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Dear Parents/Guardians of the Class of 2020,

First and foremost, I hope that everyone is healthy as we continue to be affected by Covid-19. Please remember that mental health is just as important as your physical health. As the weather begins to improve, please make sure you are getting outside, even to walk, to take care of yourself. I can tell you that my dog has never walked so much in his life!

Below I offer an update regarding Graduation, End of the Year Awards and Prom for the Class of 2020.

Graduation

I wish to thank each and every one of you who participated in the survey that was sent out on April 17th. Your insight and suggestions were great and I look forward to celebrating this milestone with your children as soon as we can.

Your feedback informed our decision making process and allowed me to work with Dr. Brotschul while developing plans in concert with the Delran Township Board of Education. To be clear, however, it continues to be a goal of all stakeholders to conduct the graduation ceremony on June 19th on Joseph A. Chinnici Field as planned.

We all must understand that we will take our lead from Governor Murphy and the New Jersey Department of Health. As that is the case, any Graduation ceremony would be contingent on applicable Executive Orders and/or guidance from a variety of governmental entities through the State of New Jersey (e.g. Office of the Governor; Department of Health; Department of Education; State Police; Delran Township Police Department; Delran Township Fire Department).

Last evening at the Board of Education Regular Public Meeting, the Delran Township Board of Education approved the following recommendation from Dr. Brotschul regarding our Graduation plan and subsequent contingencies:

- Primary Graduation Date: June 19, 2020 Location: Joseph Chinnici Field, Delran High School Time: 7:00pm
- Backup Graduation Date #1: July 24, 2020 Location: Joseph Chinnici Field, Delran High School Time: 7:00pm
- Backup Graduation Date #2: July 31, 2020 Location: Joseph Chinnici Field, Delran High School Time: 7:00pm
- Backup Graduation Date #3: May 27, 2021 Location: Joseph Chinnici Field, Delran High School Time: 7:00pm

We will continue to examine the direction from the Governor regarding our course of action as it relates to Graduation dates. Having said that, if it appears that an August date may be conducive for a Graduation event we will advise accordingly.

In this particular circumstance, we are asking for flexibility from parents regarding the Graduation date. We sincerely appreciate how flexible you have been throughout this process.

Now that I have outlined our plans from a timing/date perspective, it is important that I convey that any ceremony for the Class of 2020 will have a different appearance than what we have become accustomed to here in Delran. While we have not solidified plans for the exact ceremony components (we await further direction regarding social distancing), the concept of welcoming 3,000 attendees to the actual ceremony is extremely unlikely. I don't intend to alarm you, but, rather to prepare you for a shift in ceremonial approach that will likely only include the Class of 2020 and immediate family (or a fraction of). Again, all of which is subject to the guidance offered by the Governor and others.

End of the Year

Our traditional Departmental Awards evening and Scholarship Night will be incorporated into the graduation ceremony as has been done in the past. It is important that these students be recognized publicly for their accomplishments!

Prom

Last evening at the Board of Education Regular Public Meeting, the Delran Township Board of Education approved the following recommendation from Dr. Brotschul regarding our Prom plan and subsequent contingencies:

- Primary Prom Date: May 29, 2020 Location: Lucien's Manor – 81 West White Horse Pike – Berlin, NJ 08009 Time: 7:00pm
- Backup Prom Date #1: July 23, 2020 Location: Lucien's Manor – 81 West White Horse Pike – Berlin, NJ 08009 Time: 7:00pm
- Backup Prom Date #2: July 30, 2020 Location: Lucien's Manor – 81 West White Horse Pike – Berlin, NJ 08009 Time: 7:00pm

These dates are dependent upon whether these gatherings can take place through guidance set forth by the Governor and others. I know how important prom is for your children and it is truly one of the highlights of the school year. Please know that we are doing everything that we can to ensure that this occurs.

As we learn more about the reopening of New Jersey in the coming weeks, I will be sure to communicate with you about any further decisions that relate to the Class of 2020. I will make sure that everyone is made aware of our end-of-the-year events including Yearbook distribution and Cap and Gown distribution.

With Bear Pride and Spirit,

Daniel S. Finkle

Principal