



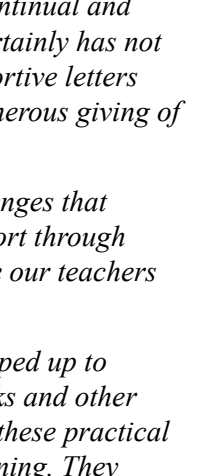
# HADDONFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT

... news from the Board of Education

## FROM the SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Haddonfield Families, Staff and Community Members,

*It seems everything we read includes either the phrase "new normal" or "unprecedented." That is simply part of the world that we are living in today, so at this time I want to focus on a constant. The idea that we have a stable and constant thing in our world can be comforting.*



*One of the keys to the success of the Haddonfield School District is the continual and generous support of our parents and community. This is one thing that certainly has not waned or changed during the pandemic. We have experienced kind, supportive letters and emails to our teachers, offers to help in any way possible, and the generous giving of parents, particularly through our PTAs.*

*Over the last several months, our PTAs have risen to the particular challenges that we face in these extraordinary times. They have demonstrated their support through generous donations and by providing activities and distractions that make our teachers and our students feel a little more normal.*

*As HSD adjusted to providing education during a pandemic, the PTA stepped up to demonstrate their support in creative and caring ways. Donations of masks and other PPE on all levels helped to make us safer while in our buildings. Beyond these practical gestures, the PTAs focused on making everyone feel welcomed upon returning. They provided gift bags for teachers, welcome signs on school lawns, cheery messages in chalk on the sidewalks, and a DJ at the middle and high schools on their first day. It is difficult to express the impact of these actions. After almost six months of empty schools, the September opening generated excitement but also a degree of anxiety. The PTAs' safety measures combined with warm and welcoming gestures were just what we needed.*

*In addition to all the efforts put in to make sure schools are safe and welcoming, they have continued the high level of support and quality work that is a constant in our school district. Managing Halloween celebrations, sponsoring the Reflections art program, assisting with school stores, and providing lunches for custodians are just a few of the many and varied ways our PTAs have made students and staff feel appreciated.*

*In terms of fundraising, I simply don't have room in this space to list all of the fundraising activities the PTAs organize. These efforts come in all shapes and sizes from significant annual events to many smaller but impactful activities. Particularly difficult this year have been traditional in-person events have been made impossible, these fundraising activities have been creative alternatives that raise money for major projects and smaller school and classroom wishlist items.*

*So, on behalf of the Haddonfield School District, thank you to all members of our PTAs and to all parents for all that they have done and are continuing to do for our students and staff. What you do is truly meaningful to those of us who are lucky enough to be the recipients of these actions. Thank you.*

Sincerely,

Chuck Klaus,  
Superintendent of Schools

## BOARD NEWS

**Next Board Meeting January 7 7:00 p.m.**

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

**Presentations from Recent Board Meetings:**

[Posted on our website](#)

**Read the "Board Meeting Bulletins:"**

[Posted on our website](#)

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

### Coaches Needed

Please apply for any of the following [here](#):

- Middle School Head Wrestling Coach
- Middle School Assistant Wrestling Coach
- Middle School Assistant Girls Basketball Coach
- Winter Season Weight Room Supervisor
- High School Assistant Boys Lacrosse Coach
- High School Freshman Girls Lacrosse Coach

### Crossing Guards

The Haddonfield Police Department seeks dependable applicants for several part-time crossing guard positions. Please consider helping our community by filling one of the available openings. Crossing guards earn \$17.61 per hour and currently work, on average, 8 to 10 hours per week – about 2 to 2.5 hours a day. At the current time, our guards work a morning post and a noon dismissal post, four days a week due to the hybrid schedule being followed by the public schools. When schools reopen full time, hours may increase to 10 to 15 hours per week. Applications are available at the Police Department or can be [filled out online](#).

### Educational Assistants

Looking for a great part-time opportunity to become a member of the Support Staff in our schools? Work while your child is in school; share the same schedule and same days off.

