



# HADDON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

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## Broadcast

Dear Haddon Township School District Community,

Good afternoon and Happy Friday. After last night's meeting of the Board of Education, it is my pleasure to provide you with a summary of the following district updates. Attached to this email is a copy of the presentation utilized to distribute this information, and a recording of the meeting can be found in two parts below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EqEDT4Z2mWo>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1oLcpJQuX4Y>

### **Bond Referendum Updates**

As the Board continues to work through a series of ideas and potential projects for a referendum, a new timeline has been adopted.

January- April- The scope of work will be finalized and prepared for community engagement.

April-May - Community feedback and listening sessions, both virtual and in-person, will be scheduled.

September- Scope will be finalized with Board action and sent to the State of New Jersey for approval.

January- February 2024- A promotional campaign and referendum website will be developed.

March 12th, 2024- A community referendum vote is planned.

### **Parent Parking/Bicycle Safety**

In recent weeks I have become increasingly concerned with cars frequently parked illegally at dismissal times around our schools. When individuals choose to park in areas marked "No Parking Here to Corner" in areas marked with a yellow curb within 50 feet of a stop sign, this creates a hazard for students riding bicycles because it impairs their vision. Furthermore, I have noticed students riding without helmets, ignoring stop signs, and riding in the middle of a busy road such as MacArthur Blvd. In the coming weeks, RMS and HTHS staff will be addressing students on the topic of bicycle safety, but I request that all parents **be mindful of parking only in legal spots at all times**. Thank you very much for your willingness to work together in this area.

### **Pre-K Expansion Pause**

Despite our invitation to participate in New Jersey's Full Day Pre-School Expansion, we are NOT planning on applying for this grant in September of 2023 for **two** primary reasons:

1. Due to a lack of space, we **cannot** accommodate a full grade level of students for Full Day Implementation. Depending on how many classrooms we choose to utilize, only 50-90 students will be able to participate in the program, which means almost half of the grade level section would have to be turned away or educated off-premises after a lottery selection.
2. After two years of aligning resources to help students recover from the pandemic, we have "promises to keep" with kindergarten expansion and overall quality improvement. **We are currently planning a cost-free full-day kindergarten program for next year with additional support and instructional time for students.** In summary, quality improvement must occur in our kindergarten program before moving forward with Pre-K expansion.

In summary, we will continue to provide a tuition-based Pre-K Program and Extended Day Program for next school year. We will re-evaluate New Jersey's Full Day Expansion opportunity when or if we have the space for all students to participate. **An information night for next year's Pre-K program is scheduled for Monday, February 6th, at 7 pm in the Media Center.**

### **High School Orientation**

All parents of 8th-grade students are invited to join us next Wednesday, January 25th, at 7 PM in the High School Cafeteria to learn about the exciting next step in your child's educational journey. We realize that there are several other private high schools in the area with information evenings during this time of the year, and many parents and students will have options for where to attend high school. By joining us next week, we hope you will discover that Haddon Township High School is the best option for your child, and we are eager to share all the exciting offerings ahead.

### **Exchange Students**

Haddon Township High School has successfully placed a handful of international students with host families during the current school year. We currently work with several agencies while hosting students from France, Italy, and Spain. If you are interested in becoming a host family for an exchange student next year, either for a semester or a full year, please email me directly. I will forward information from each agency and student applicant as they arrive. These exchange programs add diversity and cultural value to our high school and enrollment. Thank you for considering this opportunity.

### **School Calendar**

We have completed significant work on the calendar and will soon release a 3-Year school calendar so families will have more advance notice. The principles that guided our decisions are as follows:

#### **Days When the School District will NOT be in Session:**

Labor Day, Thanksgiving & Day After, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Memorial Day, Yom Kippur, Rosh Hashanah, Christmas Eve & Day, New Year's Day, Good Friday, Easter, Independence Day (12 Month Staff)

**Days for Staff In-service and Half Day Staff In-service:**

Columbus/Indigenous Peoples' Day, 1/2 Day prior to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Day, 1/2 Day prior to Presidents' Day, 1/2 Day prior to Memorial Day

**Days that will be In-Session if they fall on a regular weekday for Celebratory and Educational Purposes:**

Veterans' Day, Juneteenth

*Students will have a 180 school day requirement with at least (2) additional snow days built in. If more than (2) days are canceled due to snow, the calendar will indicate ahead of time which days will be designated as make-up days for planning purposes. A Friday night graduation will NOT always be a guarantee, but more than 1-year advance notice will be provided.*

**Special Acknowledgments**

Thank you to the Van Sciver PTA for the generous donation to add playground equipment to the elementary school.

The Board has accepted a retirement notice for Mr. Michael Green, RMS Middle School Teacher, for the year's end. Congratulations, and thank you to Mr. Green.

Laurie Beechman's stage dedication night is scheduled for March 3rd.

HTHS senior Tyler Levins has scored 1,000 career varsity points on the Boys' Basketball Team

Congratulations to elementary students who performed beautifully in our first post-pandemic district-wide elementary winter concert in front of a packed house.

Congratulations to the Boys' and Girls' Swim teams, both of who are poised for the playoffs with marked improvement.

A video presentation honoring the 2022 State Championship Boys' Soccer Team can also be found as part of last night's meeting recording on youtube.

-Sincerely,

Robert J. Fisicaro, Ed. D. Superintendent