

# **Graduation Proposal**

**Derby High School  
Graduation Proposal to the  
Derby Board of Education**

# Derby High School Graduation Proposal

As a result of recent changes to social distancing guidelines provided by the state of Connecticut, Derby High School has the opportunity to have its graduation on Ryan Field. The event will take place after July 6th at a time to be determined. Current guidelines from the state will allow for 150 total participants in the graduation ceremony. This would consist of the graduates of 2020, faculty, staff, members of the BOE, Dr. Conway and Mayor Dziekan. At this time, parents/guardians and family members would not be able to attend the ceremony.

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**Arrival Students** - Students will be dropped off using the small parking lot near the fieldhouse. Students will be directed to exit their vehicle by a staff member and will proceed to the check-in area. Students will have their temperature taken, will be asked a series of questions and will need to wear appropriate PPE (information collected will be retained for contact tracing). Students will then be directed to a specific area to stage for the procession into the ceremony. Students will need to follow all social distancing guidelines.

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**Procession** - Students will process into the ceremony once all students have arrived and check in has been completed - students will maintain necessary spacing during the procession onto the field. Students will process to their identified seat. The ceremony will then begin.

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**Ceremony** - The ceremony will consist of most components that a traditional ceremony would have. The valedictorian, salutatorian and class president will all have the opportunity to present their speeches. When the names of the graduates are read, the student will come to the stage, remove their mask, pick up a diploma cover from the table and then pose for a photograph (we will have a professional photographer at the ceremony). The graduate will then put their mask back on and return to their seat.

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**Ceremony Conclusion** - At the conclusion of the ceremony, students will then process out of the stadium. Students will then be picked up at the small parking lot near the fieldhouse, maintaining appropriate social distancing requirements.

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## Additional Information

- the ceremony will be livestreamed on the DPS youtube channel
- the event will be covered by a local radio station
- there will not be a traditional graduation practice - Mr. Coplin and Mr. Pascale will zoom with students in the days prior to the event to review procedures
- Derby High School band/chorus may be involved using pre-recorded performances

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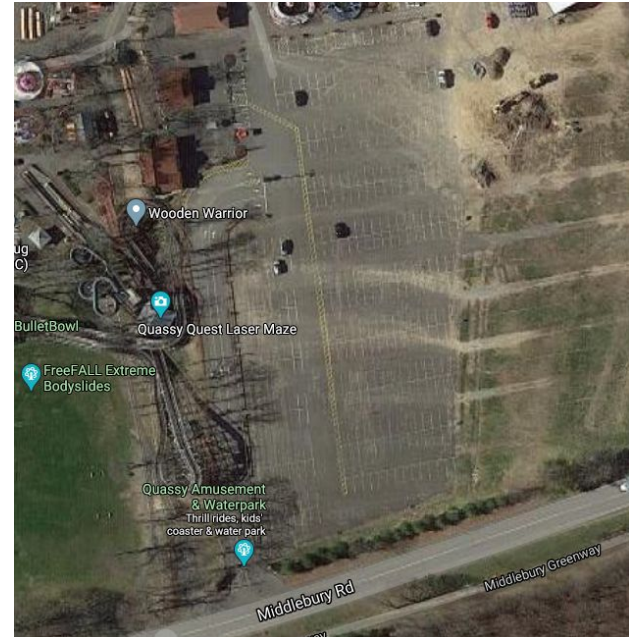


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-Another graduation option would be to hold the ceremony at Quassy Amusement Park. Amusement parks are one of the businesses permitted to open under current guidelines. The ceremony would take place in a designated parking area using a “drive-in” style format. Once the ceremony was completed, students would have an opportunity to stay at the park with use of the picnic pavillion. Parents/guardians would be invited to attend as well.

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-Another graduation option would be to hold the ceremony at Quassy Amusement Park.



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This would be a “drive-in” style graduation ceremony

- The first section of the parking lot will be coned off for families of the graduating class
- Graduates will arrive at 9am - Ceremony will begin at 10am
- Amusement park will open at 11:00am - Food Service at the field side pavillion will open at 12 noon
- Family and friends can purchase tickets online for access to the park

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A third option would be to hold a drive-by ceremony as previously discussed. Students would arrive at Derby High School with their family members and would have the opportunity to take photos (a professional photographer would also be onsite) and receive their diploma with Dr. Conway, Mr. Pascale and Mr. Coplin in attendance. Valedictorian, Salutatorian and Class President speeches would be recorded and then a presentation would be created and shared similar to the academic awards presentation. This could take place on the planned graduation day.

# End of the Year Events

-As social distancing guidelines will not allow for a gathering the size of the junior/senior prom, it is my recommendation that we cancel the prom and plan for a senior formal to be held at the Payden Fieldhouse when gatherings will permit for crowds of 75.