

May 8, 2020

EHS students, families, and community members,

At this point, you have heard the disappointing news that school has been cancelled for the year and that schools will not be permitted to hold in-person graduations in June. Based on the governor's executive order regarding large gatherings, we are very sorry to announce that traditions including class night, class picnic, and prom are cancelled. We are incredibly disappointed and recognize how disappointing this must be to all our seniors and their families. However, we all also recognize our collective responsibility to ensure a safer and healthier community for all.

Our team has been working to identify safe and creative ways to honor seniors including planning a virtual graduation. We have surveyed parents and students for input and have held three conference calls with senior class officers and other student leaders. High School graduation is a milestone moment, and I know there is nothing that can replace an in-person commencement ceremony. However, it is our goal to make this virtual graduation as special and meaningful to our seniors as possible.

Virtual Graduation. Our team researched a number of virtual graduation production companies and identified a company run by Hollywood producers and directors (some of whom helped produce American Idol). The company offers a secure website, live-streaming capacity, and production expertise. All participants and attendees can join from the comfort and safety of their own homes and the virtual graduation will include the following components:

- A live-streamed ceremony with a moderated live chat
- A slideshow of images featuring the class of 2020
- Student musical performances
- Speeches by students and faculty
- The reading of graduate names featuring a photograph of each senior
- An option for students to submit videos announcing future plans and turning their tassels

Additionally, all graduates will be able to download a digital recording of the ceremony to keep. We are planning to hold the live-streamed virtual graduation on Wednesday, June 17th at 7pm. We will provide additional detail and resources on this virtual graduation in the coming weeks.

We are continuing to meet with class officers and student leaders to get student input into this virtual ceremony. Student leaders will reach out to seniors to ask for photographs for the slideshow and get input on preferred music. To add some excitement, Safe Grad will announce winners of raffle prizes in the moderated chat throughout the ceremony. Additionally, the Enfield Teacher's Association has offered to pay for a personalized celebrity message to send off the class of 2020. We will send a survey link to seniors in the near future to vote on the celebrity. Please see detailed information on how to submit photographs below.

Week of Celebration. One of the ideas expressed by students in the survey and emails is their desire to have a chance to walk across the graduation stage. We are working on plans for each

graduate to walk across an outdoor graduation stage with their cap, gown, and a diploma cover for a photo opportunity. To ensure social distancing, we will provide an appointment time for each graduate and ask graduates to remain in their cars until it their turn to walk across the stage. Graduates will be limited to one vehicle and allowed to have family members in their vehicle. With over 350 potential graduates, this will take several days and significant coordination. We are working with local authorities on these plans, and you will receive more detailed information in the near future.

Caps and Gowns. To prepare for our virtual graduation, seniors will need their caps and gowns to submit images and videos. Caps and gowns may be picked up on Thursday, May 14th from 10am until 4pm. We will use a drive-through pick up system in front of the school. Cars should enter the bus loop in front of the building and passengers should stay in their cars. A masked school administrator will approach each car and deliver the appropriate items. Seniors or their parents picking up the cap and gown may be asked to show ID to prove their identity. Our yearbook advisor will be at the school on May 14th during this time if anyone would like their photo taken in a cap and gown. All students will need to stay in their cars and abide by social distancing. Seniors taking photographs are encouraged to dress to impress! Any senior not able to pick up their cap and gown should reach out to Mrs. Smith at esmith@enfieldschools.org.

Building Access. In addition to graduation, we know you have many other questions. While we know some of our students would like to get into the building to retrieve items, we are not yet permitted to allow this. We will communicate a safe and orderly system for students to both turn in and retrieve items when this is permitted.

SAT Update. Due to the cancelation of the SAT School Day for the Class of 2021, we are excited to announce that Enfield High School will be offering the SAT, free of charge, to members of the Class of 2021 on Wednesday, September 23rd at Enfield High School.

Virtual Awards and Scholarship Night. We invite the Enfield Community to watch a live viewing of the 2020 Awards and Scholarship Ceremony. The ceremony will be available to view on Wednesday, June 10, 2020 starting at 6:30pm. In addition, “The 2020 Awards and Scholarship” showing will be made available to all families after the initial showing. How to view this special occasion will be forth coming. Award and Scholarship recipients should expect a call from a school staff member over the next couple of weeks.

We are all saddened that our students will miss out on the treasured events that come with the end of the year. We thank you for your patience and understanding as we work to provide opportunities to honor some of these traditions in safe and creative ways.

Virtual Yearbook Image Submission: We will ask seniors to submit **2 images:** a candid image and an image in a cap and gown to be submitted no later than May 21st. We would like you to send us high-resolution pictures for possible use in our virtual graduation ceremony project. Please make sure images are original .jpeg images from your camera roll or a high-resolution image from a photographer. The image should be at least 3000 pixels tall. Do not send screenshots or images downloaded from social media. If we do not receive a new image from you, we will use either your senior formal or brag picture for this project. The email

address is enfieldhighschoolyearbook@gmail.com. Also, photos should be in a vertical 4:5 aspect ratio (Instagram portrait mode). If you need assistance, please email enfieldhighschoolyearbook@gmail.com for information on how to submit photographs. Our yearbook advisor will be at the school on May 14th if anyone would like their photo taken in a cap and gown. All students will need to stay in their cars and abide by social distancing.

Sincerely,

Erin E. Clark
Principal
Enfield High School