

HUNTINGDON AREA HIGH SCHOOL

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Mr. Travis R. Lee,
Secondary Principal

Mr. Brent A. Stoltzfus,
Assistant Principal

"ALL LEARNERS, ALL FUTURES"

To: Senior Learners, Parents, and Guardians
From: Mr. Travis R. Lee, High School Principal
Re: **Class of 2020 Commencement Ceremony Details**
Date: May 23, 2020

Dear Seniors, Parents, and Guardians,

Please review the following details and procedures below regarding the HAHS 2020 Commencement Ceremony to be held on Thursday, June 4, 2020, at 5:00 pm.

We are grateful for the help and input, in collaboration with County officials, in planning this meaningful event and we are confident that this will be a memorable ceremony, while still practicing social distancing for the safety of all involved. We are pleased that we will be able to honor the Class of 2020 on their originally scheduled commencement date. Please read below for event details.

Date and Time

- **Thursday, June 4, 2020, at 5:00 pm**
- **Rain Date:** Friday, June 5, at 5:00 pm

Location

- **Huntingdon Area School District Campus**
 - Athletic Practice Field between Huntingdon Area Middle School and Standing Stone Elementary School. Please see the attached map below

Arrival Procedures

- Families may begin to arrive for the ceremony at 3:30 pm. The gate to the athletic field location will not be opened prior to this time
- A map is attached to this document below, indicating the flow of traffic from Cassady Avenue to the commencement site
- Upon arrival, seniors will turn in their parking ticket to an attendance official and receive their graduation program
 - Seniors will receive their commencement parking ticket during cap and gown distribution
 - As with ticket distribution for indoor commencement ceremonies, seniors may coordinate unused tickets with their classmates
 - Seniors that may not plan to attend the ceremony should notify the school during cap and gown distribution
- There will be parking attendants to direct the flow of traffic
- Parking in each row will be offset to enhance views of the stage

Vehicle Specifications and Decorations

- Each senior is permitted to have one family vehicle for the event, with family members accompanying them in the vehicle
- There is a maximum capacity of 8 passengers per vehicle. Larger capacity vans or buses will not be permitted
- Vehicles of a higher profile may be parked farther in the back of the designated parking areas so they do not block the view of others
- ***Seniors are encouraged to decorate their vehicles***
 - Use a placard/poster board indicating the name of the senior, similar to what would be used during a parade
 - Streamers or window paint may be used, but be mindful of traffic laws
 - No decorations should obstruct views of others during the ceremony

Commencement Format

- A traditional program for commencement, consisting of speeches and presentation of diplomas will occur on stage
- Learners earning senior awards will receive the awards with their diploma
- Senior award and honor recognitions and designations will be acknowledged when seniors are introduced
- While proceeding to the stage, on stage, and exiting, seniors should wear a mask. They may remove their masks for their picture on stage, prior to exiting the stage
- We encourage you to “applaud” our seniors by honking your horn. Please do so briefly, after their name and awards have been read, so that we can proceed with recognizing the next senior

Processional to Stage

- Seniors should follow the alphabetical listing of graduates in the commencement program as the ceremony proceeds
- When the 8th learner ahead of a senior’s name is called, as listed in the program, seniors should exit their vehicle, make their way to the center aisle, and then proceed to the right side of the stage
- There will be designated spots for seniors to stand near the stage, and move forward accordingly, as they await for their name to be called
- Seniors will receive any honor cords or stoles at a designated location as they wait to approach the stage
- School officials/ushers will be available to help with this process
- Seniors should return directly to their vehicle after exiting the stage

Post-Ceremony Parade

- Following the ceremony, vehicles will be dismissed by a parking attendant to join the parade
- The parade will follow the typical Huntingdon parade route, exiting campus and proceeding to College Avenue, to Moore Street, turn right onto 18th Street, and then left onto Washington Street, and conclude at the parking lot of War Vets Field/ Little League fields and disperse
- A police and fire escort will lead the parade

Additional Commencement Ceremony Viewing and Listening Options

- The ceremony will be live streamed via YouTube. A link to the stream will be posted on the HASD website shortly before the ceremony begins
- A radio broadcast of the event will occur on the FM 87.9 radio frequency

Additional Senior Information and Reminders

- *Please review the [Senior Class Update - Caps/Gowns and Materials: 5/21/20](#) document
- *Seniors not attending the commencement ceremony may pick up their diploma at the high school office on the morning of June 4 or June 5 from 8:00 to 11:00 am
- *Please see the **Class of 2020 Decision Day Video** at: <https://youtu.be/xGe85sNrGXQ>
- *A **virtual Baccalaureate ceremony** will be held on Sunday, May 31st. Additional viewing details will be shared
- *Community members are organizing a Prom for the Class of 2020, to be held on Friday, July 10, 2020, at the Lake Raystown Resort. Please contact Bobbi Jo King, organizer, at knbking@yahoo.com
- *Yearbooks for the 19-20 school year are still being completed. The goal is to have these to distribute prior to the start of the 20-21 school year
- *The virtual yearbook sponsored by Seven Mountains Media should be available by June 5. We will share when you can check this out. Thanks for your submissions!
- *Families that may want to create a personal, digital tribute together for their seniors can go to this website: <https://www.tribute.co/balfour/>. This option is sponsored by our yearbook partner, Balfour, Please reach out to Mrs. Buckley for any additional details
- *There will be no virtual ceremony, in addition to the drive-in ceremony on June 4. Preparations will still take place and will be included in a senior video for the Class of 2020

Commencement Map

