

March 6, 2021

Dear HHS Students and Parents/Guardians:

A few important items as we close out the first week of March...

1. With **only one positive COVID case last week**, we are encouraged by recent trends and hopeful that we will soon see more HHS students back in the building. Administrators and others remain hard at work on plans to increase the amount of in-person learning time available to our students.
2. **Pooled testing** for HHS students will begin on **Tuesday, March 9th**, for those who have registered. If you signed up to participate in that program, you will receive a follow-up message with additional details no later than Monday. Pooled testing will be offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays, before and after school, as well as during mask breaks, so that it does not disrupt any classes.
3. **Monday marks the exact midpoint of the third term.** You can expect that all **grades will be updated** in the student portal at that time.
4. In order to reclaim instructional time that might otherwise be lost, **HHS will not have final exams this year.**
5. As explained in a previous message on February 23rd, the first stages of the [course selection process](#) are now underway. **Students will be able to make course selections online through the Aspen student portal next week**, beginning on Monday, March 15th.
6. I hope you'll need no reminder that **school staff members are here to help** our students, not only with academic concerns but also in supporting overall wellness. Please reach out to a school counselor or other staff member if you need additional support.
7. [This video](#) is guaranteed to deliver a smile. And for anybody who is debating whether to participate in the band program next year, it should be considered essential viewing.
8. If you're free this afternoon at 2:45 PM, you can see our **Drama Club** deliver a free live-streamed performance of "The Danish Soap" on [Zoom](#). We're grateful to the many club advisors who have found creative ways to keep our school's extra-curricular programs alive despite countless significant obstacles this year.

Finally, as we approach the one-year anniversary of schools being forced into remote learning last March, I remain enormously grateful for both the exceptional efforts of our educators and the resilience of our students. We remain in a situation that is far from ideal but, increasingly, the **signs point toward real progress**. While I urge our students and families to **continue following all safety protocols**, I'm hopeful that future messages that will soon include specific plans for the next steps forward.

Sincerely,

Rick Swanson

Principal