HSD elementary schools are seeking caring, dedicated and child-centered Educational Assistants to support our students. Hours are 8:35-3:00 M-F; start date is ASAP.

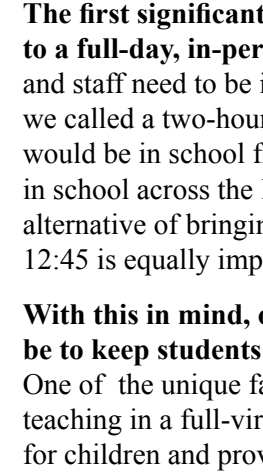
Experience working in an educational setting is preferred. The hourly rate is approximately \$12/hour. If interested please [apply here](#).

## DISTRICT NEWS



### TEMPLE UNIVERSITY GRAD STUDENTS BRING CLINICAL EXPERTISE to DISTRICT

Two Ph.D. candidates from Temple's clinical psychology program have been working one day per week in Haddonfield School District (HSD). Working under the umbrella of Temple's Child and Adolescent Anxiety Disorders Clinic (CAADC), Lara Rifkin (top photo) and Kate Phillips (bottom) arrived in our schools on October 28 and will continue to work in the district every Wednesday through June 2021.

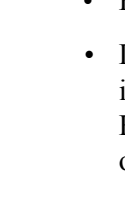


Rifkin and Phillips offer a variety of services including consultation with HSD staff, in-school support such as interviews and treatment, and referrals for certain students to the CAADC. Nearing the conclusion of their five-year Ph.D. program, both students are working in Haddonfield as one of their practicum experiences and may work with students from elementary grades through high school.

Their empirically based treatment plans encompass cognitive behavioral therapy. In this approach, students are taught a variety of skills and then gradually practice entering feared situations while using these skills.

"I have been so heartened by the welcome we have received in Haddonfield," said Phillips. "In particular, I am impressed with the attitudes expressed by staff members to collaborate and trouble shoot."

The relationship between Temple's CAADC and Haddonfield is just one element of the district's ongoing commitment to support social and emotional learning (SEL) and social and emotional health of our students and staff.

