

March 8, 2019

As you put any finishing touches on course level recommendations for your students...

1. Please remember to attend one of the two **MCAS training sessions** offered next week. The training (to be delivered by Joe Andrews, Colin McGinnis and me) will take place on **Monday and Thursday**. Both sessions will begin at 2:45 PM in Room 103. As you know, this training takes the place of the March faculty meeting.

2. Speaking of MCAS, don't forget the **infrastructure trial** is scheduled for next **Friday**, March 15th, during A Block. At that time, all test-takers (i.e., all sophomores) and A Block proctors (including both chief proctors and assistant proctors) will report to the same rooms where they will be assigned for A Block on the actual exam dates (March 26th and 27th). The infrastructure trial allows students to answer some sample questions and gain practice with the TestNav platform, but the primary purpose is to test the capacity of the school's infrastructure to handle the first-ever round of computer-based MCAS testing. The infrastructure trial will last for the duration of A Block next Friday. I'm very sorry for the inconvenience and disruption to another school day, but I'm afraid we have no choice...

3. On to a happier topic: The positive feedback keeps rolling in about the recent vacation-week service trip to the Dominican Republic. A few days ago, I was copied on an email (sent by a parent of a student participant) to the chaperones: trip leader **Kara Roth** (leading her third service trip to the DR), **Ryan Eschauzier**, and **Rose Papuga**. The parent concluded the email in this way: "I can only imagine how much time and coordination was required on your part to ensure a smooth, safe and meaningful trip, not to mention the responsibility of chaperoning a large group of energetic teenagers in a foreign country! We are so grateful for all your efforts. It was certainly the experience of a lifetime, but hopefully, just another step towards a lifetime of learning and caring about our world and the people in it. I know this trip will stay with [our son] forever. Thanks again to you all and HHS for making this opportunity possible for our students." Needless to say, I totally agree!

4. The **HHS Debate Team** wrapped up another terrific season last week. **Shawn Nugent** and his talented crew racked up plenty of individual and team honors, as usual, but their real success was better captured by an email sent to Shawn by the mother of a girl on his team. I was lucky enough to be copied on that email, in which the parent wrote: "I just wanted to thank you for the time you have put in that has allowed the debate team to be as good as it is. It was such a great experience for [my daughter]. I was beyond impressed...with the...debaters. It was yet another moment of feeling lucky to be in the school that we are in, and for the teachers that support these clubs." No doubt, that same sentiment is shared by so many of our parents, and about so many of you!

5. Finally, some bittersweet news. First, the "bitter" part: **Brian Heffernan** will be wrapping up his school year next Thursday. The "sweet" parts: 1) Thanks to an impending hip replacement, Brian will finally get relief from the pain that has gradually worsened for him throughout the past year; and 2) **Brad Matton** (now in his fifth year as a para-educator and assistant lacrosse coach) will step in to cover Brian's classes for the remainder of the year. Brad will no doubt do a great job in holding down the fort while Brian races to a speedy recovery.

Have a great weekend, everybody! Hope to see some of you at Taunton High School tomorrow morning (when the girls' basketball team plays Pembroke in the Division II South finals at 11:45 AM) or at the Chelmsford Forum in Billerica tomorrow night (when the boys' hockey team plays Framingham in the third round of the Super 8 tournament at 6 PM). March Madness continues!

Rick Swanson
Principal
Hingham High School