



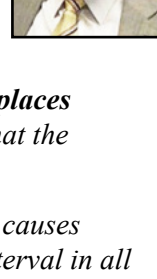
HADDONFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT

... news from the Board of Education

FROM the SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Haddonfield Families:

What an interesting week! Maybe there is another way to describe it. Not sure.



Today, among all the world and national issues related to this bonafide pandemic, **Governor Murphy closed all N.J. schools and many other public places indefinitely.** No time frame. Two weeks to start but "most likely longer" is what the Commissioner of Education said today.

It seems to be a daunting time. So much of what we hear and see on the news causes anxiety; an understandable reaction to what is certainly an unprecedented interval in all our lives. However, now more than ever, the message has to be one of calmness and composure. Not fear. Here's [an interesting article](#) from UPenn's Director of Positive Psychology Center, Dr. Martin Seligman, that is worth the read. Let's let this era in our lives play out by practicing cleanliness and social distancing. Let's be smart about being in crowds. This too shall pass.

I periodically check the World Health Organization ([WHO website](#)) to catch up on the latest information, and last Monday, the Director-General of the WHO, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, wrote the following:

"Now that the virus has a foothold in so many countries, the threat of a pandemic is real. But it would be the first pandemic in history that could be controlled. The bottom line is: we are not at the mercy of this virus. The great advantage we have is that the decisions we all make – as governments, businesses, communities, families, and individuals – can influence the trajectory of this epidemic. We need to remember that with decisive, early action, we can slow down the virus and prevent infections. Among those who are infected, most will recover."

I was struck by the line "the decisions we all make – as governments, businesses, communities, families, and individuals – can influence the trajectory of this epidemic." Here in Haddonfield, of course, we already decided it was best to shutter our schools from having so many congregate in one place for a starting period of two weeks. Please know that **the latest CDC guidance is to close school systems at least four weeks and possibly for eight weeks.** I can't tell you how happy I am that we have been writing to staff discussing plans for a possible cyber education program due to a closure for the past two weeks. Seriously, we are way ahead of many other school systems that moved on this later.

It was because of that always-be-prepared attitude that I wrote to all of you last Monday afternoon to announce a one-day cancellation of classes, occurring today. As you read this, our faculty and staff are working together to make plans for seamless lesson transitions from face-to-face to online learning in order to keep the pace of instruction smooth over the next two weeks. Undoubtedly viewed as an inconvenience last week, today's "snow day with no snow" is absolutely necessary to ensure that your children continue their education in the atmosphere of our current school closure. I believe we will all sleep better knowing we can handle this closure, whatever the duration, and continue the business of educating your children through this period.

There are two prevailing philosophies of education during school closures that school leaders around the state and nation are deploying. One is to provide enrichment work through packet-like handouts that students will simply work on during the time off. The other, which defines our philosophy, is to maintain educational continuity by continuing our daily work with your children online. See our Chief Academic Officer, Dr. Colleen Murray's explanation of this philosophy of education [linked here](#).

Some thoughts on homeschooling during a prolonged shutdown:

- The district is committed to ensuring all of our students eat proper lunches during a mandated closure. To that end, anyone attending any Haddonfield school can come to the middle school cafeteria between 11:00 a.m. and noon each day that we are closed to pick up a brown bag lunch, free of charge.
- Check-in with your children daily about their virtual school learning tasks, activities, and assessments that they are working on.
- Encourage adherence and attendance in the virtual school check-in times offered by each of your children's teachers.
- Designate a place where your child will work independently on his/her assigned tasks.
- Be a part of this new endeavor by asking your child to provide a brief summary of the learning he/she is engaging in for each class to ensure their understanding of the content and of the process and to demonstrate their learning.
- Ask your children about their deadline calendar and support them, as needed, in submitting assignments in accordance with the established deadlines set up by each teacher.
- Remind your children to email his/her teacher(s) if they have questions and to participate in each teacher's live office hours (they will send them) for synchronous learning.
- If remote Internet access is required, please see our [virus web page](#) for Internet options. Comcast is offering free internet for families who qualify. There are some options in town for free Internet, but check first because of closures of public places.
- Dedicate appropriate time to learning, as guided by your students' teachers.
- Check appropriate Canvas and Google Classroom teacher accounts and emails for information on courses, assignments, and resources, on a daily basis.
- Attend and participate in virtual school office hours offered by each of your teachers to communicate with them in real time.
- Engage in the virtual school platform with academic honesty.

