

# HINSDALE MIDDLE / HIGH SCHOOL

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May 15, 2020

Dear Parents and Members of the Class of 2020:

On behalf of the entire staff and administration, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you and your child on his/ her impending graduation. The purpose of this letter is to alert you to the timelines and deadlines associated with graduation and senior activities. The graduation ceremony has been set for **the evening of June 9, 2020, with a rain date of June 11, 2020**. The ceremony this year, due to COVID-19 and social distancing guidelines, will be held outside, at the Northfield Drive-In Theater. This venue was voted on by the senior class and approved by the Hinsdale School Board.

The last day of remote learning for all students is May 29. Seniors are expected to have all their assignments, including exams, completed on or before May 29. During the week of June 1<sup>st</sup>, all materials need to be returned to the school, and seniors will have a checklist of their responsibilities completed no later than June 5. When seniors have fulfilled these responsibilities, they will be able to pick up their cap and gown.

If a senior wishes to decorate their cap, they must have prior approval from me, also no later than June 5. They must provide me with a full size sketch of the decorations for their cap and discuss the design requirements. This is a wonderful tradition, and one we want students to appreciate.

At this time, these are the key elements of the ceremony:

Initially three Tickets will be given to seniors to allow three cars per family to the Drive-In. Parents may want lawn chairs to sit by their cars, which will be spaced out. Seniors will have spaces reserved in the first two rows, possibly with their parents and immediate family members.

A parade of vehicles for seniors and their parents will be arranged from the school, through a town route, and then to the Drive-In. Seniors should arrive at the school no later than 6:30 PM, with the parade starting at 7 PM.

The ceremony at the Northfield Drive-In will commence right before dusk, approximately at 8 PM, with seniors commencing onto the stage to be awarded their diplomas.

**Perseverance    Advocacy    Collaboration    Empathy    Responsibility    Scholarship**

Speeches and recognition normally held on Class Day, Senior Breakfast, and Graduation, will be pre-recorded and played on the Drive-In screen. The ceremony that evening will be live-streamed for anyone not in attendance to view.

Seniors participating in the ceremony will be required to attend two rehearsals. The first is scheduled for May 21 at 2 PM in the high school parking lot. Social distancing will be in practice.

This letter also serves to remind you and your child that we are not yet at graduation and our students need to remain focused upon the task at hand. While graduation is a *formal academic recognition* of their accomplishments, the safety of all participants is paramount at this time. We absolutely must follow all guidelines regarding social distancing, and ensure there is no contact among the graduates and participants. We will need everyone to respect those safe distancing guidelines, even when wishing to congratulate each other.

Graduates should dress neatly with appropriate shoes for walking on grass. High heels are not recommended, open-toed sandals are acceptable but no sneakers, no flip-flops and no boots. Dress pants and dresses are strongly recommended and no jeans or dungarees will be allowed. No students will be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony wearing inappropriate clothing or footwear. If a senior wishes to decorate their cap, they must have prior approval from me, no later than June 5. They must provide me with a full size sketch of the decorations for their cap and discuss the design requirements. This is a wonderful tradition, and one we want students to appreciate. Students who are in violation of these expectations will not march.

In order to participate, students must also meet the academic and behavioral criteria outlined in the handbook for participation in graduation activities, including the payment of all financial obligations at the school. If financial assistance is required, a student need only see Mrs. Freitag to make the necessary arrangements. Seniors are also required to complete the Senior Sign-Out Sheet and Senior Materials Sheet. Again, students who fail to complete these responsibilities will not march. **Students who will be academically ineligible to graduate will be told by the principal on June 1, 2020;** parents will be called at that time as well.

I know that the next several weeks or so will be a blur for most of us but I would be remiss not to take this opportunity to tell you how much we have enjoyed working with your sons and daughters and watching them mature during their school career. They have been a wonderful group of students; offering both tremendous challenges and many rewards. All of which leads me to the closing point of this letter.

The final quarter of high school is a difficult time for staff and students alike, even under normal circumstances. The senior class, their officers, parents, School Board members, and community have been very engaged in making this a successful and celebratory event. We are grateful to Wiggins family, for welcoming us and hosting the event at their facility. We are also grateful to Max Beebe at Omega Images, for his work with our videos.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call. A list of dates follows, and some of the event details are still in process. Thank-you for your patience and understanding.

Sincerely,

Ann L. Freitag

Thursday, May 21

Class rehearsal, 2 PM, HMHS parking lot.

Second rehearsal will be at the Drive-in, the time and date to be determined.

Friday May 29, 2020

Last day of Remote learning closes. All academic work completed, including exams.

June 1-June 5, 2020

All school materials and checklists need to be completed.

Tuesday June 9 (Rain date Thursday June 11)

Seniors report to school at 6:30 PM

Parade begins at 7 PM, route to be determined

Commencement Ceremonies at Northfield Drive-in, beginning at 8 PM