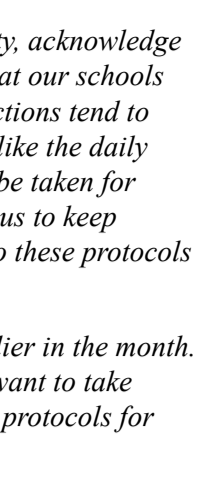


HADDONFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT

... news from the Board of Education

FROM the SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Haddonfield Families, Staff and Community,



We find ourselves in the fourth week of the exceptional 2020–21 school year. While we begin to consider moving forward into Phase 2 of *Haddonfield: On the Road Back*, it is important that we reflect on and learn from our first 3 1/2 weeks. The greatest takeaway from the opening of the school year is that our students and staff have been able to navigate our current in-person school schedules while following the prescribed guidelines and restrictions. This gives us greater confidence that, if we continue to follow these protocols, we can realistically begin to plan moving into Phase 2.

A key part of our current and continued success is that we, as a community, acknowledge the importance of our roles in following procedures designed to ensure that our schools are as safe as they possibly can be. Over the course of days and weeks, actions tend to become routine and are completed without the focus required. Behaviors like the daily screening form, wearing masks, handwashing, and social distancing can be taken for granted. These actions and behaviors are the very things that will enable us to keep schools open in the long run. I thank you for your diligence in adhering to these protocols to this point, and I encourage you to remain diligent as we move forward.

I am sure you are all aware that we did have one student test positive earlier in the month. Certainly this news raised anxiety and concern around the community. I want to take a few moments to remind everyone of the communication process and the protocols for contact tracing.

Communication Chain

- A HSD student or staff member has a laboratory-confirmed positive COVID test.
- The testing center notifies the Camden County Department of Health (CCDoH).
- CCDoH contacts family and asks questions to initiate contact tracing. At this time the CCDoH asks for the name of the school district.
- CCDoH contacts HSD and requests names of those who may have come in “close contact” with the positive case.
- CCDoH advises the district if there is a need to quarantine individuals or to close classrooms or buildings.
- HSD sends a notification to all families that there is a confirmed case.
- The Superintendent’s office will notify all those determined to be “in close contact” that they are required to quarantine for 14 days.

Close Contact and Contact Tracing

- The NJDoH defines “close contact” as closer than six feet for 10 or more minutes without a mask.
- We will work with a CCDoH contact tracer and review timelines and physical circumstances.
- Anyone deemed in close contact will receive a letter requiring a 14-day quarantine.
- The individuals contacted would vary based on the physical distancing and behaviors.
- Even those at six feet (and even greater) distance would be notified as they were in proximity for extended periods of time.
- Age certainly is a factor in that it is more likely a younger student would remove a mask, particularly during snack breaks.
- The behaviors at middle and high school are similar in that students who sit close to the positive case will be notified, but the complexity of extracurriculars and socializing come into play. Because it is more likely these students will take their masks off as they walk home, names of friend groups may be collected and shared with the county.
- Our plan is to cast as wide a net as we can within reason.

Obviously we want the system to run smoothly, efficiently, and quickly so we can share as much public information as possible in the shortest time. We have already started to adjust our approach to become more efficient and have reached out to the CCDoH to discuss ways in which we can be better partners in future communication.

Thank you for your attention to all of these guidelines and restrictions. I appreciate all that you, our students and our staff have done so far to make in-school learning possible.

Chuck Klaus,
Superintendent of Schools

PARENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Haddonfield School District is about to begin a year-long assessment of the social studies curriculum. A committee of students, faculty and administrators is looking for parents to round out its membership.

The committee will meet every other month from November 2020 to November 2021. The goal is to complete a comprehensive needs-assessment and make changes during the summer of 2021. Read the blueprint [here](#).

Interested? Please [email Dr. Colleen Murray](#), Chief Academic Officer. Thank you!

