

Starr celebrating 100th anniversary Oct. 6

For 100 years, Starr Commonwealth has been helping children and families reach their potential across Michigan and around the world.

On Sunday, Oct. 6, Starr will hold its annual Founder's Day event on the Albion, Mich., campus, marking a century of high-quality service.

After acquiring the Children's Home of Detroit in 2009, leaders at Starr had a vision to impact education in Detroit. A committee organized by Starr called Vision Detroit, led by Starr trustee Larry Givens, helped to establish Starr Detroit Academy.

The Academy has become an integral part of Starr Commonwealth, and the organization would love to share this celebration with staff, parents, students and supporters of Starr Detroit Academy.

To help Starr celebrate, actress Holly Robinson Peete and her husband, former NFL quarterback Rodney Peete, will serve as the guest speakers. The Peetes will share their experiences as parents of a child with autism.

Also joining Starr for the occasion is Michigan singing sensation Matt Giraud.



Matt Giraud

He is best known for his fifth-place finish on "American Idol" season 8. Giraud will perform during the main program, as well as spend some time with Starr's performing arts group, the All Starr Choir.

Starr is organizing transportation for those from the Academy who would like to support the organization and visit the Albion campus.

If you are interested in attending, please call the Academy at 313.649.2200. Please let us know how many are in your party so we can ensure enough spots are reserved. We hope to see you there!



Actress Holly Robinson Peete and husband Rodney Peete, former NFL quarterback, will be Starr's 2013 Founder's Day speakers on Sunday, Oct. 6.

Meet Our Staff: Maxwell Spayde



To be a great educator, you must also be a lifelong learner, according to Maxwell Spayde.

Spayde is one of two assistant principals new to Starr Detroit Academy this year. He is committed to learning as much from the staff and students as he teaches.

According to Spayde, educators can take many forms and are not limited to formal teachers inside traditional classrooms.

"I've always been an educator for as long as I can remember," Spayde said. "I was fortunate enough to start teaching in music settings while still in high school."

Spayde continued his pursuit of music and earned a bachelor's degree in music education from Michigan State

University. He spent seven years teaching music in grades K-12, including his longest stint at Jackson Public Schools in Jackson, Mich.

The desire to further his learning prompted Spayde to pursue a master's degree in education with a focus on school leadership from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. He obtained principal licensure and has worked in a variety of leadership roles at various schools, including five years as the principal and lead administrator of Arts Academy in the Woods in Fraser, Mich.

"I became a principal because I love working with adult learners (the teachers and staff)," Spayde said. "I believe that every teacher can become a master teacher, so I work hard daily to support our teachers and help them grow."

Spayde joined the Starr Detroit Academy team because he shares the school's mission to prepare students for academic mastery, college, work and life.

"I'm blessed to work daily with a great group of educators," Spayde said. "The fit for me is perfect. I love the Starr (Commonwealth) idea that all children have strengths. I believe that passionately, and I think we have the capacity to do something special at our school with that focus in mind."

Starr Detroit Academy is dedicated to the mission of preparing kids for academic mastery, college, work and life.

Upcoming Events

MEAP Tutoring

Location: Starr Detroit Academy
19360 Harper Ave.

Date & Time: Monday, Sept. 16
Time TBA

Open House & Title I Meeting

Location: Starr Detroit Academy
19360 Harper Ave.

Date & Time: Thursday, Sept. 19
5 - 7 p.m.

Student Count Day*

Location: Starr Detroit Academy
19360 Harper Ave.

Date & Time: Wednesday, Oct. 2
*ALL STUDENTS MUST BE PRESENT

Starr Founder's Day

Location: Starr Commonwealth
13725 Starr Commonwealth Rd.
Albion, MI 49224

Date & Time: Sunday, Oct. 6



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www.starracademy.org
 313.649.2200
 Harper Woods, MI 48225
 19360 Harper Ave.
 Starr Detroit Academy

EDUCATE. EMPOWER. EXCEL.

STARR
DETROIT ACADEMY

SDA achievement goals for 2013-14

As SDA looks to build on a successful first year, we have set several ambitious goals for 2013-14. We would like to improve our Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) test success by achieving an average of 1.5 years of growth in math and reading, with all students meeting these goals. Each student should be absent no more than nine days, which would give us a 95 percent attendance mark. Also, we hope to see every student complete at least 80 percent of the ST Math online program. With your help, these goals can become a reality for our students.

Transportation: Bus routes may change

The goal of Starr Detroit Academy's transportation program is to provide free transportation to as many students and families as possible.

As the new school year begins Sept. 3 for first- through sixth-graders and Sept. 9 for kindergarten students, the existing bus routes will remain in effect for the first three weeks.

After this period, routes will be adjusted based on any concerns and changes in participation. The Academy is also dedicated to providing a safe bus environment, free from bullying or disruptive behavior.

"We are working to make sure all families can get their students to school each day," School Director Jeremy Vidito said. "But it's also important for our scholars and their families to know that riding the school bus is a privilege. Students who have excessive behavior challenges or several absences will lose the bus privilege."

Concerns over bus routes or any other transportation-related issues can be directed to the SDA transportation coordinator, Vanessa Carter.

Mrs. Carter can be reached via phone at 313.649.2200 or via email at vcarter@starracademy.org.

Starr Detroit Academy's important upcoming dates

There are several dates SDA parents and caregivers will need to know, including:

- **MEAP prep:** MEAP testing occurs Oct. 8 - 18. Tutoring for the MEAP test begins Monday, Sept. 16. Contact Student and Family Services Coordinator Arthur Jackson to enroll your child in the tutoring program.
- **SDA Open House and Title 1 meeting:** Learn more about our programs, curriculum and how to get involved on Thursday, Sept. 19 from 5 - 7 p.m.
- **Count Day:** All students must be present Oct. 2.
- **Latino Heritage Month:** September is Latino Heritage Month, and our students will have the opportunity to learn about Latino history and culture. At Starr Detroit Academy, we strongly value diversity and the positive impacts it has on our society. While cultures are vastly different, we are all members of one human family, which is why we strongly support an environment of love and acceptance. If you have any questions, please let us know.

