



HADDON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Broadcast

August 3, 2026

Dear Haddon Township School District Community,

Every year, the first Monday of August feels like an important milestone. While many families are still enjoying vacations, time at the shore, summer camps, and opportunities to slow down for a few more weeks, August also signals that another school year is beginning to take shape. Across our district, our administrators, teachers, support staff, custodians, maintenance team, office personnel, and countless others are already hard at work preparing our schools for another outstanding year. This year marks my 12th year as a school district superintendent and my seventh year serving our community. It continues to be one of the greatest honors of my professional life. Over the past several years, our district has accomplished a great deal together. We have expanded opportunities for students, strengthened academic programs, invested in our facilities, attracted outstanding educators, and continued to build upon a culture that values both excellence and belonging. We have celebrated remarkable accomplishments in our classrooms, on our stages, in athletic competition, and through the countless acts of kindness, service, and connection that define our community. At the same time, we have not been without challenges. We have navigated reductions in state aid, rising operational costs, staffing shortages, and the rapidly changing landscape of technology and artificial intelligence. Yet through every challenge, our community has demonstrated resilience, partnership, creativity, and an unwavering commitment to doing what is best for children. Those qualities continue to make Haddon Township a truly special place. The start of a new school year always brings a renewed sense of optimism. We look forward to opening our doors once again and welcoming every student and staff member back to a place where they are known, valued, challenged, and supported. Please note the following updates:

School Calendar

Our first day back for staff will be Tuesday, September 1. Students will begin the school year with a half-day on Thursday, September 3, followed by their first full day of school on Friday, September 4.

Summer Programs

Although school has been out for students, our campuses have been anything but quiet. One of the highlights of the summer was our Second Annual Junior Police Academy. This year's academy included 60 cadets who were selected to participate in this outstanding, cost-free program sponsored by the Haddon Township Police Department. The program concluded with a wonderful graduation ceremony last Friday, celebrating the hard work, commitment, and growth of every participant. I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the Haddon Township Police Department, the officers who dedicated their time, our families, and especially our students. Watching these young people challenge themselves, develop leadership skills, build confidence, and strengthen relationships throughout the week was inspiring. Our appreciation also extends to everyone who helped make our many other summer programs successful, including our Summer Enrichment Program, Extended School Year Program, Right at School, All Sports Camp at Strawbridge School, now in its second year, and the many athletic camps hosted throughout the district. Our schools have been filled with students learning, competing, creating, and building friendships.

Looking Ahead

Every year, our district establishes priorities that will guide our work. In a world that is becoming more dependent on technology and artificial intelligence, we believe that human connection has never been more valuable. This year, we will continue placing an intentional emphasis on fostering human connection and helping young people develop the communication, empathy, collaboration, and interpersonal skills that technology will never replace. At the same time, we remain committed to raising academic rigor while creating the right balance with technology. Technology can certainly offer incredible tools, and we will continue to embrace innovations that genuinely enhance teaching and learning. At the same time, we believe there are diminishing returns, and even significant risks, when anything becomes out of balance. Our goal is not to eliminate technology, but to use it thoughtfully and intentionally while protecting the human interactions that remain at the heart of a great education.

Human Resources and Budget

We will continue maximizing our existing staff resources while exploring creative ways to provide additional support for students despite ongoing financial challenges. Among those efforts is the continuation of our partnership with the New Jersey Tutoring Corps, which provides additional elementary mathematics support through a program made possible in part by philanthropic funding. We are also exploring practical, low-cost opportunities to strengthen life skills, character development, and student well-being at both the middle school and high school levels while continuing to seek shared-service partnerships with neighboring districts that allow us to maximize every taxpayer dollar.

Math Acceleration

One exciting academic enhancement this year involves our middle school mathematics program. For many years, our traditional pathway, Algebra I in eighth grade followed by Geometry in ninth grade, has served students well. Beginning this year, however, we are pleased to offer a new acceleration opportunity for our highest-performing eighth-grade mathematics students. Through a data-informed selection process coordinated by our middle school administration, selected students will have the opportunity to complete both Algebra I and Geometry during eighth grade. Students choosing this accelerated pathway will begin their world language coursework in ninth grade rather than eighth grade.

Facilities and Bond Projects

Construction continues to move forward throughout the district. We are excited that renovations will soon be complete for our new Emerging Technologies Lab, art classrooms, and two additional classrooms at the middle school. These projects will provide modern learning environments that support creativity, innovation, and hands-on learning. As with most large construction projects, however, we have also encountered some unexpected challenges. Due to project costs, the planned field improvements originally scheduled for Lower Recchino have been shifted to Van Sciver School. Additionally, construction of our new High School Wellness Center has experienced delays after environmental testing identified residual motor oil beneath the site from the former automotive garage. While this was certainly disappointing news, proper environmental remediation is the only responsible path forward. We are working closely with environmental specialists to ensure the site is fully cleaned, remediated, and safe before construction resumes.

Growing Enrollment

One statistic that continues to encourage us is the growth of our youngest learners. Our incoming kindergarten class has now grown to nearly 160 students, an outstanding sign for the future of our district. It tells us that young families continue choosing Haddon Township because they value outstanding public schools, friendly neighborhoods, and a community that places children first. Healthy enrollment in our early grades is one of the strongest indicators of a thriving school district, and we are grateful for the trust families continue to place in us.

2026 and Beyond

As society changes, education must also continue to evolve. Our responsibility is to thoughtfully embrace positive change while remaining grounded in the values and traditions that have always made Haddon Township such a special place to learn and grow. We will continue to ask ourselves difficult questions, look for creative solutions, and challenge ourselves to best prepare young people for a future that none of us can fully predict. Thank you for your continued trust, your partnership, and your belief in our schools. It is an honor to serve as your superintendent, and I look forward to traveling another school year alongside all of you. Enjoy these remaining weeks of summer, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back very soon.

-Sincerely,

Robert J. Fisicaro, Ed. D. Superintendent