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Elder William Dean, Jr., Member District D
Rayford Horton, Member District E

James L. Henderson, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

Connecting for Success: Every Child, Every Classroom, Every Day

May 15, 2020

Dear Class of 2020:

Parents and Seniors, we want to remind you of the logistics and expectations for your graduation ceremony May 20, 21 and 22. Please read this letter carefully to avoid any misunderstandings or disappointments. By now you should have received your graduation date and time information. Our plans are mindful of the safety precautions recommended to help slow the spread of the coronavirus flu.

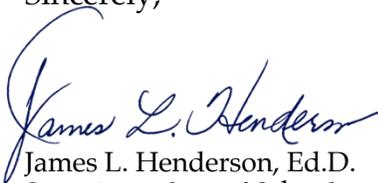
Each graduate should arrive by car on the date and time designated. Each senior is allotted only one carful of visitors. You will be met by security staff who will direct the driver to enter the graduation line. If you arrive later than your designated time, you should report to the end of the line of cars. If you miss your appointed date and/or time, you may participate in the Friday, May 22 ceremony following the scheduled Friday students. To do so, however, you must notify Ms. Veronica Rand of your intention prior to Friday. Likewise, if you choose to opt out of the ceremony, please notify Ms. Rand.

An outdoor stage is set up in front of the high school in the bus lane of the parking lot driveway. Your car should move toward the stage and follow the car ahead. The graduate—and only the graduate—will exit the vehicle to walk across the stage, accept the diploma from Dr. Henderson, turn the tassel, and pose for photos by the photographer. The graduate will then leave the stage, re-enter their vehicle, and drive off campus. Guests are to remain in the car at all times—they may not get out of the car while students are on stage to protect the safety of our staff and students' friends and families.

The graduating class is divided into three groups—May 20, 21 and 22—in order to manage the number of people gathering in a public venue. There are two sessions each day: 8:15 am and 9:45 am. We will be outdoors, and all guests will remain in their cars as they observe their graduate cross the stage to receive their diploma. The Valedictorian and Salutatorian speeches will be recorded and included in the video of the ceremonies. The ceremonies will stream live and be uploaded to the District's website so that you can have a copy. A photographer will document each student's moment on stage as they collect their diploma.

Your high school leaders will contact you with more information as we near May 20, 21 and 22. Remember, we are celebrating your triumph while consciously protecting our family and friends' health during this uncertain time of COVID-19.

Sincerely,


James L. Henderson, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

