

... news from the Board of Education

HADDONFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT

FROM the SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Haddonfield Families, Staff and Community Members,

In reviewing this month's newsletter you will notice that, even as the region's COVID numbers have risen to disturbing highs, the district has been moving forward in many positive ways. Our online meeting

with incoming kindergarten parents, the high school NHS students creating virtual libraries for the elementary schools, and our continued social-emotional support in place through our RULER work certainly



demonstrate that a creative and collaborative spirit is alive and thriving here in Haddonfield. With that in mind, at last night's Board of Education meeting I once again introduced plans and a timeline to attempt to move to Phase 2 of our "reopening plan." This link to the slideshow will allow you to review the presentation. It is important to delineate the

thought process behind the decision and to set goals, even knowing that some of them may be difficult to reach. While COVID numbers are still not where we would like them to be, they are trending in a direction that makes us believe now is an appropriate time to plan to increase in-person instruction to our students by combining cohorts. Our new plan will stagger Phase 2 returns by grade-level bands. We will start with our youngest students (K-2) followed by grades 3-5 and finally middle and high school. (No change for preschool.) Our primary grade students face the greatest challenges in the hybrid model as they attempt to acquire language arts and math skills. They are also less

independent, making distance learning especially difficult. Additionally, studies included in CHOP's Policy Memo Evidence and Guidance for In-Person Schooling during the <u>COVID-19 Pandemic</u> indicate that young children are relatively inefficient drivers of transmission. Student cohorts would be combined to attend class together four days per week,

maintaining the current dismissal time and not serving lunch in the buildings. (Kindergarten will attend five days per week.) Once our youngest students are in school with more in-person instruction, we will bring in the remaining groups at two-week intervals. Moving into Phase 2 will require flexibility; as more students occupy the buildings, we will undoubtedly evaluate and adjust certain aspects of the plan. We have set a date of March 1st to begin this process, but it is imperative that we all understand that this date is not set in stone. We are using metrics based on CHOP's Policy Memo and the Covid Activity Level Index (CALI) that will dictate whether Phase 2 is

possible at that time. (Please note: I gave the wrong CALI numbers at last night's meeting. They are correct on the presentation.) There will be many challenges to this plan, and the most significant is being able to

maintain physical distancing between students. This will be dramatically reduced in many cases. Based on the number of students who choose to go fully virtual, students may be in classrooms in which the physical distance is 3 feet or even less. Next Monday, February 1st, the district will push out a survey of whether you would prefer

and help teachers to plan. Please check your email and share your intentions. Thank you for your continued patience and support.

to come to school for the combined cohort model or remain in/switch to the fully virtual. That survey will close on February 8th. This information is critical for us as we prepare spaces Sincerely, Chuck Klaus,

Superintendent of Schools

BOARD NEWS 7:00 p.m. **Next Board Meeting** February 18 Log in to watch (and call in during designated time) Board meetings Request in-person attendance (limited capacity, randomly chosen)

Submit comments prior to meeting **Presentations from Recent Board Meetings:** Posted on our website

Thursday, February 4th at 7:00 p.m. The event's Zoom link and all other information can be found here.

Elementary school principals will make a presentation about curriculum, classroom support, the PTA, contact information, class size and the registration process. Read more in the news release, posted on our website. To enroll in kindergarten,

> children must be five years old on or before October 1, 2021.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

High School Assistant Boys Lacrosse Coach High School Freshman Girls Lacrosse Coach

filled out online.

"Dr. Kendall was great. I liked his explanation about how we can model good thinking/processing for our children and students. Our words and behaviors help shape their future responses and ability to cope with stress." "(I learned that ...) Children model your behavior. The best way to calm your child's

Stay calm. It's normal to get upset or frustrated when your kiddo is anxious. Try not to get angry or upset in the moment (e.g. "You're fine, stop crying, just do it!"). Instead, model the behavior you want to see. If you do become upset or angry, model good coping skills and follow-up behavior (e.g. "Wow, I am feeling frustrated. I am going to take a few deep breaths. I am sorry for snapping at you.").

> 3 members from each school have completed the formal RULER (Recognizing, Understanding, Labeling, Expressing, and Regulating emotions) training through Yale University for a total of 17 trained

All staff has completed two RULER courses: 1) Introduction to

Emotions and Emotional Intelligence and 2) RULER Tools of Emotional

SEL (Social-Emotional Learning) UPDATE

RULER Implementation Leaders in the District.

