

June 29, 2020

Dear TSD seniors, parents and guardians,

Through Thompson School District's collaboration with the Larimer County Department of Health and Environment, we have been given a variance that allows us to host graduation ceremonies to celebrate our Class of 2020 graduates. With this variance, we will be able to honor seniors with their diplomas and a short ceremony. Because we aren't able to have all of the typical festivities of a graduation ceremony, we are also making additional arrangements to honor our graduates with a virtual graduation ceremony.

Our original plan was to hold the in-person and/or virtual ceremonies on July 18. Due to the requirements of the variance, this letter is to inform you of the changes as noted below.

Graduation Ceremony Dates, Times and Locations

Due to the variance, we are not able to host all graduation ceremonies on Saturday, July 18. The schedule below was created using the same protocol used to determine the order of the graduations when they are on the same day.

Thursday, July 16 - Events held at Thompson Valley High School, 1669 Eagle Drive, Loveland, CO 80537

2:00 p.m. Ferguson HS - Thompson Valley High School Auditorium

6:00 p.m. Berthoud HS - Ray Patterson Field

Friday, July 17 - Events held at Thompson Valley High School, 1669 Eagle Drive, Loveland, CO 80537

6:00 pm. Loveland HS - Ray Patterson Field

Saturday, July 18 - Events held at Thompson Valley High School, 1669 Eagle Drive, Loveland, CO 80537

8:30 a.m. Mountain View HS - Ray Patterson Field

6:00 p.m. Thompson Valley HS - Ray Patterson Field

In order for us to better prepare for the setup of each in-person graduation ceremony, please complete the following survey by July 5, 2020: [Student and Family In-Person Graduation Ceremony Survey](#)

We are exploring the technical possibility of a live stream for the in-person ceremonies. More information regarding this matter will be provided as we get closer to July 16.

Graduation Ceremony Logistics

County officials have defined expectations within our granted variance for our in-person graduation ceremonies. Here are some of the logistics:

- 1) Contact Tracing: Each graduate will only be allowed two tickets so that attendance can be traced by county professionals if necessary.
- 2) All students will be required to wear a district face mask. Families, please bring your own face mask or face covering with you. Staff will either receive a district face mask or will use their own covering. Face coverings need to be worn from the time you enter until the time you leave the ceremony site.
- 3) The ceremony will be limited to two speeches. We will have more speeches from students and staff during the virtual ceremony.
- 4) No choir, band and orchestra live performances can occur. We can have choir, band or orchestra performances at the virtual ceremony.
- 5) Family members must remain in their assigned seats at all times and they must be six feet apart from other attendees in the stands.
- 6) There will be organized entry and exit of the facility to minimize social gatherings. Each spectator will have a ticket with a designated entry and exit gate.
- 7) Social distancing is a requirement in the approved variance. Please be aware of this requirement during all phases of the graduation celebration.

We will send another district update by July 9 with information about requirements for ticket drive-through pick-ups at our TSD high schools, parking, entering and exiting the field, wearing cloth masks and other protocols created in conjunction with the Larimer County Department of Health and Environment.

Virtual Graduation Ceremony

TSD will honor students with an additional virtual graduation ceremony on July 25. Those ceremonies will be streamed at the times noted below.

Saturday, July 25

8:30 a.m. Berthoud High School

12:00 noon Loveland High School

3:30 p.m. Mountain View High School

7:00 p.m. Thompson Valley High School

The virtual ceremony is a professionally produced event that will include all graduates and all of the planned speeches that would have been given had the events been held in May as originally planned. Due to the restrictions laid out by Larimer County, the in-person event will not have all of the planned speeches and some students may be unable to attend for a variety of reasons. Thus, the virtual ceremony is the only event that will best reflect the entire Class of 2020 and the speakers they selected, if graduates complete the needed steps.

Many graduates have yet to complete their graduate slide submission. This submission allows a graduate to specify the correct pronunciation of his or her full name so that it is recorded

correctly by the company's professional announcer and also allows the graduate to include a photo in his or her regalia and a personal sentiment. If a graduate does not submit these items, his or her slide will be blank other than the name and the professional pronunciation may be incorrect.

Graduates also have the option to record and add (or record directly - this whole process can be done on a phone) a short video sentiment that will be included in a personalized video that will be sent to the graduate after the ceremony ([sample here](#)). Again, failure to take this step will mean that the graduate is not fully represented.

In order to ensure an incredible virtual graduation ceremony that fully includes every graduate, we urge each graduate for the Class of 2020 to log-in to his or her school email in order to submit a photo and personal message for the ceremony. The graduating Class of 2020 should have received an email in their Thompson School District email from Marching Order; the email will be from the address graduation@marchingorder.com and the title of the email begins with "Create Your Graduation Slide." If graduates are having trouble finding the email, they should use the Gmail search box with some of the above terms. Only graduates can access the email since it's in their school email. Issues with access should be directed to your school graduation coordinator. When adding content, please note that any inappropriate photos, messages or videos will be rejected and the graduate may not be contacted about entering alternative information. So please be sure to adhere to the decorum expectations that would apply to any graduation ceremony. The deadline to complete these submissions is July 3, 2020.

Please know that we are committed to celebrating our seniors in the best way we can during these unprecedented times. Congratulations to our entire Class of 2020!

Sincerely,

Theo Robison
Director of Secondary Schools