



HADDONFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT

... news from the Board of Education

FROM the SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Haddonfield families,

I would like to first welcome all families, students and teachers to the 2020-21 school year at Haddonfield School District.

We are now a week away from our return to school for the fall of 2020. It would certainly be an understatement to say this is a different opening than those we have experienced in the past.



I am sure all of us could rattle off a litany of differences as well as things we **wish** were different! Notably, some of these challenges have required our administration team and teacher leaders to spend countless summer hours to develop, revise, publish, and [republish our return to school model](#).

Sometimes I feel as though we have spent the last six months talking about the changes caused by the "new normal," but today I'd like to take a moment to look at how many things are still the same.

As a school district, we continue to uphold our commitment to providing high-quality education to your children. We maintain high expectations for our students, teachers, and administrators. We anticipate a year that – in spite of opening with 50% capacity – will close with all of our students in school all day. These are our goals, and we believe that a prudent start will help us to achieve them.

As in every summer, a great deal of focus was placed on growth and improvement. What may have gotten lost in the shuffle this summer are the many accomplishments of the last 10 weeks not connected to COVID-19.

- Curriculum has been rewritten and revised. HSD continually invests in improving and modifying curriculum in all areas. Among other revisions, two main areas of focus are improving the middle school Gifted and Talented program and adding mandated LGBTQIA+ standards. Additionally, we invested a great deal of work in designing professional development specifically connected to distance and virtual instruction based on what we learned in the spring.
- The vestibule projects at Elizabeth Haddon and J.F. Tatem Elementary Schools are 95% complete and 100% functional. We are waiting for delivery of a few final items before we can call them complete.
- Cameras have been installed in the interior and exterior of all district buildings. This adds an additional level of safety.
- With the help of the Haddonfield Educational Trust, the area behind the stadium has been upgraded. What was once an expanse of blacktop is now a showpiece for spectators to experience at school events.
- Work has started on a new air-handling unit tower at the high school. Connected to this project will be the addition of an outdoor classroom and a garden seating area providing an outdoor extension to the cafeteria.

We also continue to work on our three strategic plans. We will **nurture** our students and teachers by providing social-emotional training and support. We will continue to **empower** by investing time and training into innovative teaching strategies and learning environments. Finally we work to **inspire** everyone to embrace cultural competency and pursue social justice as we build on lessons learned at our June Town Hall meeting. The target date for our next open forum is early October.

Last, please take a look at [our website](#). If you have any questions at any time during the school year, please look at the top middle of the web page under "Contact Us" where there is an "Ask a Question" tab that you simply click on and ask us any question(s) you wish. We will get you an answer as quickly as we can.

Have a wonderful school year, everyone. Welcome back!

Chuck Klaus,
Superintendent of Schools

Upcoming Board Meeting Dates:

Board Meeting **September 3** **7:00 p.m.**

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

[Log in to watch \(and call in during designated time\) Board meetings](#)

Policies in Approval Process:

[Draft Policies - first or second review on August 27, 2020](#)

GET READY for the NEW SCHOOL YEAR

The first day of school is Tuesday, September 8th! We know that our families have been gathering supplies and getting ready for classes to begin.

Here are a few suggestions we hope will be helpful.

Keep up with communication from your child's principal. At this time of year, you will get emails, or texts or voicemail messages with information you need to know.

Sign in to Genesis. update your contact information and sign forms. Genesis is our Parent Portal.

All elementary teacher assignments and middle and high school schedules will be available in Genesis by the end of the day, August 31st.

Masks:

Make sure your child has a mask that fits properly.

Keep an eye out for PTA mask sales.

Continue to encourage your child/ren to practice wearing a mask for longer periods each day.

Review the district's website. Scroll down to access other websites such as your child's school and the Board of Education. Access the parent pull-down menu; we revised this site during the summer. There is also a lot of helpful information under the new drop-down menu "REOPENING."

Check the district calendars and the *Google calendars* for your child's school.

Make sure you take a look at [this handy document](#) for how the student cohorts' attendance will change on three-day and four-day weeks.

Apply for free or reduced lunch for your child. Please scroll down on the [district's Food Services website](#) for qualifying information and the application.

Our I:1 Chromebook program has expanded down to grade 5 and up to grade 11. Familiarize yourself with [this helpful overview](#) and our [I:1 FAQ document](#).

Meet our new staff.

[Central Elementary School](#)

[Elizabeth Haddon Elementary School](#)

[Tatem Elementary School](#)

[Haddonfield Middle School](#)

[Haddonfield Memorial High School](#)

Review your student's school supply list one more time.

[Central Elementary School](#)

[Elizabeth Haddon Elementary School](#)

[J.F. Tatem Elementary School](#)

[Haddonfield Middle School:](#)

For the first week of school, students need to bring their Chromebooks in a cover/case, a face covering that fits, a water bottle, and a non-nut snack in a sealed bag. Items need to be placed in your child's backpack. Please have your child's name written, in marker, inside the backpack.

Follow us on social media.

DISTRICT Facebook: "[Haddonfield School District](#)" and Twitter: "[@HaddonSchools](#)."

SCHOOL Twitter: Your child's principal also tweets; look for your school's Twitter feed in your principal's eNews.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS: We are extremely proud of this "behind-the-scenes team" and the work they do. Check out their great photos on [@Haddonfield_BG!](#)

CST and SEL: The Child Study Team ([@hsdcst](#)) and our Social-Emotional Learning Team ([@HsdSEL](#)) both tweet. Stay up to date.

CLUBS and TEAMS: Your child may be part of a group that uses social media. Inquire.

PTA: Some of the PTAs use Facebook and Twitter. Search for them.

TEACHERS: Many HSD teachers use social media. Look for them too!

... and many more. *We will continue to share ideas in the future!*

WHAT we've ACCOMPLISHED this SUMMER

Professional Learning Summer 2020

Summer of 2020 is one we will not easily forget. Our top priority was to design a safe a learning environment as possible for the fall, which we have done. We relied on up-to-the minute scientific data to inform our plans, including guidelines from the CDC, NJDOE, and qualitative and quantitative data collected from our constituents. We submitted to democratically design plans with a steering committee, action teams, and subcommittees that consisted of parents, BOE members, administrators, nurses, our district physician, teachers and HEA officers. Parents who served on action teams were chosen for their particular expertise and past helpfulness in the district. Teachers were chosen for their unique experiences, qualifications, and institutional knowledge. Plans were made and revised with each set of emerging new variables considered. We are proud of the inclusive results. The work we did, no matter what the 2020-2021 school year looks like, will revolutionize and improve the way we design learning experiences in the future.

During professional development days – August 31st, and September 1st, 2nd, and 3rd – teachers will learn how to prepare hybrid learning experiences and set about preparing for the first week of school. The work of managing what will essentially be two classrooms simultaneously is revolutionary for teachers and administrators, and our professional development is dedicated to making this transformation as effective and efficient as possible.

Last year we worked to organize, recognize, and formalize our grade-level and departmental teams. These teams will lead collaborative sessions on learning design, workflow management, and technology integration, such as screencasting and the art and science of live streaming, with the help of our technology team.



THANK YOU to the "secret sidewalk decorators" who shared messages of support and love for our first all-faculty-back-at-work day.

[#HSDWeAreInThisTogether](#)

Haddonfield School District News is created and shared monthly throughout the school year. It is written/edited by Communications Specialist Polly Mitchell and distributed to staff, families and community members.

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