



Richard Swanson  
Principal

# HINGHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## HINGHAM HIGH SCHOOL

17 Union Street • Hingham, Massachusetts 02043

781-741-1560 VOICE • 781-741-1515 FAX

[rswanson@hinghamschools.org](mailto:rswanson@hinghamschools.org)

[hinghamschools.org/hingham-high-school](http://hinghamschools.org/hingham-high-school)

April 2023

Dear Parents:

Here at Hingham High School, we are busy making the final arrangements for the graduation ceremony for the Class of 2023. This exciting event will celebrate the academic accomplishments of all our seniors. We want it to be a wonderful experience for all the graduates as well as their families and friends.

Seating for spectators will be limited to the large bleachers on the west side of the multi-purpose field. The bleachers conform to (or exceed) the handicapped accessibility regulations. All seating in these bleachers will be unreserved.

Spectators may enter the bleacher area by way of the two adjacent entrances or by the entrance at the end of the field. Ushers will have programs available at all entrances.

Weather permitting, the Class of 2023 will have its graduation on our turf field at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 3, 2023. Please note that smoking is strictly prohibited on school grounds at all times, including the graduation ceremony. Smoking is a significant fire hazard and would damage our field. In the past, cigar smoking has sometimes been an issue after the ceremony. When cigars are lit, the smoke adversely affects many of the graduates' guests; and it may damage our field. In fact, it is illegal to smoke on school property. I ask your cooperation in deferring this practice, and finding better ways to celebrate this momentous occasion!

We extend our best wishes to you on this very important occasion, and we look forward to seeing you on graduation day!

Sincerely,

Richard Swanson  
Principal

April, 2023

Dear Senior Parents:

With the spring season well underway, the end of our high school careers is rapidly approaching. To mark our momentous last day of school, which falls on Tuesday May, 23, our assistant principals and class parents are busy planning an outdoor Senior Picnic. The event has been a great success in the past and we are looking forward to the same enthusiasm and cooperation this year. Our last day events have been carefully planned to work within the parameters of time and learning standards set by the state in order to provide a memorable and entertaining final day together.

The Hingham Recreation Center has generously donated their facilities to be used by the senior class for all last day events. Our morning will begin with a breakfast at the Rec Center provided by the Junior Class. We will also enjoy games and a cookout on the fields behind the Rec Center and Hingham Town Hall. Before the end of the day, seniors will also have the opportunity to purchase their caps and gowns for graduation in addition to obtaining their lawn signs.

In order for this day to be a success, we are going to need a lot of helping hands! We need parents to lend us grills, help prepare foods, donate items to the raffle, and set up activities on the fields. Please look out for an email from our class parents, Megan Baker ([megantbaker1@gmail.com](mailto:megantbaker1@gmail.com)) and Donna Ragusa ([donnajragusa@gmail.com](mailto:donnajragusa@gmail.com)) regarding a way to sign up to volunteer. We genuinely appreciate any help that you can provide so this day can run smoothly.

Sincerely,  
Cal Larson  
Senior Class President

## HINGHAM HIGH SCHOOL

### DATES & DETAILS CONCERNING CLASS OF 2023

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Date</u>
Seniors' Last Day Distribution of caps & gowns cost \$25.00 <b>cash</b> only (Info to be posted on the Seniors' Last Day itinerary) (tassles will be given out the day of graduation)	Wednesday May 24 – Hingham Rec Center 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Senior Athletic Awards Night	Wednesday, May 24 7:00 p.m. Auditorium
Senior Final Exams	
Exam 1 English	Thursday, May 25
Exam 2 Science	" "
Exam 3 Social Studies	Friday, May 26
Exam 4 Math	" "
Make-up Exams	Tuesday, May 30
Senior Achievement and Academic Awards Program	Tuesday, May 30 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Auditorium
Graduation Rehearsal - Auditorium (Attendance is required if participating in the graduation ceremony)	Wednesday, May 31 8:15 - 10:30 a.m.
Senior Prom – Granite Links, Quincy	Thursday, June 1 7:00 – 10:00 p.m.
Graduation	Saturday, June 3 <b>10:00 a.m.</b>
Senior Graduation Party	Saturday, June 3 – June 4 9:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.

**REMINDER:** Textbooks, library books, calculators, uniforms, or other obligations (or **cash** for lost items) must be returned/fulfilled on or before Friday, May 26 in order to participate in the graduation ceremony. Lockers should be cleared of all contents no later than May 26. Hingham High School will not be responsible for any articles left in lockers.

#### **Prom Conduct**

To ensure that all those in attendance have a great evening, some basic rules must be followed:

1. All attending must be present by 7:45 p.m. at the very latest. No one will be admitted to the prom after that time.
2. No alcoholic beverages are permitted on the premises, and students who have imbibed before the event will not be granted admission to the prom. If a student is excluded for the reason of alcohol, they will forfeit any refund of the ticket and will be excluded from graduation

exercises. This rule will be strictly enforced by the management of Granite Links security and by all school personnel.

3. For the purpose of the Senior Prom, group possession is defined as being an occupant of a vehicle where an alcoholic beverage and/or controlled substance is discovered. The punishment for group possession is loss of prom privileges and exclusion from graduation exercises.

A claim that the possessor of an alcoholic beverage is of legal age or a claim that an occupant identified as the possessor is not a Hingham High School student will not be accepted. All students are responsible for the behavior of all other occupants of the vehicle and if one violates the prohibition against transporting alcoholic beverages, or a controlled substance, all will suffer consequences.

