



Thomas A. Smith, Ed.D.  
*Superintendent*

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April 15, 2024

Dear Pennsbury School Community,

For the past several years, Pennsbury has been investigating later start times for our high school campus. This is due to an increasing body of research that raises concerns with a high school start time prior to 8:00 am. At 7:20 am, Pennsbury High School starts earlier than most schools in the area. You can find some Pennsbury history regarding this work on our website [here](#).

We are targeting a change to the high school start time for **September 2025** (approximately 17 months from now). The final high school start time is yet to be finalized, but will be around 8:00 am (Elementary times should stay the same, the middle school times will move up slightly). As part of our plan to prepare for this change, we will spend the next 17 months sharing information and finalizing the logistics like transportation, after school activities, and the high school schedule (specifically when the day will end). Details will be shared as we move through this process.

To start the transition process, during the April 18th Board of Directors meeting, the Board will host a brief presentation regarding the benefits of a later high school start time by Dr. Bert Mandelbaum\*. You can attend this meeting in person [or watch the livestream here](#).

I am excited to continue the work of my predecessors and support Pennsbury's commitment to doing what is in the best interests of students.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Smith, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools  
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215-428-4111

*\*Dr. Mendelbaum is a pediatrician with Princeton Nassau Pediatrics and is chairman of the department of pediatrics for Penn Medicine Princeton Health. He is the chair of the Task Force on Adolescent Sleep and School Start Times for the New Jersey Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. He gave a presentation at PHS in October of 2021. You can view the full presentation [here](#).*

MISSION

Recognizing our proud traditions and diverse community, the Pennsbury School District prepares all students to become creative, ethical, and critical thinkers for lifelong success in a global society.