

**April 24, 2020**

**As we wrap up "Week 3 of Remote Learning" and the sixth week since school closed...**

1. The *New York Times* recently reported that ["phone calls have made a comeback in the pandemic."](#) And "while the nation's biggest telecommunications providers prepared for a huge shift toward more internet use from home, what they didn't expect was an even greater surge in plain old voice calls, a medium that had been going out of fashion for years." **I urge you to join that trend...**not only with your family but also **with your students**. In the ongoing effort to engage hard-to-reach students, many of us have been struck by the effectiveness of the good old-fashioned phone call. So, especially if you're struggling to pull in a reluctant learner, **please make a call**. You can use \*67 and/or set up a Google Voice number to protect your privacy. Making this extra effort is bound to help establish connection, and it could be life changing for a student who needs to hear a friendly and supportive voice during an extremely challenging time.
2. Your contributions to the Google Sheet have been extremely helpful. Together with the counselors, Jenn and Collin have been calling those students who most require additional outreach. They will continue to record **updates** in the "Action taken by AP" column. As suggested above, telephone outreach has so far proven to be a difference-maker in quite a few instances. Please continue to update the Google Sheet as you review each round of student work. Together we will identify the students who most need our help and find ways to provide it.
3. My thanks to those who have already joined the discussion on the online bulletin board. If you haven't checked it out yet, please do so. I just started a new thread ("**What's the best movie you've seen since school closed?**") and hope some of you will do the same.
4. You probably have not driven past the school recently, but since Wednesday night, a great sign (painted and hung by the junior class officers) has been hanging from the backstop of the softball field. It warms the heart and provides one more sign (literally, in this case) of **hope in hard times**.



5. I think I set a new record for emails this week, and I bet you probably did, too. I'll close by sharing a nice one that was really meant for all of us: "Sending you and staff members **immeasurable gratitude for your dedication to, and care for, the HHS community**. Keeping you in thoughts and prayers!" Not a bad one to finish out the week. With regard to our exceptional faculty, the author of that email hit the nail on the head.

Thank you for everything you're doing out there. Have a great weekend!

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