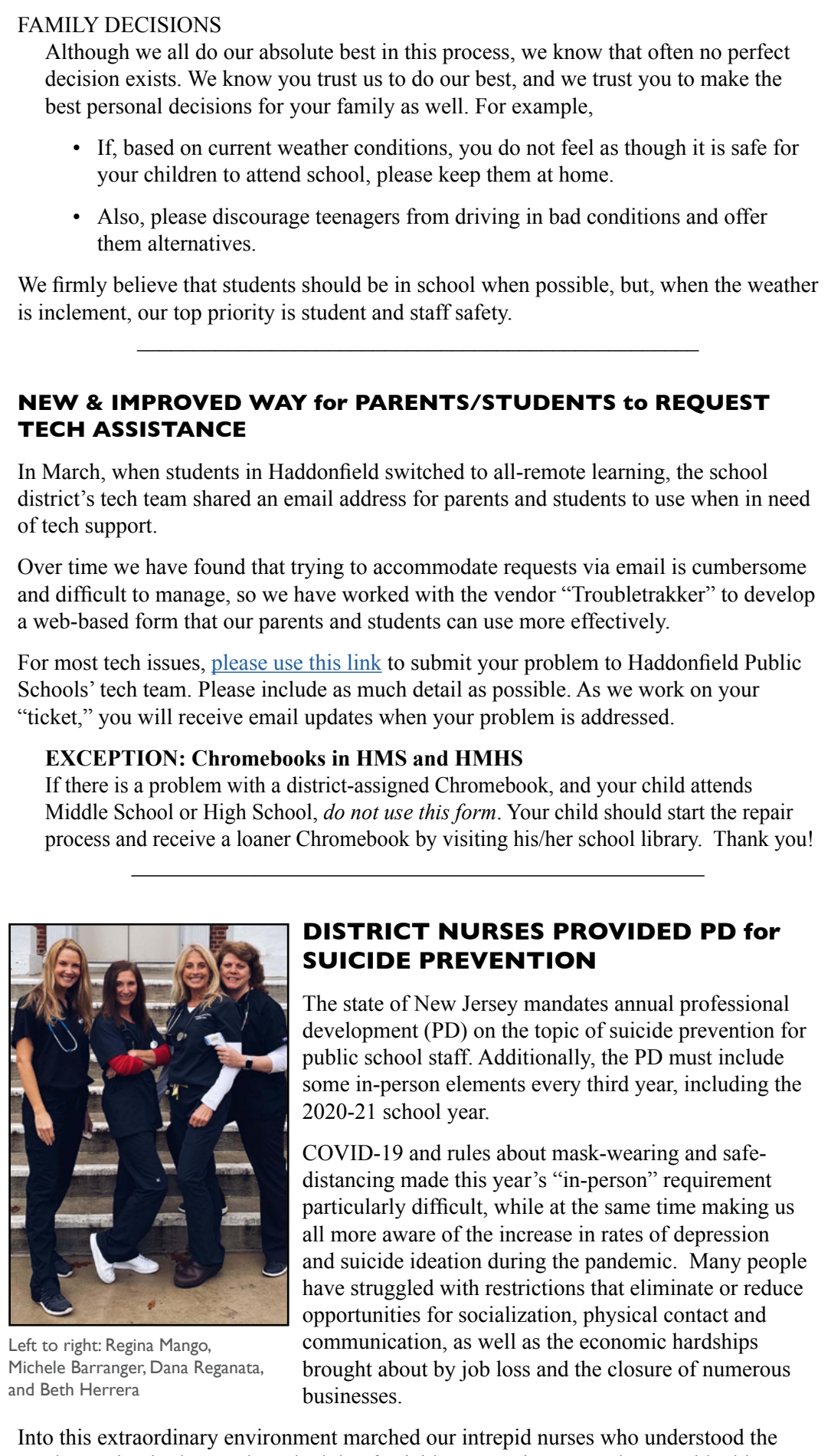


### MONTHLY ANXIETY TIP:

*Our Temple student clinicians have volunteered to write and share a tip about anxiety each month for the district newsletter. Here is the first one.*

When your child becomes anxious in public, validate his/her feelings ("I know you're feeling really anxious about being in the crowded store ...") and praise brave behavior ("... and I'm really proud of you for doing this with me even though you're feeling really scared."). This teaches young people that they can be flexible in their responses to anxiety.

**It is okay to feel anxious and act in a brave way.**



### HOW the DISTRICT will RESPOND to INCLEMENT WINTER WEATHER

CHANGES IN DECISIONS RELATED TO POTENTIAL DELAYS AND CANCELLATIONS

With the unusual circumstances during the 2020-21 school year, closures related to inclement weather will look different.

**The first significant change is that there will be no delayed openings until we return to a full-day, in-person schedule.** The reason for this revolves around the time students and staff need to be in the building and our ability to access the building. If, for example, we called a two-hour delay and moved the start time back to 10 o'clock, our students would be in school from roughly 10:00 to 2:45 with no lunch. Having students and staff in school across the lunch hour without a break for food is simply not reasonable. The alternative of bringing students and staff to school at 10:00 and sending them home at 12:45 is equally impractical.

**With this in mind, our approach for responding to inclement weather will either be to keep students and staff in school or to close school for in-person instruction.** One of the unique factors of this school year is that we have developed expertise in teaching in a full-virtual environment. It has not escaped us that a "snow day" is exciting for children and provides the opportunity for them to go out and play in the snow.

The argument of "let kids be kids" is a strong one; however, looking at the long-term aspects of our calendar and understanding that any snow day would cut into an already shortened spring break, **the decision has been made that, on any day when schools are closed for inclement weather, we will shift to a full-virtual day rather than cancel classes.** We understand that this will be a difficult pill for our children to swallow, but we hope that, come spring, we will be past the worst of this pandemic and can return to the days where we can travel and gather together in groups!

