

HENRY FORD ACADEMY

2007-2008 SCHOOL PROFILE



Vision Statement

To be the national model in public education for innovative teaching, active learning, and responsible global citizenship.

Mission Statement

Henry Ford Academy provides rigorous, relevant, and unique educational experience to a diverse student body. The Academy community develops critical thinkers, life-long learners, and responsible citizens prepared for college, career, and the global society.

Teaching & Learning Philosophy

HFA teaching and learning philosophy reflects the most current research on how students learn, and reflects “best practices” in the classroom. We believe that instruction and assessment are inseparable and that both must be done in a variety of ways. HFA teachers utilize instructional strategies such as project-based instruction, cooperative learning, technology as a tool for learning, and balanced assessment, which includes authentic assessments, standardized tests, portfolios, reflective journals, and teacher made tests.

Moreover, we believe that students learn best when:

- Previous knowledge and experience are respected.
- New information is experienced in a variety of ways.
- Students are encouraged to think about thinking and learning.
- Learning is goal oriented.
- Students demonstrate their ability to integrate knowledge and skills to perform meaningful tasks.
- Students are provided the opportunity to process information with others.
- Students are exposed to authentic experiences.

History

Henry Ford Academy is the nation’s first charter school developed jointly by a global corporation, public education and a nonprofit cultural institution. Designed to prepare students for life in the 21st century, the Academy began in the fall of 1997. Henry Ford Academy was conceived, developed and implemented by Ford Motor Company and The Henry Ford, and chartered by Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency.

Accreditation Status

Henry Ford Academy has received full accreditation by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and earned a grade of “B” on the State of Michigan’s School Report Card. The Academy also made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) as outlined by NCLB.

Henry Ford Academy and Its Partners

Our unique partnerships with The Henry Ford and Ford Motor Company enable our students to use the resources of industry, higher education, and local community organizations to enrich and enhance the educational experience. Employees from The Henry Ford, Ford Motor Company, and other organizations serve as guest speakers, academic coaches, and classroom and curriculum consultants for students and staff. Our partners also provide internship experiences to further expand students’ knowledge during their senior year.

Career Preparation

The Senior Mastery Process (SMP) is a three-part career focused program which includes Junior Workshop, Senior Practicum and Senior Workshop. SMP makes valuable connections between learning in the classroom and learning beyond the school. It enables students to be involved in real-life problem solving and expands the students’ awareness of their goals, abilities and interests, relative to their future endeavors. It is designed to assist students in developing an awareness of the soft-skills and attitudes required to function as contributing members of the community. The Practicum experience is a supervised work-based learning experience in which students are placed in internships with various business and government agencies.

FORD-PAS (Partnership for Advanced Studies)

Henry Ford Academy is a FORD-PAS school. Ford PAS offers a rigorous, standards based curriculum with realistic applications in areas such as design and product development, information systems, environmental sustainability, global economics, business planning, and marketing. Students begin the FORD-PAS program in their sophomore year.

Technology

Using technology to learn and work is a vital part of the learning process for all Academy students. Integration and infusion of technology across the content areas allow the students to learn about technology and apply it in a meaningful manner. All students learn word processing, spread sheets, and presentation programs and well as web design, digital research skills, and many other technological skills and concepts.

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Special Features

Graduates of the Academy demonstrate high levels of achievement in five developmental areas, which are intended to prepare students for the university or two-year college. The five developmental areas are academic content, technology, communication, thinking and learning, and personal development.

Core Courses

Ninth Grade:

English Language Arts
Civics and Economics
Integrated Mathematics 1 (*Algebra, Geometry & Statistics*)
Integrated Science 1 (*Phy Sci, Chem*)
Foreign Language 1
Intro to Engineering
Beginning Computer Applications
Physical Education/Health
Ford PAS

Tenth Grade:

American Literature
United States History
Integrated Mathematics 2 (*Geometry & Trigonometry*)
Integrated Science 2 (*Bio & Earth Sci*)
Foreign Language 2
Art Exploration
Advanced Computer Applications
World & Beyond (*Earth Sci, Astronomy*)
Ford PAS (*Problem Solving & Communications*)

Eleventh Grade:

QUEST – World Literature
Global Issues
Integrated Mathematics 3 (*Algebra, Geometry, Prob & Linear Prog*)
Integrated Science 3 (*Physics & Chem*)
Junior Workshop (SMP)

Twelfth Grade:

Senior English
Senior Algebra (*Advanced Algebraic Topics & Discrete Mathematics*)
Integrated Science 4 (*Biology*)
Web Design
Senior Practicum (SMP)
Senior Workshop (SMP)

Athletics

Baseball (Boys)
Softball (Girls)
Soccer (Boys)
Volleyball (Girls)
Basketball (Boys and Girls)
Cheerleading (Boys and Girls)

Student Activities

Art Club
Chess Club
Choir
D.A.N.C.E. Club
Drama
Environmental Club
FIRST Robotics Team
German National Honor Society
National Honor Society
SADD
Science Fiction Club
Senior Council
Service Club
Sister to Sister
Strategic Games
Student Council
Technology Club

Non-Core Courses

ACT/SAT Preparation
Advanced Art
Advanced Computer Applications
Advanced Literature
American Arts & Crafts
Automotive Design
Bioethics
Choir
Current Events
Drama
Drawing 1
Dual Enrollment
Economics 2
Engineering 101
Fitness
Forensic Science
German 3
Independent Study
Industrial, Commercial & Design Arts
Innovative Inventors
Journalism
Painting
Poetry
Pre-calculus
Probability & Statistics
Sculpture
Shakespeare
Topics in Algebra
Topics in Geometry
Topics in Algebra & Geometry
Video Production
Village Economics
Yearbook

Graduation Requirements

English4.0 credits
Mathematics4.0 credits
Science3.0 credits
Social Studies3.0 credits
Foreign Language2.0 credits
Career Prep1.5 credits
Phys Ed/Health.....1.0 credit
Fine Arts.....1.0 credit
Technology.....1.0 credit
Forum/Acad Coach.....0.5 credit
Non Core.....12 credits

Integrated Mathematics:

Four years of study in algebra, geometry, trigonometry, probability & statistics, and pre-calculus.

Integrated Science:

Four years of study in chemistry, physics, earth science, and biology.

Forum

Delivered in a seminar format, multi-generational groups of students work on school-wide projects to develop and refine social and emotional skills.

Special Projects/Partnerships

- AFS Intercultural Programs USA
- AYUSA Global Youth Experience
- American Automobile Association
- City of Dearborn Government
- College for Creative Studies
- FIRST Robotics Team (sponsored by Ford Motor Company & Delphi Corporation)
- Ford African Ancestry Network
- Junior Achievement Business
- Project Graduation (After-school Tutoring Program)
- University of Michigan Student Teacher Internship Program
- University of Michigan-Dearborn

Henry Ford Academy students complete a rigorous, college preparatory, liberal arts curriculum emphasizing math, science and technology. Students attend four (4), 90-minute classes each day for one semester (or two quarters). This 4 x 4 block-format allows students to complete a full year of study in one semester.