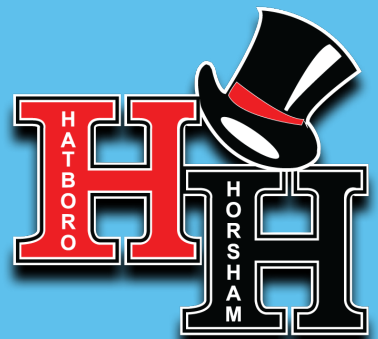


# Reaching *New Heights* in Achievement



Annual Report  
2023-2024



# A Letter from the Superintendent

Dear Hatboro-Horsham School District Community,

I am honored to share with you this year's annual report, "Reaching New Heights in Achievement," and highlight all the ways HHSD is experiencing rising achievement.

In the 2023-24 school year, the District received two notable academic achievements showcasing how Hatboro-Horsham High School prepares students for college. We were named a "Best High School" by U.S. News & World Report and given AP School Honor Roll, Bronze Level distinction, by The College Board.

In addition to academic achievement, our students excelled in the arts and athletics. HHSD was recognized as one of the Best

Communities for Music Education, and our student-athletes won multiple state championships.

We implemented exciting new changes for the 2024-25 school year, including revamped elementary progress reports and an innovative and expanded elective program for the middle school.

On behalf of the administration team, I would like to thank our wonderful parents and guardians, faculty and staff, School Board, and community members for all your support. Last but certainly not least, I am immensely grateful and proud of our students. Let's keep "Reaching New Heights in Achievement!"

Sincerely,

**Scott Eveslage, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent of Schools



## Balancing the 2024-25 Final Budget

Hatboro-Horsham School District is proud to continue its record of having one of the lowest tax rates in Montgomery County. With the approved 2024-25 Final Budget, the District has kept the real estate tax increase below the Act 1 Index for the 16th year in a row. During the budget development process, the District and Board collectively identified three priorities to guide the strategic direction of the budget.

### The 2024-25 Budget Priorities:

- Coordinate resources to align with the new Strategic Plan
- Focus on student achievement through efficient budgeting
- Plan for post-ESSER staffing and programming

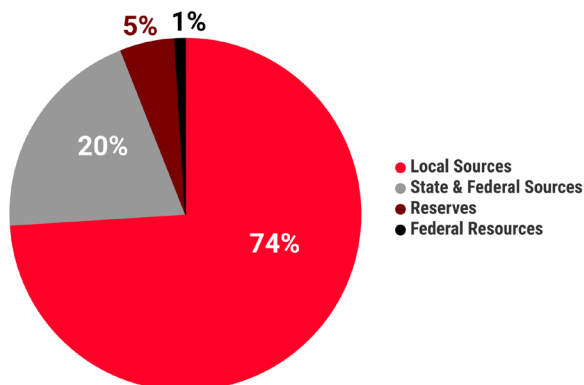
The District administrative team worked extremely hard to maintain the high-level of instructional programming and support in the 2024-25 budget, even as the final allotment of federal pandemic relief funding expired. By creatively reallocating funds and efficiently staffing core programs, the 2024-25 budget includes:

- Professional development to support Professional Learning Communities and Personal Professional Learning
- A maintained focus on Restorative Practices and Multi-Tiered Systems of Support processes
- School-based teacher support to boost student achievement

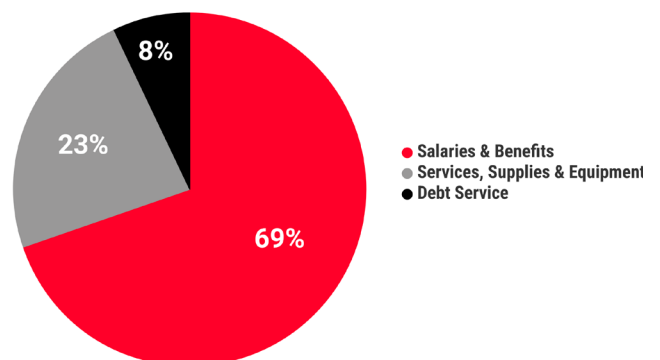
- Class sizes within School Board policy guidelines
- New mandated positions in special education
- The permanent addition of elementary math specialists, a continued commitment to new school counselors, and another year of funding for certain mental health support positions

