



# HADDON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

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## Broadcast

Dear Haddon Township School District Community,

It is my pleasure to greet you with this return-to-school update. Please see the following information from around the district and have a great night!

### **Bond Referendum Project**

I am pleased to report that our highest-priority project this summer has been successfully completed. To date, we have not experienced any water infiltration in the high school music rooms, and we are preparing to transition into Phase 2 of the project, which includes renovations.

### **Elementary Instrumental Music Program**

As many of you know, we have been working diligently to find a solution to provide instrumental music instruction for all 4th and 5th-grade students, and I'm happy to share that we've found a path forward. Since these offerings are not part of the Common Core standards, the district is not legally required to provide them. This permits us to categorize the program as an enrichment activity, allowing us to utilize funds collected from various enrichment programs over the last few years.

These enrichment funds are part of the district's enterprise accounts, which can be solely used for extracurricular programs that go beyond the requirements of the typical school day. Soon, a qualified music consultant will assist the HTSD staff part-time (3 hours per day, five days per week) to support 4th and 5th-grade instrumental instruction. After working closely with our music department leadership, I'm confident that this plan will provide a strong introductory learning experience for our 4th graders while maintaining instructional continuity for our 5th graders.

### **Gifted and Talented Program**

We have also completed and formalized plans to provide Gifted Education for identified students as required by the Department of Education. Our School District Media Specialist, Ms. Amanda Tagmire, has assumed responsibilities in this area. You can find detailed information about this year's program and its delivery, which has been updated on our website: [2024 Gifted & Talented QUEST Program](#).

## **Student Representatives**

At tonight's Board of Education meeting at 7 PM, I will be pleased to introduce this year's student delegates. Student Council President Joe Sheehan and Vice President Maura Tomashek will join the Board for the 2024-2025 school year. Both individuals have distinguished themselves in academics, extracurricular activities, leadership, and service, and we are excited to have them contribute their perspectives. Incorporating student voices into board meetings has been a successful initiative in the past, and I am confident that Joe and Maura will continue the tradition of adding valuable insights, building on the important contributions of their predecessors.

## **Synthetic Turf Selection**

The district is still selecting the specific type of synthetic turf to be used for the new synthetic field. Our goal is to choose a solution that balances environmental sustainability with affordability. In the coming weeks, we will meet with a committee of internal and external collaborators and visit local high schools and universities that have recently installed similar fields. Additionally, we will need to decide on the timing of the installation, carefully considering the pros and cons of a timeline that would render the field unavailable for several months. Please stay tuned for more updates as we move forward with this project.

## **Back to School**

Over the past few weeks, I have had the pleasure of attending each of our Back-to-School Nights. I would like to commend our teachers and administrators for a successful and productive return to school. I am equally grateful for the strong parent participation and support. We are fortunate to educate children in a district where the partnership between home and school serves as a cornerstone of our success. I look forward to attending the remaining Back-to-School Nights next week and want to thank you all in advance for your continued support, which has contributed to such a smooth and positive start to the school year.

## **Contract Settlement**

I am pleased to announce that the Board of Education has reached a 5-year agreement with the Haddon Township Education Association (HTEA). Through the collective bargaining process, both sides worked productively and collaboratively to agree on a new contract that will provide continuity of services and compensation **through June 2029**. I commend both leadership teams for their dedication and commitment to this process. It has been a privilege to be part of such a positive and productive experience. I anticipate that the HTEA contract will receive unanimous approval from the Board of Education this evening following its recent ratification by the HTEA membership.

## **Upcoming Events**

Haddon Township Hawks Football – Come out and support the Hawks as they defend their 2-0 record tomorrow at 7 PM on the road against the Pitman Panthers.

HTEF Event – Join us Saturday evening from 4 to 10 PM at the Square to support the Haddon Township Education Foundation (HTEF) and enjoy a great community event.

October 3rd – School will be closed in observance of Rosh Hashanah.

-Sincerely,

Robert J. Fisicaro, Ed. D. Superintendent