



GARNET NEWS

Haddon Heights Public Schools Newsletter from Superintendent Michael W. Adams Jan./Feb. 2020

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

The core team (comprised of 32 people; staff members, parents, community members, students, board of education members, and administrators) met on Tuesday, December 10th and Wednesday, December 11th. The team worked in groups for a large portion of the two days and took a tremendous amount of time to review all of the parent, student, community and staff surveys. Each group then reported out their findings. We spoke extensively about the results and in the end developed four goals. The committee members at the end of the two days expressed that the goals represented the feedback that was received from the parents, community members, staff and students.

The four goals that the core team developed are listed below. They were also approved at the January 2, 2020 Board of Education meeting. Once the action steps are completed, they will then be on a future Board of Education agenda (February/March tentatively). Ms. Judith Wilson, Strategic Plan Consultant, and I will also be working with the action teams and the data gathered from the core team will be available to them.

Goal 1: Academic Standards

Engage students with academic content that is challenging, promotes critical thinking and intellectual curiosity, and provides authentic experiences for all learners.

Goal 2: Social and Emotional Learning / Mental Health

Provide a school culture that develops socially and emotionally intelligent students who are self-aware, confident, and thriving citizens.

Goal 3: Diversity, Inclusion and Equity

Understand, value, appreciate, and celebrate the differences of others. Ensure that all students are provided a learning experience that is equitable and inclusive.

Goal 4: Teacher Leadership

Embrace teachers as leaders and create pathways for them to learn and to apply research-based knowledge in their instruction.

Mission Statement

The Haddon Heights Public Schools, in collaboration with our students, families, and communities, will provide diverse and challenging learning experiences in a safe and nurturing environment with the goal of developing creative, successful lifelong learners. We strive to cultivate learning communities that promote the building of character which will enable our students to contribute to their communities in meaningful and positive ways.

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HIGH SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Professional Development Equity Training with George Guy

The Jr./Sr. High School has been working with George Guy, Principal of Rosa International in Cherry Hill, NJ. Mr. Guy is a renowned speaker in equity in education for the National Principals and Supervisors Association. He has provided sustained professional development training for the staff on equitable practices in instruction and discipline over the last two years.

Pre-honors Courses

The High School now provides a free pre-honors course during the summer to assist students who may be unfamiliar with the rigors and expectations of honors work at the high school. Students do not need to qualify for the course and after successful completion of the summer program will be permitted entry into the honors program. Currently the high school offers pre-honors courses in Honors English I and Honors Algebra for incoming Freshmen. Future pre-honors courses are under development.

This creation of the course came out of discussions with students at our diversity panel who stated that many students were unfamiliar with the expectations of honors work at Haddon Heights. This course is designed to alleviate those uncertainties for students. As we progress towards June, you will be receiving information on the pre-honors summer course from the Jr./Sr. High School Administration.

eSports Course and Club

Haddon Heights High School, in a partnership with Horizon AVL Systems Integration, will be offering a course in eSports for the 2020-2021 school year. This course will be designed to introduce students to the world of eSports gaming, including the marketing and branding, production and communication of eSports. Additionally, eSports will be offered as an extracurricular activity in the 2020-2021 school year and will be involved in competitions with other eSports schools.

Business Academy

The Haddon Heights High School Garnet Business Academy is a program designed to educate and prepare students for post secondary experiences in business. In this academy, students will be placed on a four year pathway that will address preparedness for college, as well as offer real world experience in the business field. Students will complete all prerequisite courses to compete for admission to post secondary institutions. They will learn the responsibilities and career paths of certain professions. Students will be exposed to careers both in the classroom and through workplace observations. Seniors will be required to engage in a service learning project that will highlight their experience in the Garnet Business Academy.

Young Community Leader Award

Haddon Heights High School Senior, Arion Bailey, received the Young Community Leader Award on December 19, 2019 at the Camden County Board of Chosen Freeholders which was held at the Wayne Bryant Center in Lawnside, NJ. Ms. Bailey received the Young Community Leader Award for her community service in the Haddon Heights and Lawnside communities.



1,000th Career Point

Haddon Heights High School Senior, Te'Sean Pressley, scored his 1,000th career point in a victory over Sterling on January 8, 2020. Congratulations Te'Sean!