With the support of the School Board and a commitment to prioritizing students first, the Final Budget is balanced by a real estate tax increase of 3.52% (or 1.15 mills) and the use of approximately \$6.38 million of District reserves. The Final Budget has expenditures of \$132.0 million with no reduction in academic programming. The District's strong financial standing and vigilant approach ensures students and staff receive the support and programming they need to excel.

WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM



WHERE THE MONEY GOES



# Revised Elementary Progress Reports Provide Families with Increased Clarity and Consistency on Student Performance



The Hatboro-Horsham School District is pleased to announce a significant update to the elementary student progress reports, which is focused on improving communication with families about student learning.

The process of revising the progress reports has been extensive and collaborative, involving a wide range of internal stakeholders. Teachers, elementary administrators, members of the Special Services and English Language Development teams, and grade-level leads all played crucial roles in shaping the new format. The team's collective insights were instrumental in ensuring the reports were comprehensive and user-friendly.

"The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) has established standards for all content areas we teach. The standards outline what students should know and be able to do at each grade level," said Christine Jenkins, Supervisor of Curriculum. "While we use all standards to guide our curriculum and instruction, reporting on every single one could be overwhelming for parents and teachers. For example, in some grade levels, there can be over 50 standards for English Language Arts. Our team identified the most essential standards in each area and what is most important to communicate with parents about."

Internally, teachers and staff also sought to improve consistency across the District in how all the elementary schools reported student performance, seeking more precise and specific information to provide to families about how their students were learning and progressing.

Students will receive a letter indicating their performance in each reporting standard: B (Beginning), D (Developing), P (Proficient), or M (Mastery). A key describing what each letter means will appear on the progress report itself to give parents a clearer understanding of areas students can improve.

"The progress reports are designed to be a communication tool between teachers and families. As we were moving through the revision process, gathering the insights of our families was crucial," said Jenkins.

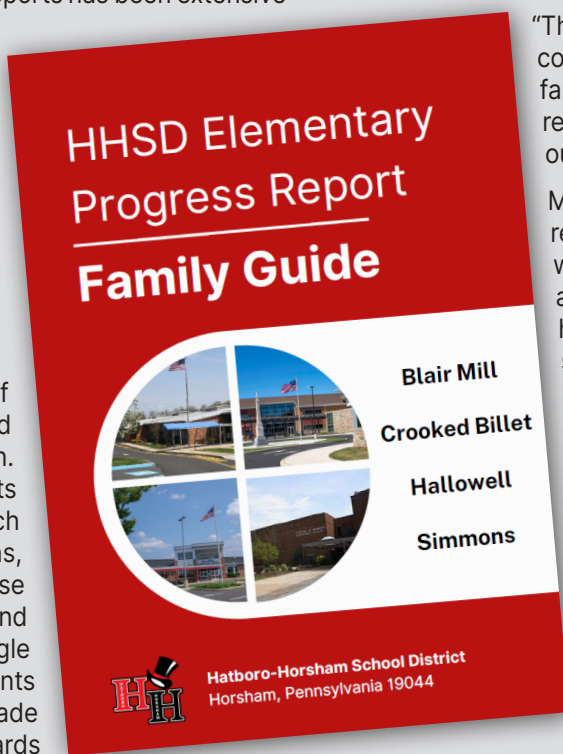
More than 400 families in the District responded to a survey to share how they were experiencing the progress reports, and some participated in focus groups hosted at each of the four elementary schools.

"Through the process, it became clear to us that we wanted to improve three areas of focus: consistency, clarity in our communication about student learning, and offering actionable insights for families to support their students," said Jenkins.

