



HADDON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Broadcast

Dear Haddon Township School District Community,

I hope this message finds you well as we eagerly prepare and approach the start of another new school year! We are working hard to make preparations for another year's journey of growth, opportunity, and educational experiences for all. Below, you will find several important updates and key information to ensure that you and your family are well-prepared for the year ahead.

Welcome Back to School

We are eager to welcome back our students and staff as we begin the 2024-2025 school year. Please note that Tuesday, September 3rd, and Wednesday, September 4th, are designated as full-day professional development sessions for our teachers.

The first day of school for students will be Thursday, September 5th, with an early dismissal. A full day of instruction for all students and staff will follow on **Friday, September 6th.**

Back-to-School Nights

We encourage all parents and guardians to attend our upcoming Back-to-School Nights, which offer valuable opportunities to meet with teachers and learn more about the academic year. The dates for each school are as follows:

RMS: Wednesday, September 11th
Van Sciver: Thursday, September 12th
Edison: Tuesday, September 17th
Strawbridge: Wednesday, September 18th
Jennings: Tuesday, September 24th
Stoy: Wednesday, September 25th
HTHS: Thursday, September 26th

Calendar Adjustment

Please be aware that **a calendar adjustment is anticipated** and that the final day of school and high school graduation will occur on **Wednesday, June 18th**. Further details will be shared as they become available, but please mark your calendars now.

Welcoming New Staff

We are pleased to welcome Veronica Dicrecchio, who will join Van Sciver School as a Special Education Teacher, and Ohla Sofienko, who will serve as our new Mandarin Chinese Teacher at HTHS/RMS and District ESL Teacher. We look forward to their contributions to our educational community. These individuals were recently hired at our July meeting of the Board of Education.

4th Grade Instrumental Band Program

Following recent information in *Retrospect*, there has been some concern regarding the 4th-grade instrumental band program. I want to clarify that the information reported was part of a **preliminary discussion in a work session**, not during the actual meeting, and does not fully reflect our **final** decisions or plans. **We are actively working on developing creative support in this area.** Typically, this program does not begin until October, so there is still plenty of time to problem-solve and communicate on this topic. We are committed to providing instrumental musical education for our 4th-grade students this year, although the program may be adjusted due to funding limitations.

Bond Construction Progress I am pleased to report that our bond construction projects are progressing as planned. We anticipate that **all elementary all-purpose room floors will be completed by the first day of school.** Additionally, we expect the HTHS music wing to be free from water infiltration, which will allow for uninterrupted instruction in this area.

Phishing Scam Alert

Please be aware that a phishing scam has targeted some members of our community. Automated calls to parents falsely claim that a child did not pass the previous school year and prompt the recipient to press "1" to speak with the district Superintendent. These calls are not from our office, and I urge you to ignore them and report any incidents.

Out of District Tuition

The cost of out-of-district tuition has been adjusted to **\$7,500 annually**, with a discounted rate of \$6,500 available for siblings, subject to application and student interview. This adjustment supports our ongoing commitment to maintaining high-quality educational programs, boosting enrollment, and supporting our budget.

New District Website and Facilities Use System

We are transitioning to a new website platform on August 15th, and a new facilities use system, **Operation Hero**, has replaced School Dude. We believe these changes will enhance communication and accessibility across the district. I will provide additional information in the coming weeks.

Challenge Day

We are excited to announce that Challenge Day will be held at HTHS and RMS on **October 9th and 10th.** This program is designed to foster respect, connection, and a positive school culture. Supported by community partners and local businesses, Challenge Day will play a key role in empowering our students and reinforcing our values as a district. More information will be forthcoming, but please preview the link below.

<https://www.challengeday.org/>

School Funding Advocacy

As we continue to navigate school funding challenges, I encourage all community members to stay informed and involved. Board of Education President Ms. Kellie Hinkle is actively leading advocacy efforts. It is important to note that our extraordinary aid for July was **\$187,000 less than anticipated, which will impact our planning for the 2025-2026** school year. While this doesn't affect the 2024-2025 school year, it underscores the importance of staying engaged and informed as we plan ahead.

HTHS AP Exam Success

I am pleased to share that our students at HTHS achieved outstanding results on their AP exams this year. Scores were excellent in all academic areas, but notably, in Mathematics, 80% of students earned a score of 3 or higher, with 33 students achieving the highest score of 5. This success is a testament to the universal hard work of our students and the dedication of our faculty, congratulations!

Injury Prevention

I've attached a flyer with information about a **cost-free event** for athlete injury prevention, which is **available to all** Haddon Township youth coaches on an important topic. Thank you to Three Dimensional Physical Therapy for supporting our athletes, coaches, and community.

Thank you for your attention to these updates. I look forward to another productive and rewarding school year. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or require further information. I hope that you all enjoy a relaxing last few weeks of summer and have a great day.

-Sincerely,

Robert J. Fisicaro, Ed. D. Superintendent