We have canceled all events including athletics during the time period we are off from school for social distancing reasons surrounding crowds. Again, we will continue to monitor the situation and make decisions that the Board and I feel are in the best interest of our students, the overall school community, our families and our Haddonfield community.

Please take a look at our web page "[Cold & Virus Prevention/Coronavirus](#)" for helpful information. This page is fluid; we made changes and/or additions almost every day. There is some great advice from Harvard's School of Public Health on [the meaning of social distancing for parents](#). Look through the resources; they may be very helpful to you.

Thank you for your patience and understanding while we continue to try to do our very best for you, our students and staff. These are uncharted waters for all of us in a traditional face-to-face school system. We are unlike colleges that have employed cyberlearning options for the past many years. They can close and continue the business of education much more easily than we can. But the silver lining in this foray into cyberlearning for our K12 school system is that we will become better at it. That has the potential to translate into cyber and blended learning opportunities for children and families who are interested in those opportunities to better prepare for college in the future. Of course, that will be up to future school leaders.

Sincerely,

Larry Mussoline, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

The next BOE meeting is still scheduled for March 26, however it may be conducted virtually, allowing you to watch. More details to come.

Upcoming Board Meeting Dates:

Board Meeting, 2020-2021 Budget March 26 7:00 p.m.

[All 2020 Board Meeting dates on our website.](#)

* "Land Swap" meeting at Borough Hall planned for March 10 was postponed. New date information to come.

RESCHEDULED

These events have been rescheduled. As time passes, we will share any additional postponements and cancellations. Please check email, voicemail and texts often.

"Aladdin Jr." (HMS production)

Originally scheduled for April 2 and 3 at 7:30 p.m. New date TBD.

"Wonder" Movie Night and Discussion

Originally scheduled for April 7, 6:30 p.m., this event will be rescheduled. Date TBD.

HMHS World Language Induction Ceremony

April 28, 7:00 p.m. in the HMHS auditorium

Freshmen Dance

HMHS Freshmen Dance May 1, 7:30 to 10:00 p.m., B Gym.

HMHS NAHS Induction

The National Art Honor Society (NAHS) induction ceremony will be held in the HMHS library on Sunday, May 17, from 3:00-3:30 with a reception until 5:00 p.m.

Model UN

HMHS Model UN event, May 30, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

DISTRICT NEWS

Internet Accessibility in Haddonfield Households

As we begin what could be weeks of online learning, we want to be sure that all of our families have access to the Internet in their homes. **We have researched some free and low-cost options for families who qualify.** To qualify for this discounted Internet access, families must meet certain criteria such as being eligible for public assistance programs such as the National School Lunch Program, Housing Assistance, Medicaid, SNAP and SSI.

Here are some options:

[Comcast Internet Essentials \(Xfinity\) free for 60 days](#)

[Verizon Lifeline \(Fios\)](#)

Lifeline Applications for states including NJ

- [Lifeline Application - English \(PDF\)](#)
- [Lifeline Application - Spanish \(PDF\)](#)

Lifeline Program Information for New Jersey

- [Lifeline Service Details - English \(PDF\)](#)
- [Lifeline Service Details - Spanish \(PDF\)](#)

[Altice Advantage Internet \(Optimum or Suddenlink Service Area\)](#)

[EarthLink](#)

If you do not have Internet access at home, please let us know by contacting Communications Specialist Polly Mitchell at pmitchell@haddonfield.k12.nj.us and we will do our best to help you.

Preliminary Budget for 2020-21 Presented at BOE Meeting

On Thursday, March 12, Board Secretary Michael Catalano shared a presentation of the preliminary budget for the upcoming school year. You may view the entire presentation [here](#).

