



HADDON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Broadcast

Dear Haddon Township School District Community,

Good Afternoon and Happy Friday. I hope you are all doing well. Welcome to the exciting month of December. Please see the below updates from around the district, and have a great weekend.

Grant Announcement-Rohrer Foundation

At December's Board Meeting, **we will formally accept a grant in the amount of \$175,000 from the Rohrer Foundation.** I was notified yesterday that this organization will fully fund our application, which is focused on improving our varsity baseball and softball field conditions, safety enhancements, and more. Please join me in applauding the Rohrer Foundation's continued commitment to our school district and their **profound generosity**. In addition to his business and civic duty successes, William G. Rohrer was a baseball fan and understood how sports can positively influence child development. Through his foundation's current contribution, we will renovate baseball field conditions, augment softball, implement safety poles and netting for both the softball and baseball fields, demolish and renovate the baseball backstop, improve water drainage, and improve spectator seating. All of these improvements will also provide more frequent use of these areas for HTHS, HTAA, and RMS physical education classes and community groups.

Special Board Meeting- Bond Referendum Planning

On December 6th at 6:30 PM in the Media Center, the Board of Education will host a special community engagement session to gather feedback and support for our upcoming referendum, scheduled for March 12th, 2024. If you're planning on attending this evening, please fill out the signup form, which can be found at the link below, so that we can prepare the seating accordingly. There is also a section on the Google Form inviting participants to submit questions before the meeting, which will help us plan accordingly for an efficient use of time. Our architect, Mr. Scott Downie, Spiezle Group, will also be on-site this evening and available to answer your questions.

<https://forms.gle/AbLahpxBwzbMzzXd6>

Bond Referendum Part II

If you have questions or comments about the upcoming referendum but cannot meet next week, please know that another opportunity will occur in January and will most likely be virtual on a date to be determined. In the meantime, **please feel free to submit your questions via email to htBond@htsd.us** anytime, as we are compiling a list of FAQs that will soon be published on our website.

Emergency Notification System

On Monday, December 4th, between 3 PM and 5 PM, we will test our emergency notification system, and everyone should receive both an email and an automated telephone message. If, by chance, you are still waiting to receive this message after 5 PM on Monday, please contact Amy Ruta at Aruta@htsd.us so we can troubleshoot your information in our system. As winter weather approaches, it is important that we are 100% up to date with all parent and staff emails and cell phone numbers so we are prepared for inclement weather adjustments.

School Lunches

Today, I was invited to the 4th-grade lunch with students at Strawbridge School for "Pizza Day." While I enjoyed my pizza lunch, most of our elementary students indicated they preferred the pizza from last year, purchased from a local pizzeria. I attempted a conversation to explain why the whole grain crust, compliant with New Jersey's nutritional guidelines, is a healthier option and why "everything that tastes good is not always good." Nevertheless, we have established an email account for parents and students to share feedback about school lunches, which is lunch@htsd.us. Whitson's Food Services is committed to serving enjoyable lunches but utilizes fresher, less processed, and more natural ingredients whenever possible. As adults, we have more experience in understanding how and why more processed food often tastes better. The lesson of balancing food choices with healthy options is an educational opportunity for all students to learn. These conversations are equally valuable in the lunchroom, classroom, and living room. I certainly give our 4th-grade students much credit for their courageous self-advocacy, another essential generational skill.

-Sincerely,

Robert J. Fisicaro, Ed. D. Superintendent