

THE FRIDAY SHOW
SEPTEMBER 15, 2017

Good morning, Hingham High School, and a warm “Happy Friday” from your principal. Hard to believe, but we’re already more than eight days into the school year, and by the end of the day today, we will have finished our first full five-day week. I hope the start to the school year has been as fulfilling and as enjoyable for you as it has been for me. I really feel like there’s a great energy in the building so far, not just in the classrooms but also on the playing fields, in the gym, in the band room, and in the auditorium, where I’m told the fall musical is already showing tremendous promise. Keep up the great work, everybody, and we’ll make this a truly unforgettable school year.

Besides delivering a few words of encouragement at the start of the year, the main reason I wanted to get a message on *The Friday Show* this week was to keep you up-to-date on a very important piece of school news. As you may have heard, Hingham High School is fully immersed in an accreditation process that operates on a ten-year cycle. And the culmination of that process (the very end of that long ten-year cycle) is now only nine days away. On Sunday, September 24th (that’s next weekend) a team of sixteen educators from across New England will arrive here in Hingham to spend four days completing a thorough investigation of pretty much everything we do here at HHS. Our visitors will be representing the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (also known as NEASC), the organization that grants accreditation to all schools and colleges in New England. This team of educators (led by a superintendent and an assistant superintendent from other districts) will be here to gather evidence about every aspect of school life, including our school’s core values and beliefs about education; our curriculum; the quality of our instruction; the ways our teachers assess student

learning; the school culture; the quality of our leadership; and how well we use our resources to promote learning.

While our guests are here, they will tour the entire facility, from top to bottom, even inspecting the dark corners of the boiler room; they'll attend many classes, often shadowing some of you; they'll interview members of our school committee, as well as almost everybody else who works here in any capacity; and they'll meet with small groups of parents. The goal is for them to gain a full understanding of our school (in all its complexity) so they can provide us with constructive feedback: an accounting of our strengths and an honest assessment of those areas where we could improve. In preparation for that visit, all of the teachers and administrators here at HHS have engaged in a rigorous self-study process throughout the past two years. That process has been a productive one for us, and it has been worth the effort, because it's all geared to making our school the best it can possibly be. So, in the spirit of constant improvement and growth for our school, we look forward to the visit, our first one since 2007. The last time Hingham High School went through this process, our current seniors were in second grade and our freshmen had not yet started kindergarten. So this is special. It happens only once in a decade, and we want to make the most of it. What I ask from all of you is simply to extend a warm welcome to our guests. Make them feel at home. When you see them in our corridors and classrooms starting on Monday, September 25th, and continuing through Wednesday, September 27th, please do your part to make them feel welcome. Through your words and actions, show them what Hingham High School is all about. When that happens, as I know it will, our guests will leave here with a full understanding of why we here at HHS...ALL of us...take such pride in calling this OUR school.

Thank you, and make this Friday a great one!