



HADDON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Broadcast

Dear Haddon Township School District Community,

I hope that everyone is having a great summer. Below, you will find updates regarding a variety of school-related topics. It has certainly been a very busy but productive month of August, and we are excited to welcome back our students and staff in a very short time. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the appropriate school office or me.

Early Childhood Education

An investment was made in Early Childhood Education as Kindergarten students now have the opportunity to participate in a full-day cost-free program, effective this September. Half of the day will be instructional, while the other half will offer enrichment play-based activities important to early childhood development. The non-instructional component will be staffed by employees formerly of the district's very successful K-Club as we merge two programs to provide all students with this cost-free full-day experience.

Facility Improvements

Significant facility improvements across the district are well underway or have been completed, including a complete **renovation to our high school lower gym** and fitness center, **refurbishing the auditorium stage** with theater audio enhancements, and repair of HVAC units.

Program Enhancements

We have added programs and infrastructural improvements, most recently with the employment of both a **Gifted and Talented Teacher** and additional **Basic Skills Teaching Assistants** who will improve our ability to meet the individual strengths and needs of all students. The district also has balanced enrollment across all neighborhood elementary schools and eliminated most of the inequities that formerly existed with a wide range of uneven class sizes. We have maintained all existing programs and positions from last school year as part of a "no-cut" budget and eagerly anticipate continuing all programs and services.

COVID Updates

We continue to communicate frequently with the New Jersey Department of Health, and the district will follow the adjusted guidelines the CDC put forth.

- Individual masking will continue to be optional. I anticipate that many individuals will continue to wear masks to maximize protection for themselves and their families, and others will not. The

district will not tolerate anything less than universal respect among all individuals, while individual choice on this matter will continue to be promoted.

- If a student becomes ill and tests positive for COVID, sick days will be utilized while symptoms persist. If a student becomes symptom-free before the school nurse's authorized date of school return, access to zoom instruction will be provided for the student, and they will be marked present in school.
- Nurses will no longer contact trace and make notifications for individual COVID-positive cases, but notifications will occur if a pattern of larger scale "outbreak" cases is reported.
- Unvaccinated Staff members (we have a very small number) will no longer be required to test every week, and we have discontinued our testing center. However, we will continue to have testing kits available for those who want to administer a take-home test.

Community Events

I hope that you will consider joining us for (2) special community events:

- Please come out to support the Haddon Township Football Team, Band, Cheer Squad, and Dance team on Thursday, September 1st at 7 PM at Bishop Eustace High School as we take on the Gateway Gators. This game has also been designated as "Teacher Appreciation Night," as we welcome back our staff.
- Our partners in education, the Haddon Township Education Foundation, will host their annual Fundraiser on the Square on September 30th from 4–10 PM. This event will have food, beverages, and live music; more information can be found below. Please also consider signing up for the foundation's latest news by entering your email on the HTEF website. <https://htedfoundation.org/>

2022-2023 School Start and End Times

School start and end times have mildly shifted to accommodate a longer student day for Haddon Township School. Please note our new start and end times:

- High School- **7:35 AM- 2:43 PM**, Early Dismissal Time, **11:56 AM**
- Middle School- **8:25 AM- 2:50 PM** Early Dismissal Time, **12:25 PM**
- Elementary School- **8:40 AM -3:10 PM** Early Dismissal Time, **12:40 PM**
- Preschool Disabilities- **9:10–11:40 AM** Early Dismissal Time, **10:40 AM**

Opening of School Dates

*Wednesday, **August 31st and Thursday, September 1st*** - Professional Staff reports for opening day inservice

*Friday, **September 2nd***- 12 Month Staff only

*Tuesday, **September 6th***- **First Day of School for Students- Early Dismissal**

*Wednesday, **September 7th***- Full Day of School.

Back to School Dates

Edison- **September 19th**

Jennings- **September 12th**

Stoy- **September 13th**

Strawbridge- **September 20th**

Van Sciver- **September 22nd**

Middle School- **September 14th**

High School- **September 29th**

School Lunches

As a reminder, the federal free lunch program for all students ended on June 30th, 2022, and free lunches will no longer be available for all students. Applications to apply for free and reduced lunches can be found on the webpage link below and will also be sent home with students as part of the opening day packets. <https://www.haddontwpschools.com/Page/727>

2022-2023 Prices

- Elementary Schools - Lunch/ \$3.00, Breakfast/ \$1.75
- Middle and High Schools- Lunch/ \$3.50, Breakfast / \$2.00

Thank you very much for your continued partnership and support. We are looking forward to another great school year!

-Sincerely,

Robert J. Fisicaro, Ed. D. Superintendent