BOARD NEWS

Agreement on One-Year Contract Reached

We are happy to report that the Board and the Haddonfield Education Association (HEA) have an agreement in principle for a one-year contract. Some details need to be finalized, but both parties expect that to occur without difficulty. We would like to thank the HEA and its negotiations committee, specifically Rachel Wouk and Sean Sweeney, the Board and its negotiating committee, and the administrative team for their hard work to get to this point. It is a good day for our community, our district, our teachers, and our students.

Upcoming Board Meeting Dates:

Board Meeting October 22 7:00 p.m.

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

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

Presentations from recent Board Meetings:

[Presentations posted on our website](#)

DISTRICT NEWS

District Awarded Federal Grant for Safety Initiatives

In early September, District School Safety Specialist Sandra Horwitz shared welcomed news. Haddonfield School District has been awarded a \$500,000 federal grant for safety projects throughout the district.

In April, Horwitz submitted a federal grant narrative and proposal to secure funding for the missing elements of our safety plans – specifically for a state-of-the-art emergency lockdown notification system with remote exterior door-locking capability, a camera system that provides live feed to first responders, the installation of 3M ballistic resistant film on each school’s first floor windows, and standardized mapping for use by county-wide emergency responders.

This was a competitive grant, and Haddonfield was up against school districts all across the country. The federal government had a total of \$50 million to award, with the maximum award for any one school district capped at \$500,000. Horwitz wrote about our collaborative accomplishments in the area of school safety and security over the years and what we needed to get us where we need to be. **As a result of her thorough application, Haddonfield received the maximum award of \$500,000!** The district is required to add 25% to this funding. The total amount will cover the projects necessary to make us as safe as possible.

“Many thanks go to Larry Mussoline (Superintendent from June 2018 through June 2020), Chuck Klaus (former Assistant Superintendent and current Superintendent), and Mike Catalano (Business Administrator and Board Secretary) for their vision and encouragement to undertake this endeavor,” said Horwitz. “Although we have just about completed the installation of the vestibules at our elementary schools, the high school needs a new, more secure main entrance vestibule. Without this new, huge infusion of funding, it did not seem likely that we would be able to proceed with purchasing and installing the crucial safety upgrades our district needs. I am absolutely elated that our application rose to the top of the pile! Now comes the arduous tasks of learning how this funding works, finalizing the selection of our vendors, and getting the installations moving.”

Horwitz also credited the work of the District Safety Committee.

“The collaborative work of such a committee was a required element for the grant, and I am very grateful for the members’ commitment and passion in pushing for best practices designed to increase safety in our schools,” she said. “I was supported and encouraged by everyone’s attendance at our meetings, their calls, emails, expertise, and concerns. Everything we said and did together was reflected in the winning narrative. I could not have written so passionately without those voices. It was truly a collaborative effort.”

The members of the District Safety Committee include parents, teachers, counselors, administrators, and police, fire and borough officials.

Staff and Students Benefit from Anxiety Training and Support

District counselors and Child Study Team members will participate in 12 hours of professional development (PD) throughout the school year with Dr. Phillip Kendall. Dr. Kendall is a Distinguished University Professor and Laura H. Carnell Professor of Psychology. His CV lists over 800 publications, including over 40 books and treatment manuals, and his treatment for anxiety in youth has been translated into over a dozen languages. Dr. Kendall has had 35 years of grant support from various agencies (e.g., NIMH; NICHD; MacArthur). Having received many thousands of citations annually, he was identified as a “Most Highly Cited” individual in all of the social and medical sciences (top 1%). Dr. Kendall was twice a Fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford and won the Research Recognition Award from the Anxiety Disorders Association of America. Awarded the Aaron T. Beck Award for “Significant and Enduring Contribution,” he was honored in 2019 with the ABCT Lifetime Achievement award.

The focus of Dr. Kendall’s PD work with district staff will be treating anxiety in students. This PD is part of the district’s continued commitment to social-emotional learning and has been a particular focus this year as we planned for a safe and healthy return to school.

