



HADDONFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Dear Haddonfield Families:

Welcome Back!! We're a week away from the start of a new school year and all of our teachers and principals are in ready mode preparing their rooms and buildings for next Wednesday's arrival of our students, your children. I can say with confidence we are all excited to have your children back with us. We missed them!

Just to reiterate things you already know, the Haddonfield Borough School District will open school on Tuesday, September 4th for teachers and on Wednesday, September 5th when our students will arrive for their first half-day of school. The District is closed on Monday, September 10 for Rosh Hashanah and Wednesday, September 19th for Yom Kippur. Winter Break spans from December 22nd, ending on January 2 when everyone returns to class. Spring Break begins on Friday, April 19th and ends when the students return to class on Monday, April 29th. Graduation is slated for Thursday, June 20th and the last day of school is Friday, June 21st, the first day of summer.

From a 30,000-foot district perspective, this year is a transitional planning year as one might expect when new leadership is in place. The Board and I will engage stakeholders in a full blown strategic planning process to guide the district seamlessly into the future. We will see the some re-design of our central office staff supporting teachers and students starting with the re-creation of the Director of Curriculum-Chief Academic Officer position coordinating all curricular, instructional, professional development, assessment, and accountability systems in the District. Speaking of the central office support positions, we will need to fill an Interim Assistant Superintendent position due to a leave of absence through November 12th. Since we need some internal consistency that post will most likely be filled with an internal candidate. My hope is to also engage in someone to tend to our new Web site, due to come on line in the fall, and to help us do a better job communicating with everyone in the greater Haddonfield stakeholder community. The District will undergo a full Quality Single Accountability Continuum (QSAC) review by the state which I believe is much needed to

insure district compliance, capacity building, and improvement. The Board engaged with an outside group to conduct an audit of our special education services. Understating diversity, social justice, and equity will also be something we will focus on during the coming year and we will contract with Dr. Shelley Zion from Rowan University who will be assisting us in that journey. Exciting times ahead. No question about that!

Let's talk a bit about the changes to our facilities that have been ongoing. The overarching construction project is progressing well and nearing a final conclusion. Your building principals have already or will be sending you a message on the status of the construction projects at each school. Here is a VERY brief overview of where things stand today:

- Elizabeth Haddon, Central Elementary, and the Middle School should be back just about to normal on September 4th as the construction projects are wrapping up at these locations.
- Tatem Elementary was involved with an aggressive construction plan over the summer in order to accelerate the project's completion. Most of the demolition of the front wall will be completed by September and Phase 3 (the area next to the library) is on schedule. While there will be inconveniences through December, we are optimistic about a winter break completion of the entire Tatem project. Fingers crossed.
- The High School track was refurbished over the summer and is now open for the start of the school year. The roof will be mostly complete outside of the back part of the auditorium and the B-wing is progressing on schedule for a January 2019 opening. We look forward to the high school project being completed in the spring of 2019. All temporary inconveniences for a more permanent solution ahead.

We are all looking forward to organizational stability, physical plant stability, and strong strategic planning for the future over the course of this school year. That said, everyone on our District team here in Haddonfield is wishing all the parents, our students and our faculty members a gratifyingly productive school year filled with wondrous new learnings and spectacular new experiences.

Sincerely,

Larry Mussoline, Ph.D.

Haddonfield Borough School District Superintendent of Schools