



Commencement 2020

May School Board Meeting





The Why?

Commencement is a major culminating event of an entire school career and is valued by students, families, staff, and community. Commencement is to be done well, as it is the only high school graduation in a person's life.



Graduation Committee

Group of senior students identified one year ago to assist in the planning and execution of graduation. Group had met occasionally before March and has been meeting weekly over the last two months.



Graduation Costs

- The handbook identifies a \$35 graduation fee. Usually collected in March.
- Was not and has not been collected this year.
- Cost of graduation last year exceeded \$7000.
- Cost includes cap, gown, tassel, cords, flowers, programs, snacks, and Hall of Fame items.
 - No costs this year for Hall of Fame and snacks



“Knowns”

Speakers

- Staff Speaker - Josh Ihrke
- Student Speakers - Morgan Kapsner and Bella Pettit
- Name Readers - Michelle Kuseske and Melissa Nicholas



“Knowns”

Items

- Class Motto selected last year
- Class colors - school colors
- Class Flower - Gerbera Daisy - Light blue with dark blue accents
- Caps and gowns ordered and shipped on May 8th
- Diplomas and diploma covers ordered and shipped on May 8th



“Knowns”

Program

- Program design is near completion
- Choir selection in progress
- Honor students known
- Slideshows near completion



“Knowns”

Direction from MDE on May 8th

- In person gatherings at football fields and school venues not permitted
- Ceremonies may be delayed but no timeline on change in restrictions
- Virtual and parking lot ceremonies are allowed but people may not leave their vehicle and no carpooling between students
- Hat-tossing in not allowed



“Unknowns”

- When?
 - Consideration of seniors leaving (school, military, jobs) and summer plans
 - Not rescheduling only to reschedule again with no timeline on restrictions
- How?
 - 2 different pathways



Process

- Students pick up cap and gown - May 14th and 15th
- Families may enter the building to take a picture in the school in a scheduled timeframe - May 21st and 22nd
- Diplomas are not awarded until all graduation requirements have been met
- Item drop off/pick up is May 21st



Virtual/Contactless

- Students are parked and “tune in” to the ceremony (music, speeches, etc.)
- Parking is designated by graduation order - outdoor locations
- Students pull up when their name is called and receive diploma (or diploma cover), flower, and program in safe, recommended way
- When all names are read, parade around town is led while following safe, recommended way



In Person - Cannot happen under MDE guidelines at this time. Possible at a future summer date?

- Outdoor spaces with social distancing, while broadcasting
 - Seniors only?
 - Seniors with designated number of attendees in the stands and sit by family?
 - Use indoor locations for viewing?
- Program would look very similar to the past



“Knowns”

- Whatever we do, we will do it well
- Staff human resources interested and available in the month of May
- Parents and community willing to help
- Items that need to be turned in



Graduation Committee

- 5 Seniors determined last spring
- Highly committed to meetings and follow through on tasks
- Latest feedback
- “Presence” tonight



Decisions

- Setting a date
 - Sooner or later?
 - Data
- All seniors may participate in the “ceremony”