



HADDON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Broadcast

Dear Haddon Township School District Community,

I hope this message finds you well and enjoying the start of the school year. We are now in the full swing of things across the district, and it has been wonderful to see our students, staff, and families settling into routines. Below are several important updates and opportunities to share with our school community.

School Closure Tomorrow, September 23rd – Rosh Hashanah

A reminder that all Haddon Township Schools will be closed tomorrow, Tuesday, September 23, in observance of Rosh Hashanah. Normal operations will resume on Wednesday, September 24.

Early Literacy Screenings (K–3)

This year, we are implementing early literacy screenings for all students in Kindergarten through Grade 3 using the DIBELS® (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills). These screenings strengthen our commitment to literacy and are now a state mandate.

- The screenings help us identify students who may benefit from extra support early in their learning journey, ensuring every child has the tools to grow into a confident reader.
- Please note: these screenings are not evaluations for a disability. They are one of many tools we use to track progress and guide instruction.
- Families of students in Grades 1–3 will receive results in late fall. Kindergarten results will be shared in the winter, after students have had time to acclimate.

Holocaust Educational Event – Hate Ends Now

We are honored to bring an important Holocaust educational event to our community on Friday, October 10. *Hate Ends Now* is an immersive, traveling exhibit housed inside an exact replica of a World War II-era cattle car used to transport the Jewish population and other targeted groups to concentration and death camps.

- The interactive experience includes original Holocaust artifacts and powerful storytelling designed to inspire unity and a commitment to preventing hate.
- This event will be open to the community from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM. Please see the attached flyer for details.

International Exchange Program – Host Family Needed

Our international exchange program continues to enrich our high school. This year, we have already welcomed and placed two female students who are integrating well. We have received one final request: an agency is seeking a host family for an 11th-grade student beginning in January for the second semester (about a four-month experience). Hosting an exchange student not only supports enrollment but also provides our students with meaningful cross-cultural experiences. If you or someone you know may be interested, please contact the agency directly. A flyer with more information is attached.

Early Notice – 2026–27 School Calendar

Looking ahead, please be aware that next year's school calendar may present some unique challenges, as Labor Day falls on Monday, September 7, 2026. While the calendar has not yet been formally adopted, it is likely that:

- Teachers will return on Tuesday, September 1
- Students will begin on Thursday, September 3, prior to Labor Day

I realize this may affect summer vacation planning, so I wanted to provide as much advance notice as possible.

Mental Health/Critical Support Resources for Students and Staff

I also want to take this opportunity to remind all parents of two important resources the district offers to support student and staff mental health:

- Clayful App: All students in Grades 6–9 have access to real-time text support from trained professionals through the Clayful app. This service requires parental consent but has already shown significant value in providing immediate emotional support.

<https://www.clayfulhealth.com/the-clayful-coaches>

- Care Solace: All students and staff members have access to Care Solace, a service that connects individuals to critical support providers and resources free of charge.

Mental health and other challenges remain prevalent, and providing these resources is an important part of our commitment to supporting the whole child. We encourage families not to hesitate in making use of these tools.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support. Of special note, our Kindergarten class welcomed 174 new students and families this year, which is the largest in the district; a clear reflection of the positive reputation and strong attributes that make Haddon Township such a desirable community for families. Together, we are building a strong and vibrant school community, and I look forward to the year ahead. It is an honor to play a role in both your individual successes and our collective journey. Wishing you all a wonderful day.

-Sincerely,

Robert J. Fisicaro, Ed. D. Superintendent