

April 23rd, 2020

Dear GHS Senior,

I hope you continue to be safe and healthy. As I mentioned last week, I feel terribly that your senior year is being impacted by this global pandemic. And I know the entire faculty/staff at GHS feels the same way. We miss you!

Last week I delivered some disappointing news. Since then I've been asked questions and I've received some suggestions. Today, I want to clarify some things, share some definite plans and let you know what we are still considering. But please know the decisions and the on-going plans are being made with your health, safety and well-being as our top priority.

*Please note that new information below is in **bold**.

Prom 2020

Prom and Post-Prom 2020, scheduled for Saturday, May 9th, at the Museum of Science and Industry has been cancelled. We are certain that the directives from the Governor and CDC will not allow approximately 750 students to gather for that event.

Senior Awards Night

Senior Awards Night will take place virtually. Plans are being developed to broadcast the names of the seniors who have earned the GHS PTO academic award, scholarships and other awards. Those of you who qualify for the PTO award **should have received an email this week requesting information**. Because we want to produce a high-quality program for you, we will announce the date of the broadcast soon and share a link so you and your family can view the event.

Class of 2020 Commencement Ceremony

We know that the graduation ceremony will not take place in the traditional manner on Sunday, May 24th. **But we are committed to planning an in-person ceremony and/or celebration to honor our seniors in July or August. However, we are aware that other schools who recently announced plans for a ceremony at a particular venue in July were forced to postpone those plans because the venue will not host an event prior to August 1. We are continuing to evaluate our best options and will keep you informed as we try to find a way to honor the great Class of 2020 in person.**

Virtual Graduation Ceremony – Tentatively Scheduled for the Weekend of June 6th

Geneva High School is going to conduct a virtual graduation ceremony. Here is the reason why we believe it's important to hold a virtual ceremony:

We feel very strongly, along with you, that the Class of 2020 needs, and deserves, to be recognized for all you have accomplished. During these uncertain times in order to guarantee that we commemorate your graduation, we must move forward with this event. We plan to provide you with a high-quality event. We have contracted with Herff-Jones, in partnership with MarchingOrder and StageClip, to produce a graduation ceremony that will include:

The Virtual Ceremony will provide the following to each senior and their family, if submitted by the appropriate deadline:

1. An audio recording of the student's name being read
2. A personalized slide specific to that senior (provided by the senior)
3. A personalized video message attached (provided by the senior)

4. A limited number of graduation speeches.

The reason I believe we must do this is because if current State guidelines are not relaxed this summer and we are unable to hold an in-person ceremony, then we will be left with nothing to commemorate the Class of 2020.

There are two reasons that the date is “tentative” for the broadcast of the ceremony:

- We want the photos and videos to feature you in your cap and gown. Normally your gowns are rented and returned after the ceremony. This year you will be receiving a gown you will keep so you can wear it for the virtual ceremony and for a possible in-person ceremony this July or August. But because we had to change to that “keeper” gown, the delivery date has changed.
- There are very strict deadlines that must be met in order for you to be included in the virtual ceremony. We do not want to leave anyone out of this ceremony so we must give you enough time to meet those deadlines.
- Once we determine the deadlines required by the vendor, we will announce the actual date of the virtual ceremony.

GHS Grad Yard Signs

During the week of May 4th, the GHS administration and staff will begin delivering “GHS Class of 2020” yard signs to your front yard or to your door (while observing appropriate social distancing). We look forward to providing these for you.

GHS Student Council to Honor the Class of 2020

The GHS student council is planning to carry out some of their traditional activities and kind gestures in May. Please stay tuned for information from the student council.

Thank you to those of you who have reached out with suggestions or ideas. Some of those messages have asked me to please provide some hope. That is exactly what I am trying to do today. Please trust me when I tell you we are doing our absolute best to provide hope, and to make the end of your senior year and your graduation memorable. I wish I could just open the doors and invite you all back. But the current situation does not allow us to do so.

Thank you again for your patience. I will provide updates as we confirm our plans.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at trogers@geneva304.org or at (630) 463-3805.

Stay healthy and stay positive!

Sincerely,

Mr. Rogers, Principal