



May 12, 2020

Dear Parents,

This letter explains the 2020 Graduation plans for Milan Community Schools. A more detailed explanation is being sent to seniors and their families.

Graduating from high school is a milestone in education, marking the successful completion of K-12 education. It is an opportunity for everyone to celebrate the accomplishments of the students and the class, reflecting upon successes, and wishing the best to the graduates as they embark upon the next chapter of life. The continued concerns relating to COVID-19 and governmental restrictions have created much uncertainty in how we can provide a graduation ceremony that is meaningful and memorable while maintaining a safe environment for everyone.

Our Graduation committee, made up of senior officers, class sponsors, and administration, has used this as our basis in all of our decision-making. We have consulted with state and county officials and followed the guidance from the State Department of Education indicating that virtual celebrations are the best option considering the current circumstances. With that in mind, **Milan Community Schools will hold Commencement on Saturday, May 30, with a blended celebration including a Class of 2020 Caravan through Main Street, and a virtual ceremony.** We believe it will be a unique recognition that will appropriately honor the Class of 2020.

Having graduation on Saturday, May 30 affords us the best opportunity to honor all 94 graduates of the Class of 2020. This date has been on our school calendar and we felt it was important to hold our ceremony, whatever it would look like on this date. We realized that changing the date could possibly cause even more conflicts with families planning to come together as well as student obligations once they have graduated, such as college, industry certifications, or military obligations.

The blended celebration includes a professionally created video containing the traditional parts of graduation including speeches and formal pictures of the graduates, senior memory pictures and other tributes. The virtual ceremony will be recorded prior to or on May 30 and then will be available to families by June 5. This will be a great opportunity for families to celebrate together.

The caravan will allow all others in our community to recognize the graduates. The caravan will be led by our fire department and will leave the high school at approximately 11:00 a.m. It will travel through Main Street, as is a tradition for our school for Homecoming parades and victory celebrations. *If you would like to honor the Class of 2020, this is your chance to participate. Park your cars up and down the streets and honk your horns to honor the graduates. Of course, we ask everyone to adhere to social distancing guidelines.*

This pandemic is having a significant impact on our community, our state, our nation, and our world. We are making every effort to plan a celebration worthy of our senior class while acting responsibly during these unforeseen circumstances. Seniors, we are proud of you and hope that our efforts create memories for a lifetime. We realize this will be different than a typical graduation memory, however, it will be special and unique to you. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Sincerely,
Jane E. Rogers
Superintendent