School-Based SEL Teams Formed

Intelligence.

Staff online RULER Training Completed

These courses help the adults in our organization to learn about the RULER framework, along with the research and strategies to support their own emotional intelligence development, as well as that of students. Additional Student Mental Health Support Temple University's Child and Adolescent Anxiety Disorders Clinic at HSD is up and running. 2 graduate clinicians working in the district 1 day per week. 3 facets of support: staff consultation, direct student service, expedited

Grace's Library

Elementary teachers have used these special libraries in a variety of ways such as for digital centers or morning meetings. The children love entering the colorful libraries, seeing the faces of their older friends, and hearing the stories. Following the success of this venture, 40 additional HMHS students have signed up for the next digital project. Some of them will create more libraries, and some will produce a virtual field trip to the Camden Aquarium for first grade.

"Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the field trip had to be cancelled or reimagined as a digital experience," said Green. "Happily the HMHS students will help our children to

Take a look at the digital libraries here. Click on the book you want to hear and enjoy!

HOW the DISTRICT will RESPOND to INCLEMENT

CHANGES IN DECISIONS RELATED TO POTENTIAL DELAYS AND

"I can't say enough about how wonderful the high school students were," said Green. "They worked independently and creatively to produce numerous videos that the

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.

Special Education Parent

Advisory Group

Take a look at the *new HSD Active COVID+ Dashboard* here. All HSD Health general messages are posted on our website. All HSD Health <u>COVID+ messages</u> are posted on our website. **DON'T MISS THESE CONCERTS and the LATEST NEWS** Read the January issue of the Peer Bias Leaders newsletter. Enjoy the <u>HMHS winter band concert</u>. Watch the HMHS Madrigal Concert here. Watch the HMHS <u>Spirit Week video here</u>.

DISTRICT Facebook: "Haddonfield School District" and Twitter: "@HaddonSchools."

SCHOOL STORIES

decimals).

Central teacher Lisa Bellagamba received an email that several students decided to take the math activity further and create an actual hot cocoa stand. They acquired a loan from their parents to buy supplies with the understanding that they had to repay every cent. The girls reported to Ms. Bellagamba what they spent and how long it took them to set up the stand. In addition to making the cocoa, they made posters and baked goodies to sell. When all was said and done, the student earned a profit of \$200. Math rocks!

CENTRAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Project-Based Learning in Fifth Grade

ELIZABETH HADDON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Reddington run a Peer Mentor program at Lizzy Haddon bringing together students in grades 1 and 4. The aim of the program is to help to strengthen the school

TATEM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

different ways to be kind to others. In honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and in recognition of the Great

HADDONFIELD MIDDLE

HMS Model UN Prepares for

Teacher Mike Prevoznak and

34 students in grades 6, 7 and 8

will participate in two virtual Jr. Model UN conferences this

Virtual Conferences

SCHOOL

Peer Mentors Strengthen Community

First-grade teachers Michelle Delaney and Katie

All Central and Tatem fifth graders embarked on **Project Based Learning (PBL)** to create and operate a virtual hot cocoa stand. Drawing on their math skills, they created a business plan (where would the earned money go?), a schedule (integrating time/elapsed time), and of course handled money (adding and subtracting

First-graders Practice Writing and Kindness The students in Kelliann Haney's firstgrade classroom have been practicing "how to" writing by writing all about

Kindness Challenge, the children read about Dr. King's life and then wrote their best

"The students regularly practice 'bucket-filling' at home and at school," said Haney. "Basically, being kind to others fills your invisible bucket. When your bucket is full, you feel more confident, secure, calm, patient, and friendly. Your thoughts are positive and you expect positive results. When your bucket is overflowing, you experience an intense

happiness that can spread to those around you. This is the 'ripple effect' of a

WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL

7

VIRTUAL GLOBAL EDUCATION PROGRAMMING

2020-2021

JR. MODEL UNITED

NATIONS

HADDONFIELD MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL These are just some of Numerous MLK Jr. Day Activities for HMHS Students 1. LEO CLUB (advisor Maggie Gammie) Bandana band-making for the Alicia Rose Victorious Foundation: The ARVF works to improve the quality of life for teens who are hospitalized with life-threatening illnesses. The bandana bands are sent to hospitalized teens all over the U.S. Leo students collected donated toiletries for the Open Door Clinic.

