

April 17, 2020

Dear HHS Students and Parents:

**I'll keep this message to essential bullet points but wanted to deliver some important announcements and reminders...**

1. As all Hingham schools wrap up the second week of "remote learning" (after three weeks of "enrichment activities") I want to applaud the **high engagement level** of our students while also recognizing that **we have not achieved full participation**. Teachers, counselors and administrators are actively reaching out to those students who have yet to submit "remote learning" assignments. Please contact a member of our staff (ideally, your school counselor as a first point of contact) via email if you're having a hard time accessing the assignments or need any additional support. The school building itself may be closed but we're all still here to support you. Let us know what you need.

2. Although HHS will issue "credit/no credit" designations instead of traditional letter grades for third term, we want to be clear that **"remote learning" assignments** are now (as of April 6th) **advancing the curriculum** and they do, in fact, **count** toward credit. With or without regular grades, students are now **still earning credits** that count toward graduation. Those who fail to engage in "remote learning" activities could place themselves in jeopardy of losing course credit.

3. At the risk of stating the obvious, students should know that the principles of **academic integrity** apply in a remote learning environment just as they would in a traditional classroom. In order to earn credit, assignments submitted to a teacher should always reflect the student's own work.

4. Because Monday (Patriots Day) remains a holiday despite the cancellation of our spring vacation, **"remote learning" assignments for next week will be posted no later than Tuesday morning**. In keeping with the newly-established routine, the assignments will be due on Friday but students can request an extension (without penalty) until the following Monday.

5. Although regular attendance protocols do not apply during this period of school closure, **students and/or their parents should notify their school counselor if illness will prevent them from engaging with "remote learning" assignments**.

6. Students wishing to check their academic progress in the student portal can do so but, unfortunately, **Aspen is now struggling to repair an issue that currently prevents students (and parents) from seeing the "credit/no credit" designations** entered by teachers. This issue is posing a challenge for many school districts (not just ours) but Aspen has assured us that it should be fixed soon.

7. For those worried about how "credit/no credit" designations on transcripts will impact the **college application process**, [this article](#) offers some welcome reassurance from a well-respected authority on the subject.

8. Although we have not completely abandoned hopes for a return to school on May 4th, we recognize the very real possibility that school closure could be extended. Undoubtedly, **some important events will have to be postponed, reimaged or (as a last resort) canceled**. With apologies to the Class of 2021, we made the decision this week to cancel the junior prom, originally scheduled for May 15th. Please be assured that we will do everything we can to avoid cancellations, especially with regard to those events that honor and celebrate our seniors. Members of the HHS Class of 2020 (and their parents) should know that we will do our best to reclaim what is left of their senior year.

9. Today marked the **25th school day since Hingham schools closed their doors on March 13th**. In the face of incredible challenges during these past five weeks, I remain convinced of this community's endless capacity for resilience. Thank you for continuing to support our schools, and please stay safe. Wishing all of you a healthy and restful long weekend!

Sincerely,

**Rick Swanson**  
**Principal**  
**Hingham High School**