

**“Moment of Remembrance”
Hingham High School
September 11, 2019**

Announcement from Mr. Swanson at 8:46 AM

Good morning, Hingham High School. Please excuse the interruption. Across the country at this moment, 8:46 AM, Eastern Time, Americans are pausing to remember the events of September 11, 2001, eighteen years ago, today.

“The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, were unprecedented in our nation’s history. Yet, on a day of unimaginable loss, America was uplifted and united by acts of heroism and bravery. Police, fire, EMTs, military -- as well as citizens of every age, profession and background -- answered the call to serve. Their example proved that hope, courage, and patriotism could heal and strengthen a nation. In 2009, our federal government established September Eleventh as a National Day of Service and Remembrance. Annually, millions of Americans unite to honor the 2,996 lives lost on September 11th through solemn remembrance, patriotic ceremony, and uplifting community service. [Today is] a day to honor and remember those we lost, pay tribute to those who courageously answer the call to service in the military and as first responders, and renew the spirit of patriotism and compassion that united our nation in the challenging months that followed September 11th.”¹ So, at this time, let all of us here at Hingham High School pause for a moment of silent remembrance...

Thank you.

Today, on *this* September Eleventh, may all of us re-commit to our highest American ideals of community, compassion, justice, freedom, and concern for others. As we do so, let us remember that those same ideals should find constant expression right here in the halls of our

¹ Project 351, “Overview of the National Day of Service and Remembrance.”

high school. As your principal, I'm proud to say that we belong to a school community where those words (compassion, justice, freedom and concern for others) are more than just words. They come to life in *real actions*. Needless to say, we're all human and so we fall short of perfection. But we can't stop trying to get closer...and closer...to reaching our full potential as a community where everybody feels a genuine sense of belonging. So I urge all of you to honor the best legacy of 9/11 by focusing on what unites us; by treating everyone you encounter with respect; and by looking for ways to make a positive difference in the lives of others. The tragedy of September 11th, 2001, was fueled by ignorance, fear, hatred and intolerance. Let's keep working to replace them with their very opposites: learning, hope, love, and a celebration of our diversity. As we do so, may our school serve as a kind of "ground zero" in that effort. May all of us...together...enlist in building a community where those best American ideals come to life every day in our striving, our generosity, and our genuine concern for one another.

Thank you, Hingham High. As your principal, I look forward to doing that work right beside you.

Now...back to the end of your first period class. Have a great day.