

Thursday, February 14, 2019

Statement to HHS Students from Principal Swanson

Good morning, Hingham High School. Today is Thursday, February 14th. It's a Day 1, and, while this Valentine's Day offers the excitement of a holiday that comes on the verge of a school vacation, it is also a day for sad reflection across our country. A year ago today, students at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, were witness to one of the worst episodes of school violence in our nation's history. Today, as we remember a tragedy that claimed seventeen innocent lives, let us pause for a moment of silence...

The Parkland shooting is remembered a year later as a senseless act of violence, like so many others before and since. But it is also remembered as an event that sparked widespread civic engagement, especially among young people across the country. My hope is that such engagement will continue, growing even stronger, and that young people (including our own students) will help to lead us toward a safer and more peaceful future. Today, as we celebrate Valentine's Day, let us reflect on the promise of how our own actions (when they're inspired by love and concern for others) can make a difference for good. 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 a year ago, and you'll help to move our school (and our world) closer to being the kind of place we all want it to be.