

May 5, 2020

Dear Class of 2020 and Senior Parents,

Since informing you of our graduation ceremony intentions yesterday, we have received several e-mails that suggest some confusion about what a virtual ceremony would look like. First, please know this is based upon the premise of honoring our graduates in the best way possible while staying in compliance with the Governor's guidelines for social distancing. It is a large project and will take cooperation from students, school staff and parents. We are contracting with a video production company that works with Josten's. It will include graduation ceremonies for Granite Falls High School, Crossroads and Open Doors, and will air on our District website on June 5<sup>th</sup>. The virtual graduation will look much like a regular graduation but without the crowd. Every student will walk across the stage, receive a diploma case, (actual diploma certificates will be given out the following week after graduates have checked out), and get his or her picture taken which the company has agreed to provide free of charge online.

On May 22<sup>nd</sup> Seniors will meet to begin the recording. First speeches, special music, etc. will be recorded. Next students will arrive with caps and gowns at individual pre-arranged times to record their crossing the stage, receiving their diploma and getting their picture taken. They will then exit the school. This is expected to take about 4-6 hours to complete. Social distancing expectations will be in place and only the graduates may be in attendance at their pre-determined time. When this is completed the video production company will edit this material to put it together for a virtual graduation ceremony to be aired on June 5<sup>th</sup> on the District website.

Other activities being planned include the actual awarding of the diplomas and a parade of graduates in Granite Falls, which is being organized by Senior parents. The Board of Directors along with Administrators will divvy up the students and individually hand diplomas to the graduates at their homes if so desired by the graduate. It is our hope that graduates would dress in their robe for the awarding of the diploma.

Thank you for your input on graduation and be on the lookout for more information in the coming days from your individual school regarding specifics surrounding graduation details.

Thank you,

Kevin Davis  
Principal of Granite Falls High School

Bridgette McVay  
Principal of Crossroads High School and Open Doors Academy

Dr. Josh Middleton  
Superintendent of School