### HOW DO WE MAKE OUR DECISION?

We make the decision to open or close our schools in bad weather based on a careful analysis of many factors, such as:

- Information on road conditions from the borough.
- The amount of accumulated snow and ice.
- Weather predictions, including whether precipitation will continue.
- Building and grounds conditions.
- Decisions made by neighboring districts. Many superintendents (colleagues in adjacent districts) confer. However, please keep in mind that, because Haddonfield is a walking district, there will be times we will be open while other schools around us may close due to busing issues.

### WHO MAKES THE DECISION?

Superintendent Chuck Klaus in consultation with the Director of Facilities, our BA (business administrator) and our transportation director.

### HOW ARE FAMILIES NOTIFIED?

You will receive an e-mail and text message from our school messaging system.

Also you may check [our district website](#) for information.

Checking local TV and radio stations (KYW News Radio, CBS Philly, 6 ABC, NBC 10, Fox 29) should be your *last resort* as there is always a delay between our reporting to them and their posting. Our school's number is 560.

### WHEN IS THE DECISION MADE?

We try very hard to make the decision by 5:30 a.m. or earlier when possible.

### FAMILY DECISIONS

Although we all do our absolute best in this process, we know that often no perfect decision exists. We know you trust us to do our best, and we trust you to make the best personal decisions for your family as well. For example,

- If, based on current weather conditions, you do not feel as though it is safe for your children to attend school, please keep them at home.
- Also, please discourage teenagers from driving in bad conditions and offer them alternatives.

We firmly believe that students should be in school when possible, but, when the weather is inclement, our top priority is student and staff safety.

### NEW & IMPROVED WAY for PARENTS/STUDENTS to REQUEST TECH ASSISTANCE

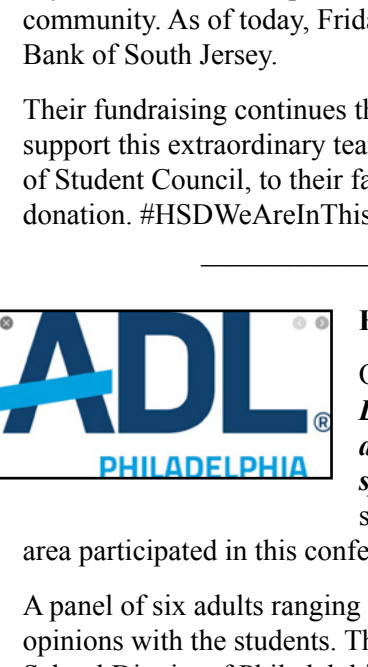
In March, when students in Haddonfield switched to all-remote learning, the school district's tech team shared an email address for parents and students to use when in need of tech support.

Over time we have found that trying to accommodate requests via email is cumbersome and difficult to manage, so we have worked with the vendor "Troubletraker" to develop a web-based form that our parents and students can use more effectively.

For most tech issues, [please use this link](#) to submit your problem to Haddonfield Public Schools' tech team. Please include as much detail as possible. As we work on your "ticket," you will receive email updates when your problem is addressed.

### EXCEPTION: Chromebooks in HMS and HMHS

If there is a problem with a district-assigned Chromebook, and your child attends Middle School or High School, *do not use this form*. Your child should start the repair process and receive a loaner Chromebook by visiting his/her school library. Thank you!



Left to right: Regina Mango, Michelle Barranger, Dana Reganata, and Beth Herrera

### DISTRICT NURSES PROVIDED PD for SUICIDE PREVENTION

The state of New Jersey mandates annual professional development (PD) on the topic of suicide prevention for public school staff. Additionally, the PD must include some in-person elements every third year, including the 2020-21 school year.

COVID-19 and rules about mask-wearing and safe-distancing made this year's "in-person" requirement particularly difficult, while at the same time making us all more aware of the increase in rates of depression and suicide ideation during the pandemic. Many people have struggled with restrictions that eliminate or reduce opportunities for socialization, physical contact and communication, as well as the economic hardships brought about by job loss and the closure of numerous businesses.

