Dear Seniors and Senior Parents,

As a district, we have been discussing possible graduation plans for more than a month and it has been weighing heavily on our minds. We need to take guidance and get approval from the State and the Health Department on what we can and cannot do with regards to graduation. On Tuesday, I was on a Zoom call with other superintendents in CABOCES, as well as the Directors of the Allegany and Cattaraugus County Health Departments, to discuss graduation plans. Each district shared their ideas and we were asked to send our possible plans to the Department of Health (DOH) so they could share them with the Governor’s office and get guidance. Andover submitted three possible plans. During this call, the DOH stated that the current orders from the Governor’s office state that schools are closed and that having a graduation ceremony is not allowed as graduations are considered a social gathering (more than 10 people). Per the DOH and the State, whether graduation is held on or off school property, people are not allowed to park and get out of their vehicles. School districts that had announced plans for graduation ceremonies are now being told that their plans are not allowable and they are revising their original plans. We are hoping as this area goes through the Governor’s phases for reopening that allowing students/families on campus for a more traditional graduation ceremony will be permitted, but the timeline allowing larger social gatherings is unknown at this point.

We all know that you and your families deserve to have a graduation in the best form that we can give to you. We are hoping to have more guidance and information from the DOH and the Governor’s office soon. We will release details to you when we have the final word from the DOH and the State as to what we can do.

Sincerely,

Mr. Spangenburg