



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CHATHAMS

CHATHAM HIGH SCHOOL
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May 1, 2020

Dear Seniors,

I hope all of you are doing okay as we continue to be away from school. I want to reassure the Class of 2020 that the administration continues to have daily discussions on how we might manage our end of the year events including our senior picnic, prom, and graduation. Our challenge at this time is that we do not know the social restrictions that we will be working under. We do expect to get more guidance from Governor Murphy on May 15th which should give us a better idea of what is possible and what is less possible.

I want you to know that we are looking to do whatever we can to have our seniors “live” and in person for our celebrations and for graduation one way or another. Once we have a better idea of our social distancing restrictions, we will be able to structure our events in a more realistic manner.

Here are some thoughts and possibilities:

If we are able to return to school prior to the end of the school year and social distancing is lifted;

- Move our Awards Assembly, Senior Prom, and Senior Picnic to the week of June 15 to structure a “Senior Week” for the Class of 2020 culminating with graduation behind the high school on June 19. We would plan according to social distancing guidelines to ensure the health and safety of our staff, students, and families.

If we are not able to return to school but social distancing has been adjusted to a point where we can have gatherings with larger numbers while maintaining appropriate social distancing.

- Plan for a senior picnic/barbecue behind the high school where we can have our seniors together while maintaining proper social distancing and other CDC guidelines.
- Plan for graduation in the back of the high school where we can maintain social distancing for our seniors and families during the procession, ceremony, and recession. This may require us to have multiple sessions if gathering numbers remain restricted. (For example: 3 sessions of 105 seniors per session.)

If we are not able to return to school and social distancing numbers are not adjusted to a point where any type of “live” ceremony is possible for June 19;

- Attempt to move “Senior Week” to the week of July 20 if it appears that social distancing restrictions would be adjusted to support our events properly.

If we are unable to have any type of “live” event, we would develop for a virtual graduation that would either take place in June or July. We would also discuss with the senior class officers the possibility of supporting some sort of “reunion” in December 2020 or May 2021.

I know this has been a difficult time for our students, staff, and community. We recognize that it is especially difficult for our seniors who went through the beginning of their senior year with very different thoughts of how this spring would look. Our seniors should know that there has been a swell of support and understanding of what many of you must be feeling. It is clearly everyone’s hope that we are able to gather and celebrate your high school accomplishments in the best manner possible.

We will continue to discuss plans for our seniors and communicate the status of our plans after we hear from the Governor on May 15.

Thank you all for the patience and strength you have demonstrated during this time.

Be well.

Mr. Groh