Coaches Needed

Crossing Guards

Please apply for any of the following <u>here</u>:

Middle School Assistant Wrestling Coach

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

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

DISTRICT NEWS

Online Workshops and a Tip from our Grad Student Clinicians

One of our three district-wide strategic goals is Social-Emotional Skills and Support. Last year, to strengthen our plans in this area, we introduced the RULER program.

RULER is a systemic approach to SEL (social-emotional learning) developed at the Center for Emotional Intelligence at Yale University. RULER aims to infuse the principles of emotional intelligence into the immune system of preK to 12 schools, informing how leaders lead, teachers teach, students learn, and families support

Working closely with Dr. Phillip C. Kendall, Distinguished University Professor at the Child and Adolescent Anxiety Disorders Clinic (CAADC) at Temple University, we offered two online workshops addressing questions parents might have in helping their children manage anxiety. One was held January 20th for parents of elementary-aged students, and one will be held on February 3rd for parents of high school students. Both workshops have been sponsored by the HEA (Haddonfield Education Association).

Comments from the 68 parents who attended the January 20th workshop included:

ASAP. Experience working in an educational setting is preferred. The hourly rate is

Assistants to support our students. Hours are 8:35-3:00 M-F; the start date is

You may read the flyer about these workshops here. If you are the parent of elementary-aged children and missed the January 20th workshop, you may view the video recording and/or access Dr. Kendall's slide show. Video for Elementary Parent Workshop Slide Show from Elementary Parent Workshop Our grad student clinicians from Temple's CAADC, Lara Rifkin and Kate Phillips, have

been working with our counselors, students and teachers since October 28th. They were

each month for the district newsletter. Here is the tip for January.

MONTHLY ANXIETY TIP:

Rifkin and Phillips have volunteered to write and share a tip about anxiety

referral/intake to the anxiety center. Parents/teachers should contact their school counselor if they know of students in need of these services.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS CREATE DIGITAL LIBRARY for

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. 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. On any day when schools are closed for inclement weather, we will shift to a full-virtual day rather than cancel classes. HOW ARE FAMILIES NOTIFIED?

With the unusual circumstances during the 2020-21 school year, closures related to

A Special Education Parent Advisory Group, or SEPAG is a state-mandated, districtlevel, parent-driven group charged with providing input to the local school district on system-level challenges in special education and related services. A SEPAG gives parents the opportunity to provide direct input to their school district about policies, programs, practices and services that have an impact on students with disabilities and their families. These meetings are held monthly and are open to the public. Our next meeting is February 17th at 8:00 p.m. Read more about SEPAG on our website. **NEW and IMPROVED WAY for PARENTS/STUDENTS to REQUEST TECH ASSISTANCE** For most tech issues, please use this link to submit your problem to Haddonfield's tech team. Please include as much detail as possible. As we work on your "ticket," you will

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.

LATEST INFORMATION re COVID-19 on our WEBSITE

connected to our school and provides role models for them to look up to. The fourthgrade mentors develop leadership and communication skills. "Especially during this unique year in which our students may feel less connected," said Delaney, "we are excited to be able to continue this program that supports our students' social and emotional needs."

community.

Each fourth-grade mentor is matched up with a first-grade mentee. Fourth-graders must apply to be mentors, and parents of first-grade students may sign their children up to

The World Affairs Council of Philadelphia, sponsors of the conferences and provides sunstantial support and resources. This is the third year that HMS has had a Jr. Model UN program, and interest has grown every year. This year's overall conference topic is developing global solutions to ensure healthy lives and promoting well-being for all. Specifically, students are on the sub-committee responsible for writing and passing a resolution on how to achieve universal health care. Working in teams of three, HMS students will represent Germany, Vietnam, Democratic

spring, a preparatory conference on March 10th and the final conference on May 18.

2. SCIENCE STUDENTS CLEAN-UP (Ryan Black and Melissa DeAngelis) HMHS science students went to Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge & Rehabilitation Hospital and cleaned up the animal enclosure area, maintaining trails and spreading rocks around the various buildings.

The 50/50 Gender Equality Club wrapped up its drive for No More Secrets, providing

feminine hygiene products to low-income students in Philadelphia.

