



Parchment School District
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Thursday, May 14, 2020

Good Afternoon Parents and Guardians,

I hope you are all well and safe. This has certainly not been the end of the year that we all wanted or expected. I have spoken to many of the seniors over the last several weeks through email, by phone or Google Meet. They are certainly excited to be done but remorseful over all that they have missed. This situation is tough on the staff and me personally as well. I remember watching these pre-pubescent 12 year olds running around Sherman Lake at 6th grade camp!

Where are we now? We have been continuously working since the shutdown began in March to develop valid plans for a commencement/graduation ceremony for our seniors. We have considered multiple ideas, and have fleshed out several options. We have also met and are meeting with the other Districts in the county to discuss and share plans. Unfortunately, there are still many unknowns as to the State requirements for public gatherings and what they will look like in July, August etc. As we are getting close to their actual graduation date, I want to share what we know we are doing and the options we are planning based on the stay at home orders and potential changes. I also want you to know that any of these plans can change with additional changes from the State.

The last shipment of Caps & Gowns arrived Monday along with the diploma covers. We sorted through everything yesterday and we now have everything that was purchased. We also have the certificates, medals, honor chords, etc. We plan to have all of these in students' hands for the week of the 25th so families can do pictures, etc. I will be sharing our plan for this on Monday.

Based on what we know, we are looking at two main options for graduation/commencement. The first is a virtual ceremony option. This option is virtual, meaning no face to face meeting or gathering. It would require the students to send us digital information that we would assemble along with some segments that we create and then either broadcast or share.

The second is a face-to-face outdoor event, potentially in August. This is based on what we know and what we are being told by the State. Any face-to-face option is not possible under the current regulations and will be limited significantly for schools when we move forward in the State's phased plan. These restrictions may include; no groups larger than 50/100, all people attending must be fever screened and documented, 6ft. distance requirement maintained, masks required, etc. There are still many unknowns with this option.

Lastly, Mrs. Edds sent the seniors a link to their Senior Survey yesterday. Seniors receive this survey every year. It is important that they fill this out as the information is used for graduation. For example, one of the items has students list scholarships they received so we can publish it in the Graduation Program. If they don't fill it out, they will not be included in the program. Please tell them to look for it or contact Mrs. Edds if they don't see it.

As we refine our plans we will continue to share information. I will be sending out plans for the distribution of caps/gowns/etc on Monday the 18th. I will also be updating you with any new information as it is available.

Hope you are all well,

George Stamas
Principal
Parchment High School

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