



# HADDON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Broadcast

Dear Haddon Township School District Community,

I trust that this email finds you well and that you are enjoying the final week of the school year. Please see below for updates from around the district, and have a great day.

### RMS/HTHS Grading Scale

In anticipation of tomorrow evening's Board of Education Meeting, I want to inform you of the following grading scale, which I will **recommend for implementation beginning next school year**. The scale below represents a **compromise** between the initially requested 10-point Flat Scale and our current scale. I expect the full support of the Board of Education on this recommendation. The scale below was crafted in consultation with the Policy Committee and Full Board, and the feedback received from our district grading scale committee, parents, and administration was taken into consideration. **The standards-based grading model at the elementary level will remain unchanged.**

Grade	Grade Points	Numerical	Numerical Range	
A	4.00	93-100	8	11
A-	3.67	90-92	3	
B+	3.33	87-89	3	10
B	3.00	83-86	4	
B-	2.67	80-82	3	
C+	2.33	77-79	3	10
C	2.00	73-76	4	
C-	1.67	70-72	3	5
D	1.00	65-69	5	
F	0.00	0-64	65	

Below are some highlights regarding the rationale for the recommendation and mechanics of how the scale will be implemented:

- The recommended scale **maintains a minimum standard of 93 for an A** and a **minimum standard of passing of 65**. The district must continue to distinguish student achievement levels accurately for the college admissions process while not lowering standards, and these minimum standards are preferred.
- The highest level of achievement will continue to be an A, representing elite performance. The level of A+ will **not** be included.
- For transcript purposes, the recommendation will be to have **only numerical grades appear**, and the corresponding scale will appear as part of a newly created school profile, **which will list both grading scales and their corresponding years utilized**.

## Path Forward

After the grading scale is approved, there is a significant amount of additional work that will continue regarding parts of our policies, including class rank, which was **not properly updated a decade ago** to accurately reflect the formula that the district utilizes to calculate class rank. This calculation, along with how it integrates into class rank and GPA, will be part of our summer administrative work. Class rank **will no longer appear as part of the student transcript**, but we will maintain and utilize class rank information for our internal purposes and student information system. Students will continue to be informed of their class rank, and they will be able to **choose to provide or not provide** their class rank to colleges and universities as part of their application process.

**Our current intention is also to update the outdated class rank policy and utilize the current formula for class rank purposes.** How the GPA will be calculated externally for transcript purposes will also be part of our **summer planning** for September implementation, and multiple options are being considered.

Thank you very much for your patience while we considered all points of view on this matter. The recommended scale **aims to maintain current levels of high expectations while helping aspiring college students and families access more merit dollars for an increasingly expensive endeavor.**

## Parking

Over the final days of school, a large number of cars are expected to be present at different schools, times, and locations. Please be diligent and mindful of parking **only in legal parking spaces** and be extra cautious when entering or exiting school areas. Thank you very much for your support in the interest of safety.

## Congratulations

I will acknowledge a variety of athletic achievements at tomorrow night's Board of Education Meeting. However, I would like to congratulate Girls' **Softball and Boys' Tennis on their recent accomplishment of winning the South Jersey Group I sectional championships.** These significant team accomplishments are acknowledged and applauded. Congratulations to all of the players and coaches.

## Exchange Students

We continue to work with multiple international student agencies to **boost enrollment, add diversity, and increase revenue.** We have had much success with this program in recent years and are excited about the future. For next year, as part of our J-1 program, we have student applications from Denmark, Slovakia, Italy, and Spain. For more information about our foreign exchange program, please visit our website here: <https://www.haddontwpschools.com/domain/484>. If you are interested in becoming a host family, please contact me directly at [rfisicaro@htsd.us](mailto:rfisicaro@htsd.us) or the agency listed on the application.

**Note:** A host family stipend of \$4500 will be paid for **F-1 students only**. J-1 students are part of an intergovernmental program that does not permit stipends. Essentially, host families agree to provide the international student with a place to sleep and any meals that are normally provided to other family members.

### **Thank You**

I would like to take a moment to **sincerely thank all of our school district and community members and employees who have worked so hard to support our students** and one another for the duration of the school year. We all show up each day with the common intention for the betterment of our children and students. Education continues to change and evolve, and new challenges will always persist. I am thankful to have traveled the journey of the school with each of you and applaud the efforts and commitment of our entire community- thank you so much.

-Sincerely,

Robert J. Fisicaro, Ed. D. Superintendent