



SIMPSON COUNTY SCHOOLS

TIM SCHLOSSER, SUPERINTENDENT
430 South College Street • Franklin, Kentucky
p: 270.586.8877 • f: 270.586.2011

SCS BOARD OF EDUCATION
David Webster, Chairperson
Nancy Uhls, Vice-Chair
Heidi Estes • Tara Heinze • Jennifer Stone

Dear Class of 2020,

I first want to say that I am sorry for the situation that you have been put in for the last 3 months of your senior year. I promise you that if I could change it I would. The Class of 2020 is a special group of individuals that have a tremendous future ahead of them. I look forward to seeing and hearing about all the great things you are going to accomplish. We will always remember and cherish the Class of 2020.

As you know, Governor Beshear has suspended all in person classes for the remainder of the school year. He has provided guidance that graduations, proms, large gatherings etc. are not feasible at this point in time. However, we are committed to recognizing the Class of 2020 following the social distancing guidelines provided by the governor, state and local health officials and the CDC. We have been working on a plan since yesterday with the FSHS administration, the Simpson Co. Board of Education, and seniors throughout the day while taking cap and gown pictures.

Under the circumstances, no plan is going to perfect and meet the needs of every student and family. In saying that, I want to say that I am sorry and apologize for the situation we are in and we are trying to do the best we can in a tough situation.

I wanted to get out the plans and dates as soon as possible so you can make any adjustments that you need.

Graduation #1: Drive through and social distancing graduation

Franklin-Simpson High School on May 24, 2020 starting at 2:00pm in the bus loop.

Once we get closer to time we will send out the exact times for you to be at the high school. The plan is for graduation to be from 2:00-4:30pm. We will have the graduates attend in groups of 25 approximately every 30 minutes starting at 2:00pm. Please be flexible as we build this graduation (plane) as we fly it.

FSHS will have a stage in front of the high school. Your parents and family will drop off their graduate (one graduate at a time) and the family will pull in front of the high school and stop. The graduate will walk to the stage and pick up their diploma cover. Dr. Darnall will call the graduates' names as they walk onto the stage. The graduate will stop for a photograph. Due to social distancing, I will not be able to hand you the diploma cover or shake hands. I will be on the stage standing next to the 2020 (the big 2020 that you made when you were Freshmen and hung on the wall for your 4 years of high school) and the graduate will be standing on the other end of the 2020. We will have a photographer take the picture, and you will proceed off the stage to get back in the car with your parents/family. We will then have the next graduate come to the stage. We feel that this can be done with proper social distancing. The entire ceremony will be recorded and also streamed live on social media. At the beginning of the ceremony we will have the Senior Scholars make their respective speeches.

Things we ask each graduate and family to follow:

- One car per graduate to come through the bus loop. If you need transportation, please contact the high school.
- Please stay in your car at all times. (Safety and social distancing are musts).

Graduation # 2: In-person, traditional graduation

I have promised these seniors that we will have a true graduation ceremony. I feel that this is important and something that needs to happen for the Class of 2020. Following the guidance of the governor and health officials we didn't feel that we would be able to assemble a large group anytime in June through August.

Saturday September 5, 2020 at 10:00am at James "Shadetree" Mathews Stadium we will have a traditional graduation ceremony. This is Labor Day weekend and one weekend we felt we could get most of the graduates back together.

We will assemble and march in as Pomp and Circumstance is played in traditional graduation style. This will give the Class of 2020 the opportunity to be together and celebrate one last time.

Senior Walk:

Senior Walk is a tradition that was started 8 years ago in our district and one that is special to our school community. The plan is to have a Senior Walk on Friday, August 7, 2020, which is the opening day for staff in Simpson Co. Schools. This will be an opportunity for our students to walk the halls of all the schools they have attended throughout their school career in Simpson Co. It is also an opportunity for them to award "Honorary Diplomas" to their teachers/staff that have meant so much to them over the years. More details on times and locations closer to time for Senior Walk.

I appreciate your understanding and look forward to celebrating this special occasion in your life alongside you and your families. I am thankful I had the opportunity to serve as your principal for 3 years and as my first year as superintendent. The Class of 2020 always made it enjoyable to come into work each and every day. I can't say thank you enough for the happiness you have brought to not only me but the halls of FSHS over the past 4 years.

Be Great-

Tim Schlosser #1FS