Into this extraordinary environment marched our inter-vention nurses who understood the need to maintain the regular schedule of suicide-prevention PD and to provide this information in the most effective and personalized manner possible.

The nurses produced a creative PD experience that began with a narrated PowerPoint presentation and Public School Works learning modules that staff could choose when to complete. This is part of our goal to create more flexible learning environments, not just for our students, but for our adult learners as well. Then they met with staff in person at a number of faculty and staff meetings to lead a question-and-answer period. Finally, the nurses along with our marvelous school counselors answered more than 50 written questions posed by members of our staff, making sure that everyone felt comfortable asking sensitive questions.

"I have watched our nursing staff move through the year with quiet, caring professionalism, offering their expertise to our administrators and staff from March to the present in a wide variety of ways and on many different topics," said Dr. Colleen Murray, Chief Academic Officer who also oversees all kinds of PD. "Their solution to the dilemma of providing appropriate suicide-prevention PD is just one more example of how lucky we are to have them in our district."

### LATEST INFORMATION re COVID-19 on our WEBSITE

Earlier this week, [we emailed an update](#) about quarantine guidelines; how to distinguish between a cold, the flu and COVID-19; and new FAQs for parents.

All HSD Health [general messages](#) are posted on our website.

All HSD Health [COVID+ messages](#) are posted on our website.

### ANXIETY WORKSHOPS PLANNED for PARENTS in JANUARY/FEBRUARY

Yesterday, we emailed a flyer about two Anxiety Workshops scheduled for January and February. [The flyer is also posted on our website](#). We hope you will take advantage of these opportunities.

### STUDENTS to be SURVEYED by SOCIAL STUDIES COMMITTEE

Haddonfield School District has formed a Social Studies Committee to review current curriculum and to plan for the future. Please be aware that we will seek input from students in grades 3-12, so your children may be contacted through email to share their opinions in an anonymous survey or in a confidential focus group. If you have questions, please reach out to [Dr. Colleen Murray](#), Chief Academic Officer.

### READ the LATEST ISSUE of the PEER BIAS NEWS

[Posted on our website...](#)

### FOLLOW us on SOCIAL MEDIA

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

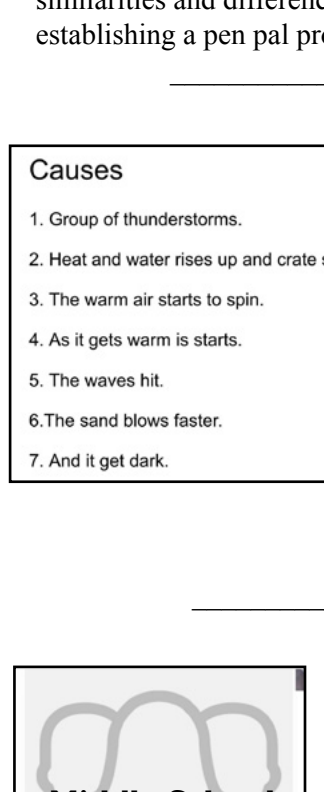
## SCHOOL NEWS

### CENTRAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

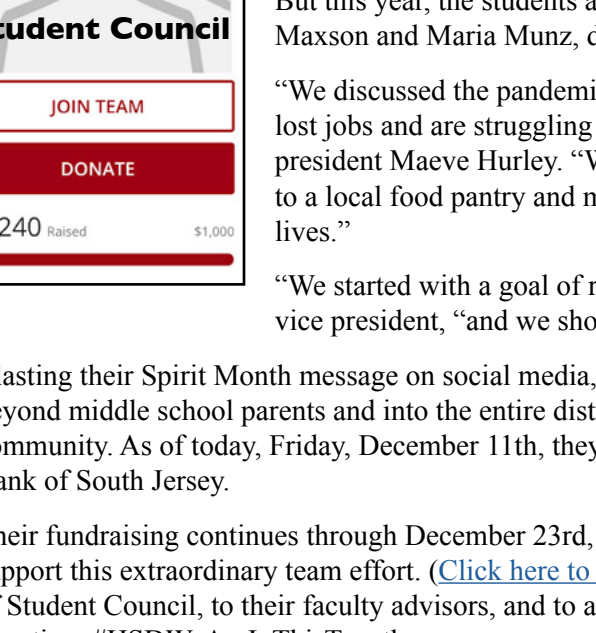
This school year has presented many new challenges, but our **administrators, teachers, families and students have pitched in to create the best learning environment possible.**

