

HINGHAM HIGH SCHOOL
17 Union Street
Hingham, Massachusetts 02043
(781) 741-1560

Ninth-Grade and New Student Orientation and Notes of Interest

August 2023

Dear ninth-graders and new students:

Welcome to Hingham High School! As a member of the Class of 2027, or as a new student in another grade, you are about to embark on an exciting adventure at a great "Blue Ribbon" and "Green Ribbon" high school!

You probably have many questions and perhaps some concerns about the start of the year. In this document, we have tried to highlight some of the things that may be new or different from your previous experience at other schools. Please see the next page for the time schedule for the ninth-grade and new student orientation. We look forward to seeing you on this special day.

Your arrival at Hingham High School represents an exciting and important transition in your life. We hope you will get involved in clubs and activities, work hard in your classes, and enjoy every minute of it! Our new students will soon make their mark at Hingham High School, and we can't wait to meet you!

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Dear Parents:

We welcome your child to Hingham High School. If this is your first experience as the parent of a high school student, you probably have many questions, some of which may be answered on the pages that follow. Others may be resolved by a phone call, email, or personal contact. The best prescription for a successful year for your child includes a large measure of enthusiasm combined with an open line of communication among parents, students, and the school.

There are many ways you can stay in touch with the school and your child's teachers. Our website (hinghamschools.org) contains a wealth of information, ranging from the Student Handbook to athletic schedules. I regularly send notices and important information by email through our Aspen database. Please make sure your email address is correct. Any revisions can be directed to the main office. To facilitate direct communication with the staff, everyone has voicemail and email. The extensions and addresses are listed on our website. Please do not hesitate to contact anyone on our staff if you have a question or concern.

This year will bring many new experiences for you and your child. Inevitably, high school students will be exposed to some new freedoms and will be expected to assume new responsibilities. There may be mistakes along the way, but these are normal, healthy, and even beneficial if learning follows.

We are proud of our staff and programs at Hingham High School. I personally look forward to working with you and all our new students during the years ahead. This is an exciting stage in their lives, and I am thrilled to be part of it.

Sincerely,

Richard Swanson
Principal

Ninth Grade and New Student Orientation Program - Thursday, August 31

During the course of this day, you will have a chance to meet many fellow classmates, teachers, school administrators, and student leaders; to familiarize yourself with the building; and to follow your schedule. We will also take the first official picture of the HHS Class of 2027. This is a day you do not want to miss!

The following is a schedule of the day's activities.

Transportation for bus students: See the bus schedule online at The Hingham Anchor for your scheduled pick-up time and stop assignments.

8:00 AM. *Welcome assembly in the auditorium*
Meet the principal, assistant principals, school counselors, class advisor, president of the student council, and other student leaders. A video about life at HHS made by our own students will be shown.

9:00 AM *Meetings with school counselors*
Students will meet in break-out groups with their own counselors, according to this schedule:

<u>Counselor</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Students</u>
Ms. Turner	Counseling	A - Chisholm
Ms. Gawel	103	Christofferson - F
Ms. Krall	197	G - Kingori
Ms. McPeck	193	Klein - McLaughlin
Mr. Cimmino	Auditorium	McManus - Safarik
Ms. Hart	Auditorium	Salerno - V
Ms. Savery	Auditorium	W - Z

9:20 AM *Walk through of class schedule*
Each class will meet for ten minutes. This will give you the opportunity to meet your teachers and learn about the courses you will be taking. **Remember to bring your class schedule!**

11:05 AM *Mentor program introduction*
In small groups you will get to know your "ninth grade advisor" and some of your fellow students before lunch.

11:55 AM *Lunch*
No need to bring lunch; PTO will be hosting with pizza and a gluten-free alternative.

12:20 PM *Club & Activity Fair*
Representatives from clubs and other activities will be available in the multi-purpose stadium to provide information about their organizations to any interested students.

12:40 PM *Class Photo* on the stadium bleachers

12:45 PM Buses depart

First Day of School - Tuesday, September 5th

The first day of school will begin with "Super Homeroom" meetings; check the listings for room assignments posted in the main lobby and hallways. Students will be receiving paper versions of the beginning of school paperwork at the first "Super Homeroom" meeting. These forms can also be found on our website. All forms need to be completed by September 18. **Please remember to bring your class schedule with you on the first day.** We will begin with a Day 1 schedule on September 5th.

The regular school day starts at 8:00 a.m. Students must be in their class by this time in order to avoid being marked absent and/or tardy. Classes end at 2:32 p.m. Classes are 57 minutes in length. Students will be assigned to one of three lunches (24 minutes) between 11:06 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. The lunch schedule will be communicated via email and announced on the first day of school. Students who forget something at home will not be called to the office unless it is an emergency. Students should be responsible for checking the drop off table, outside the main entrance, to see if an item has been dropped off for them.

Parents are expected to review the [Student Handbook / Code of Discipline](#) carefully and communicate any questions or concerns with the school. The *Student Handbook / Code of Discipline* is available online. Parents and students are expected to confirm that they have reviewed them.

Administration

Hingham High School has a principal, Mr. Richard Swanson, and two assistant principals. Mrs. Nicole Nosek works with students whose last names begin with the letters A through K, and Mrs. Nicole Piantes works with students whose last names begin with the letters L through Z. The assistant principals' job has many facets. Depending on the circumstances, they counsel, advise, discipline, and administer regulations. They are also assigned a number of other administrative and supervisory responsibilities.