As an additional layer of support, two graduate student interns from Temple University’s Child and Adolescent Anxiety Disorders Clinic will work in the district one day per week for up to six months. They will provide consultation with our counselors as well as direct 1:1 services to students.

Pandemic Response Teams Formed

Each school in the district has formed a Pandemic Response Team (PRT) made up of teachers, administrators, students, parents, and medical staff. Additionally, the District has an over-arching PRT comprising district nurses, our district doctor, Superintendent Klaus and Dr. Priolo, the Assistant Superintendent. We established the PRTs to centralize, expedite, and implement COVID-19-related decision-making. Each school team has a liaison who reports to district-level administrators to ensure coordinated actions across the district. The PRTs are responsible for:

- Overseeing each school’s implementation of the district’s reopening plan, particularly health and safety measures, and providing safety and crisis leadership;
- Adjusting or amending school health and safety protocols as needed;
- Providing staff with support and training;
- Reviewing school-level data regarding health and safety measures and the presence of COVID-19 and reporting that data to the district as required;
- Developing and implementing procedures to foster and maintain safe and supportive school climates as necessitated by the challenges posed by COVID-19;
- Providing necessary communications to the school community and to the district;
- Creating pathways for community, family, and student voices to continuously inform the team’s decision-making.

Recognizing Unsung Heroes

It is of paramount importance that we take some time to thank the unsung heroes of the last many days. Thanks to these staff members, we had a successful opening that enabled us to get our students back in school for the first time in six months.

Buildings & Grounds and Custodial Crews

Tim McFerren (Director of Facilities) and his crew along with Lisa Chadwell and the Prichard (custodial) staff worked frantically, focused, and effectively to get the schools ready. They had to be problem-solvers, efficiently and forward-thinking, as they anticipated issues that might arise. They worked long hours and came in on days off to make sure that the buildings were ready. This often back-breaking work made it possible for teachers and students to walk into safe and clean buildings.

We heartily thank McFerren and his team of Kenny Lambert, Rick Sparks, William Fisher, Patrick Henkel, Stephen Koehler, Jeff Lee, Matt Souliard, Rob Wisniewski, Steve Hale, Klaus Macken, and Merced Valenzuela. Job well done!

Technology Team

John Miller (Director of Technology) and his team put in countless hours, faced ticket numbers that closed in on 100 a day, and stopped to assist people on the fly. They worked frantically, tirelessly, and efficiently to ensure that teachers and students had all the resources they needed to make live-streaming in virtual learning possible. Miller’s “customer service approach” for his department certainly was evident as he kept us not just “above water” but “well above water.” Chris Heintz also deserves another special shout-out as he was working well through the night. Oftentimes after midnight, Heintz was still online ensuring that our screening forms worked and our cohorts were aligned so everything could fall into place.

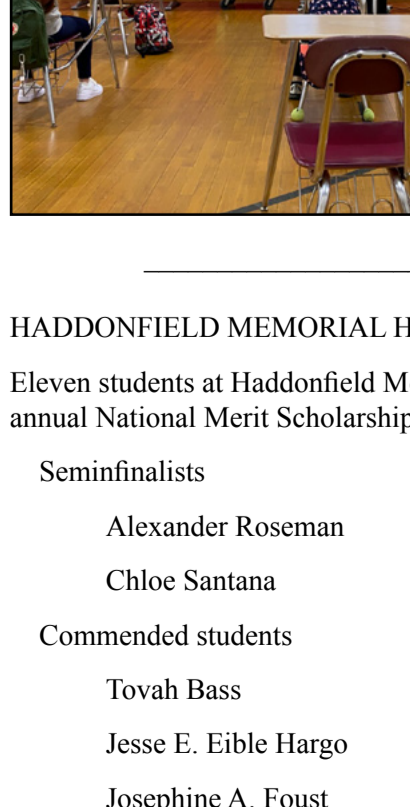
These individuals often go unnoticed and probably even unappreciated because they are willing to do the tough work necessary without ever turning and asking for a “thank you.” So ... we thank John Miller and his team of Chris Heintz, Ryan Schoppa, James Hannah, Robert Ryder, and Steve Sprowl.