The preliminary figure for the total budget is \$47,889,874. Potential additions and/or increases to Haddonfield School District expenses are:

Personnel

The new Student Assistance Program Coordinator/Crisis Counselor (written about in the [February 14 issue](#) of the newsletter)

An additional IT staff member

An additional maintenance staff member

Physical Plant

Capital Improvements such as the HMHS C-Wing Air Handling Addition

Various Security Initiatives

Furniture for Flexible Learning Environments, District Wide

Program

AP Capstone Program, Training and Supplies

Math Professional Development, Grades K to 8

SEL (social-emotional learning) Training

Training for Project-Based Learning

Curriculum Writing

Expanding the 1:1 Chromebook Initiative to include grades 5-11

Catalano pointed out that our student enrollment numbers have increased by more than 100 students in the past five years, and by more than 250 in the last decade.

For the March 12th Board of Education (BOE) meeting, the preliminary budget was on the agenda to be approved for county submission. The April 30th BOE meeting will be the Public Hearing and Adoption of the 2020-2021 budget. [All BOE meetings](#) are held at 7:00 p.m. in the high school library.

Haddonfield Accepting Tuition Students

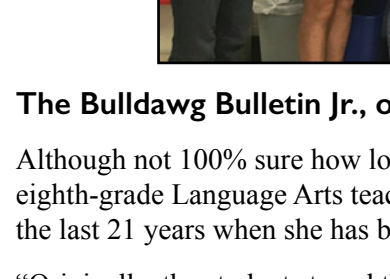
Tell a friend! The Board of Education announced that the district will accept tuition students in grades 7, 9, 10, 11, and 12 for the 2020-21 academic year.

The tuition program allows students who reside outside of Haddonfield Borough to enroll in Haddonfield Middle School or Haddonfield Memorial High School by paying tuition to the district. The openings are limited; interested families are encouraged to contact the Board Secretary immediately. Both the middle school and high school will offer tuition candidates a visitation day during which the prospective student will shadow a current student.

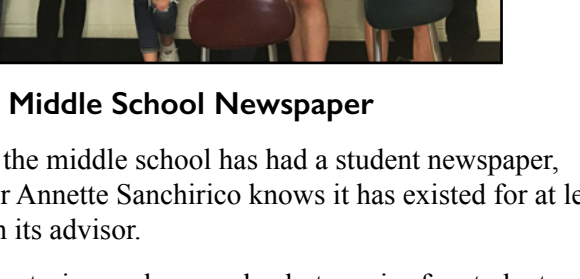
Information about the application process, arranging a visit, and tuition fees can be found at haddonfield.schooltuition.com.

Questions? Parents may [contact Barbara Nobel](#) in the BOE office.

SCHOOL NEWS



Central

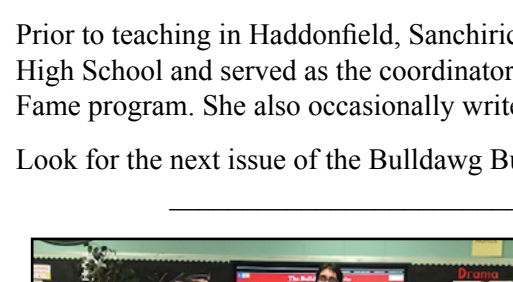


Elizabeth Haddon

Read Across America Week in Our Elementary Schools Celebrated Reading and Diversity

Librarians Sophie Nelson and Jessica Miller put together an engaging, literature-rich week celebrating literacy, life-long reading, and diversity. Students and teachers in all three elementary schools participated throughout the week of March 2nd to 6th.

The theme was "Celebrating a Nation of Diverse Readers" reflecting our district goal of "Cultural Competency." Additionally, it offered our students the opportunity to experience books as "Mirrors, Windows, and Sliding Doors." Here is a wonderful (very short) [video](#) that explains that students must see themselves in their books (mirrors), but that reading also provides opportunities for them to see other worlds (windows) and to enter those worlds (sliding doors). Diversity goes both ways.



