WESTON
HIGH SCHOOL

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Dear Class of 2021 Wildcat Students and Families!

We have officially entered Senior Week 2021! Congratulations and we look forward to a very special week ahead. We recognize that information has been coming out day by day, and apologize for any inconvenience or confusion. This is an extensive communication looking to capture all of the moving targets and guidelines...but we hope it helps!

Senior Awards Ceremony, 6/2-7:45am Proctor Field

We look forward to seeing you bright and early tomorrow as we aim to kick-off at 7:45am. Award winners and their families were notified last week in an email that resembled a ticket (please check those Spam folders!). We will gather on Proctor Field, with parent/guardians/family members gathering in the bleachers, and with students and faculty/staff located on the turf.

Light refreshments will be provided following the event.

Prom, 6/3-6:30pm Pierce House

The 'Enchanted Evening' begins at 6:30pm at the Pierce House in Lincoln, MA. The evening concludes at 9:00pm due to a local noise ordinance.

It is essential that all guidelines, rules and regulations, and laws are followed. It goes without saying, but will be said anyway, this is an alcohol and substance free event. Breathalyzers will be on site, and any student and/or guest causing suspicion will be subject to search/questioning/breathalyzer. Any violation of the alcohol policy and the law will not walk at graduation the following day/rain day. Student-athletes will be subject to all MIAA consequences. It is imperative that appropriate decisions are made and that laws are followed.

For your safety, for your well-being, for the safety of others, and for the potential impact on your life and your loved ones, please make the right decisions.

We are so truly fortunate to have the opportunity to come together, off-campus, un-masked, with food and music for celebration and joy. So many have worked so hard to put all of this together...for you. Please make the right decisions.

Rehearsal, 6/3-8:45am Town Green
Rain Date, 6/4-8:45am Town Green

Students should arrive at the Town Green at 8:45 for Graduation rehearsal. Yearbook hand-out and signing will be held on the Town Green directly after rehearsal.

Graduation, 6/4-5:00pm Town Green
Rain Date, 6/5-5:00pm Town Green

-We ask all graduates to arrive by 3:45 pm at the high school. Overnight bags will be collected, checked, and name-tagged at the high school upon arrival.
-Seniors will get their flowers or boutonnieres before boarding the buses, in their processional order, and will have a police escort to Town Hall. Educators and community members are invited to cheer them on as they are transported to the Town Green.
-We ask that families carpool to the Town Green given the limited parking.

-Our graduates will be walking and seated in a roped off area that is set up with distancing in mind.
-All families/guests/community members are invited to find a spot on the Green that will be marked for distancing. A small number of chairs will be available, however it is recommended that families bring blankets and/or their own seating. A golf cart will also be available to transport guests needing assistance to and from the field to attend the ceremony.
-Please note: We have received multiple requests from community members and Green Teamers, to **refrain from using confetti cannons**. Please honor the beauty of the Town Green as well as respect the wishes of our neighbors. Thank you!

-The Class of 2021 will begin walking around the Town Green to the top of the stairs closest to the Tavern at about 4:50. Our commencement ceremony will begin at 5:00pm.

Following the commencement ceremony, light refreshments will be available on the Town Green. At approximately 7:30, our graduates will board the buses and head to their Overnight Event. As has been shared previously, the Overnight is a separate event from WPS. Our Parent Advisors have sent out separate communication in regards to this special event.

COVID Safety Plan/Measures:
(May 19, 2021 updates to the DESE K-12 Graduation Guidance and the DESE COVID-19 Safety Standards for K-12
Graduation Ceremonies Effective as of May 29, 2021, based on recent CDC and Commonwealth of Massachusetts Guidance)
1. Masks/Face Coverings:

• *Students are not required to wear masks at outdoor graduations or any school sponsored reception to follow, but students should distance as feasible.* In accordance with an expected Massachusetts Department of Public Health Advisory dated May 29, 2021, masks/face coverings are advised for individuals not fully vaccinated when physical distancing is not possible.

• *Attendees and staff are not required to wear masks at outdoor graduations or*

any school-sponsored reception to follow but are encouraged to distance from individuals not in their households as feasible.

• Attendees at outdoor graduations and any school-sponsored reception to follow, are encouraged to wear face coverings if they are not vaccinated.

2. Communications:

▪ *Graduates, guests, faculty, administrators, and speakers are required to disclose to the WPS if they test positive for COVID-19 within two days of the Commencement for purposes of contact tracing.* The best ways to keep your family and community safe from a Coronavirus infection still include seeking vaccination when eligible and following State and local guidance around masking and social distancing. Please continue to stay home when you are sick, seek testing if you are symptomatic and call your doctor or the Weston Board of Health for further guidance.

o Best practices remain that individuals should stay home if symptomatic for COVID-19, they have been in close-contact with someone known to have COVID-19 or have been asked to isolate or quarantine (see 3 below).

3. Attendees: The ceremony is open to the public.

o *Graduates will not be limited in their number of guests*

o Best practices still dictate that graduates, guests, faculty, administrators, and speakers must not attend the Commencement if:

▪ They are experiencing any symptoms such as fever (100.0° and above) or chills, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, fatigue, headache, muscle/body aches, runny nose/congestion, new loss of taste or smell, or nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.

▪ They have had "close contact" with an individual diagnosed with COVID-19 and have not completed the required quarantine period. "Close contact" means living in the same household as a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, caring for a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, being within 6 feet of a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 for 15 minutes or more, or coming in direct contact with secretions (e.g., sharing utensils, being coughed on) from a person who has tested positive for COVID-19.

▪ They are currently required to self-isolate or quarantine by their doctor

or a local public health official.

4. Operations:

• Bathrooms: The bathrooms at the Town Hall will be open. **Masks will be required** to enter Town Hall.

• Distribution of Diplomas: Updated guidance permits handing graduates their diploma/award.

• Photography: A professional photographer has been employed for the event for photos of the graduates following their receipt of their diploma. The stage will be left up for several days for families to gather for their own photographs. Social distancing is encouraged for non-household members.

5. Music/Performance: WPS will follow DESE guidance around musical performance

6. Transportation/Movement of Graduates:

o Graduates will be driven to the Green on four buses with a police escort from theHigh School so they will not be held up in traffic. Flowers will be distributed prior to arrival. Graduates will load on to the buses in the order they will need to line up to walk around the Green.

o Graduates will exit the buses to walk around the Town Green in two single file lines being socially distanced in each direction around the Town Green. When the two lines meet at the top of the Town Green stairs closest to the Tavern, they will pair up. Note that graduates are permitted to be 3-6 feet apart per DESE guidance updated 4/28/21. The graduates' chairs will be set up using the distance guidelines set forth DESE. People gathering in middle of the Town Green where the graduates will walk down the stairs in pairs to the other set of steps on the green in front of the Town Hall will be encouraged to distance or mask if distancing is not possible.

What a long strange trip it's been...but oh the places you'll go!

Sincerely,

WHS and WPS Administration