



TRIX ACADEMY

20045 Joann Avenue, Detroit, MI | 313.426.1020 | Trix.MECC-Academies.org

Family Welcome Packet

2025-2026



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Check-off List of Items for New Scholar for Registration

- ☐ Birth Certificate
- ☐ Immunization Records
- ☐ Household Survey
- ☐ Field Trip Permission Slip
- ☐ Media Release Permission Slip
- ☐ Last Report Card **(New Scholars only - Please alert the Office Manager if you are unable to retrieve this)**
- ☐ If applicable, a copy 504 plan and/or IEP

Trix Academy's Mission and Academic Vision

Our Mission

The mission of Michigan Educational Choice Center (Trix Academy) is to ensure that all children meet high academic and social standards and thrive as leaders at home, in their communities, and in the world.

Our Vision

The Academy's ultimate vision is that our scholars master key academic skills and demonstrate strong character and values, including honesty, service to others, a superior work ethic, and a strong vision for and belief in their futures. The Academy aims to ensure all children attending the Academy have access to a rigorous, personalized education, as well as opportunities that support their growth as individuals.



Welcome Trix Families

Mrs. Elizabeth Van Hoesen, Principal



Welcome to Trix Academy

"Falcons Rising: Rewriting the Story!"

Dear Trix Academy Families,

Welcome to an incredible and exhilarating new year! I am eagerly anticipating the return of our scholars, and we are overjoyed that you have chosen to become a valued member of our exceptional family. The forthcoming school year fills me with excitement as well, and I can't wait to witness the Trix scholars ascend to new heights. We aspire to be the premier K-8th Grade School in Detroit, setting the bar for excellence. I implore all parents to join us in our mission, to inspire and challenge every scholar in every aspect of their academic pursuits and personal development. We aim to equip our scholars with the necessary tools to thrive in high school, college, careers, and life as a whole. We envision our scholars as astute critical thinkers and catalysts for positive change in the world.

We are the Falcons!

As your Principal, I am extremely excited to embark on this thrilling educational journey alongside the scholars and families of Trix Academy. I am dedicated to crafting an extraordinary learning experience that will ignite the dreams of our scholars and propel

them toward their desired futures. My unwavering passion for empowering the most vulnerable stems from my transformative educational encounters during my childhood through adulthood. I firmly believe that every child, irrespective of their background, deserves nothing less than a world-class education.

As we move forward it is **SUPER** important that you take the time to unpack and address all needed items and return information requested in this packet! I know it is lengthy, however, it is VERY IMPORTANT to the prosperity of our year ahead.

2025-2026 Schoolwide THEME:

As a leader, I always like to have a “theme” to guide my path. This year with the leadership team we have decided on a theme that speaks to both the direction and the vision for our scholars,



“Falcons Rising: Rewriting the Story!”

The concept of "courage" holds greater significance in our present times. I am absolutely certain that our scholars possess the qualities necessary to achieve greatness. It is my sincere desire for them to embrace courage and seize every academic opportunity that will expand their knowledge and self-belief. When we exhibit courage and maintain unwavering self-confidence, there is no goal beyond our reach. Together, let us embark on a journey of academic exploration, where our scholars can surpass their own expectations and discover their true potential.

I will be introducing this new theme to the scholars on the first day of school in our all-school morning meeting!

Schoolwide Goals:

Our families are the key to ensuring that our school is a highly effective center of learning. I want to highlight the following priorities that are critical to our continued success:

- 7% Growth in Proficiency in ELA and Math on State assessments
- 90% Scholar Persistence (starting the school year and ending the school year with us here on-time ready to learn every day)
- 90% Staff Retention - Keeping our extraordinary staff in place year after year ensures that not only great relationships are built with scholars and families, but it also promotes mastery of instruction for your scholars
- 95% Average Daily Attendance - We need your scholars here, every day, ready to learn. This is imperative for fostering a community of learning with high expectations

What should You expect in the first few weeks of school?

We believe in keeping parents as informed as possible. You will receive bi-weekly S'more newsletters from the leadership team here at Trix. Please be sure that we have your most up-to-date email address as newsletters will be sent electronically through email.

Within the first couple of weeks, you will receive login information for PowerSchool and LiveSchool. PowerSchool is our student information system where you can go to check your child's progress on a regular basis. LiveSchool is our schoolwide behavior management system where you will be able to see how your scholar is behaving and you will have the capability to communicate directly with your child's teacher through the platform's chat feature.



What do we promise for you Scholar's Educational experience?

The Trix Academy's faculty and staff recognize that elementary and middle school is a special time in the lives of children. Our goal is to ensure that your scholar has a well-rounded learning experience that helps them to succeed academically, socially and emotionally. We have crafted a rigorous daily academic schedule and some exciting enrichment opportunities that will be forthcoming.