Tatem

Students also had fun following themed days, including:

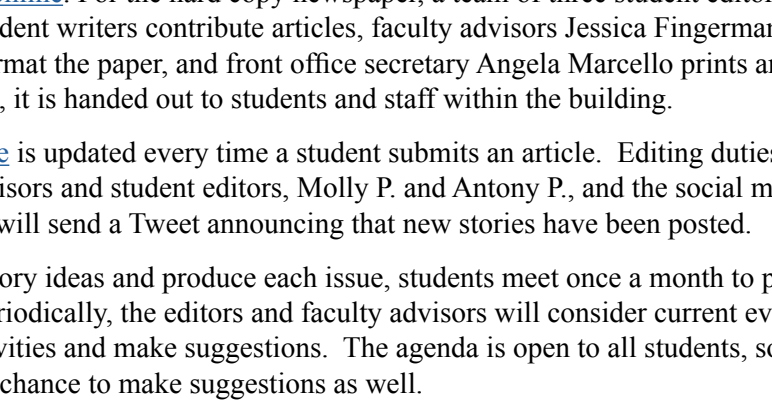
Wear Something Unique: celebrate your heritage.

Team Up for Diversity: buddy reading

Crazy Sock Day: celebrate our individuality

B.F.F. (Books for Friends); bring in your own diverse books to share

D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything and Read); wear pajamas for the school-wide read



The Bulldawg Bulletin Jr., our Middle School Newspaper

Although not 100% sure how long the middle school has had a student newspaper, eighth-grade Language Arts teacher Annette Sanchirico knows it has existed for at least the last 21 years when she has been its advisor.

"Originally, the students typed their stories, and we made photocopies for students and teachers in our building," she said. "For the last twelve years, we have worked with the Haddonfield Sun. We send the text, photographs and suggested arrangement to the editor, who creates the layout and sends back a proof. We then work on revisions and, once we approve the final copy, they print a four-page paper that is inserted into one of their weekly issues and delivered to 6,700 homes in town."

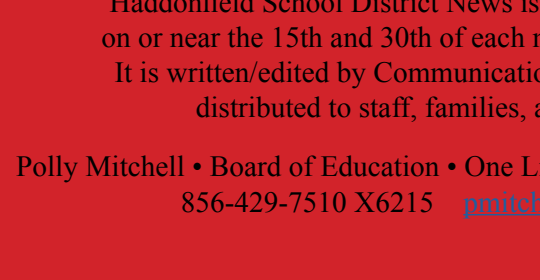
Students in grades 6 through 8 may contribute to the paper, produced in the fall and spring. Sanchirico meets with interested students at lunch or after school to train them to write in a journalistic style. This year she has the added benefit of teaching a class in journalism as one of the Bulldawg Block options, so eighth-graders can work on their articles in class. They learn about news leads, what makes a story newsworthy, how to investigate a topic and the "inverted pyramid" style.

Students work to brainstorm story ideas and work in pairs or groups to gather evidence, and then work together to shape their stories, which Sanchirico reviews. Every student in the class who completes a final, approved article before the publishing deadline has the opportunity to have his/her article published. The "life lesson" of a hard-and-fast deadline is another important concept the students learn.

"I enjoy writing for the newspaper because it gives me a voice in our community," said student Noa S. "It is rewarding to see the work I have put in printed out professionally. It's the real deal."

Prior to teaching in Haddonfield, Sanchirico taught English and Journalism at Sterling High School and served as the coordinator of the district's newsletter and Athletic Hall of Fame program. She also occasionally writes her own articles for local newspapers.

Look for the next issue of the Bulldawg Bulletin Jr. in April or May!



HMHS Bulldawg Bulletin Continues a Tradition of Journalism

Haddonfield School District News is created and shared semimonthly on or near the 15th and 30th of each month throughout the school year.

It is written/edited by Communications Specialist Polly Mitchell and distributed to staff, families, and community members.