April 30, 2020

Dear 8th Grade Parents/Guardians,

I hope this message finds you and your families safe and well. On April 17th Governor Pritzker announced that remote learning in Illinois will be extended through the end of the 2019-20 school year. School districts have also received guidance that indicates “in-person” graduation ceremonies should not be held through the end of the academic year as large gatherings are not permitted. Districts are encouraged by the Illinois State Board of Education to honor graduates through virtual ceremonies and celebrations.

While this year will not be a traditional graduation ceremony, we will honor and celebrate our 8th grade graduating Class of 2020 with pride. A Class of 2020 8th Grade Virtual Graduation will be held on Thursday, May 28th at 7:00 p.m. The virtual graduation will include a presentation of the Class of 2020, a commemorative year in review slide show, messages from our student scholars, celebratory songs and congratulatory messages from the Board of Education and staff.

Throughout the month of May, 8th graders will be celebrated in a variety of ways. Some highlights include Elevate your Genius activities, a Virtual 8th Grade Dance and a Diploma Day Celebration Parade of Graduates. Please refer to the attached Graduation Timeline for details, dates and events. We realize that this is a challenging and unprecedented time; therefore, all 8th grade graduation fees are waived for the Class of 2020. School Principals will connect with families regarding refunds for fees previously paid.

The Class of 2020 has endured challenges like no other; however, I am confident that each of our students will emerge and soar with strength, hope and confidence to succeed in high school, our community and beyond! The opportunity to grow and learn alongside our 8th grade leaders and engage with families this year was priceless! We look forward to celebrating with you. Thank you for your patience and partnership! Stay well!

Sincerely,

Dr. Caletha White

Caletha White, Ed. D.