

May 22, 2020

Dear Members of the **HHS CLASS OF 2020** and families:

We recognize that Graduation is more than just a ceremony. It's an experience, both for our seniors and their families. Graduation is the celebration of many years of dedication and hard work by all involved. This year, we are facing some of the most unique and unforeseen circumstances in recent history. Regardless, our team remains committed to providing a unique and memorable experience for our Class of 2020. While we all look forward to a traditional commencement in August, we have committed to providing the members of our Senior Class with a special moment of recognition in June.

I am excited to let you know that – after many hours of planning and brainstorming – our team has finalized the details for our **Senior Celebration Experience**. This plan has many moving parts and follows the current health and safety guidelines set forth by Governor Northam. At the same time, our unique approach will allow students the priceless opportunity to walk in full regalia on their school campus as their name is called in front of their guests to signify the completion of their senior year. This moment will be captured by professional photographers and each member of the Senior Class will receive two complimentary 5 x 7 photographs and a digital download. In addition, additional school photographers will be capturing candid photos of the event that may be viewed online at a later date.

Listed below are the details you need to know in order to participate in the Senior Celebration Experience held at Hickory High School. Please read over these details carefully. We will need your cooperation in order to make this a safe experience for all involved:

1. **Determine your scheduled time.** Each senior has been assigned a specific date and time (see attached schedule) to allow all graduating seniors to participate.
2. **Invite your guests.** Each senior may be joined by no more than four guests in one vehicle.
3. **Get there early.** Please arrive at least 10 minutes before your scheduled time. Arriving late to your scheduled appointment could disrupt the schedule of the event for all of our seniors. This is very important to help things run smoothly and adhere to the Governor's orders.
4. **Dress the part.** Seniors should arrive wearing appropriate attire under caps and gowns. Appropriate attire includes shoes, dark trousers, dress shirts, neckties, dresses, skirts, or blouses. Sneakers or flip-flops will not be permitted.
5. **Remain in your vehicle.** As you enter the parking lot, a staff member will direct you. Please remain in your vehicle until a staff member invites your group to the check-in area.
6. **Prepare to walk and be recognized.** After checking in, the excitement begins! Seniors will have an opportunity to visit a professional portrait area where a photo of the graduate will be taken as he or she stands in the celebration area. Guests will have the chance to witness and celebrate as the graduate's name is announced and professional photo is taken.

7. **Say cheese!** Your family will want to capture these moments. For safety reasons, our staff will not be able to snap a picture with your personal device, but your guests can take photos as long as they are not disrupting the flow of events.
8. **Keep the pace.** Please keep in mind that this process will be fast-paced, so plan accordingly. Seniors will have the opportunity to visit a station to pick up a few mementos from the school. We also hope to distribute yearbooks, diploma covers, and official diplomas if they are available. However, some of our vendors have experienced delays in production as a result of the pandemic. If these items have not arrived at your school in time, we will arrange for distribution at a later date.
9. **Make room for others.** After the senior and guests have visited each station a staff member will direct the group back to their vehicle. We ask that you exit the property promptly to allow space for other graduates.
10. **Help us celebrate YOU.** As we work through this process, I ask that you please be patient and adhere to all of the rules and regulations that will be put in place on-site. Please know that these requirements are intended to help ensure the safety of all involved.

Should you have any questions regarding the Senior Celebration Experience, please contact us at (757)421-4295, or you may email Heather Key, Graduation Coordinator, at Heather.Key@cpschools.com. A member of our team will connect with you as soon as possible to assist.

Small moments often make the most lasting memories. A child's first steps, the first day of school, the first game of the season – these are the moments that matter. It is our sincere hope that your Senior Celebration Experience, if only for a moment, will create a lasting memory for you and your family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amber S. Brown', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Amber S. Brown
Principal