I am so elated to partner with and serve you as we 'Courageously Soar' this year, developing and empowering strong Falcons!!

Mrs. Elizabeth Van Hoesen

Mrs. Elizabeth Van Hoesen
Trix Academy Principal
e.vanhoesen@mecc-academies.org



20045 Joann Ave, Detroit, MI
48205

(313) 426-1020



8/7: Mandatory Kindergarten Orientation 4 pm - 6 pm

8/18: First day of school

8/21: Back-to-School Bash 4 pm- 6 pm

September

9/9 McTeacher Fundraiser Night (Gratiot McDonalds)

9/24 Student Orientation/Curriculum Night

Arrival and Dismissal

ARRIVAL

Scholars may enter the main entrance of the building (door 1) at 7:45 am each morning. Scholars will enter the building and wait in the lunchroom with the supervision of a Trix Staff member. Breakfast will begin at this time. Our instructional day begins at 8:05. Students are considered tardy at 8:30 am

DISMISSAL

Dismissal starts at 3:30 pm. **Early pick-ups hinder your scholar's academic progression because they will miss important instruction. There will be no scholars released between 3:00 pm and 3:30 pm. All early pick-ups must occur before 3:00 pm.**

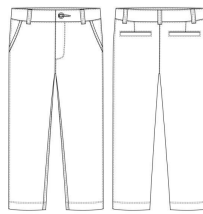
All scholars will be dismissed from the outside. All parents may pick scholars up at the school's exits on Joann St.

Scholars will be released to the parent pick-up line at 3:30 pm. Walkers will be released at 3:25 pm.

Uniform Policy and Expectations

2025-2026

Trix Academy K - 8



Kindergarten - 3rd
Grade:
RED shirts
Black or Khaki pants
Black sweaters are
allowed NO HOODS

4th and 5th Grades:
GRAY shirts
Black or Khaki
pants
Black sweaters are
allowed NO
HOODS

6th - 8th Grades:
WHITE or BLACK
Shirts
Black sweaters are
allowed NO HOODS
Black or Khaki Pants

Forbidden Items

- T-shirts
- Leggings
- Jeggings
- Hoodies
- Jogging pants
- Basketball shorts
- Crocs
- Any sweater other than black

P and D Uniform

20936 Kelly Rd, Eastpoint, MI 48021
586-777-3801

E and S Apparel

18986 Schafer Hwy, Detroit, MI 48235
313-342-7100

Forman Mills

10000 8 Mile Rd, Detroit, MI 48234
313-456-9698

Trix 2025-2026 School Calendar

Trix

25-26 School Year

192 Staff Days

Approved January 8, 2025

181	Scholar Days
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JULY							AUGUST							SEPTEMBER							OCTOBER							NOVEMBER							DECEMBER						
S	M	T	W	R	F	S	S	M	T	W	R	F	S	S	M	T	W	R	F	S	S	M	T	W	R	F	S	S	M	T	W	R	F								
		1	2	3	4	5						1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4					1		1	2	3	4	5	6		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31			
							31																				30														
6/16-7/18 Summer Advantage 🍓							8/1 New Teacher Institute							9/1 Labor Day Holiday							10/1 Count Day							11/4 Staff Training, No School							12/4 Parent Teacher Conferences 🍓 4-6 pm						
7/4 Independence Day, Holiday							8/4-8/8 Content Teacher Training							9/18 Parent Teacher Conferences 🍓 4-6 pm							10/13 Staff Training, No School							11/26-11/28 Thanksgiving Holiday							12/5 Progress Reports 🌟, Parent Teacher Conferences 1-4pm, and half Day for Scholars						
7/15-7/18 Leadership Institute							8/11-8/15 School Training							9/19 Progress Reports 🌟, Parent Teacher Conferences 1-4pm, and half Day for Scholars							10/17 End of Quarter 1 ✂														12/22-12/31 Winter Holiday						
7/31 New Teacher Institute							8/18 First Day of School							10/24 Report Cards Go Home																											
							8/29 No School - Holiday																																		
JANUARY							FEBRUARY							MARCH							APRIL							MAY							JUNE						
S	M	T	W	R	F	S	S	M	T	W	R	F	S	S	M	T	W	R	F	S	S	M	T	W	R	F	S	S	M	T	W	R	F								
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																											31														
1/1-1/2 Winter Holiday							2/11 Count Day							3/20 End of Quarter 3 ✂							4/1-4/3 Spring Break							5/1 Progress Reports 🌟							6/9 Last Day of School for Scholars						
1/9 End of Quarter 2 ✂							No School 2/16-2/19 Winter Break, No School, 2/20, Staff Training, No School							3/27 Report Cards Go Home														5/1 Parent Teacher Conferences							6/9 End of Quarter 4 ✂						
1/16 Report Cards Go Home							2/26 Parent Teacher Conferences 🍓 4-6 pm							3/20 Staff Training, No School														5/25 Memorial Day Holiday							6/10 Last Day of School for Teachers						
1/19 Martin Luther King Day Holiday							2/27 Progress Reports 🌟, Parent Teacher Conferences 1-4pm, and half Day for Scholars							3/30-3/31 Spring Break																					6/11 Report Cards Mailed						
																																			6/19 Juneteenth Holiday						

10 Tips for Parents

For even more ways to help your 6th grade student succeed this year, visit www.learnmoreindiana.org/6thgrade.

