

May 6, 2020

Class of 2020 Graduation Candidates and Parents,

I hope this message finds you safe and healthy! To all of our graduation candidates, our staff misses you, and we are thinking about you. I continue to be thankful for the respect, resilience, and engagement you have provided us as we navigate our eLearning environment through the end of the school year. I am proud of each one of you and the strength you have shown during this challenging time. As a reminder, our seniors' last day is Friday, May 8, 2020 and any assignments or assessments should be completed by that date. Seniors who are issued "incompletes" can still complete work (if necessary) to earn credit through July 9. More detailed information regarding eLearning procedures for seniors can be [found here](#).

As the school year comes to a close, I want to provide important information on how we will work with our graduation candidates to pick up needed items from the school (cap and gown, honor cords, diploma, Yearbook, etc.), drop off any items that should be returned (textbooks, loaner Chromebooks, etc.) to avoid fees/fines, and communicate the status of Prom and Graduation in July.

What is most important in the planning of our Prom and Graduation is that we follow the recommendations from the Illinois State Board of Education, State of Illinois, Illinois Department of Public Health, Lake County Health Department and law enforcement in regards to social distancing, group size, etc. to keep everyone safe. I want our students and families to know that we are hopeful that we can still host Prom and Graduation in July, but given some of the current guidelines, it will make the hosting of any gathering difficult to do.

Below is still our current plan for both events, and I ask that you rely on the school to communicate with you should there be any changes as we have heard several rumors in the past week about our events being canceled that are not true.

- **PROM:** We still have a date set for Friday, July 10, 2020. This event will only be for current WTHS (junior and senior) students. No outside guests will be allowed unless they are an O'Plaine Campus student invited as a guest by a junior or senior.
- **GRADUATION:** We still have a date set for Sunday, July 12, 2020. The Illinois State Board of Education has currently allowed schools the opportunity to postpone graduation ceremonies, and we are hopeful that our postponed date will work. If this date does not work, we will provide a virtual/video commencement ceremony for all families to view and honor the Class of 2020. We are also reviewing the other types of in-person ceremonies allowed by the Illinois State Board of Education and if they are feasible for a graduating class of over 1,000 students. These would be subject to the recommendations from the Illinois State Board of Education, State of Illinois, Illinois Department of Public Health, Lake County Health Department and law enforcement in regards to social distancing, group size, etc. and the ability for the district to hold such a recognition while providing and maintaining a safe environment for everyone.

I am happy to share that we have developed a plan to have a drive-thru curbside pick-up and school item drop-off for all graduation candidates on May 27 and 28, 2020. **This is our graduation cap and gown distribution event and should be attended by all graduation candidates even if you did not order a cap and gown.** Because of the current social

distancing and stay at home guidelines, we will be distributing many more items than in past years to limit the need for students to return to campus to pick-up additional items.

Below are some of the details for the event, and we ask that our graduation candidates plan for their assigned date and time accordingly to pick-up and return items to the school. The school building will not be open for students to access on these two dates. We are currently working on cleaning out lockers for seniors and having those items labeled and included in this process.

Each student's bag will be individualized with their items and may include the following: cap and gown (if ordered), cum laude honor cords, any honor society cords earned, prepaid Jostens merchandise, Yearbook and Creations Magazine (if purchased), commemorative alumni medallion (worn at the graduation ceremony), senior class board gift to each member of the Class of 2020 (it's a surprise), senior bill (if applicable), personal items from school locker, nurse's office records and any supplies/medications not yet returned, awards/certificates from the guidance and/or athletic department, graduation program, eight graduation tickets, diploma and diploma cover.

Please know that the decision to hand out items traditionally reserved for the graduation ceremony are at the recommendation of the Illinois State Board of Education and our anticipation that, if we are allowed to hold our ceremony, we will not be able to hand out or exchange items with students and, therefore, need to provide these items during this process.

Students who are still in possession of school items (textbooks, loaner Chromebooks and/or chargers, calculators, uniforms, other borrowed school equipment, etc.) should bring all items in a PAPER or PLASTIC BAG and label it with your name and ID number. Bring the items on your assigned day and they will be collected at the drop station.

<b>Curbside Pick-Up/Drop-Off Event Almond Campus - Main Entrance Wednesday, May 27, 2020</b>	<b>Curbside Pick-Up/Drop-Off Event Almond Campus - Main Entrance Thursday, May 28, 2020</b>
<b>Last Names A-E 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Last Names M-R 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.</b>
<b>Last Names F-L 12:30 – 3:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Last Names S-Z 12:30 – 3:00 p.m.</b>

Lastly, each year we typically hold a voter registration in partnership with the Warren-Newport Public Library for our seniors in April. Unfortunately, we could not do that this year. However, I want our seniors to know they can take advantage of an online opportunity available to them by clicking the [Illinois online voter registration link](#). Please consider becoming a registered voter if you have not already done so.

I will communicate if there are any changes and/or updates to Prom and/or Graduation. We will also provide more details in the next couple of weeks so we can work together to provide a safe environment for our curbside cap and gown pick-up and school item drop-off event on May 27 and May 28, 2020. You can also visit our website at [www.d121.org](http://www.d121.org) for the latest news and updates.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. I very much look forward to seeing you on May 27 and 28. Thank you, and **As Always, Go Blue Devils!**

Mr. Parrott - Almond Campus Principal

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