(Kim Dickstein, Steve Fluharty) Stand With Camden volunteers have been working diligently to develop a virtual library (via YouTube) with videos of club members reading children's literature for students of

Read the "Board Meeting Bulletins:" Posted on our website KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION NIGHT Tell a friend! Parents and guardians of children who will enroll in kindergarten in September 2021 should make every effort to attend VIRTUAL Kindergarten Information Night.

Educational Assistants

approximately \$12/hour. If interested please apply here.

MANAGING ANXIETY:

students.

anxiety is to model calm, emotionally regulated behaviors." You can still register for the February 3rd workshop.

profiled in the last newsletter.

Tip!

Additional Staff Mental Health Support New Employee Assistance Program implemented, including direct access to support and counseling services for staff and their household members. Parent Training and Support Parent information sessions on Helping to Identify Signs of Anxiety in Children and How to Support Children's Mental Health During the Pandemic. Made Possible through an NJEA grant successfully written by the

> Next session geared to parents of students in grades 9-12 on February 3. There is still time to register for the February 3 session (must pre-register

First RULER student lessons implemented PS-12 by February 18 with introductory lessons extending through the end of the school year.

Explicit instructional lessons on understanding emotional intelligence and

Any curriculum and/or content questions can be directed to <u>Dr. Gino</u>

Annual student and staff SEL survey will be administered in May.

Questions or Concerns? Please reach out to Assistant Superintendent Dr.

This will help to quantify the impact of current SEL initiatives; This will be the same survey that was administered in November of 2019 to all

Haddonfield Education Association.

Student RULER Lesson Roll-Out

Priolo

Lessons taught by HSD teachers

to receive the Google Meet information).

the RULER Tools of Emotional Intelligence

Measurable Data to Inform Impact of Initiative

staff, along with all students in grades 3-12.

Gino Priolo at gpriolo@haddonfield.k12.nj.us.

In the fall of 2020, HMHS teachers Holly Penna and Bill Usher (National Honor Society faculty advisors) reached out to school district colleagues to find volunteer opportunities for their NHS students. Working with Central teacher Katie Green, they asked their students if they would like to create digital libraries for the elementary schools. Using Google Slides, each of six students agreed to the project, selected a theme, designed a personal avatar and a unique library. After making videos of themselves

reading several books, they linked the videos into their virtual libraries.

ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

children love."

enjoy the aquarium safely."

WINTER WEATHER:

WHEN IS THE DECISION MADE?

decisions for your family as well. For example,

HADDONFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

receive email updates when your problem is addressed.

FOLLOW us on SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow <u>Haddonfield athletics on YouTube</u>.

EXCEPTION: Chromebooks in HMS and HMHS

FAMILY DECISIONS

CANCELLATIONS

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

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

We know you trust us to do our best, and we trust you to make the best personal

• If, based on current weather conditions, you do not feel as though it is safe for

2020-2021

reporting to them and their posting. Our school's number is 560.

LEARN about **SEPAG**: the SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY GROUP

participate. Mentoring includes meeting after school for engaging games and activities, partaking in a "virtual lunch bunch," and becoming pen pals to stay in touch with one another during the hybrid model. The program helps younger students feel more In the photo above, children bonded as they worked together to complete a scavenger hunt after school.

Republic of Congo, Brazil, India, Ghana, Greece, Cuba, Egypt, Philippines and the United States. Students currently are learning about the countries they represent, and reading detailed briefing papers on the topic and specific issues. Each team will then write and submit position papers by March 10, and then collaborate with other studentdiplomats to develop and approve resolutions at the final conference.

it is difficult to have play dates.

50/50 Gender Equality Club (Maggie Gammie)

ideas for being kind.

full bucket."

Leo Club students led a virtual games program for 30 of our district elementary school students, providing social interaction for the younger students at a time when

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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3. NAHS (Allie Westerside) National Art Honor Society (NAHS) students are designing tiles that will eventually be installed on the risers to the right of the main office. 4. GERMAN STUDENTS (Anna Feinleib) German students attended the virtual Opening Ceremony for AATG festival that included students from many schools in South Jersey. 5. STAND WITH CAMDEN Forest Hill Elementary in Camden City. 6. DAC (Jane Choi) DAC students edited videos to share with Bancroft residents. 7. INTERACT CLUB (David Reader) Interact students cooked at their own homes and

then brought food to the district tech team and

the district maintenance staff.