

Monday, May 16, 2022

Statement to HHS Students from Principal Swanson

Good morning, Hingham High School. Today is Monday, May 16th. It's a Day 6, and, though we're glad to start Spirit Week and the last full week of classes for our seniors, today is also a day for sad reflection across our country, as we remember the ten lives that were lost in an awful tragedy during the weekend. On Saturday, ten people were killed during a racially motivated attack at a supermarket in Buffalo. It was the deadliest mass shooting in the United States so far this year, and it offers one more example of how our society continues to battle the demons of hatred and racism. Here at our school, in solidarity with others across the country, let us pause for a moment of silence...

In one sense, the shooting on Saturday was directed at the Black community of Buffalo, a city that is almost 500 miles away from our small town. But, in a larger sense, the incident also represented an attack on all of us, an affront to human dignity, and an assault on *all* of our best values. We live in a world that contains enormous suffering, so much of it fueled by prejudice, bigotry and hatred. Today, let us reaffirm our love and support for one another, especially for the people of color here in our own school who may now be contending with additional layers of anger and grief after this latest example of senseless violence. Finally, may we all recommit to building a world that is better. Please do everything you can, today and every day, to spread kindness and show concern for others. In that way, you'll honor the lives that were lost on Saturday, and you'll help to move our school (and our world) closer to being the kind of place we all want it to be. Thank you.