The revised elementary progress reports were rolled out to teachers over the summer to guide them on how to use them for this school year. While this

is a culmination of the past two years of work, the team is continuing to enhance the reports. The team will work on expanding the science, social studies, and special area classes in light of PDE's newly released science standards (STEELS) and a newly adopted social studies resource.

The team created a "Family Resource Guide" to provide more information about the new elementary progress reports, which can be viewed on the District's curriculum webpage.



## Property Tax Rebate Program

The School Board is pleased to announce the fourth year of the Senior Citizen Tax Rebate Program. The program provides qualified senior citizens and other residents with an additional rebate in addition to the amount received from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to reduce their school real estate tax bill. The District rebate ranges from \$190 to \$500, depending on income levels. For more information on how to participate in the program, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/HHSDrebate> or call 215-420-5000.

# District Achievements

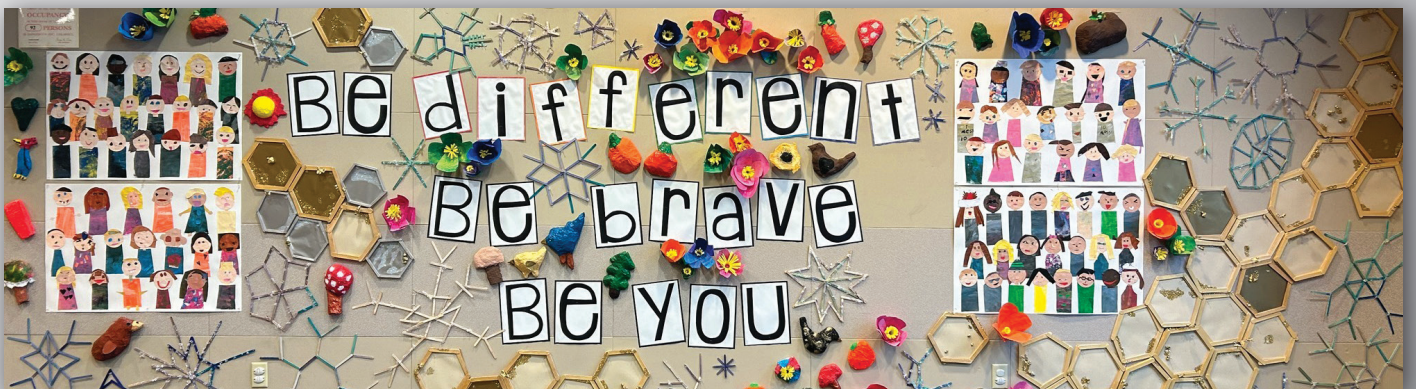
## Academics & Activities

- The Lower Montgomery County Special Olympics, hosted by HHHS for the seventh year in a row, saw its highest number of participants to date. Approximately 400 students competed in track and field events across 13 school districts.
- Keith Valley Middle School awarded 42 students, the highest number of students in recent years, the Three-Year Distinguished Honors Award for maintaining a straight-A average all three years in middle school.
- The Strive Thru, which provides grab-and-go food items to students, opened at HHHS and is entirely run by life skills students.
- HHSD improved PSSA and Keystone exams performance. Aggregate scores for all HHSD students in Math, ELA, and Science exceeded the growth standard. Keystone Algebra growth scores are among the highest in the state.



## Music & Art

- The NAMM Foundation named HHSD as one of the Best Communities for Music Education.
- HHHS' Treble Choir won the B101 Christmas Choir in July competition and performed onstage with the band Foreigner to sing "I Want to Know What Love Is."
- Christopher Kuczynski, music educator, won the 2024 PMEA Citation of Excellence in Teaching Award.
- Anthony Ramos Calderon, Class of 2025, participated in the prestigious 2024 PMEA District 11 Chorus.
- KV Chorus achieved first place with a superior rating at the Music in the Parks competition, while KV Band secured second place.
- Inspired by the One School, One Book program, elementary students created a "garden" of artwork that was on display at the Horsham Library.
- Twelve HHHS students represented the district in the PSEA "Touch the Future" Art Show. Sadie Van Tassel won 3rd Place Best in Show.





