

*For Immediate Release*

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## **Hatboro-Horsham School District Introducing a New Phone System in December Main Building Numbers Will Remain the Same; Direct Dial Numbers to be Added**

Horsham, Pa. — Hatboro-Horsham School District is introducing a new, more reliable district-wide phone system in December. The new system will replace five, separate, outdated systems currently in 11 locations throughout the district.

The more modern system is designed to improve communication between parents and teachers, and community members and the district. It includes many new, direct dial numbers; however, the main number for each of the district's school buildings and the administration building will not change.

“Our phone system is old, outdated and breaking down, and we were beginning to put a tremendous amount of financial resources and human resources into repairing and maintaining it,” said Curtis Griffin, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education. “In addition to being more reliable, the new system will connect all district buildings through our fiber optic network and, for the first time, allow calls to be transferred from one school to another.” The fiber optic network was recently installed for Hatboro-Horsham's computer needs.

As part of the new system, each teacher will have a phone with a direct-dial number in his/her classroom, where parents can make direct contact or leave voice mail messages during the school day. Teachers who travel from one school or classroom to another will have a voice mail box, which they can access from any phone anywhere. Parents wishing to get a more immediate message through to a teacher may do so by calling the office at their school.

The phone in each classroom will include speed dial buttons, which can be used to reach the nurses office and the main office directly. An emergency speed dial button will ring in both of those places and act as an open speaker to both offices.

A new auto attendant feature will offer callers a list of options to direct them to the office or extension they are seeking if they don't know the direct dial number; however, they will have the option to dial “0” at any time to reach a receptionist. Direct dial numbers will be available for classrooms and major departments district-wide.

The new phone system is the result of two years of study into the communication needs of the district. The district shopped to find the most affordable system to meet its needs. The system is expected to be cost effective over time due to a decreased need to repair the outdated system it is replacing.

A letter listing important district and school-specific phone numbers will be sent out to parents in the coming weeks, and information for the general public will be available on an insert in our upcoming newsletter. In addition, information about the new phone system will be posted on the district's Web site, [www.hatboro-horsham.org](http://www.hatboro-horsham.org).

*Editors Note: For more information or to interview someone from the district about the new phone system, contact Jodi Spiegel Arthur at (215) 884-6499.*

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