

April 21st, 2020

Dear Parents & Guardians,

I hope this message finds you and your families safe and well. On Friday, April 17, 2020, Gov. JB Pritzker announced that remote learning in Illinois will be extended through the end of the 2019-20 school year.

Although in-person learning has been suspended for the remainder of the year, I can assure you that our entire staff remains committed to learning and engaging with all students through remote learning, as well as continuing with our food distribution program through the Week of May 18, 2020.

So, what does this mean for you and your Unity High School student(s)?

Health Life Safety: Our number one concern is your student's safety. The Unity High School campus will remain closed for the remainder of the school year. No students or parents may be in the high school building or on the high school campus. Breakfast/Lunch pickups will continue to take place on the East Side of the building every Monday & Wednesday from 9:30-10:30. No sign ups are necessary.

Education: *(As per the Illinois State Board of Education guidelines.)*

Our teachers will continue to assign new content through Google Classroom in an attempt to minimize the educational gap. Grades can be given to students on this work but only as a means of feedback and support. In addition, students will be given the opportunity to make up any missed work in an effort to improve their grades. If your student was failing a class prior to remote learning, this is the perfect time for you to encourage them to take part in remote learning. Their grade can only improve and in no way can your student's grades diminish during this quarantine.

At the conclusion of the second semester all Unity High School students will receive either a "Complete" or "Incomplete" for their efforts. Students with passing grades prior to the quarantine, taking part in remote learning and making an effort to complete work will receive a "Complete". Students failing a class prior to the quarantine, taking part in remote learning and making an effort to complete work will receive a "Complete". Students failing classes prior to the quarantine and making no effort to take part in remote learning, will be given an "Incomplete". Students receiving an "Incomplete" will be given an opportunity to make up the work as per state guidelines. In addition, the 2nd semester grades of 2020 will not be included in a student's G.P.A. or class rankings.

Students who have an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) are encouraged to continue working with their regular education teachers and their case managers. All case managers will continue reaching out to all students with IEP's.

When we return to school every effort will be made the administration and teachers to assess student learning deficiencies and re-teach lost content.

Drivers Education:

Students enrolled in driver's education classes for the 4th quarter will not need to make up the class as long as they receive a "Complete". However, they will still need to finish their 6 hours of instructor

driving. As soon as we are allowed to meet with students in person we will be scheduling them to drive based on their birth dates. If we can do this over the summer, we will. If not, we will schedule these driving hours in the fall.

Athletics/Eligibility:

As of this time all athletic events have been cancelled for the remainder of the school year. The IHSA put out additional guidelines in regard to athletics this morning. They are listed below:

1. IHSA Spring State Tournaments are canceled.
2. But the Board is open to allowing spring sport game competition if/when the state deems it safe, and have placed no date parameters on that possibility at this time.
3. Summer Contact Days are suspended as well for the time being. More guidance to come on this as we work with the state and ISBE.

As the State and IHSA shares more with us in regard to athletics we will let you know as soon as we know, what our plans are in regard to athletics.

Students completing 5 core courses will be eligible to participate in athletics for the fall of 2020. Students failing to complete 5 core classes will be ineligible to participate in athletics for the fall of 2020. The IHSA has determined that an incomplete will count as an "F" towards eligibility.

School Activities/Events:

- May 3rd-FFA banquet has been cancelled and may be rescheduled?
- May 6th- Mock Interviews have been cancelled and will not be re-scheduled.
- May 8th- MAPS testing for the spring of 2020 has been cancelled.
- May 9th-Prom has been cancelled and will not be re-scheduled.
- May 5-11- AP Exams will be conducted online. If you have any questions please speak with your teachers or Mrs. Mills.
- May 14th – Jazz & Java has been cancelled and may be rescheduled?

Senior Events:

May 7th-Senior Honors Night. Unity High School will conduct a virtual senior honors night. Mrs. Graves has shared with the guidance department the senior photographs. A slide will be created with the senior photo of every student and the list of awards the student has received. We will run the virtual awards presentation on the front page of our website May 7th acknowledging every senior who received an award and we will mail home the awards and monetary gifts. We will also recognize any senior who received an award in the graduation program. Additional information will be forthcoming.

May 17th-Graduation. Unity High School will host a virtual commencement for all graduating seniors on May 24th @ 2:00 P.M. We will present this event for all students eligible to graduate that wish to take part in the virtual commencement. More information will be forthcoming but in the meantime I have attached a link that will provide you with many of the answers you may have in regard to what a virtual commencement event may look like.

<https://www.herffjones.com/products/high-school-virtual-graduation/>

In addition to the May 24th virtual commencement Unity will also attempt to conduct an in person commencement on **Sunday, June 28th** (time TBD) for those students eligible to graduate that wish to take part in a formal commencement. ***I want to caution everyone that we may not be able to conduct this event even with restrictions and if that is the case the virtual commencement on May 24th will serve as the class of 2020 graduation. If we are unable to hold a formal commencement ceremony arrangements will be made to mail out diplomas.***

More information will be coming out within the next weeks in regard to signing up for and taking part in the virtual graduation. Please continue to check the Unity High School website.

Locker clean out & Book/Equipment return:

At this time we are awaiting more information from the Governor and the Illinois State Board of Education on how we might proceed. As we get some directives we will share those with you as soon as possible.

Last but not least, we are saddened by the reality that our school community will not be able to reconvene in person this school year. Our students, especially our seniors are hurting right now and we empathize with them. However, the final chapter of this school year hasn't been written yet. These next few weeks will prove that our school community is more resilient, more capable and more compassionate than what we may have previously realized. I'm confident that our collective strength will shine through during the remainder of the school year, and we will emerge even stronger.

If you have any additional questions please feel free to contact the high school and please continue to check the Unity High School website for additional information as it becomes available.

Thank You and Stay Safe,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Phil Morrison Jr.".

Phil Morrison

Principal