## Athletics

**Annie Jia**, Class of 2025, was invited to compete in the Olympic trials in Indianapolis, where she competed against the best swimmers in the country.

**Girls Wrestling**, recently sanctioned as an official sport by the PIAA, was officially added to HHHS.

### HHHS 2023-24 STATE CHAMPIONS

#### Girls Swimming

**Annie Jia**: 200 Yard Individual Medley

**Annie Jia**: 100 Yard Butterfly, setting a new state record

**Annie Jia, Eloise Mothersbaugh, Emelia Erikson, Sarah Parker**: 200 Yard Freestyle Relay

**Annie Jia, Emelia Erikson, Sarah Parker, Megan Luddecke**: 400 Yard Freestyle Relay



#### Boys Wrestling

**Dominick Morrison**: PIAA Class AAA 107-pound Wrestling State Champion

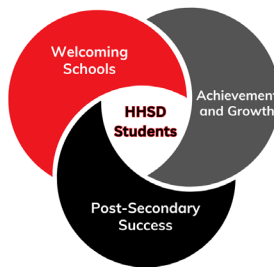


#### Indoor Percussion

**2023-2024 Mid-Atlantic Percussion Champions (with the highest score in HHHS history)**: Sadie Van Tassel, Noah Millar, Ondine Van Tassel, Benjamin Lee, Jordan Miller, Morgan Rafferty, Miles Verdeur, Gabrielle Ward, Jaiden Pridgen, and Michael Duarte



## HHHS Prepares Seniors for College, Earns Two Distinctions



Hatboro-Horsham High School (HHHS) received two notable academic distinctions in the 2023-24 school year from U.S. News & World Report and The College Board. The District's Comprehensive Plan prioritizes students graduating high school with a foundation

for post-secondary success. These distinctions are indicators of an upward trend in achievement, helping strengthen that foundation.



#### Best High School – U.S. News & World Report

U.S. News & World Report named HHHS as a "U.S. News Best High School" for ranking 153rd in Pennsylvania High Schools out of 656. Rankings are determined by a school's performance on state-required tests, graduation, and how well they prepare students for college.

Additionally, HHHS achieved 63rd out of 656 schools in both the College Readiness Index Rank (the proportions of seniors who took and passed at least one AP exam) and the College Curriculum Breadth Index Rank (the proportions of seniors who took and passed multiple AP exams).



#### AP School Honor Roll, Bronze Level – The College Board

The College Board named HHHS to the Advanced Placement® Program (AP®) School Honor Roll, earning Bronze Level distinction. The AP® School Honor Roll recognizes schools whose AP programs are delivering results for students while broadening access. Schools can earn this recognition annually based on criteria that reflect a commitment to increasing college-going culture, providing opportunities for students to earn college credit, and maximizing college readiness.

Offering 18 AP courses, Hatboro-Horsham High School had 34% of seniors taking at least one AP exam during high school, with 80% scoring a three or higher on at least one AP exam.

"As a high school, we are extremely excited about this level of national recognition. It shows the hard work and dedication of our amazing teachers and students and the AP program that we have worked hard to implement, said Dr. Dennis M. Williams, Jr., Principal. "It's a proud moment for our school and our community and demonstrates the high levels of academic achievement that we produce in areas that matter most for our students in pursuit of their post-secondary goals and endeavors."

# Keith Valley Students Practice Voice & Choice with Innovative Elective Program



Keith Valley Middle School is transforming its approach to middle school education by introducing a new elective program prioritizing student choice.

Starting with the sixth-grade program, the new schedule allows students to experience all the electives KV offers. Students explore music, art, world languages, STEM, physical education, and family and consumer science throughout their sixth-grade year. This allows students to have a well-rounded elective experience and to be prepared to make informed decisions about areas of personal interest for their seventh and eighth-grade years.



