

Washington Township High School

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May 8, 2020

Dear Senior Parents,

This past week was likely one of the more emotional weeks in the lives of your child and you, as our Governor announced the closure of school for the remainder of the year. On behalf of our entire staff, I want you to know that we are so sorry that this scenario has played out the way that it has for all of our students and families, but especially for our seniors.

In the short-term, there are many things we are trying to do to help lift the spirits of our seniors. By now, you may have heard of the efforts of Martino Cartier, one of our local business owners that has been gathering some remarkable donations that we hope will provide a little bit of joy for our seniors during this time of intense sadness.

On or about May 15th, I will begin my plan to make a personal delivery of these gifts to the homes of each of our seniors. This plan will take me several days/weeks to pull off due to the sheer size of our graduating class of nearly 550 seniors, but I am committed to it. You can expect more information from me on this in the near future. I also wanted to share with you that our administrative team will be delivering yearbooks (only to seniors) the same week that they are delivered to the school, which is scheduled for the week of June 8th.

Due to the restrictions on gatherings, we will not be able to have Baccalaureate in June. As noted in my letter dated April 20th, we will now be delivering our Senior Awards Night presentation virtually. Our Virtual Senior Awards Ceremony will be released on Wednesday, June 17th at 7 pm. More details will follow as we get closer to this event being released.

On June 18th at 7 pm, our virtual Graduation will be released. Our administrative team, senior class advisors and other key personnel have been working to create and deliver a most memorable event, given the circumstances and limitations before us at this time. **Please be reminded that in addition to this virtual Graduation, we will continue with our plans to hold as many of the live events noted in our "contingency plans".** Those dates and details can be found at the end of this letter.

Our virtual Graduation will feature each of our graduates walking across the stage in our IBPAC in their caps and gowns along with all earned graduation regalia including sashes and cords they have earned in being a part of our various honor societies and other distinguished organizations. This ceremony will also feature all of the traditional speeches delivered by students and administration. While this event will need to be pre-recorded due to social distancing demands, we feel it is so important for our seniors to have their moment walking across the stage, hearing their name read for all to see and hear as they are awarded the diploma casing. This is aligned with how all of our graduation ceremonies have been conducted. Once the diploma is earned, students will be able to add their diploma to this casing. Our virtual ceremony will take a great deal of planning and coordination, but with your help and support, we will be able to put together a virtual ceremony that will honor our students for this milestone accomplishment.

We will begin filming once our graduation caps and gowns have been delivered to the school. It is our plan to begin filming our students in very small groups during the week of June 1st. We will have a plan so that we can adhere to the strict social distancing guidelines as we build a schedule to film each graduate walking across the stage in our IBPAC. Any senior that still needs to pay \$35 for their cap and gown will be able to pay cash on the day they are scheduled to

film. More information will be shared in the near future regarding the scheduling of filming and other matters related to this virtual ceremony.

There remains a great deal of uncertainty regarding what we may be able to do in July or August, and only time will tell if we will be able to deliver live events for our seniors during those months. We are continuing to hold out hope for as long as we can. If social distancing restrictions are lifted in July, we are planning for the following schedule of senior events (please note the added events and a change to dates for Last Dance and Senior prom due to availability of the Sheraton in Atlantic City):

EVENT	DATES
Dance Concert (*NEW)	Wednesday, July 15 th
Yearbook Signing/Mr. WT (*NEW)	Thursday, July 16 th
Last Dance	Friday, July 17 th
Grad Practice/Senior Prom	Monday, July 20 th
Grad Practice/Baccalaureate	Tuesday, July 21 st
Graduation/Project Graduation	Wednesday, July 22 nd

If social distancing restrictions are lifted in August, we are planning for the following schedule of senior events:

EVENT	DATES
Dance Concert (*NEW)	Wednesday, August 5 th
Yearbook Signing/Mr. WT (*NEW)	Thursday, August 6 th
Senior Prom	Friday, August 7 th
Grad Practice/Last Dance	Monday, August 10 th
Grad Practice/Baccalaureate	Tuesday, August 11 th
Graduation/Project Graduation	Wednesday, August 12 th

We remain in this fight together, and we thank you for your patience, trust and support. Please let your child(ren) know how much they mean to us and how much we hurt for them. As these plans continue to develop, you can expect to receive updated information in as timely a manner as possible.

Kind regards,

Jonathan Strout
Principal