

Friday, May 22, 2020

As bright sunshine and warm temperatures accompany the unofficial start to summer...

1. Please join me in delivering a warm "**Welcome Back!**" message to **Tara Blake**, who returns from her maternity leave on Tuesday.
2. The bittersweet corollary of Item #1 is that **Doug Holley** will be closing up his math books for the year. As ever, Doug's contributions were nothing short of spectacular. I'm totally serious when I say our math wing should be named after him.
3. As you prepare for the last few weeks of school (yes, we're THAT close!), **you don't need to plan regular remote learning activities for the last three days (6/15-6/17)**. Inspired by the success of our first-ever "Senior Service Week," we are developing an alternative plan for students in grades 9-11 to complete during that final half-week.
4. School closure has caused an unprecedented email avalanche for all of us. This can be a strain, but many of those emails have actually been fun to read. Here's one example: "To all of [my daughter's] teachers, on behalf of our family we want to **thank you so much** for the time, effort and care you have taken with [her] this year. She talks about what she learns from you and we are so impressed with what you do in the classroom each day. She is sad to have her year end this way. One major reason is the amazing experiences she's had in the classrooms of HHS with you and so many other teachers. We appreciate your efforts especially during this strange time. You are appreciated!"
5. And here's one more: "I wanted to take a moment to let you know how much I appreciate all that you and your team are doing for the kids during this challenging time....The orchestra assignments are great. They miss playing all together but it's nice to hear their instruments and for them to have something to work on with some fun and accountability. [My son] also loves the gym videos. Lots of fun ideas. **I know the teachers are really putting their heart and soul into creating a great experience for all of the students** while balancing their home life, as many of us are. We have all learned some great prioritization and time management as well as ways to be creative. I hope, as I tell the kids, that we all come out of this stronger and better than we went in. The things we are learning as students, parents, teachers and leaders will serve us well when this is behind us. Thank you, and thank your team for all that you do!"

In the face of enormous challenges, the HHS faculty continues to bring an incredible blend of energy, creativity, commitment, perseverance and passion to this important work. Therefore, as your principal, I hereby order you to **turn off the computer early today** and get outdoors to start enjoying a long weekend. You have earned it!

Rick Swanson

**Principal
Hingham High School**