

Five for Friday (March 27th, 2020)

As the second full decade (oops, I mean *week*) of school closure draws to an end...

1. If you're missing face-to-face contact with your colleagues as much as I am, you can attend an **optional faculty meeting** (using Zoom) next **Wednesday** morning. Given the size of our faculty and the limitations of Zoom, we'll hold three separate meetings. To keep them balanced, please pick a time (if you want to attend) based on your last name, if possible. Attendance is completely optional, since I don't necessarily expect to have any important new information to deliver at that time. This is mostly an opportunity to check in and restore some all-important human interaction.

2. Along those same lines...Jenn, Collin and I were talking about how much we miss "drop-in" conversations with so many of you in our offices. As a remedy, we will be offering "virtual office hours" every weekday, starting on Monday. Needless to say, we're all available via email, but now you can also "drop in" on Zoom if you have a question or just want to say hello. These "drop-in" sessions will be available every weekday (except for next Wednesday, when the morning sessions would conflict with the faculty meetings) for the next several weeks.

3. Have you thought about [keeping a journal](#) to record your reflections and document the unique experiences we're all having right now? Doing so could represent a major gift to your future self...and maybe even future historians. Think about it!

4. I listened to this [EdSurge podcast](#) while doing some yard work earlier this week. It offered some excellent advice for educators, including this: "It's really important to let yourself off the hook a little bit. It's not going to be perfect." You're all doing amazing work...but don't forget to take care of yourselves!

5. Have you been turning to music (as I have) for comfort during this difficult time? I've rediscovered some old favorites, like [this one](#). If you have seven minutes to spare, check out this live performance by Bruce Springsteen (never out of style, and perhaps more relevant now than ever) recorded in 1987. Don't skip over the remarks at the beginning (and again in the middle) of the song. That's the best part.

I remain enormously grateful for the work you're all doing from home. Stay strong, safe and well. And please start another "No Homework Weekend" right now!

Rick Swanson

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