



May 23, 2021

Some important updates from HHS:

1. The signs of hope are many. To begin with: **Nobody at HHS tested positive for COVID last week.** It's been a long time since we could say that but it clearly points to better days ahead!
2. Another sign of hope: New DESE guidelines for MA high school graduation ceremonies will allow us to return to a **traditional format for our commencement exercises** on June 5th. Social distancing and mask requirements, along with guest limits, have been removed. Seniors and their families can expect additional details from HHS administration next week.
3. More good news: HHS has announced the **valedictorian and salutatorian** for the Class of 2021. Congratulations to Catie Manning and Emma Beyer!
4. 7 of our last 16 days of school will include **MCAS testing**. All sophomores will take the Math MCAS later this week, on Thursday 5/27 and Friday 5/28. All juniors who have elected to take the MCAS will take the ELA exam on Tuesday 6/1 and Wednesday 6/2; they will take the Math exam on Thursday 6/3 and Friday 6/4. All ninth graders enrolled in a Biology class this year will take the Biology MCAS on Monday 6/7.
5. For the most part, **transition to the revised schedule** went well last week, even though attendance in last-period Directed Studies fell short of our target. Full-day attendance remains an expectation as well as a goal.
6. We continue to see many tardy arrivals in the morning, due in large part to traffic congestion. We **urge students to arrive earlier**, as drop-offs move much more easily until about five minutes before the start of school, at which point we often experience gridlock.
7. The response to Friday's survey illustrated a high level of enthusiasm for a **vaccination clinic** at school. Therefore, HPS is now taking steps to set up a clinic for students. We will communicate additional details as they become available.
8. As HHS administrators begin to build the **schedule** for the 2021-2022 school year, be assured that we expect a "return to normal" (i.e., 57-minute periods, a seven-period "drop-one" rotation, etc.) in that regard next year.

Here's to continued progress and a great week ahead!

Sincerely,

**Rick Swanson
Principal**