HIGH SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Heights Heroes Club

The Heights Heroes club was established in October of 2017. Heights Heroes honors people, including Haddon Heights High School graduates, that have served our country in the armed forces and raises appreciation and awareness of the sacrifices of these individuals for our country. Since its inception, the Heights Heroes club has held an annual Veterans Celebration breakfast in November to thank veterans for their service. On Veteran's Day, the Heights Heroes Club held their annual breakfast for veterans. Our guest speaker this year was the former mayor of Camden, Mayor Dana Redd (pictured below). Following the breakfast there was an assembly where some students had an opportunity to ask the veterans questions.



Congratulations to Director Robin Renninger and the Haddon Heights High School Marching Unit on their US Bands Group I Open State Championship!



Congratulations to Jeffrey Eppright, Head Boys' Soccer Coach, for his 400th win and being named by the United Soccer Coaches Association as the State Coach of the Year!



JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Listed below are some of the academics students engaged in during the month of December.

7th Grade Social Studies - Students learned about the growth of civilizations. They learned how historians theorized that humans transitioned from hunting and gathering to living in permanent communities where they learned to farm. They also explored how economics played a role in the development of cities and trade.

7th Grade Life Science - Students continued their study of living organisms and how to determine if something is living or not living. They learned the six characteristics of living things and the four needs of living things. During this short unit, they played a role playing game to determine how a specific organism would fare outside of its normal habitat.

7th Grade ELA - Students finished their study of Dickens' A Christmas Carol, capped off with the annual field trip to see the production at Princeton's McCarter theater. Students also worked heavily on our Writer's workshop, allowing the teacher and students to work together on individual narrative writing and focusing on individual writing goals.

8th Grade Math - Students have continued solving equations and inequalities this month. They have solved one-step, two-step, and multi-step equations, as well as equations with variables on both sides. Students examined equations with special solutions, including cases of no solution and infinitely many solutions. Next, students used their knowledge of equations to help them with their study of inequalities, focusing on solving and representing the solution sets through graphing.

8th Grade Science - Students finished their exploration of Heat/Thermal Energy and transitioned onto Waves in December. The students investigated characteristics, structures, and motion of mechanical and electromagnetic waves. The classes engaged with the content through: direct instruction, 3d simulations, lab activities, and formal assessment.

8th Grade ELA and 8th Grade Social Studies Collaboration Unit - The EGSS Scholars are in law school! December is the month for our annual Supreme Court/Bill of Rights project, a cross-curricular project. The first week-and-a-half of the month is dedicated to research on an assigned case. With the help of Mr. Bond, our new Media Specialist/Librarian, the students create a working bibliography in MLA format. The scholars write a position argument and present their position on the case before our "Supreme Court".

Junior High Cross Country

The Junior High Boys Cross Country team repeated as Colonial Conference champs and followed up a 20-0 undefeated season by going 27-0 this year!

The Junior High Girls Cross Country team finished their season at an amazing 21-6 record and finished 3rd in the conference.

GO GARNETS!



Will Mrozinski, David Clapper, Patrick Pope, and Aidan Sirman have a combined 47-0 record and when combined with last spring's undefeated track season are 60-0 with three Colonial Conference Championships!

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Elementary Math

In the month of December, Kindergarteners learned different strategies with adding 1 digit numbers. They worked on drawing models, solving addition sentences, and creating number pairs for the numbers 5 - 10. First graders learned a variety of strategies to solve subtraction, including making a ten, use a related fact, and counting up/back. The second graders used place value to add 2-digit numbers, including making a ten, recording the steps, and exploring different ways to add 3 numbers and 4 numbers. The third graders used multiplication facts, place value, and properties to solve multiplication problems, including finding patterns and multiplication properties. The fourth graders found factors and multiples, and discovered how to generate and describe patterns, including using models and lists to find factors. Fifth grade students solved decimal multiplication problems, with a focus on knowing how to determine where to place the decimal point. The sixth grade students used ratios to express relationships and solve problems, including writing a ratio and equivalent ratios.

Elementary ELA

In the month of December, Kindergarteners have shown how much progress they are making in their reading and demonstrating their knowledge of letters and sounds. The first graders have been practicing responding to reading in their reading notebooks. Second and third graders have been asking questions about their reading, before, during, and after. Fourth graders finished a fiction unit on identifying different points of view. Fifth graders are wrapping up an author study of autobiographies of famous authors and their fictional pieces looking for inspiration from the author's life. Sixth grade students read high interest novels centered around family, friendship, happiness, and persevering against discrimination. They blended context clues from the text with background knowledge and experiences, and developed meaningful inferences about the meaning of unknown words, the story elements, themes, and deeper meanings.