- 1 HAVE HIGH EXPECTATIONS.** It is important for your child to know that you value education. Has your child completed a Graduation Plan? (See pages 11-12 for details.) Make sure your student understands that you expect him or her to work hard, graduate and continue learning after high school.
- 2 CHECK GRADES AND SCORES.** Your son or daughter may say things are "fine" at school, but don't stop checking grades on report cards, progress reports, assignments, tests and class projects. Most schools let you check your child's progress online. Plus, you can view and analyze ISTEP+ scores at www.doe.in.gov/isteparentnetwork.
- 3 TALK TO TEACHERS.** Teachers know how hard students are working, how well they are behaving, the quality of their homework and what areas need improvement. E-mail or call your child's teachers to check in periodically. Ask how your child is learning what's in Indiana's Academic Standards.
- 4 DON'T BUCKLE ON HOMEWORK.** If your child is not studying at home, ask why and check with teachers. It's tough to hold the line, but making sure your child does his or her homework and studies is crucial for academic success.
- 5 ASK FOR HELP.** Students who are struggling in a particular class may need extra help. Contact your school and make sure your child gets the support he or she needs.
Catching a problem area early can make a big difference.
- 6 MATH MATTERS.** Math exercises your brain and trains your mind to think logically. Every occupation uses math in some way, and the fastest-growing, highest-paid jobs rely heavily on math skills. Even if your child struggles with math, don't reinforce the myth that math is hard — enforce the fact that math is power! Learn more at www.IndianaMath.gov.
- 7 GET INVOLVED.** Volunteer, participate in parent-teacher organizations and attend school events. Your involvement will have a big impact on your child's education. Most schools offer parent nights or teacher-parent sessions that provide great information. Check your school's calendar for details.
- 8 PLAN FOR THE FUTURE.** College is an important investment that will pay back for a lifetime. Call Learn More Indiana at 1-800-992-2076 to order a free copy of *Indiana's Guide to Paying for College: An Introduction for Families and Students*. Apply for the Twenty-first Century Scholars GEAR UP program (www.scholars.in.gov or 1-888-528-4719). Open a savings account and investigate opportunities like Indiana's 529 college savings plans (www.collegechoiceplan.com), which can help pay for education after high school. Remember, a few dollars saved each month now can make a big difference in the future.
- 9 LEAD BY EXAMPLE.** Show your child firsthand the importance of education. Take a class. Finish your diploma. Earn a college degree. Seeing you demonstrate a personal commitment to lifelong learning sends your child a powerful message about the importance of education.
- 10 LEARN MORE.** Learn More Indiana has free information to help Indiana students and families explore careers, prepare and pay for college, stay on track for academic success, and more.



Show your commitment to education and support your local schools.

PURCHASE AN EDUCATION LICENSE PLATE.

For details, visit www.doe.in.gov/garfield.

Learn More Indiana is a partnership of the Indiana Commission for Higher Education, the Indiana Department of Education, the Indiana Department of Workforce Development and the State Student Assistance Commission of Indiana, with additional support from Indiana's colleges and universities, USA Funds, and Lumina Foundation for Education — all working together to provide information that supports learning.





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The Leadership Team



Elizabeth Van Hoesen- Principal

My name is Elizabeth Van Hoesen, and I am the principal at Trix Academy. I am so excited to grow even more this year with your scholars. During my first 7 years of life, I resided a few miles west of Trix.

This is my 18th year in education. I earned her Master's in Elementary Education from the University of Phoenix and my Bachelor's in Film and Video Studies from the University of Michigan. I have worked in Detroit, MI for my entire career. For my first 8 years in education, I was a 3rd and 4th grade teacher. I have also served as a K-5 STEM Instructional Coach. As an Instructional

Coach, I created several school-wide math initiatives that have both raised test scores and excitement around Mathematics. I have an endorsement in Math and Educational Technology. My passion for math literacy has inspired me to create math instructional videos for educators and parents. I look forward to continuing academic initiatives to Trix and bring the joy back in learning!



