

A Day in the Life of Mr. Murray



Have you ever wondered what occurs behind the closed door of Head of Upper School Terry Murray's office? We did, too. The Fourcast sent Magazine Editor Mary Orsak to shadow Murray and to learn more about how Murray spends his days (Spoiler alert: it involves a lot of Diet Dr Pepper!). Read the story below to get a play-by-play of Murray's schedule on Sept. 14.



7:40 A.M.
GOOD MORNING | Murray arrived at Hook Portico to drop his daughter MC, a sixth-grader at Hockaday, off at school. Already dressed in her Physical Education uniform, MC *springaled off* to PE class before Murray even got the chance to grab his bag from the trunk.

8:00 A.M.
DEEP BREATHS | After answering a few quick emails and walking through the senior hallway to chat with the students, Murray headed to Clements Auditorium to attend the launch of the Lower School Mindfulness and Social Emotional Learning Initiative. Christopher Willard and Julia Evans - both experts in mindfulness and psychology and speakers at the event - provided Murray with a gift: a gong to help with *meditation* in his office.



10:00 A.M.
SNACKS & CHATS | Advisory commenced, and Murray employed his *detective skills* to help advisee and junior Ariyanna Easter find her missing wallet. The immediate crisis was averted when a freshman announced she had found the wallet, but Easter opened it to find her debit card and cash missing. Murray, after taking copious notes, promised to review the security tapes to track down the missing money.



12:35 P.M.
MASHED POTATOES & STRESS | Over a lunch of mashed potatoes and chicken fried steak, faculty members assembled to tackle the topic of mindfulness in Upper School as they discussed the results of a faculty-wide survey about the *levels of stress* Hockaday teachers endure. One common theme emerged: assemblies take up time teachers could use to meet with students and work on grading and lesson plans. Assistant Director of Debate & Forensics Jordan Inerarity asked that the school consider whether "there [is] quality or worth in our meetings."



11:50 P.M.
GOOD EATS | Upper School Attendance Coordinator Jessica Kramer and Book Store Manager Dara Williams suggested Murray try *The Purple Pig* in Chicago when he visits on Sept. 16 for his niece's wedding. Murray responded, "I am assuming meat is involved?" Kramer and Williams ensured Murray the menu included plenty of "cheese, swine and wine."



10:20 A.M.
IN THE CLASSROOM | Murray observed two classes during B period: freshman English with Beth Dies and statistics with Christine Sigurdsson. After receiving feedback on his performance from the faculty last year, Murray has taken the initiative to *spend more time* in the classroom and less time in his office.



2:39 P.M.
PLAN AHEAD | Murray met with Learning Support Coordinator Lori Ott to discuss the plans for the Sept. 15 meeting of the Learning Support advisory board, a seven member group which aims to "make sure the students are getting *all the support* they need."

3:00 P.M.
CAN I GET A QUOTE? | Murray admits that after his annual press conference with The Fourcast staff he receives many interview requests because his love for talking often leaves him to *divulge things* he may otherwise keep to himself. Staff writer Charlotte Dross spoke to Murray about the decision to not hold a Day of Service this year in order to provide teachers with more class time.

1:07 P.M.
THE INTERVIEW | As part of an initiative "to build a *quality list* of subs [substitute teachers]", Murray interviewed a prospective Spanish substitute teacher. After a few preliminary questions about her work experience, Murray provides her with a tour of the Upper School. First stop? Alejandra Suarez's classroom - both to show the interviewee a typical Spanish class and to say hello to her long-time friend.



4:15 P.M.
FAMILY TIME | After receiving a text from his wife that she had arrived with his two sons, Murray hurried to the Lower School library to *hang out* with his children before he took his eldest son, Charlie, and MC to a soccer game. Murray chatted with his sons about a fantasy basketball draft, the Megalodon shark and their respective days while MC expressed her astonishment that her father allowed a student to shadow him (especially during "his top-secret meetings").

3:25 P.M.
VANILLA & SPRINKLES | Although the Student Relations Board did not serve Murray's favorite flavor of ice cream, chocolate chip, Murray did enjoy a *cup of vanilla* while chatting with two members of the Hockaday security team about their tattoos.



5:15 P.M.
GOAL! | Murray departed from Hockaday with the twins - Charlie and MC - for his son's *soccer game*, providing his youngest son, Joseph, with his well-deserved alone time with his mom.



PHOTO BY SARAH SCHULTZ