

May 27, 2020

To: Parents, Students, and Community Members

From: Dr. Brian Repici

Re: Outdoor Graduations

On May 1, 2020, the Principals communicated to all seniors that we determined a July 23, 2020, outdoor graduation would be possible if permitted by the New Jersey governmental agencies or Governor Murphy. Yesterday, May 26, 2020, Governor Murphy stated, "Beginning July 6th, schools will have the opportunity to hold outdoor graduation ceremonies that comply with social distancing – ensuring the health and safety of all in attendance."

We received the detailed guidance and definitions from the Department of Education last evening, which clarified the Governor's announcement and places limitations on these ceremonies. [See the attached memorandum from the Department of Education.](#) For example, this guidance requires schools to follow gathering limitations. The current gathering limitations of no more than 25 people permitted in any one location at any one time, not considered to be essential, make it infeasible and unrealistic to plan our July 23, 2020 ceremony. With 300 graduates, under the current limits, that would require more than 12 different ceremonies with no spectators at each school. We hope that the gathering limitations will be expanded so that we can plan a proper outdoor graduation. In the meantime, we ask for your patience as we await further guidance from the Department of Education, Department of Health, and/or the Governor's Office.

We are still going forward with the taping of our virtual graduation. Students will receive a personalized lawn sign (so long as they had their pictures taken in school). Principals will determine a time for students to pick those signs up.

Lastly, so long as we have the support of law enforcement, we are planning a Parade for Graduates on June 22 (Highland), June 23 (Timber Creek), and June 24 (Triton). The District purchased streamers and window markers for students and they, too, will be available for pick up when the Principals determine the best time.

Thank you.

Dr. Brian Repici
Superintendent of Schools
Black Horse Pike Regional School District
A New Jersey Department of Education Lighthouse District



Where Inspiring Excellence is Our Standard and Student Achievement is the Result