Karen Orpe (Ms. Orpe) - Assistant Principal

Hello Trix Academy Families! I am Karen Orpe, the Assistant Principal. I am proud to have served as the Instructional Coach for three years at Trix Academy and I taught Middle School Social Studies for 18 years, in Los Angeles. While I am a recent resident of the state, I am so happy to continue to serve families and scholars in the pursuit of an excellent education. I believe a great education provides a strong foundation for future success and I am excited to share that opportunity with your scholars. I also love supporting educators to grow as professionals so that they can help our scholars soar. I am grateful for my fiancé, two children, family, and friends who help to support me in my mission. Here's to a fantastic school year!



Paula Hayes (Ms. Hayes) - Dean of

Culture

Hello! My name is Ms. Paula Hayes and I currently serve as the Dean of Climate and Culture for Trix Academy. I have been with Trix Academy for 6 years and have worked for Phalen Leadership Academies for 7 years. I have 25 years of educational experience. I expect to continue to grow and learn so that I can fully serve all scholars better. I am extremely passionate about working with all children and I am truly thrilled about being a part of the Trix family.



Sheilene Smith (Mrs. Smith) - Director of

Operations

Hello Trix Families, my name is Sheilene Smith and I am passionate about education and maintaining high standards of excellence within the school system. Over the years of working for various charter management organizations, I have gained and developed the importance of being a team player in the education sector.

In my role as Operations Manager at Trix Academy, I have over 25 years of combined experience in the field of education: I bring ten years of experience as a classroom teacher and five years of experience as a school district Business Manager, and 10 years of experience in various roles within Administration. It is my goal to ensure that Trix Academy runs efficiently with everything that the scholar needs, and it is a place where you are proud to bring your scholars.

Restorative Practices at Trix Academy

This year Trix Academy will engage in Restorative Practices for scholars, families, and Staff. The Dean of Culture will lead the Restorative Practice initiatives throughout the year.. This research-based conflict management practice will be used to build social and emotional learning for staff, scholars, and their families. Here is a small sample of the process:

SAMPLE CIRCLE PROCESS OUTLINE

- State the purpose of the Circle
- Discuss Ground Rules (suggested examples):
 - Listen and speak with respect
 - Only tell your truth
 - Use school/org-appropriate language
 - Respect people's privacy; only tell your own story
- Use of a talking piece
 - Significance of the object used
 - Speak only when you have the talking piece
 - No cross talk of any kind, verbal or nonverbal
 - Facilitator may need to speak (if time is an issue)
 - Share the time fairly
 - You may pass and we'll come back to you
- Questions / Rounds
- Closing the Circle

Some useful questions for general issues (not in response to a specific issue)

1. *Start with something positive like "what is one good thing that has happened today?"*
2. *What are the main issues that are causing us to be here today and what is one thing you have done to maintain this as a problem?*
3. *What are you willing to do to make this better, not just tomorrow but for the long term?*

FORMAL RESTORATIVE CONFERENCES

These are for the most serious offenses. The main difference is the amount of planning. The conference facilitator must meet with all parties in advance of the conference to explain the structure of the meeting and to ensure that the offender has taken full responsibility for his or her offense and will not re-victimize the people he or she has already hurt. They answer questions, anticipate special needs, and arrange a place to hold the conference. Also, it is encouraged to share a snack and "break bread" together afterward. The facilitator may be a neutral party (including volunteers trained in restorative conferencing). This is the main focus of our Level 2 workshops.



This year Trix Academy will engage in daily social-emotional learning lessons, activities, and/or discussions during our daily morning meetings. Our goal is to continue to cultivate the whole child by addressing any social-emotional trauma they may have experienced during this pandemic. We are excited about the work we are about to dive into with our staff, scholars, and families. Please take a look at some of the SEL Core Competencies we will engage in this year.

SEL Core Competencies

Self-Management

- Regulating one's emotions
- Managing stress
- Self-control
- Self-motivation
- Setting and achieving goals

Self-Awareness

- Labeling one's feelings
- Relating feelings and thoughts to behavior
- Accurate self-assessment of strengths and challenges
- Self-efficacy
- Optimism

Social Awareness

- Perspective taking
- Empathy
- Respecting diversity
- Understanding social and ethical norms of behavior
- Recognizing family, school, and community supports

Relationship Skills

- Building relationships with diverse individuals and groups
- Communicating clearly
- Working cooperatively
- Resolving conflicts
- Seeking help



Responsible Decision-Making

- Considering the well-being of self and others
- Recognizing one's responsibility to behave ethically
- Basing decisions on safety, social and ethical considerations
- Evaluating realistic consequences of various actions
- Making constructive, safe choices for self, relationships and school

Sources: CASEL, Acknowledge Alliance



Follow Us on **Social Media** & Let's Get Connected



facebook.com/TrixAcademy



instagram.com/platrixacademy

Keeping up with all the news and updates related to Trix Academy has never been easier. Follow us on social media to stay in the loop on all the latest developments, announcements and more. We post timely updates and interesting content that will keep you informed and engaged. Stay connected with our team by following us on Instagram

Trix.MECC-Academies.org