

Good evening MHS families,

As most of you are likely aware, the State of Minnesota released guidelines last week that banned large graduation ceremonies of any kind.

With that news, we've been forced to pivot from our plans of holding an on-field ceremony for our students. However, working alongside a number of our seniors, we've developed a new plan that we feel gives our students the best recognition we can in this situation while following all guidelines and prioritizing the safety of our community.

Over the course of two days next week, we will be scheduling students to MHS in very small groups to participate in a graduation walk. We will set up our graduation stage in front of the East Entrance of the Monticello High School (MHS) and will have Lommel Photography there to capture the walk across the stage. MHS administration and Superintendent Olson will be on hand to congratulate students from a safe distance while orchestrating the process and monitoring social distancing behaviors.

In addition to professional photos being taken at the ceremony, we will also be filming each graduate's walk across the stage. We will use those videos as a foundation for an MHS Graduation Ceremony video that will be put together and broadcast virtually on June 5 to celebrate the Class of 2020. This virtual ceremony will give our community the opportunity to celebrate our graduates together, and will present the opportunity for our typical keynote speakers to address the Class of 2020 as they deserve.

The time slots will be from 2 to 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 19th and 4 to 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 20th. We are asking families to access our [sign up spreadsheet](#) to sign up for a 10-minute time slot that works for your student.

To help make this event a success and to allow all of our seniors the opportunity to have their moment, we ask that all students and families follow these guidelines:

- Only two family members allowed (and one vehicle) per student/family
- The East Entrance (staff parking lot) will have cuing lines
- Show up five minutes prior to your time slot, but please remain in your vehicle until it is your time (an announcement will be made)
- Properly social distance at all times (a minimum of six feet between any two people that do not live in the same household)
- Graduates are asked to please follow the traditional commencement wardrobe expectations. Even in these unusual circumstances, we want students to remember commencement as a special activity and the school district's public acknowledgement of high school completion. Acceptable options for attire to be worn under the commencement gown are as follows:
- Dress slacks, Dress shirt & tie, Dress skirt, or Dresses, Dress socks, Dress shoes (no recreational shoes such as sneakers, flip-flops, etc.), **NO SHORTS OR SUNGLASSES**
- After the walk across stage, professional picture, and opportunity for family to take a quick picture, families will be asked to exit the parking lot efficiently so that the process can continue at a rapid pace (in order to provide an opportunity for all 300 graduates)

One of the key requirements in helping us practice social distancing and making this event a success is that families **do not** ride share. Only members of the same household should share a vehicle to this event. To help accomplish that, while also making this event easily accessible to all families, we are proud to partner with Hoglund Transportation to offer transportation to and from the events on May 19th and May 20th for students that require it. To sign up for transportation, please provide Hoglund's with your information on [this form](#). Please include the time you've signed up for in the notes section of the form.

In addition to all of this, we are also finalizing plans for a graduation car parade for the Class of 2020. This parade will be held on Sunday evening, May 31st. Families can expect further communication with more details in the near future.

Thank you to our families for your patience and understanding through this process. Thank you to our countless seniors who shared ideas and did everything they could to make it their own. And thank you in advance to all stakeholders for respecting the guidelines of this ceremony and working with us to give our students the best version of a celebration that we can under these trying circumstances.

Sincerely

Mike Carr, MHS Principal

John Reeves, MHS Assistant Principal