

Friday, December 7, 2018

As we reach the halfway mark of second term (please make sure grades are up-to-date in the portal) and close out the first week of December...

1. A big "Welcome Back!" to **Monica Knoblock**, who returned on Wednesday from her maternity leave. **Doug Holley** was outstanding (needless to say) as her long-term substitute, but it's great to have Monica back in Room 136!

2. I heard from old friend **Deanne Moore** (former HHS English teacher) last week and she encouraged me to share information about [Fulbright Teacher Exchange Programs](#) with the HHS faculty. We have some outstanding potential candidates here. Give it some thought!

3. Something to think about: As we wrap up **Inclusive Schools Week**, I invite you to take a look at the posters in your classroom. Do they help to provide additional evidence that we value diversity and inclusion? Can all students find themselves reflected in what we put on the walls of our school? These are questions worth considering.

4. Some of us have noticed a recent increase in the number of students wearing **hats in the building**. Don't forget that our dress code prohibits hats and other head coverings (e.g., hoods, etc.) during the school day, and please help us to enforce that expectation consistently.

5. Earlier this week, several teachers reported to me that they have recently noticed a few male students giving the "**OK**" **sign** to each other in the hallway. Because this hand gesture has generated significant controversy lately, I encourage you to take a look at a [recent blog post on the Anti-Defamation League website](#). The author notes: *"It is important to realize that the 'OK' gesture is a nearly universal hand gesture and most usage of it is completely innocuous. Even [though] white supremacists...[now regularly] use the symbol...one cannot assume that anyone who poses with such a gesture is intending or exhibiting an association with white supremacy. Only if the gesture occurs in context with other clear indicators of white supremacy can one draw that conclusion."* Nevertheless, I hope teachers will 1) remain alert to all student behavior; 2) explain the various interpretations of the hand gesture (especially its growing association with hate groups) to students if you see them using it; and 3) contact an administrator if you believe a student is using this hand gesture in a manner that is inappropriate.

Have a great weekend, everybody, and I'm looking forward to seeing you at the holiday party next Thursday!

Rick Swanson
Principal
Hingham High School