



LEARN TO LOVE - LOVE TO LEARN

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

January ushers in the beginning of a new year and at the same time the end of the first set of core classes . On the block schedule, major projects and assignments are soon due and students are anxious about their final assessments. You can help your student by developing a timeline for completion of assignments and for reviewing material for the final exams. Consider hosting a study session for your child and some of his/her classmates. All you'll need is a place to study or work on a project (a table), access to research (the internet), and some refreshments (pizza always works!) Hosting a study group will send the message that education is important and that you expect them to put in time outside of school preparing for academic success.

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PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION

Tuesday, January 20, 2009

SCHOOL IS IN SESSION!
Students in Dress Code

Academy students will be viewing the inauguration of President –Elect Obama. This is a teachable and historic moment. During Academic Coaching, students will learn about the actual inaugural activities, transfer of power, and the symbolism of the artifacts used during the event. Students will also reflect upon the major issues that confront our country and how prior presidents have handled them.

OPEN HOUSE
FEBRUARY 8, 2009
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

If you know of someone who is looking for a great school for their son or daughter, ask them to consider Henry Ford Academy.

We will be accepting applications for incoming freshman (class of 2013) from December 1st – February 27th

SIBLINGS of current 9th, 10th and 11th grade students may qualify for automatic enrollment. Parents/ Guardians must complete an application in order to receive automatic enrollment by Friday, February 27, 2009.

For more information visit
www.hfacademy.org

THIS IS THE LAST OPEN HOUSE!!!

University of Michigan - Dearborn
Presents

SHOW ME THE MONEY!
Financial Aid Night for Parents

Tuesday, January 27, 2009
5:30 p.m.

Hamp (Museum) Campus Classrooms
to reserve your spot email
credwine@hfa.spfs.k12.mi.us

Note Change in Date

PARENT ORGANIZATION MEETING

RESCHEDULED

FROM TUESDAY, JANUARY 20TH TO

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2009
6:30 P.M.**

You are Invited

*To the
HFA Winter Chorale Concert*



Tuesday, January 27, 2009

7:00 p.m.

*Anderson Theatre
Henry Ford Museum*

Mr. Donald Cain, Director

IMPORTANT DATES

01/19	M. L. King Holiday – NO SCHOOL
01/26	Staff Development – NO SCHOOL
01/27	Financial Aid Workshop – 5:30 p.m.
01/27	Winter Chorale Concert – 7:00 p.m.
01/29-01/30	Final Assessments – Quarter 2 (Half Days)
02/02	Third Quarter Begins
02/06	Royal Ball – 7:30 p.m.
02/10	Parent Organization Mtg. – 6:30 p.m.
02/10	ACT Practice Exam (Juniors Only)
02/11	Student Count Day – Sem 2
02/16-02/20	Winter Break – NO SCHOOL

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Preparing Students for College, Career, and the Global Community

PARENTS STILL MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

HELPFUL TIPS FOR HIGH SCHOOL PARENTS

As part of our Parents-As-Partners initiative, each month you will receive tips on what the research says works best for teens.

Motivate your high schooler to get organized

Ask your teen to get organized, and he'll probably gesture to a sea of papers covering his desk, claiming "I am organized! I know exactly where everything is!"

Parents and teens clearly have different ideas of what being "organized" is. He thinks it means being able to find that magazine he was looking for; you think it means being able to see the top of his desk--and the floor, on a good day. The key is to put your idea of "getting organized" into his words. Follow these three steps:

1. Explain that he has complete control over how he gets organized. You're not going to come into his room and start alphabetizing his books. He's the one who gets to figure out what's important to him.
2. Make him think. He's very unlikely to get organized just because you asked him to. So talk about what his disorganization is costing him. Does it take him 40 minutes to find his calculator? If he were organized, those 40 minutes could be used for something more fun.
3. Tell him he doesn't have to throw things out. Teens are attached to their "stuff"--the idea of "getting organized" often makes them think they have to part with things. Just encourage him to get rid of items he doesn't use

Talking with your teen is worth the effort, builds relationships

You've heard that talking with and listening to your teen is important. But clearly whoever came up with that advice doesn't live in your house. Talking with your teen can be dangerous! Either she snaps at you or she responds with a blank look.

So why should you make the effort, even if you're sure you're going to be shot down? Because communication helps your teen:

- Feel cared about. Even if she answers "How was your day?" with "Fine," she's still secretly pleased that you asked.
- Build trust. Your teen will realize that she can talk to you about her problems and you won't think she's "uncool."
- Believe she's important to you. Tell your teen you care about her.
- Learn how to have "grown-up" discussions. After a while, your teen will realize that storming off isn't the way to convince you to let her do something. When she approaches you with rational arguments, listen.

The teen years are a time of testing boundaries. Your teen is also asserting her independence through pretending your opinions don't matter to her. So keep talking. Teens who have close relationships with parents are more likely to keep those close relationships through adulthood.

Avoid four traps when dealing with an underachieving teen

You know your teen can do better and you want to help motivate him. To help your teen improve, be sure to avoid:

1. Unrealistic expectations. There is no question that parents want the best for their kids. But if you expect your teen to be the captain of the football team, work a part time job and still get good grades, you may be setting your teen up for failure.
2. The need to control. Some decisions (safety, for example) require parental control. But when it comes down to it, he is the one who will decide when, and if, he does his math homework.
3. The urge to "rescue" him. If you constantly bail out your struggling teen, he will learn that it's okay to keep struggling. He will remain helpless as long as you allow it. Once he knows you aren't going to step in, he will figure it out.
4. Anger and guilt. You already know this doesn't work. You get angry. He gets angrier. And the homework doesn't get finished. So if you feel yourself losing your temper, take a break until you can approach things more calmly

Use the power of resolutions to encourage self-discipline

Has your teen ever forgotten to finish a chore halfway through completing it? Or has he quit a sport halfway through the season, claiming it was boring? This inability to follow through might be a lack of self-discipline. Self-discipline helps teens focus on and finish what they've started.

Encourage your teen to come up with a New Year's Resolution this year. Setting one goal--and achieving it--takes self-discipline. You might suggest that he resolve to:

- Avoid peer pressure. Saying "no" to drugs, alcohol or even bad ideas suggested by friends can be difficult. Sticking to his morals shows a lot of self-discipline--and his self-respect will grow as well.
- Do better in school. Have him choose one subject that he would like to improve in. Help him come up with a study plan, and encourage him every step of the way.
- Get in better shape. Following a workout plan takes immense self-discipline. And the benefits are great--habits set during the teen years tend to be kept during adulthood.
- Volunteer more. The great feeling that he gets from successfully helping other people may encourage your teen to finish all projects he starts

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