Communications

Another unsung hero is Polly Mitchell, our Communications Specialist. Communication between a school district and its stakeholders is always important, but never more so than during the last six months. With information at a premium, Mitchell was able to help HSD deliver frequent messages to families in a clear and concise fashion and with a professional touch. She also is the “behind the scenes” monitor of the HSD website and social media accounts helping to keep the community and beyond up to speed on HSD news and events.

Health Staff

Helping to keep HSD safe and moving forward are our nurses. This dedicated group of Beth Herrera, Michelle Barranger, Dana Reganata, and Regina Mango have worked throughout the summer planning and advising to ensure that our schools can open safely. The administrative team has leaned on the nursing team heavily, and they have responded with a positive mindset and professional approach. They advised us as to what kind of and how many types of PPE to purchase and use, provided accurate wording for our many communication vehicles, and made sure that we always have and share the most up-to-date information. Their knowledge combined with their passion and caring have resulted in some of the most significant work in the reopening plan. We also acknowledge the fifth member of this group, Dr. Jennifer Naticchia, the district physician, who has served as an invaluable resource during this process.



New Staff Spotlight: Darby Malvey

Darby Malvey is the new High School Library Media Specialist and District Innovation Coach.

Within the high school, her role as the school’s librarian means curating a relevant and exciting collection of print materials, helping faculty and students navigate databases and digital resources, and working to improve information literacy for students and staff. On a larger scale, Malvey will also serve the whole district as she provides technology coaching to staff, connects faculty with valuable educational tools, and works to help streamline and simplify access to all of the great resources at our district’s disposal.

“In some ways the role of the school librarian has changed dramatically,” Malvey said. “Because information is everywhere these days, the role of the librarian has become much less about helping people gain access to information and much more about helping them navigate the information that arrives so easily at their fingertips. From news literacy to database searching, a big part of my job is helping students and staff learn the skills that allow them to decide what’s valuable and reliable in an environment of information overload.”

In other ways, the job of the school librarian remains very much unchanged. It’s still her responsibility to curate an engaging collection of books that help students discover a love of reading, to create an environment where all of our students feel welcome and safe, and to encourage students to keep searching, asking questions, and learning.

“Darby’s role as high school librarian and district tech coach is a particularly helpful one for forward-looking articulation across the K12 community,” said Dr. Colleen Murray, Haddonfield’s Chief Academic Officer. “Innovations in technology potentially impact every grade and subject, so to have Ms. Malvey available to coach and share information across the grades will be invaluable. Teachers are already singing her praises, and she is establishing working relationships with key teacher-leaders throughout the K12 spectrum.”

Before coming to Haddonfield, Malvey spent five years as the Library Media Specialist at Clayton Middle and High Schools. Prior to that, she worked as a Youth Services librarian in public libraries, including the Gloucester County Library System and New Brunswick Free Public Library.

Malvey lives in Cherry Hill with her husband and two children, Casper and Imogen. She loves to read Young Adult fiction, bake with too much butter, and travel to new places.

Gifted and Talented Testing Update

Gifted and Talented testing that was postponed in the spring and summer is nearing completion. All G & T testing for grades 2-8 should be completed by October 2nd; results will be shared with parents no later than the end of October. Kindergarten and first-grade parents: look for G&T testing information by October 2nd.

Changes in AUP

Once each year, school districts post their [Acceptable Use Policy](#) (“Acceptable Use of Computer Networks/Computers and Resources”) and ask all parents to sign off on these terms. Beginning September 25th, Haddonfield parents will see the updated AUP when they log into Genesis. After “accepting” the policy, parents can move forward in the portal.

What’s new this year?

