



August 29, 2022

Welcome back Henry Ford Broncos! I am thrilled to start a new school year as the new principal of Henry Ford Elementary. I look forward to working with you, in partnership, to ensure a successful school year for your child. The staff at Henry Ford have been working hard over the past several weeks to make sure that our school is ready to welcome your child on the first day of school. Please know that if you have any questions or concerns as the year progresses, you can email me at [farhatm@dearbornschools.org](mailto:farhatm@dearbornschools.org) or our assistant principal, Mrs. Elissar Hammoud at [hammoue@dearbornschools.org](mailto:hammoue@dearbornschools.org)

### **Staff changes:**

This summer we have had many staff changes. We are excited to welcome the following staff to our school:

- Welcome to Mr. Eddie Terry, our new building engineer
- Ms. Lauren Angel will join our amazing kindergarten team.
- Welcome to Ms. Jessica Arko, our new ASD Resource Room teacher.
- Ms. Dena Saad, a familiar face at Henry Ford will now be teaching 1st grade.
- Ms. Lauren Bennett will be our new art teacher
- We welcome Mr. Rober Doyle & Ms. Stephanie Dean as our new vocal music teachers.
- Mr. James McLennan will be joining us once a week as our new 5th grade instrumental teacher.
- Mr. Caleb Carter joins us as our speech and language pathologist.
- Welcome to Ms. Laura Audi, special education resource teacher
- Ms. Hanadi Kesserouani will be joining our resource staff as one of our ELDs.
- Ms. Maha Salami will be supporting students as our part time Title I resource teacher

### **Soft Start Schedule (Kindergarten students only):**

***Remember to put a sticker (sent in your welcome letter) on your child for the first few days***

- **Monday, August 29th: (lunch will not be provided)**
  - **8:50 am** - Y5 and Kindergarten students can be dropped off by the main entrance of the school on Driscoll St. Please park in the parking lot and cross at the crosswalk. Staff will be waiting for your child in the Kindergarten courtyard. If

your child is a busser, a staff member will meet them at the bus and escort them to the Kindergarten courtyard where their teacher will be waiting

- **12:05 pm:** Since today is a half day for all students, transportation is available if your child is a busser. If your child is not a busser, please return to pick up your child in front of the school (on Driscoll St). For safety reasons, please park in the parking lot on Driscoll St. and walk across the street to pick up your child
- **Tuesday, August 30th - Friday, September 9th** (Please note that there will be no school on Friday, September 2nd and Monday, September 5th due to the Labor Day holiday)
  - **8:50 am** - Kindergarten students will line up in their assigned classroom lines in the Kindergarten courtyard.
  - Lunch or snack will be provided.
  - **12:05 pm: There is no bus transportation home from school during the rest of soft start.** Parents return to pick up children by the main entrance on Driscoll St.
- **Monday, September 12th (8:50 am - 3:55 pm):** Today marks the first regularly scheduled day of school for our kindergarten students. Kindergarten **students can now ride the bus both to and from school (if they are bussers).**

**GSRP**-Our GSRP (preschool) teachers will be reaching out to parents at the beginning of September with more information regarding preschool start time and schedules

### **Bussing Students**

If your family lives in a bussing area, you will receive a postcard in the mail the week before school starts. This letter will contain information regarding your bus stop, pick-up and drop-off times, and the bus number your child will ride. Please be sure to talk to your child about this bus number. Each day, our staff will be posted at the busses to ensure your child rides the correct bus to and from school. Please review bus behavior expectations with your child. Our goal is a safe ride to and from school, with the bus driver able to focus on transporting students. *Remind students to, (1) Keep voices low; (2) Stay seated; (3) Keep all property in place.*

### **First Day of School Line-Up**

Please refer to the map to find your child's line-up location ([see map](#)). 1st-5th grade teachers will be holding up grade level signs to indicate where students should line up.

### **Important Dates**

- **Monday, August 29th:** First day of school (8:55 am - 12:05 am). *No Breakfast or lunch served.*
- **Tuesday, August 30th** First full day of school (8:55 am - 3:55 pm) for grades 1 through 5. *Breakfast and lunch begin today. **Breakfast is served from 8:30am-8:50am***

- **Tuesday, August 30th - Friday, September 9h:** Kindergarten Soft Start (refer to the schedule above)
- **Friday, September 2nd and Monday, September 5th:** No School, Labor Day Recess
- **Thursday, Sept 1st:** Meet the Principal event at 5:00pm in the Main Cafeteria
- **Thursday, Sept 8th:** Open House (6:00pm-7:30pm)

### Parent Connect Update

- Visit <https://dearbornschools.org>
- Click on Parent Portal
- Click on Parent Connect
  - ***Can't remember your pin and password?*** Underneath login in the left-hand corner, there is a link that says "Need Your Login Information?" This link will email your pin and password. (It may take several hours to receive the email)
- To update student forms, **you must use a computer NOT a tablet or cell phone.**
- ***It is very important to keep us updated if your email or phone number changes.***

### Parent Volunteers & Visitors

For safety reasons, it is very important that all visitors to Henry Ford check in at the main office. All visitors are asked to contact the classroom teacher prior to visiting and make sure they have filled out appropriate forms (I-chat).

### Important Reminders

- Your child's safety is our priority! Please be safe when dropping off and picking up your child. Students will cross at corners or crosswalks and will not be allowed to walk in between buses. We ask for your patience as we make sure your child is safely dismissed at the end of the day.
- Breakfast is served from 8:30am-8:50am. In order to foster independence, we ask that parents drop off their children and let them enter the building by themselves to eat.
- First bell rings at 8:55am. Students start their learning day at 9:00am. It is important that students arrive at school on time so that they do not miss beginning of the day routines & procedures.
- If your child is absent, please call the office at (313) 827-4700 to report their absence.
- ***Henry Ford Elementary is a scent free school.*** Please do not allow your child to wear perfume or cologne or use products with a strong scent.
- School hours are 9:00am-3:55pm. Please do your best to make appointments outside of the school day so as to not disrupt your child's learning.
- Students must dress appropriately in a manner that is not distracting to the learning process. Also, for safety reasons, shoes should have a strap across the back.

- Please label items such as lunch boxes or backpacks with your child's name. The name can be written on the inside of these items to limit items being lost or displaced.
- While many are still enjoying what's left of summer, it is very important to build routines at home that will help make the Back to School transition somewhat easier. This means that bedtime and wake up times should be adjusted so that your child is ready to learn when they arrive at school
- Suggested supply lists have been posted to our school blog and social media pages. They can be found by clicking [HERE](#).

### **Stay in Touch**

Keep posted on important announcements & events by following us on social media! We can be found on Facebook by searching Henry Ford Elementary School or on Instagram by following @henryford.elementary You can also subscribe to our [school blog](#) so that you receive email notifications when posts are updated.

In closing, we look forward to working together with Henry Ford Elementary families for the 2022-2023 school year. A close school/home relationship helps us guarantee that we are putting student success and safety first. We cannot wait to see our excited students on the first day of school!

Thank you,

Mariam Farhat  
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