



May 28, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians and Elizabeth Community Members:

We are pleased to announce the preliminary plans for outdoor high school graduation ceremonies to mark the many accomplishments, honors and milestones of Elizabeth School District seniors.

We are certain the events will be memorable and celebratory, but they must be modified compared to past years. From the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have frequently communicated our one defining factor in all decisions: safeguarding the health of our community. Decisions related to graduation are being made in the same manner and in keeping with numerous Governor's Executive Orders and Departments of Health and Education rules, regulations and orders.

While many details need to be worked out, we can share some preliminary guidelines now:

- Ceremonies will take place one week after July 6th at Williams Field.
- Attendance must be limited to fewer than 300 students; each student will be permitted two guests. (This limit will be strictly enforced. There will be NO exceptions by orders of Governor Murphy, the state Attorney General's Office and City Police and Health Departments).
- There will be separate ceremonies for each of the high schools, likely with morning and evening events being held on the same day.
- Strict social distancing will be enforced. Students must be 6 feet apart. Guests must be six feet apart. Facial coverings must be worn. These requirements will be enforced by police for the safety of all our celebrants and graduates.
- The temperature of all potential attendees will be taken. Those with a temperature of 100.4 or above will not be allowed to attend.
- There will be a short program with limited speaking. Graduates' names will be read. They will stand and be photographed by a district photographer. This is being done to limit contact and to avoid gatherings or clustering for photos. Diplomas will be mailed to students. There will be no walking down an aisle to a stage, by Governor's order.

We will have additional information in the upcoming weeks. The graduation ceremonies will be unique; just as the times we are in. To be successful, we will need cooperation from all involved.

Our community, our students and in particular our seniors have proven they are resilient, strong and determined during these difficult times.

We look forward to a happy celebration of our seniors' many accomplishments.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of J. Christian Bollwage.

J. Christian Bollwage
Mayor

Handwritten signature of Olga Hugelmeyer.

Olga Hugelmeyer
Superintendent