Live Streaming and Recorded Instructional Video

Live streaming and recorded instructional videos are the property of the Haddonfield School District and intended solely for the designated recipient(s). The documents, images, depictions and/or information contained in live-streamed and/or recorded instructional videos are privileged and confidential. The dissemination, distribution, copying, or use of the documents, images, depictions and/or information contained in live streaming and instructional videos are strictly prohibited.

Follow us on social media.

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

Did you know that we post these newsletters on our website?

[Special Education News](#)

The HMHS [Bulldawg Bulletin](#)

[The Peer Bias Leaders Newsletter](#) (HMHS)

SCHOOL NEWS

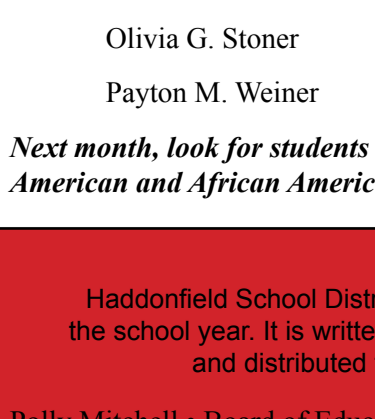
CENTRAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

School looks different this fall, but our faculty have gone to great lengths to make the students feel comfortable and excited to be back in the classroom. Fourth-grade teacher Kristina Dellanno decorated each desk as a personalized automobile. The name tags/license plates are connected with velcro, so she can swap them when changing cohorts.



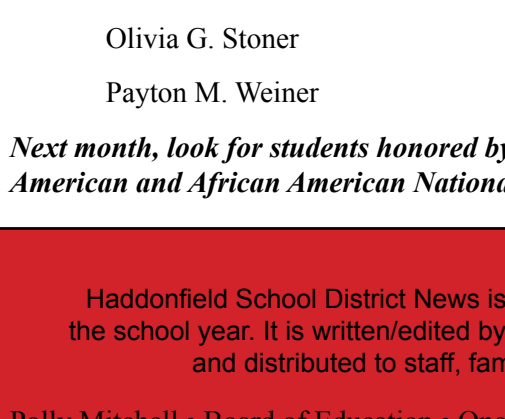
ELIZABETH HADDON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Lizzy Haddon second-grade students are practicing techniques of effective reading. In addition to predicting what will happen next, they are using post-it notes to mark important sections. They use the post-its when they are “going back and retelling” the story to their classmates.



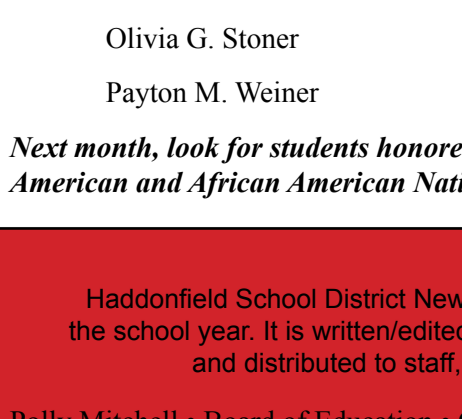
J.F. TATEM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Students in Mrs. Hanrahan’s third grade made “fold-down” self portraits to remind one another that, underneath our masks, we are still smiling at our friends.



HADDONFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL

Middle school teacher Tracy Steele and her students used the StoryboardThat app as a great way for students to create a scene with characters, a script and action, all in one place. Students can customize the characters, pose them and add details to the scenes. Her students liked how easy it was to use and to share with the class. “It was a nice way for my sixth-graders to get to know one another,” Steele said.



HADDONFIELD MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL

Eleven students at Haddonfield Memorial High School have been recognized in the 66th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Congratulations to:

Semifinalists

Alexander Roseman

Chloe Santana

Commended students

Tovah Bass

Jesse E. Eible Hargo

Josephine A. Foust

John K. Hurly

Alexa K. King

David D. Little

Katherine A. McCormick

Olivia G. Stoner

Payton M. Weiner

Next month, look for students honored by the College Board in their Hispanic American and African American National Recognition Program.

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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