

October 8, 2008

To: Parent(s) of High School Students
From: Charlie Macunas-Principal HKHS
Re: ½ day sessions added to calendar

Dear Parents:

Haddam-Killingworth High School is a member of the Public Secondary Schools of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). NEASC requires that a school undergo an exhaustive self-study and formal evaluation at least once every ten years. The last time Haddam-Killingworth High School was evaluated and received its accreditation was in 2000. We are scheduled to be evaluated again in October of 2010.

The self-study that precedes the evaluation takes between 18 and 24 months to conduct. The purpose of the self-study is to determine how well we adhere to the standards of educational practice that maximize learning for all students. The seven standards, (four Teaching and Learning Standards: Mission and Expectations for Student Learning, Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment; and the three support standards: Leadership and Organization, School Resources for Learning, and Community Resources for Learning) are thoroughly reviewed to the point that various committees will report on strengths within each standard and as well as make recommendations that will lead to better adherence to the standards and thus lead to school improvement and a better educational experience for all students.

The first and in many ways the most crucial component of the self study was for the high school, as a teaching community, to review our mission statement and our expectations for student learning. The mission is composed of two parts: a mission statement, and a list of the school's academic, social, and civic expectations for student learning. The Mission Statement includes the school's beliefs and core values and embraces those skills and competencies referenced in the State Board of Education's comprehensive plan "A Superior Education for 21st Century Learners." The high school staff approved the Mission and Expectations on September 21, 2008. They were approved by the Board of Education last evening, October 7, 2008. I have attached a copy of the Mission and Expectations to this letter for your review.

In an effort to assist the high school through this valuable and labor-intensive process, the Board of Education, last evening, October 7, 2008, agreed to a request to build ½ day sessions into the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 calendars. This request was not an unusual request and in fact providing time to complete this task is the rule rather than the exception. In an effort to provide you advance notice of when these half-days are scheduled, I have listed them on the other side.

2008-2009 half-days with an 11:55 dismissal are as follows:

October 23 -Thursday
November 13 - Thursday
December 11 - Thursday
January 8 - Thursday
February 5 - Thursday
March 12 - Thursday
April 16 – Thursday
May 7 – Thursday
June 4 – Thursday

2009-2010 half-days are as follows:

September 10 – Thursday
October 8 -Thursday
November 12 - Thursday
December 10 - Thursday
January 14 - Thursday
February 4 - Thursday
March 11 - Thursday
April 22 – Thursday
May 13 – Thursday
June 3 – Thursday

Please feel free if you have any questions regarding these newly created ½ days.

Sincerely,

Charlie Macunas
Principal-HKHS
345-8541 (ext 300)
cmacunas@rsd17.org