



## HADDON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

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### Broadcast

Dear Haddon Township School District Community,

Good Afternoon and Happy Friday.

I trust that this email finds you well. Please see our school district updates below and have a great weekend.

#### **Herren Project/ First Day**

Over the next several weeks and months, you will begin hearing about the Herren Project, which will coincide with our Wellness Week **from March 7th to March 12th**. We recognize the importance of social/emotional learning and are joining many other public schools across the country in the fight for universal mental health for all. Chris Herren has dedicated his adult life's work to spreading his inspiring story and will present it to high school students **on March 15th**. Later that evening, we will be hosting Chris for an encore presentation open to all parents and community members. **I ask you to mark this date of March 15th as a significant event on your calendars and consider attending.** The Herren Project is part of a 3-way sponsorship between the Haddon Education Association, The Haddon Township Educational Foundation, and the Board of Education. <https://thefirstdayfilm.com/>

#### **School Calendar Change**

You may recall that some recent COVID-related scheduling changes resulted in changing a half-student day into a full day, which caused the postponement of a 1/2 staff professional day. Please mark your calendars now that the staff in-service will be made up **on April 14th**, the final day before Spring Break. **April 14th will now be a 1/2 day for students and a full day for staff**, and I will ask the school board to take formal action on this change in February.

#### **Substitute Teachers**

Due to COVID, school districts have struggled to find quality and reliable substitute teachers, and we are no exception. To attract more interest in these positions, **we have raised the daily pay rate for substitute teachers from \$90 daily to \$100**. The rates for a permanent substitute who is relied on to work a 5-day workweek were raised to \$135 from \$125. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a substitute teacher, don't hesitate to contact my administrative assistant, Ms. Amy Ruta, at [Aruta@htsd.us](mailto:Aruta@htsd.us).

#### **Incoming Storm**

Due to the incoming snow, which is expected to produce heavy snow accumulations overnight, **all school-related events are canceled for tomorrow, Saturday, January 29th**. As of now, all games, practices, and activities are still for after school and tonight.

## **COVID Prevention Plans**

I am pleased to report that we have seen a decrease in positive covid cases among staff, students, and community members over the last several weeks. I continue to review our plans and recent adjustments with the New Jersey Department of Education, Department of Health, and our school nurses. We are confident that the recent adjustments made are safe, with strict adherence to proper mask-wearing. The district also would like to encourage parents who choose to have their children vaccinated to be mindful of the date of the second vaccine and the time window for a recommended booster, which according to the medical community, can help prevent serious illness from COVID. Our goal will continue to be the same: **to maximize the amount of in-school learning without interruption while balancing universally recommended safety measures and transmission rate data to make school-related decisions.**

-Sincerely,

Robert J. Fisicaro, Ed. D. Superintendent