



WESTON HIGH SCHOOL

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May 13, 2020

Dear Seniors, Parents, and Guardians,

I am writing to you to outline the district's plan for graduation. Seniors, let me acknowledge up front your loss of the graduation all of us hoped you would have. No one expected the year to end this way. I want to thank all of the parents that put up signs honoring our seniors on the Town Green and elsewhere.

I understand that many of you have lots of different ideas about how to go about graduation. Inevitably, we cannot meet everyone's wishes and expectations or try and plan around everything that might happen. Ultimately, the plan for graduation and all subsequent details related to it, is the responsibility of the school and district administration. Our goal is to provide the best possible event for our students during this time of restrictions with the appropriate guidance from the police and Board of Health, who have endorsed this plan as doable. All of us at WHS hope you can embrace this plan and make it as special as it can possibly be.

Graduation will take place on June 5, 2020, at 4 P.M. The rain date will be Sunday, June 7th. Clearly, there is no place like the Town Green for graduation in Weston. However, the reason for keeping the same date is because we will not be having large gatherings for the foreseeable future. So, here is the plan:

1. Students will pull into an assigned numbered spot in the student lot in alphabetical order. One car per family and we recommend that the graduate does not drive. While in the numbered spots for social distancing purposes we will ask students to keep their windows closed. Seniors should arrive at school and park in their spaces no later than 2:15 P.M. At 3 P. M. the police will then escort the seniors around Weston. First passing the Town Green and then going through the Elementary and Middle School parking lots.
 - o All of the Parent Advisors for grades 9-11 have signaled that their students want to do something to honor the seniors. I know the Juniors have discussed clapping for the seniors as they go through the Elementary campus. We will work together to do something safe and appropriate.
 - o We hope that Faculty and Staff from all the schools that have played a role in getting these seniors to this moment will assemble on the secondary campus to applaud the seniors as they return to the high school after the procession.
2. Staying in alphabetical order, the seniors drive up on the grass field between Proctor and Field #1 next to the tennis courts. The field will have painted lines and students will pull in one behind the other. A picture and a map will be provided as we get closer to June 5th.
3. Two student speakers, School Committee Chair John Henry and Vice Chair Danielle Black, Superintendent Connolly, Assistant Superintendent Carter, Assistant Principal Flynn, and me will be up on the knoll facing Proctor Field and the students in their cars.
4. The two students and I will deliver speeches and then Mr. Henry and Ms. Black will read the names of the graduates.
 - o Seven seniors have submitted speeches to be reviewed. A committee will hear them virtually on Friday, May 15, 2:00-3:30.

5. The cars will then depart between the tennis court and Proctor Field driving toward the main entrance of the high school.
6. Cars will wait in line and I will hand each student their diploma. Everyone will be wearing masks and gloves.
7. After receiving their diploma, students will drive through a balloon arch leaving campus.
8. Photos: Our hope is to have a photographer(s) set up on campus and to have staggered scheduled times for seniors and their families to return to campus and have their picture taken.

Two committees have been formed to help identify and problem-solve issues that may arise as we plan for graduation as I have laid out: A Graduation Committee and a Parade Planning Committee. They are comprised of parents, the PTO chair and vice chair for the high school, seniors, and the faculty advisors. These committees are an off-shoot of the Senior Events Planning Committee. The coordinator of these two committee's work will be my Administrative Assistant Katie DeFoe. Updates will be provided as warranted up until June 5th.

While wholesale change to this plan is really not an option, we may adjust it as appropriate based on what the Governor announces on May 18th.

I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Best,

Anthony Parker
Principal