded in 1997 by Ford Motor Company, The Henry Ford, and Wayne County Regional Education Service Agency; it is the nation's first charter school that is a partnership between a global corporation, a non-profit cultural institution, and public education. Nearly 100 percent of graduates of the Class of 2007 were accepted by colleges and universities.

Maintaining high expectations for all

Power House High students will be expected to demonstrate maturity and personal responsibility, both within the context of the school and wider community. They will attend school in a very public place; the adjacent Homan Square Community Center serves 6,000 visitors every week. To graduate, every Power House High student must demonstrate accomplishment in each of the Five Developmental Areas: Academic Content, Technology, Communication, Thinking & Learning, and Personal Development.

Visitors to Power House High can expect to see:

1. A Public School in a Public Space
2. Partners in Learning
3. Work Place is the Learning Space
4. Teaching & Learning for Authentic Achievement

Power House High graduates will be prepared to succeed in whatever challenge they might pursue after high school, whether it's a four-year college or specialized advanced training. An intensive curriculum and innovative programs will move students beyond traditional high school lessons. One such program, the Ford Partnership for Advanced Studies (Ford PAS) was lauded in 2007 by the National Governor's Association for engaging students in business, science, technology, engineering, design and math.

Making the connection between what is learned in school and the world beyond

All Power House High students will also participate in the Senior Mastery Process, a three-part, 18-month capstone experience in which students prepare for and complete an extended exploration of their individual career interests, design and conduct a substantial action research project, engage in an internship associated with that research, and present their findings in a formal defense.

Power House High will be a critical component in creating and expanding sustainable success in North Lawndale and serve as an example for the nation



The Homan Square Power House: Designed by the architecture firm Nimmons & Fellows and a part of Chicago's history since 1905

Power House High will involve families in every aspect of the school's design, launch and on-going implementation, making them direct partners in the educational program so that it dovetails with community needs.

Nationally recognized experts in urban school design from the University of Chicago Center of Urban School Improvement (USI) will help build and sustain high-level capacity in instructional leadership, teaching, and learning. As part of this collaboration, USI and Power House High leaders will work together to incorporate valuable local resources in a distinctive curriculum that engages students and helps them make the connection between what they learn in school and their experiences in the world beyond.

By engaging all aspects of the community, untapped and underutilized local resources, and removing artificial boundaries between learning and the real world, Power House High will provide students with rich experiences not found in most other public schools. In this way, Power House High will be a critical component in creating ever-expanding and sustainable success in North Lawndale.

Becoming one of the nation's "greenest" high schools

The Charles H. Shaw Technology and Learning Center (Shaw TLC) will provide Power House High with a home that deeply intertwines student learning with the community. There is great demand in North Lawndale for spaces for educational, community and cultural programs; the Shaw TLC is designed for flexible use to meet the needs of both students and neighborhood organizations and residents.

The adaptive reuse of the Power House is a novel blend of preservation and conservation. When constructed in 1905 and throughout its life, the Power House showcased the latest advancements in energy generation. Today green and sustainable technology is the new forefront of energy technology. The design for the Shaw TLC and Power House High will maintain components from the past, while incorporating new energy production and conservation technology in both school architecture and curriculum.

Homan Square and HFLI have assembled a nationally renowned team of professionals on the cutting edge of green innovation and sustainable design, as well as experts on historic preservation.



Building renovation plans call for full restoration and adaptations to incorporate the iconic brick chimney into the future life of the facility through installation of a wind turbine



Consistent with Ford Motor Company's recent efforts that produced the world's largest "green roof" at Ford Motor Co.'s Rouge Plant in Dearborn, and the solar arrays presently producing power at the Homan Square Community Center, the re-development of the Power House will be driven by green design principles set out by the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED building rating system.

Maintaining components from the past

The major existing structures of the Power House will remain, with spaces previously filled with boilers and coal hoppers becoming learning studios, labs and offices. School features will build from the Power House's energy generation functions and extend them into the future. New heat and energy technologies like geothermal heating and cooling, energy recovery ventilators, high-efficiency lighting and storm water recovery will continue the legacy of the Power House, while providing long-term energy-efficiency, cost savings, and learning opportunities.

Building systems were upgraded over the past century with advancements in energy technology; remnants of each of those systems will remain, and the architectural team will ensure that contemporary energy technology is accessible and visible. This element of school design blends the boundaries between school and real world, and provides tangible connections between academic content and real world applications for students, mentors, and community members.

Incorporating new energy production and conservation technology in both school architecture and curriculum

An energy-monitoring kiosk will provide real-time monitoring of building energy consumption and allow students and building users to see the impact of their energy decisions. Educators will use such hands-on opportunities to stimulate student exploration of history, science, geography, political science, entrepreneurship and technical knowledge.

Power House High's distinctive location, creative school design, and innovative curriculum incorporating questions and themes associated with environmental sustainability and green technology will extend learning beyond the historic brick walls of the Power House. It will provide deserving students with rich experiences not found in other public schools in Chicago or the nation.

