



May 6, 2020

THS Seniors,

May 11 is an important day for many reasons. The greatest thing happening on that day is we get to see you for the first time since March 13! But there are several other “happenings” on the 11th. You will be picking up your cap and gowns, turning in Chromebooks, cases and chargers, band instruments if you have them, books and materials from the THS Media Center, calculators and athletic uniforms.

We are planning some special things for the 11th, still allowing you to stay in your cars and practice social distancing but also have some fun. You should have received a [schedule](#) for the day and a [map](#) giving directions for the day.

Let’s talk about Graduation. No one wanted your Senior year to unfold as it has. All of us have events in our life that change the course of our lives and we think about life before the event and life as it is, after the event. For you, the Class of 2020, it is Covid 19, and as your life experience unfolds, there will be other events that will change your life for the positive and some not. We are going to make this the most positive event we can, given the limits and guidelines we have today.

We have looked at every option for Graduation. We started in March, right after we walked out of the building talking about the “what ifs?”. We have been meeting, virtually, for coffee with the principals from Ross, Monroe, Edgewood, and Hamilton each week. We are very aware of what other schools in our Butler County area have planned. We have been sharing ideas, most of the time trying to answer, “what will you do when.....?”.

Before we were given Guidelines, we thought a postponed ceremony in June, in the Talawanda Stadium, was the answer. Now we know facilities are closed until the end of June. We were also directed by the ODE to stay as close as we could to the original date because as we get further into the summer, some graduates will be involved in job assignments, preparing to leave for college and some, leaving for the military.

We looked at a drive-thru and all variations, from handing your diploma through the car window to doing single-family events. A Virtual Graduation exercise is the safest, and most recommended method we can implement to recognize the accomplishments of the Class of 2020.

Your Graduation will include student speakers, music, and a special guest. Mr. Meece will be reading the names of each graduate, emphasizing the need for each of you to wear your cap and gown and send us pictures. Mr. Z is putting together that portion of the ceremony. There will be a video produced by seniors that also will be part of the program. Every one of you will get 5 programs that you can share with family as well as a flash drive with the recorded graduation on it.

June 2, is scheduled for picking up your actual diploma and returning your gown. We will be announcing additional information in the coming days for June 2.

We miss seeing the Class of 2020. Never did we expect anything that would disrupt your Senior Year such as this Pandemic. We are implementing the safest, alternate program that allows recognition of all graduates together. Don't forget social distancing, wash your hands, and take your mask when you leave the house!!!

Sincerely,

Mr. Tom York
Principal