

Dear Linton School Students, Parents, and Patrons,

I hope this letter finds everyone safe and healthy during these difficult times. I want to cover a few important topics with all of you.

**Distance Education** – We are formally announcing that Linton School will be continuing with our distance education learning for the remainder of the school year, concluding on May 15. This announcement will give students, parents, and staff the ability to plan ahead for this method of learning, and not wonder if, or when, we will return to education within our school building. Some of the rationale that went into this decision includes:

President Trump’s social distancing proclamation is through April 30, 2020.

Governor Burgum has stated that we cannot return to school until “further notice”, and has extended business closures through April 30<sup>th</sup>, which really means the soonest we could return to school is May 4<sup>th</sup>.

Though Distance Education is not our preferred teaching method for all, we do feel we are providing a high quality, standards-based, education. In addition, potentially returning to school for approximately 10 days after seven weeks of distance education, is likely to disrupt our educational momentum more than the realized gains of a week and a half of traditional in-person education followed by end of year activities for all grade levels.

If social distancing regulations and restrictions are lessened, we may bring everyone to school and run bus routes on May 15 for a portion of the school day in order to turn in Chromebooks and other school materials, allow students to say goodbye to teachers and friends, and bring some closure to this bizarre ending of 2019-2020. This will be decided, and communicated to everyone, at a later date.

**Senior Graduation** – Commencement has been rescheduled for Sunday, August 2, 2020 at 2:00 PM.

Although all students and staff have experience a tremendous amount of change in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the unfortunate reality is that our seniors have been most impacted during these final weeks of their high school years.

We are hopeful that this late summer date will afford us the best opportunity to have a traditional commencement ceremony, where students, staff, family and friends fill our gymnasium to honor our seniors. If social distancing requirements are still in place, we will have to move outdoors, likely to our football field. But please know that WE WILL HAVE SOME TYPE OF COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY FOR OUR SENIORS!

**Prom** – The Linton School Prom has been rescheduled for Saturday, July 25, 2020. Pictures will be from 7:00-8:00 PM, and the Grand March is at 8:30 PM. We are hoping this date gives us a chance for the Prom

that our students are familiar with – in our gymnasium. The Post Prom Event will take place at the conclusion of Prom.

***Junior-Senior Banquet and Athletics/Activities Banquets*** – These events have also been postponed, but not cancelled. We are planning to celebrate our students and student athletes at each of these respective events later this summer.

***Grab-n-Go Meals*** – Linton School will continue to provide this service during regular school days on our academic calendar until Friday, May 15, 2020. This service will not continue this summer.

***Summer School*** – A Summer School letter will be sent out to interested families soon. We are hoping to offer face-to-face instruction in reading and math for students in grades K-5, which will likely force us to move this back at least a few weeks. Be watching for more details from Elementary Principal, Mrs. Huber, or from our Summer School Coordinator, Mrs. Flyberg.

I want to conclude by extending a sincere thank you to our students, parents, families, and outstanding team at Linton School for your cooperation in making the best of this current situation.

With Gratitude,

Paul Keeney  
Superintendent