

Monday, October 29, 2018

Statement to HHS Students from Principal Swanson

Good morning, Hingham High School. Today is Monday, October 29th. It's a Day 4, and, while this is a day for excitement about a World Series championship, it is also a day for sad reflection across our country, as we remember the eleven lives that were lost in an awful tragedy earlier in the weekend. On Saturday morning, eleven people were killed during a religious service at the Tree of Life, a Jewish synagogue in Pittsburgh. It was, by almost any measure, the worst anti-Semitic incident in American history. Here at our school, in solidarity with others across the country, let us pause for a moment of silence...

The Anti-Defamation League has called Saturday's incident "the deadliest attack on the Jewish community in the history of the United States." And while this is true, the incident also represented an attack on all of us, an affront to human dignity, and an assault on *all* of our best values. We live in a world that contains enormous suffering, so much of it fueled by prejudice, bigotry and hatred. Today, let us reaffirm our love and support for the Jewish members of our own community. And let us all recommit to building a world that is better. Please do everything you can, today and every day, to spread kindness and show concern for others. In that way, you'll honor the lives that were lost on Saturday, and you'll help to move our school (and our world) closer to being the kind of place we all want it to be.

Thank you.