



# HADDON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

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## Broadcast

Dear Haddon Township School District Community,

I hope this message finds you well as we approach the end of another successful school year. Please find below important updates from around the district.

### **Final Concerts of the Year**

Join us *tonight at 7:00 PM* for your last chance to see our high school music students perform in their final chorus and band concert of the year. It's always a joyful and uplifting event, and we would love to see you there. Looking ahead, our *final district performance of the year* will take place next *Tuesday, also at 7:00 PM* in the high school auditorium, featuring our elementary students in their annual end-of-year concert.

### **Important Update – 2025–26 Before & After-Care Program**

As we begin to look ahead to the 2025–26 school year, we want to share an important update regarding our **before- and after-care program**. This summer, our Recreation Program has offered a wide range of flexible scheduling options for families — and while we've been proud to provide this level of convenience, the behind-the-scenes logistics have been an extremely heavy lift for our staff. After a thorough review, we've determined that this level of flexibility is **not feasible** to sustain for next year's school-year childcare program.

That said, we are pleased to confirm that we **will be continuing to offer before- and after-care services at all five elementary schools**, with **no price increase** for the 2025–26 school year. In order to make the program manageable and ensure quality service for all families, we will offer the following **three consistent scheduling options** for both the **AM and PM programs**:

Five days/week (Monday–Friday)

Two days/week (Tuesday & Thursday)

Three days/week (Monday, Wednesday & Friday)

We recognize that this may require some adjustments for families. However, we hope that by providing this update **a full three months in advance**, families will have ample time to plan accordingly. We remain committed to providing safe, reliable, and enriching care before and after school, and we appreciate your ongoing support and understanding.

\* Daily drop-ins will still be accepted and billed manually if required on occasion.

## **Budget Planning for 2025–2026**

I've received several questions regarding the status of next year's budget and want to reassure the community that there are **no additional reductions in services** beyond what was shared at our public budget hearing. For your convenience, the presentation is reattached to this email, and the video of the budget presentation is below. As part of that plan, our **4th-grade instrumental music program** is scheduled to continue at a similar level as this year, with the support of an externally employed hourly music consultant. However, a key piece of our budget remains unresolved. **We are still awaiting confirmation from Trenton regarding our participation in the Tax Levy Incentive Program, which directly impacts our final budget approval.** This delay has caused a pause in some areas of planning — for instance, instrument selection for 4th grade will take place in **September**.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-8jBrFv6n8&t=1442s>

## **Pride Parade Participation**

Over the past few days, I've received questions from community members regarding the district's participation in the upcoming Pride Parade. I appreciate the outreach and would like to offer some context. Haddon Township's Board of Education, PTAs, and school representatives will be participating alongside more than 70 other school districts from across the region. This decision reflects our ongoing commitment to fostering an inclusive environment where every student feels respected, supported, and valued. Our participation is not about promoting, opposing, or endorsing any political or personal beliefs. Instead, it aligns with our district's core mission — **to ensure that all students experience a sense of belonging and significance**. By being present, we are simply supporting students who have chosen to take part in the parade, consistent with our district values of inclusivity. We understand and respect that our community holds a variety of perspectives, and we remain committed to maintaining open, thoughtful, and respectful dialogue.

## **HT Athletics**

Best wishes and heartfelt congratulations to all of our remaining competitive athletes and teams. Your commitment, talent, and resilience continue to make us proud.

This week is filled with exciting opportunities:

- **Girls' Softball** will compete in the South Jersey sectional semi-final today. Congratulations to **Jordan Strauss**, who recently broke the all-time strikeout record in Haddon Township softball history—an incredible achievement.
- **Track athletes** who have qualified for the *Meet of Champions* will be competing today—best of luck as you represent HT on the biggest stage in New Jersey high school track.
- **Boys Tennis** continues its historic run, having now won **five consecutive sectional championships**. The team will compete in the *state semifinals* tomorrow and—if successful—the *state finals* later that same day.
- **HT Rowing** heads to the **U.S. Rowing National Championships** in Florida. Our student-athletes will depart Wednesday morning, ready to compete among the nation's best.

To all of our Hawks—thank you for representing Haddon Township with pride, sportsmanship, and excellence. No matter the outcomes, we are proud of you and confident that you will, as always, fly high.

## Upcoming Construction and Renovations at the High School

In the coming weeks, you will begin to notice a significant amount of construction and demolition activity around various parts of our high school campus. Renovations to the **boys' and girls' locker rooms** and the **restroom facilities beneath the stadium bleachers** are scheduled to begin shortly. As part of this work, dumpsters and construction equipment will be placed in key areas around the building. While we understand that these will be an eyesore during the final weeks of school, beginning this work now is essential to avoiding project delays in the fall and ensuring our facilities are ready for students next school year. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work to improve our campus for the benefit of all students and staff.

## Summer Plans and Beyond

The administrative team will be working over the summer to review several key areas, as education continues to change and evolve at a rapid pace. One of the areas we will be examining is our current cell phone policy, which requires phones to be off and away at all times during the school day—except during high school lunches. **This policy has been increasingly difficult to enforce, and we recognize the need to reassess it.** We will also continue to explore opportunities related to artificial intelligence, along with other emerging areas, to ensure we remain current and responsive to educational advancements.

The Board of Education will continue to advocate for fair school funding measures and will begin considering elementary grade-level realignment options for the 2026–27 school year. This is not only a step toward greater financial efficiency, but also a strategy aimed at improving the overall quality of the educational experience for both students and teachers. In the fall, we will form a small committee composed of teachers, administrators, and community members. We will be deliberate and thoughtful in our steps forward, knowing this topic is sensitive and that there are a variety of perspectives and viewpoints to consider.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support as we complete another successful school year. I look forward to seeing many of you at our moving-up ceremonies, promotions, and High School graduation and wish you all a great day.

-Sincerely,

Robert J. Fisicaro, Ed. D. Superintendent