School Counselors

School counselors are typically assigned for four years. The assignments are made alphabetically. The counselors will meet with the students during the orientation program, and at various times throughout the year. They will be eager to get to know all of their students.

Attendance

Good attendance is one of the school's primary concerns. Only the most serious of reasons should prevent a student from attending school and being on time. Telephone calls may be made to the homes of absentees, and parents will be notified in the event of any class cuts. Individual class attendance is reported quarterly on the report cards and although there may be some legitimate discrepancies from class to class (field trips, dismissals, etc.), pronounced irregularities merit parental concern. If a student must be absent, dismissed or tardy, their parent or guardian must confirm knowledge and approval in reply to a school email. All notes should be given to the assistant principals' administrative assistant, Ms. Griffin. Home and school should work together to encourage attitudes of responsibility, good attendance and punctuality. Please note attendance rules in the handbook.

Dress

The responsibility for the dress and appearance of students rests with individual students and parents/guardians. Students are expected to dress appropriately for school. Clothing that is disruptive to school property, causes disorder, or poses a safety or health risk to the student or others is unacceptable. Health regulations require that shoes be worn at all times in a public building. The administration is authorized to take action in instances where individual dress does not meet the stated requirements.

Lockers and Valuables

All students may request their own locker by contacting their assistant principal. These lockers are provided for the convenience of the students. The school reserves the right to inspect lockers at any time. Because students are responsible for their own personal belongings as well as school-issued textbooks, the school strongly recommends and encourages students to place locks on their lockers. Money and all other valuables should be kept at home. In exceptional cases, valuables may be left in the main office. The Hingham Public Schools is not responsible for items lost or stolen from lockers. Students in physical education classes and athletes involved in interscholastic sports should never leave valuables in an unlocked locker.

School Supplies

There is no published list of required school supplies at Hingham High School. If items are required, individual teachers will inform students on the orientation day or the first day of class.

Report Cards

Report cards will be posted online quarterly. The Aspen portal is updated regularly. All teachers will have current grades posted at the midterm of each quarter.

Discipline

Written communication will follow serious disciplinary problems.

Telephone Numbers

We welcome your interest and concern. Hingham High School may be reached by calling (781) 741-1560. The guidance extension is 2116. The assistant principals are available to answer questions and/or concerns about students. Their extension is 2001. Messages are not delivered to students in class, and we ask that you limit such requests to emergencies only.

IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday, August 29	School Pictures in the cafeteria 8:30 – 2:30
Thursday, August 31	Ninth Grade and New Student Orientation. 8:00 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
Thursday, September 7	Principal's Coffee for parents of ninth graders and new students, 6:00 p.m. in Room 103. PTO meeting, 7:00 p.m. – Room 103
Tuesday, September 19	Counseling Department's Ninth Grade Parents' Night - 7:00 p.m. The parents of ninth-graders meet with school administrators and the school counselors in the auditorium.
Thursday, September 21	Open House - 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. This will be an opportunity for parents to meet teachers and hear about the course of study and teacher expectations; parents should bring their child's schedule.
Tuesday, October 3	Student/Principal Forum at 2:45 p.m. – Room 103
Tuesday, October 3	Student Picture Retake Day after school or during their scheduled study – Room 103 (bring picture package if you want a retake)
Thursday, October 5	PTO meeting at 6:00 p.m. - Room 103
Saturday, October 21	Homecoming

**** PLEASE NOTE ****

All students except those carrying three AP courses are required to carry 30 credits. If you need to add courses to meet that requirement or if there are errors on your schedule, please email your school counselor (emails below). Counselors will be answering emails regarding errors or omissions on August 28th and 29th. Please note that changes are often challenging as many classes are already at full capacity.

School counselor caseloads and email addresses are as follows:

Mr. Cimmino, bcimmino@hinghamschools.org
Ms. Gawel, jgawel@hinghamschools.org
Ms. Hart, jhart@hinghamschools.org
Ms. Krall, ekral@hinghamschools.org
Ms. McPeck, kmcpeck@hinghamschools.org
Ms. Savery, csavery@hinghamschools.org
Ms. Turner, kturner@hinghamschools.org

CLASS OF 2024

A - CREAN	MS. TURNER
CUSHING - GORCZYCA	MS. GAWEL
GRAGG – LIBBY	MS. KRALL
LONGO - NELSON	MS. McPECK
NICHOLAS - SELLERS	MR. CIMMINO
SHEEHAN - WALKER	MS. HART
WALSH - Z	MS. SAVERY

CLASS OF 2025

A - CARLETON	MS. TURNER
CASSIDY – FAIRFIELD	MS. GAWEL
FALCONEIRI - KELLEY	MS. KRALL
KENIGSBERG - McLELLAN	MS. McPECK
McNABB - ROSS	MR. CIMMINO
RUCCIO - WAGGONER	MS. HART
WALKER - Z	MS. SAVERY

CLASS OF 2026

A – CIGNETTI	MS. TURNER
CLAFLIN – F	MS. GAWEL
G – K	MS. KRALL
L – MORRIS	MS. McPECK
MOZINSKI - ROBBINS	MR. CIMMINO
ROGERS – WATTERS	MS. HART
WHITLOCK - Z	MS. SAVERY

CLASS OF 2027

A - CHISHOLM	MS. TURNER
CHRISTOFFERSON - F	MS. GAWEL
G – KILEY	MS. KRALL
KLEIN – MCLAUGHLIN	MS. McPECK
MCMANUS - SAFARIK	MR. CIMMINO
SALERNO - V	MS. HART
W – Z	MS. SAVERY