Haddon Heights Elementary School's Parent Teacher Group (PTG)

Our PTG is a tremendous organization that provides our students with amazing opportunities through assemblies they sponsor, grant opportunities, service learning activities, classroom stipends, and so much more. Listed below are pictures of one of the assemblies they sponsored this school year. The title of the assembly was, "Bob the Bully Buster" presented by the Walnut Street Theatre. The presenters discussed the importance of kindness and respect with the students through fun songs and lessons.



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

This year the elementary schools participated in the Governor's Educator of the Year program. There are 2 categories: Educator of the Year and Educational Services Professional of the Year. The following staff members will be our nominees for the County Educator of the year. Listed below are the 2019-2020 recipients. Congratulations to all!



Brenda Baals
Atlantic Avenue School
Educator of the Year



Matthew Baals
Atlantic Avenue School
Educational Services
Professional of the Year



BethAnn Lutz
Glenview Avenue School
Educator of the Year



Michele Wilson
Glenview Avenue School
Educational Services
Professional of the Year



Danielle Connell
Seventh Avenue School
Educator of the Year



Stefanie Maro
Seventh Avenue School
Educational Services
Professional of the Year

2019-2020 Ability Awareness Theme—Choose to Include

Each year, the Haddon Heights School District's Special Education Department focuses on a theme for Ability Awareness. For the past 9 years, the Department lead by the Director, Mrs. Jocqueline Renner, has organized events to raise awareness and promote inclusion. Last year the theme was “Inclusion Matters! Inclusion Works!” This year the theme is “Choose to Include”. Inclusion is not simply about physical proximity. It is about intentionally planning for the success of all students.” -National Inclusion Project This theme is not simply about the inclusion of students with special education needs; rather, it is about planning with purpose for the needs of all students. As Garnets, the district wants to take action to be the most inclusive school community!

Preschool Buddy Program

Haddon Heights School District Social Worker, Kristina Sacco, has partnered with Preschool Teachers, Laura Goodfriend and Jennifer Gallimore, in a Preschool Buddy Program. Students from Haddon Heights High School will be visiting the Inclusive Preschool throughout the school year. In a recent visit, senior student leaders, Robert Segrest and Shawn Gordon, led lessons including reading a story and engaging the students in themed activities. The Director of Special Education, Mrs. Jocqueline Renner, has supported the continuation of this program as it allows the students in both the preschool and the high school to cultivate their strengths. While having fun, students are engaged in a process where they are making connections with other students. The students understand the powerful positive influence that they can have within their own school community as "Garnets"!



Senior student, Shawn Gordon, working with some of our preschool students.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

BOARD OF EDUCATION INFORMATION

The day after each Board of Education meeting you can find information on highlights from the meeting and the agenda items that were approved. This information can be found on the district website by selecting the District Info, Board of Education, Board Briefs menus.

ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS AT BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

At each Board of Education meeting the Superintendent does a presentation for the Board of Education and the public in attendance. Within a few days after the meeting, the PowerPoint presentation can be found on the district website by selecting the District Info, Board of Education, Presentations menus.

STUDENT AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

During the 2019-2020 school year we created and are implementing a Student Ambassador program for the Haddon Heights Board of Education. The spirit behind this appointment is to create and maintain a student representative to communicate and highlight upcoming events, activities, athletics, any specific lessons/projects, speakers, assemblies/pep rallies, or other information that may not be specifically advertised to the community. This platform is strictly for communication purposes. Students do not have a vote or receive any confidential information.

The Ambassador participates in the committee portion of the monthly Board of Education meeting. During the Board of Education meeting committee portion, the Ambassador will listen and will document the discussions. Then the Ambassador will share their monthly report to the Board and the community at that time. Subsequently, the Board will be able to follow up with additional questions regarding their report. Once the meeting has concluded, the Ambassador will report back the information to the student body on Garnet Live.

We have five Student Ambassadors and alternates to represent Haddon Heights High School (one student each that resides in Barrington, Lawnside, Merchantville, and Haddon Heights; as well as a School Choice representative). There is one Ambassador present for each Board meeting. Each Ambassador will participate in two meetings throughout the school year.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Jamie Alexander
Stacey Augustine
David Clapper, President
Debbie DeAbreu,
Lawnside Representative
Lisa Long, Vice President
Amy Lynch
Holly McCauley,
Barrington Representative
Danielle McKelvey-Teti
Craig Nussbaum,
Merchantville Representative
Melissa Shannon
Trish Shields
Jane Shissler

BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEES

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Extracurricular
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