

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 Updates and Reminders**
Date: May 29, 2020

Dear Seniors, Parents, and Guardians,

We are now less than one week away from the important graduation ceremony! As we have continued to plan, garner feedback, and monitor social distancing guidelines and phases for PA, we have updates and reminders for commencement activities. We hope you find these updates helpful and more accommodating. We thank you for your patience as we want to make graduation the best that we can!

The highlight of this message is that there are two opportunities on the day of commencement for our seniors to receive their diploma. These are briefly explained below, and further detail for each ceremony is given on the reverse side of this message. **Please note, however, that learners can only participate in one of the two ceremonies.**

Overview of Ceremony Options

Ceremony 1: Drive-In Commencement on June 4, 5:00 pm

- This is the ceremony that was detailed in the two previous communications, and for which seniors have received a commencement ticket
- This continues to be the large format ceremony, with the traditional elements of commencement such as speeches, receiving a diploma on stage, and then the post-commencement parade

Ceremony 2: Small Group Diploma Distribution

- A stage by the senior parking lot will be utilized for seniors to have their names called and receive their diploma
- This option can be utilized on Thursday, June 4 and Friday, June 5, between 8:00 - 11:00 am, in 20 minute segments. See below for scheduling information.
- This may be a suitable option for those considering to gather in a small group (25 or less), for having more than one vehicle see the graduate walk across the stage, or for shortening the viewing time of the drive-in ceremony
- Learners who choose this option are still encouraged to watch the live stream to see the full commencement presentation

Photograph Opportunities

- War Vets Field will be open for pictures on Thursday, June 4 and Friday, June 5, from 8:00 am - 2:00 pm for graduates and families to take photographs prior to, and the day after, commencement
- No more than 25 individuals will be permitted inside the stadium at a time, and all must adhere to social distancing precautions as indicated by the monitors
- Note that participants in either ceremony can utilize these photograph opportunities

Additional Details for the Ceremony Options

Ceremony 1: Drive-In Commencement on June 4, 5:00 pm

- Please review the details in the previous commencement update from 5/23/20. In addition to the items listed in that message, please note the following updates below
- Vehicles will be permitted to be running to operate climate control/AC. We ask that you be mindful and courteous with any noise that this may cause, and if necessary, use intermittently
- Handicapped accessible PortaJohns will be located on each side of the parking area
- Vehicles should not arrive on campus prior to the gates opening at 3:30 pm. There will be ample time to park arriving up to 4:30 pm
- After arriving on campus, vehicle occupants should remain in the vehicle unless otherwise specified. Parking of vehicles, leaving, and then returning, is not permitted
- Remember that larger capacity vehicles will not be permitted. Vehicles of a higher profile will be parked farther in the back and in the perimeter spaces, so parking is not solely based upon arrival time
- With the spacing of vehicles, guests may exit their vehicle and stand directly beside the vehicle, if necessary, to take a photo of their senior on stage. You must directly return to the vehicle. No one may leave their designated vehicle space
- No one will be permitted to remain outside of the vehicle, including in the beds of trucks, in order to meet PDE/DOH/CDC guidelines for gatherings
- An aerial view of the parking at the ceremony, and an instructional video for the ceremony procedures, will be posted in Google Classroom in the near future
- All names, and awards, will be read at this ceremony

Ceremony 2: Small Group Diploma Distribution

- A stage, backdrop, and podium will be set-up for diploma distribution
- Senior names, and any honor or awards will be read, and the graduate will proceed to the stage
- Times will be scheduled on the hour and half hour, with 20 minutes for the activity and 10 minutes to clear the premises prior to the next group's arrival
- A combination of up to a maximum of 5 graduates, and 25 total participants, is permitted for each session
- A sign-up sheet in the Grade Level Google Classroom will be posted when this message is released. **Seniors must sign-up for this option by 2:00 pm on Monday, June 1**
 - Be sure to indicate the number of participants in the document so that we know the total amount and can adhere to a maximum gathering of 25
 - A confirmation email with the time will be sent to the senior on Tuesday, June 2
- Social distancing norms must still be followed
- Email to families confirming the time
- Additional time slots may be scheduled if necessary