

STARR

DETROIT ACADEMY

EDUCATE • EMPOWER • EXCEL

SDA Renovations are Underway

The state of the art renovations of Starr Detroit Academy's campus are underway! Starr Detroit Academy is located at 19360 Harper Avenue, the former site of Bishop Gallagher High School. The high-tech building will be pre-wired for interactive whiteboards, teacher and student laptops, and ELMO projectors. The school facility will also have a brand new media learning center designed to encourage students' reading and research. The campus also features a renovated gymnasium with a resurfaced, regulation-size basketball court. We are very excited to introduce this amazing campus to SDA students and families!



All-Star Teacher Training Camp

On Monday, July 30, Starr Detroit Academy teachers began a five-week professional development course to prepare them for the upcoming school year. Teachers are receiving training on school culture, and curriculum and instruction in all academic areas. Grade-level and subject-area teams are collaborating to plan courses and lessons and prepare the school building and classrooms. Starr teachers are working tirelessly to make the 2012-2013 school year a success!



Staff Profile • ELA teacher and Instructional Coach Mikey Smith



Mikey Keating Smith brings ten years of experience in education to Starr Detroit Academy. Ms. Smith has taught and served in school leadership positions, including principal, at various schools in the Houston Independent School District. She has achieved impressive results in all of these roles. While working as a Graduation Coach at Bellaire High School in Houston, Ms. Smith's assistance led to over 100 students graduating from high school on time. Her ingenious solution was to enroll high school seniors missing credits in online courses.

Ms. Smith holds a B.A. in Journalism from Penn State University and a Master's Degree in Education Administration from Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas. A native of Houston, Ms. Smith comes from a family of teachers: her mother, father, and sister are all educators. She moved to Detroit from Mansfield, Ohio with her husband. Ms. Smith is excited live in the motor city and work with SDA students and families.

Newsletter

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Upcoming Events:

Orientation

Location: Starr Detroit Academy
19360 Harper Avenue

Date & Time: Thursdays, August 2,9,16 & 23
@ 5:30PM

Induction (Grades 4-5)

Location: Starr Detroit Academy
19360 Harper Avenue

Date & Time: Wednesday, August 29, 7:30AM
- 2:00PM

Induction (Grades 4-5)

Location: Starr Detroit Academy
19360 Harper Avenue

Date & Time: Thursday & Friday, August 30—
31, 7:30AM - 4:30PM

First Day of School (Grades K-5)

Location: Starr Detroit Academy
19360 Harper Avenue

Date & Time: Tuesday, September 4, 7:30AM
- 4:30PM

KABOOM! Playground Prep Day # 1

Location: Starr Detroit Academy
19360 Harper Avenue

Date & Time: Thursday, September 13 @
8:00AM

SDA Students on the Cutting Edge • Blended Learning Technology

One of the most unique aspects of SDA's academic program is the use of Blended Learning software. Blended Learning is computer software that assesses a student's performance and provides instruction in targeted areas. This means a computer will provide each SDA student with one-on-one tutoring. SDA students will still receive whole-group and small-group instruction from their teachers, but the software provides additional individualized practice and instruction.

Kindergarten through second grade SDA students will be exposed to Blended Learning during centers in their classrooms. Students in third through fifth grade will access blended learning software in a computer lab. Blended learning software has enabled students across the country to achieve significant academic gains. We are excited to bring this new technology to Starr Detroit Academy.



Photos from the Kindergarten Round-Up Block Party

During the orientation, Starr Academy families will meet their teachers, complete mandatory lunch forms, purchase uniforms, and receive more information about SDA's academic program and school culture. **Refreshments will be served.** As a reminder, the first day of school is Wednesday, August 29th for fourth and fifth graders and Tuesday, September 4 for all students.

Starr Detroit Academy will host family orientations every Thursday evening in August, from 5:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. The orientation sessions are held on Starr Detroit Academy's campus on **August 2, August 9, August 16, and August 23**. A parent or guardian of each Starr Academy student is required to attend an orientation session before the first day of school.

Events • Orientation Thursdays

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19360 Harper Avenue
Harper Woods, MI 48225