

**Friday, January 24, 2020**

**As we head into "halftime" of the 2019-2020 school year...**

1. Looking ahead to next week: Don't forget about the full-period **assemblies on Tuesday, January 28th**. [Kevin Flike](#) will speak to all 9th- and 10th-graders during B Block and then address all 11th- and 12th-graders the next period. In both cases, students will report to class and then wait for a call to the main office. Teachers should attend with their classes and follow regular assembly protocol. In other words, please remind students to stay with their classmates and fill in from the front of the auditorium. I'm looking forward to a presentation that promises to be inspiring and memorable.

2. Our **next professional development day (Wednesday, February 5th) will follow the regular two-hour-delay schedule** (i.e., dropping the first two periods) we normally follow on a "late-start" day. Because of the lunch block, we don't really have the option to alter the length of periods as we did for the last early-release day on January 8th. I'm interested in your thoughts about that last schedule change, though. If you'd like to provide feedback, please complete [this brief \(and completely optional\) survey](#).

3. In case you hadn't heard about this [news item](#): Since last week, students at several MA schools (including at least two high schools) have started fires in classrooms by imitating a prank seen in online videos. Viewed widely on TikTok, a video-sharing social-networking service, the prank is designed to short an electrical outlet by using a phone charger and a coin. **Please keep an eye out for similar behavior**. Needless to say, we've had enough fires around here....

4. Looking for something fun to do tomorrow? Head into the city to see our **boys' basketball team** play an **11 AM matinee at the TD Garden** against Scituate. What a special opportunity for our own student athletes to play on the hallowed parquet!

5. Here's a long-overdue **salute to our hard-working counselors**. I received an email last week from a parent who described "an incredibly helpful and informative meeting with [my daughter's counselor] this morning. As we stare down the barrel of the college application process, [this counselor] is a steady hand. I feel very grateful that [my children] have her by their side. Perhaps the most reassuring part of our meeting was getting the sense that she really knew and understood [my daughter] - where to gently nudge and encourage. Not sure how she manages it with so many students but I was very impressed." This email, of course, describes a particular counselor but the essential message applies to all of them. The positive impact they have on the lives of our students is enormous.

Have a great weekend, everybody!

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