

Dear Seniors and Families of Seniors!

Dr. Palmer and I are pleased and excited to inform you that the Director of the Torrington Area Health District has accepted our plan for a graduation ceremony that will be held on our campus on June 11th starting at 10:00 a.m. (rain date to be announced). The plan we are sharing with you was developed after several conference calls with Superintendents and High School principals from around the state and Litchfield County with guidance from the Governor's Office and the Connecticut State Department of Education.

The graduation ceremony will take place in the large faculty parking lot at the front of the school. This area of the school commands sweeping 360 degree views of the horizon and has a slope to it that makes for a perfect theater. A stage will be set up at the edge of the parking lot overlooking the downslope to Battistoni Drive. Two large LED jumbo screens will be set up to each side of the stage so that people can view the ceremony from their car. Graduates and their families will be in parked cars (1 car per family) that will be parked facing the stage in alphabetical grouping. In keeping with the Governor's Executive Order everyone must wear their masks and only 5 family members will be allowed in each car.

The first part of the graduation event will be our virtual ceremony that is composed of speeches and the montage of the Senior Class that will be played on the large screens that will be visible from everyone's car. At the conclusion of this part of the ceremony each graduate will have their name announced and they will leave their car and go on to the stage to pick up their diploma that will be placed on a table. The graduate will have his or her photo taken on stage and then immediately go back to their car.

We feel very fortunate to have had our plan accepted by the TAHD. One of the things that took Dr. Palmer and I aback a bit was that we learned that any graduation ceremony can be shut down by the local police department if it is in violation of the Governor's Executive Order, so going forward it will be really important for everyone to follow the rules for graduation that we will be sending you in the near future. Above all else we want to keep everyone safe during this very exciting time in the life of our seniors. It would be tragic if a family member became gravely ill with a COVID infection because someone did not follow the rules.

Also, as I mentioned last evening in my eblast as part of our Senior Graduation Weekend we are holding a graduation parade through our District's towns in honor of our graduates on Saturday, June 13th starting at 2:00. The parade procession will leave from the school. The rain date for the parade will be announced shortly.

I know that you probably have many questions. As I mentioned earlier there are many logistical challenges that we are planning for right now and we will keep you informed

about the specifics of the ceremony as our planning for the event evolves. Please put in your orders for good weather on June 11th! Stay tuned, stay safe and stay well.

Best Regards,

Ken and Judy