

Thursday, January 7, 2021

Statement to HHS Students from Principal Swanson

Good morning. Today is Thursday, January 7th. Please rise and join me for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Today, despite the promise of a new year, members of our school community, like Americans everywhere, will engage in sad reflection about the events that took place in Washington DC yesterday. The attack on our nation's capital offers vivid proof of the hatreds and divisions that threaten our nation. And mob violence striking at the heart of our federal government shows that any democracy is fragile, even here in the United States. History shows us that our form of government can only be preserved by citizens who are active, engaged, informed and educated. Which is a very large part of the reason why we're here in school. Yesterday's events, as troubling as they were, lend even greater urgency to the importance of what we do here in school every day.

We live in a world that contains too much ignorance and its consequence: too much violence and lawlessness. But let us all recommit to building something better. Please do everything you can, today and every day, to make the very most of your education. In your classrooms: Read, think, debate, analyze, and reflect; choose facts over fiction; learn to recognize propaganda; and become a powerful champion of reason over emotion. At the same time, do all you can to spread kindness and show concern for others, pushing back against the things that too often divide us. In those ways, you'll honor the higher and truer ideals of our nation, you'll play an essential role in preserving our democracy, and you'll also help to move our society closer to what we all want it to be.

Thank you, Hingham High. And may today bring us one small step closer to that goal, both for our school and for our country.