



HADDON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Broadcast

Dear Haddon Township School District Community,

I trust that this email finds you all well. As we approach winter break, I would like to take this opportunity to provide you with updates from around the district. I hope you all have a Merry Christmas, Happy Holiday, and a Happy New Year. We continue to have much to be thankful for in the Haddon Township School District, and I appreciate your continued support and partnership in education. In 2023, we will continue to work together to reach for and sustain a standard of excellence for all students. Have a great day.

Health and Wellness

Unfortunately, **covid, flu, and other types of virus transmission are rising across the state**. Voluntary mask-wearing is the recommended way to prevent illnesses during times of high transmission. Please remember our procedures for reporting school illnesses. In cases of covid, please inform the nurse of a positive covid case and the date of the covid test. We ask that a positive person stay home for five days which typically allows symptoms to resolve fully. If your child has had serious past medical issues such as an autoimmune disease or if symptoms worsen, please contact your family doctor. Once symptoms resolve, a covid positive person may return to school after speaking with the school nurse. Returning to school depends on not having symptoms, wearing a mask consistently in school, and eating in a designated conference room.

Bond Referendum Update

Earlier in the week, members of the administration and I met with Catholic Diocese representatives regarding the Holy Savior School Property on Emerald Avenue. There is strong mutual interest on both sides for HTSD to acquire the former school property for Prek expansion. The next step is to complete an appraisal of the property and other preliminary inspections. I hope this acquisition can fit nicely into our referendum package, which will be ready for community engagement after the new year.

Honoring Past Staff and Students

In the spring, we will be taking steps to memorialize the legacies of two former individuals who made outstanding contributions to our school district and beyond. **The High School Tennis Courts will be named after Lori Dickson Foster**, who coached, taught, and counseled in our district from 1981 to 2011. For the High School Auditorium, **the stage will be dedicated and named after Laurie Beecham**, a 1971 graduate who went on to distinguish herself on Broadway. You will receive more detailed information about these unique individuals before each ceremonial dedication, and I ask that you join me in celebrating these legacies that will live on through those they inspire.

Prek Information Night

We are delaying PreK information night this year until mid-February as we contemplate our participation in a state-funded program that could provide cost-free full-day universal Pre-K for all 4-year-old students. The "downside" of our participation is that we can only offer a smaller number of slots because of space limitations compared to our existing half-day tuition program. We are trying to problem around the current "catch-22," forcing us to choose between several imperfect options: (1) A half-day tuition-based program for all, or (2) a restricted number of fully funded full-day seats for students who would likely be chosen through a lottery. Nevertheless, this illuminates the need for at least (6) extra classrooms that are targeted through an upcoming referendum. Still, we are attempting to problem-solve and plan for next year's program to the greatest extent possible.

Weather Alerts

Beginning late this afternoon and through the weekend, we will test our emergency notification systems as we prepare for inclement weather that could delay or close school. **Please let me know if you are still waiting to receive an alert after Monday, December 19th**, and I will inform our technology team.

School Calendar

Please remember that **school will return to session on Monday, January 2nd**. In past years, this Monday has been in observance of the New Year. However, this year the day is required as part of the school calendar to ensure that our graduation and final day for school will be Friday, June 16th, avoiding the need to enter into the following week.

-Sincerely,

Robert J. Fisicaro, Ed. D. Superintendent