



Summer activities for you and your child

According to a 2011 report by the RAND Corporation, a worldwide organization that works with issues like health and education, the average summer learning loss for U.S. students amounts to one month per year in both math and reading.

So each summer, students may lose at least one month of what they learned during the school year.

More alarming, the report states that this effect is cumulative. Learning loss is often compounded over a number of years, resulting in a decreased level of proficiency and a lack of college readiness.

"Parents have the opportunity -- and the responsibility -- to help their children avoid this potential pitfall," said School Director Jeremy Vidito. "One of the most important things a parent can do is read books with their children. Today's technology also allows students to use computer-based education programs. This allows our scholars to retain much of what they've learned over the year and even get ahead for next year."

Reading is one of the most important activities a parent can do with a child. The reading skills learned during the year can prosper over the summer, making children adequately prepared for the beginning of school. Reading also helps children build on their vocabulary or expose them to new and exciting topics or ideas. Libraries in the Harper Woods area include the Harper Woods Public Library on Harper Avenue, the Detroit Public Library on Harper Avenue and the Jefferson Library on Outer Drive.

Some of these free online programs include PBS Kids, ABCYA, CoolMath and ST Math. Parents can work with their children on any of these programs, while stressing the importance of continued learning.

"Our scholars have made significant gains this year in reading and math," Vidito said. "If we can continue this momentum throughout the summer, we'll be in a position to improve even further next year."

To use ST Math on a home computer, log on to www.stmath.com and enter the code STA3PW-HVL-LF-WD7. Contact Starr Detroit Academy for answers to any questions.

Staff Profile • School Board President Jim Hall



For Starr Detroit Academy school board president Jim Hall, providing high-quality educational opportunities for the children of Detroit is the main goal.

"The biggest thing for Starr Detroit Academy is making sure our No. 1 customer is satisfied, and that's the kids at our school," Hall said. "We, as the school board, have the responsibility to give our students the best chance at success."

Hall has been an active member of the various communities in and around Detroit for many years. He believes this role is especially important, as it's his job -- and the school board as a whole -- to ensure kids at Starr Detroit Academy are provided with the best opportunities to obtain a quality education.

"The school board is in a position to make sure the school is taking all of the necessary steps to help the kids achieve greatness," Hall said. "The educational situation in Detroit is not very promising right now, and we want to be on the leading edge of turning that around."

Hall was presented the opportunity to join SDA's efforts by his friend Larry Givens, a Starr Commonwealth trustee and someone who was influential in starting the school.

"We are representing Central Michigan University (the school's authorizing entity) and the taxpayers of Michigan," Hall said. "We want to do what's best for the kids, and without Larry's help and the rest of the wonderful people from Starr Commonwealth, we wouldn't be able to do what we've done."

Hall is amazed at all the school has accomplished in its first year.

"A year ago, the building was in need of significant renovations. Now to see kids there, filling the classrooms and being productive, it's just an honor to be a part of that. Jeremy (Vidito) and the staff at the school have been amazing. We are carrying on the legacy of the Children's Home of Detroit and the mission of Starr Commonwealth. We have a lot of hard work ahead of us, but we've had a great first year. I'm so proud of everyone involved."



Newsletter

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

Upcoming Events

New Parent Orientation

Location: Starr Detroit Academy
19360 Harper Ave.
Date & Time: Thursday, Aug. 15
Thursday, Aug. 22
4 - 6:30 p.m.

Welcome Back BBQ

Location: Starr Detroit Academy
19360 Harper Ave.
Date & Time: Thursday, Aug. 29
4 - 6:30 p.m.

First Day - Grades 1-6

Location: Starr Detroit Academy
19360 Harper Ave.
Date & Time: Tuesday, Sept. 3

First Day - Kindergarten

Location: Starr Detroit Academy
19360 Harper Ave.
Date & Time: Monday, Sept. 9



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

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SDA school year starting Sept. 3 and 9

Starr Detroit Academy's 2013-14 school year will begin Tuesday, Sept. 3 for first-through sixth-graders and Sept. 9 for scholars in kindergarten. There will also be a welcome barbecue and orientation Thursday, Aug. 29. The school will begin its second year serving children at its Harper Woods location, continuing the school's mission of preparing scholars for academic mastery, college, work and life. Starr Detroit Academy is adding a grade level each year.

June events highlight SDA's first year

Numerous end-of-year events occurred for Starr Detroit Academy in the month of June, capping a great first school year.

These events included a community celebration day on June 8, which involved community members and other schools on Detroit's east side.

The academy also participated in a field day on June 12, a fun-filled day for students, staff and SDA parents.

Celebrating the kindergarten class and its promotion to first grade occurred June 13. Family and friends had a chance to witness SDA's inaugural kindergarten class and its important achievement.

First-graders went to the zoo, also taking place June 13. This event served as an opportunity for staff, parents and scholars to learn more about animals and our environment.

Lastly students in grades 1-5 visited a local water park on June 14. SDA scholars were rewarded with this fun activity after a year filled with hard work. Thank you to all of the staff and families who made these memorable events possible.

Starr Detroit Academy students showing academic gains

One of Starr Detroit Academy's primary goals is to prepare its students for academic mastery.

As many states across the country adopt common core standards, which aim to provide a consistent curriculum that gives students the necessary skills to be college-ready, standardized tests have been identified as one way to measure progress.

Several schools, especially charters like SDA, have decided to use testing through the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA). The purpose of these tests is to measure academic gains from the beginning of the school year until the end, particularly in the areas of math and reading.

This year Starr Detroit Academy students achieved progress in both of these areas, including an average of 1.4 years of growth in math and 1.1 years in reading.

"I'm very pleased with the results of our NWEA testing this year," said School Director Jeremy Vidito. "Our teachers have done an exceptional job with our scholars, and the students have put in a great deal of work to improve."

