

Remarks by Principal Swanson

StuCo Assembly - 11/13/19

Good morning, Hingham High! I wanted to take just a moment to greet you on World Kindness Day, congratulate you on completing the first term (I hope it was a great one for you), and to salute our Student Council for delivering this assembly. These StuCo assemblies have a long and proud history at our school. Programs like this get the full support of the teachers and the administration, but they are designed BY students and FOR students. This is as it should be.

The HHS Student Council is among the biggest around. As you heard earlier from Katelyn, our council has more than 150 members, and we'd love to see that number grow. In fact, I'm willing to say that our Student Council won't reach its full potential until YOU are a part of it. Unlike student councils at some other schools, you don't need to be elected. That's one of my favorite things about it. To be in our Student Council, you just need to care about your school and want to make a contribution to it.

Of course, Student Council is not the only way to show you care about your school; and it's not the only way to make a contribution. Far from it. I could give you a hundred other ways and keep you here through

the lunch block, but I'll just say this: For Hingham High School to be what it CAN be, what it SHOULD be, we need YOU.

Freshmen: This is your school; it belongs to you as much as anybody else; if you haven't really gotten involved yet, let's go; what are you waiting for? Seniors: It's not too late to find new ways to leave your mark on this place. But don't hesitate; the clock is ticking. To everybody else in between: You're done with the appetizers, and you're now enjoying the main course of your high school years. Fill up your plate! Our school needs YOU to make a contribution that only you can make.

The avenues are endless. Maybe it *is* by joining the Student Council and helping them fund a scholarship that honors an incredibly caring and vibrant teacher and coach, ensuring that her legacy will not be forgotten. Maybe it's through your work in one of the many other clubs whose names fill an entire bulletin board in the cafeteria. But while you search for ways to make your own path, remember that *we're in this together*. Honor and celebrate the friends and classmates with whom we all share this journey. This Friday night, under the lights: We need YOU in the stands, making lots of noise (respectfully, of course) and helping our football team achieve a goal that has gone unmet for more than a decade. Next weekend, we need YOU back in this auditorium, enjoying the Fall Musical. Your presence,

your energy, helps to deliver great memories for all of us, and it gets us closer to being the kind of school we want to be.

Those posters in the corridors that say “You Belong” - they were hung up on the walls before the first day of school, and they’re still hanging there now. Those words are true. So take advantage. But remember that your *belonging* (like mine) carries with it a responsibility to show up...and *make a difference*. The best part of that? It’s going to be fun. So...I’ll see you at the game, I’ll see you at the play, and together we’ll get one step closer to making this the genuine community we all want it to be.