4. Controlled substances are in violation of State Law and School Committee policy and, therefore, are unacceptable at any school function. The police will be notified of any such violation of this law and the same school penalty as outlined under the use of alcohol will be administered. Under the 1993 School Reform Law, the student may also be expelled from school.

### **Senior Final Exams**

A senior with at least a B- average for the year at the end of term 3 and at least a B average for term 4, with nonexempt absences not in excess of two (2) in the fourth term may be excused from taking the final exam. The list of eligible students in each class will be posted by the teacher on the Thursday before the exams (May 18<sup>th</sup>).

### **Use of Automobiles**

On days of senior exams and graduation rehearsal, an unusually high number of students drive to school. Any student who wishes to park on campus must have a parking sticker and may park only in the areas designated for student parking. We are also concerned that students operate these vehicles safely on school property and when driving in the community. The Hingham Police Department has assured us that drivers of vehicles stopped for traffic infractions will be cited. Students apprehended for motor vehicle violations at school would face consequences consistent with the Code of Discipline.

### **Driving Concerns**

The Registrar of Motor Vehicles urges young drivers to be aware of the consequences of irresponsible driving. "We want you to have a good time within the limits of the law and your own capability," the Registrar of Motor Vehicles has said, while listing the following reminders:

1. The right to purchase alcoholic beverages is only for those people who are over the age of 21. No one can buy liquor for anyone under age 21, and the punishment for operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor is severe.
2. Although the law designates a .08 blood level alcohol content as the level at which drivers are presumed to be driving under the influence, any number of drinks may impair physical and mental limits for safe driving.
3. Convictions of "driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs" reported to the Registrar carry a one-year mandatory revocation of license for the first such offense.

4. A Junior Operator may not drive between the hours of 12:30 a.m. (midnight) and 5:00 a.m. unless accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. A Junior Operator may not operate a motor vehicle within the first six (6) months after receiving a Junior Operator's License while any passenger under 18 (other than the Operator or an immediate family member), is in the vehicle, unless the Junior Operator is accompanied by a person who is at least 21 years of age, has at least one year of driving experience, holds a valid Massachusetts license, and is occupying a seat beside the driver.
5. Operators under the age of 18 cannot use any mobile electronic device for any reason while operating a motor vehicle.

#### Violation Penalties

1<sup>st</sup> offense - \$100 fine, 60-day license suspension, \$100 reinstatement fee and a required attitudinal retraining course

2<sup>nd</sup> offense - \$250 fine, 180-day license suspension, \$100 reinstatement fee

3<sup>rd</sup> or subsequent offense - \$500 fine, one-year license suspension, \$100 reinstatement fee

### **Scholarships & Awards Presented at the Awards Program**

All senior students, their parents, and guests are invited to attend the senior awards program on the evening of Tuesday, May 30. Students are expected to wear graduation gowns (no caps). At this awards program, scholarships are announced and recognition given for various accomplishments. Students receiving a scholarship and/or award will be given written notification. If you do not receive a letter, you are still welcome to attend the awards program; however, your student does not have to wear the graduation gown, nor should they sit in the alphabetical order seating area.

The distribution of scholarships and awards is based on a variety of criteria: financial need, academic merit, expected major in college study, or special talent or performance in school activities. The Hingham community is generous with awards for each graduating class. Local individuals, organizations and businesses contributed approximately \$457,000 in scholarship awards in 2022.

### **Graduation**

Graduation will be on Saturday, June 3, rain or shine, at 10:00 a.m. If the weather is inclement, graduation will be postponed until later in the day or relocated to the high school gymnasium. Notification of this decision will be made as early as possible and posted on our website. Because of limited seating in the gymnasium, graduates will be restricted to two guests if the ceremony is moved indoors; however, outside seating is unlimited. Every graduating senior must report to the auditorium in cap and gown by 9:15 a.m. for the 10:00 a.m. ceremony. Seniors are asked to wear appropriate dress at graduation.

### **Class Records**

#### **To the Graduates of Hingham High School, Class of 2023**

Under Section 34D of Chapter 71 and Section 34F of Chapter 71 of the Laws of the Commonwealth, each graduate must be apprised of the following rights:

As students should know from high school experience, the Counseling Office maintains a permanent record containing information on grades, courses, and attendance. This is considered a Class A

record and will be maintained at the high school for sixty (60) years. In addition to this file, a file folder was maintained by each counselor containing test scores and any other data or correspondence that is relevant. This is considered a student's Class B record. Under the laws of the Commonwealth, the school will maintain this record for five (5) years and at the end of five years this record shall be destroyed. It is the students' responsibility to pick up their records from their school counselor on or before June 1. If not taken by June 1, the records will be destroyed on July 1, 2028. Prior to this date, students have the right to inspect this record and receive information in whole or in part prior to its destruction.

If you have any questions concerning this, please feel free to call the Hingham High School Counseling Office at (781) 741-1560, ext. 2116.

### **Health Records**

*School immunization records are not often updated each time a student sees their personal physician and/or receives additional immunizations or booster injections. As a result, our practice of sending home a copy of the graduating seniors' immunization records has been discontinued in the interest of accuracy. If you wish to have your health records, please contact our Nurse's office (ext. 2095) to make arrangements to pick them up. Parents are strongly advised to check with their child's personal physician to obtain a current and accurate copy of their child's immunization status.*