After experiencing each subject, students choose two major areas of focus for seventh-grade. On alternating days all year long, students can take a deep dive into their two major elective classes. This allows them to develop specialized skills and knowledge in the areas that interest them and align with their passions.

“The goal of the new elective schedule was to create student agency,” said Principal Jon Kircher. “Student voice and choice gives them input of what they want to explore with a deeper dive, and provides them with a more educated choice of what path they want to take in high school.”

By empowering students to choose their major electives, KVMS is embracing a more personalized approach to education. This tailored experience can lead to increased motivation and academic success by giving students increased ownership of their classes.

On alternating days, students participate in the other electives they are not majoring in, ensuring a comprehensive educational experience.

Following the District-wide Red and Black Day schedule, majors run on Red Days, and minors run on Black Days. This balanced approach fosters personalized learning, skill development, and exploration.

“The new elective program aligns with Hatboro-Horsham School District’s comprehensive goal of more rigorous curriculum because students can more easily reach an AP level in world language electives,” said Kircher.

If students choose world language as one of their majors, they will take half of Spanish or French in seventh grade and complete the second half in eighth grade. This allows them to complete level one of the language in middle school and enter high school at level two.

Another major benefit of the new program is that performing arts is now included under the arts major. Students will no longer be pulled out of their classes for band lessons and there are no more before-school rehearsals for chorus, band, and orchestra for seventh graders. This will extend into eighth grade next school year.

The new Keith Valley Middle School building, set to open for the 2025-26 school year, was designed with this elective program and team-based, flexible learning in mind.



“The new school will be a place with infinite possibilities,” said Kircher. “It allows us so much more flexibility to create a program where kids can do meaningful and relevant learning and support creativity, collaboration, and communication skills. The program we’re going to have will be second to none, and we are proud to work with and support our students as they take increased ownership in their educational journey.”



# New Keith Valley Set to Open for 2025-26 School Year

The new Keith Valley Middle School is on schedule and under budget to open for the 2025-26 school year. Over the summer, construction crews installed curb lines and sidewalks on Upland Avenue, providing a safer walk to school for students who live south and east of the school. Light installation, ceilings, and drywall were also completed.



## Countdown to KVMS

### Fall 2024

- Provide permanent electrical power
- Elevator installation complete

### June 2025

- Complete start-up and commissioning of all mechanical equipment
- Building/site substantial completion & occupancy permit for new school operation

### July 2025

- Teachers and staff move-in begins

### September 2025

- Students start school in the new KVMS!

### September 2025 - June 2026

- Demolition of existing school and Administration Building
- Work begins on the athletic fields

### September 2027

- Athletic fields are scheduled to be in full use





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# Hats Off to the Class of 2024!

The Class of 2024 is represented at several colleges and universities, including but not limited to: University of Alabama, Auburn University, Berklee College of Music, The Culinary Institute of America, Drexel University, Kutztown University, Pennsylvania State University, Saint Joseph's University, University of Pennsylvania, University of Pittsburgh and Villanova University.

### SENIOR LEADERSHIP AWARDS

- HHTV: Isabella Solofsky
- Hi-Hatter Yearbook Editors: Mia Bellizzie, Isabella Moffa, Sarah Roesing, Natalie Tocci
- National Honor Society: Kali Fullmer
- Advisory Board Leadership: Jackson Birster, Isabella Moffa, Jesse Wisnoff
- Student Council Leadership: Anna Gockley, Arya Patel, Haley Wallach
- Student School Board Representatives: Ariana Bertrand, Harper Sirine



**318** Graduates | Graduation rate: **100%**

### Post-high school plans:

- 82%** enrolled in formal post-secondary education
- 17%** entered the workforce or apprenticeship programs
- 1%** enrolled in the armed forces, military academies, or universities through the ROTCS program

**92%**

Pass rate on national certification tests for EASTERN Center students.



**5.1 million**  
Scholarship dollars provided to graduates



**14**  
Division I, II, and III scholarship athletes

**3.16** Class average GPA

**1090** Class average SAT Score

**83%** 2024 AP Exam Pass Rate