As an added level of safety, classes such as Katie Green's received desk shields. The students were flexible and patient as Ms. Green worked out the best way to manage them.

Additionally, her new clear mask allows the students to see their teacher form words during fundations and, of course, to see her smile!



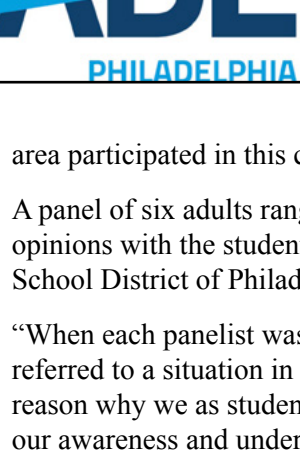
Left to right: Regina Mango, Michelle Barranger, Dana Reganata, and Beth Herrera



Adults and students from Lizzy Haddon and William P. Tatem Elementary School in Collingswood.

### ELIZABETH HADDON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**Second graders are learning about community.** In a recent creative Zoom adventure, Lizzy second graders "met" with students in the same grade but in another school district. Through a series of hints about their towns, each class guessed the location of the other.



### HADDONFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL

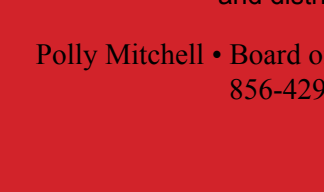
Historically, the *Middle School Student Council* has worked hard to raise school spirit through events such as the highly competitive, grade-level volleyball tournaments each spring. But this year, the students and their advisors, Johnathan Maxson and Maria Munz, decided to go in another direction.

"We discussed the pandemic and how many people have lost jobs and are struggling to get by," said Student Council president Maeve Hurley. "We wondered if we could contribute to a local food pantry and make a real difference in people's lives."

"We started with a goal of raising \$1,000," said Chase Degillio, vice president, "and we shot past that number in one week!"

Blasting their Spirit Month message on social media, the Student Council reached beyond middle school parents and into the entire district and the South Jersey community. As of today, Friday, December 11th, they have raised \$4,240 for the Food Bank of South Jersey.

Their fundraising continues through December 23rd, so yes, you can still pitch in to support this extraordinary team effort. ([Click here to donate.](#)) Great job to all members of Student Council, to their faculty advisors, and to all of you who have made a donation. #HSDWeAreInThisTogether



### HADDONFIELD MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL

On Tuesday, **15 members of the HMHS Peer Bias Leaders and their faculty advisor, Rachel Lesse, attended a 90-minute Virtual Youth Leadership Conference sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League.** More than 400 students from schools throughout the Greater Philadelphia area participated in this conference that focused on issues of racial bias.

A panel of six adults ranging in age from 19 through 60 shared their experiences and opinions with the students. They were led by a moderator who was a teacher from the School District of Philadelphia.

"When each panelist was asked about his/her first experience with racism, each one referred to a situation in a school setting," said senior Danny Cavanna. "This is just one reason why we as students need to continue to be a part of these discussions and increase our awareness and understanding."

"Another question that stuck with me after leaving the conference was the final one," said Jane Kinney, junior. "The moderator asked the panelists how their white classmates and neighbors could be better allies. The message we heard repeatedly was that people need to listen more, to open our ears and minds and hearts."

The students hope to share what they learned with other students and staff.

**Did you miss the HMHS virtual National Honor Society induction ceremony?**  
[Click here](#) to view!

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.