

September 2, 2014

A Message from your Superintendent,

Well the first day is complete, at least for grades 1-12. There are only 179 more days to go. We could have hoped for cooler weather, but soon enough we'll be ruing that we ever spoke those words. There were typical first day issues, a few late buses, construction/road and tree work delays, and some mechanical glitches; but all in all it was a good day. We will appreciate everyone's patience over the next week or so as we hone our schedules, help children become accustomed to new bus numbers and where to get on and off the bus, and generally refine our routines.

I always am amazed at how quickly after the starting bell on the first day the halls are quiet, routines are already obvious, and learning has begun. Such was the case as I visited most buildings today. As well, I saw lots of smiling faces (parents and kids alike) at the bus stops and in the buildings. New programs and resources and building improvements are in place throughout the district. Over the next few weeks you will enjoy hearing that news through this forum or via building newsletters.

Elementary enrollment was just about as projected, as typically it is. Thank you to those parents who keep us updated, thereby allowing us to plan and schedule to maximize the efficiency of our staffing. At the middle and high schools, there were a total of 15 to 20 "no-shows", also as typically happens. Likely, late private school acceptances and moves from the district will be the explanation there.

For those of you who missed HCAM's coverage of the recent Teacher Convocation and the MS Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, both videos are still available for viewing at <hinghammedia.org>. Other media news to call to your attention is Boston Magazine's annual ranking of MA high schools with HHS at #17.

Planning for a number of important events is in process. Watch for details of these activities. A "grand" HHS Fields Project celebration and appreciation event is scheduled for September 20th. Two community open houses at the new MS will be scheduled for Saturdays, one in late September and another in October. A community-wide forum on October 22nd will feature information and discussion on a number of issues related to drug abuse. Of course, the annual building open houses and curriculum nights always are of interest to parents.

So school is open; there is a return to routine and schedule in our lives; and the busyness of the fall season is upon us. I anticipate an exciting year and I look forward to sharing both information and perspective with all of you. As in the past, I am confident that we will work together in a variety of ways to maximize educational access and opportunity and to enhance learning resources for Hingham youth. Thank you in advance for all that each of you will contribute to that process.

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