



# Central High School - District of Westosha

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May 6, 2020

Dear Seniors and Families:

This spring, we have written some very difficult letters to our parents and students. The letter on April 16 notifying our Central Family that in-person school would not resume was one of the hardest letters to write. As I sit here today, I think that this letter might be even harder. Our seniors have worked extremely hard over their educational career to be honored during graduation and all of the end of year activities. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 Pandemic is taking some of these opportunities away from our seniors. We wish we could bring them back to school tomorrow so that they can have the proper send-off that they all deserve, but this is not possible. Knowing that this year is so different, the Leadership Team has been planning activities for our students and families. Below is an update on the end of the year for our students.

## **Graduation**

Schools across the nation have been struggling with what to do on this most important topic. We have spent much time debating and examining all options; in addition to our thoughts, we surveyed our students for their input. The vast majority of our students want a “real” graduation and one that we cannot provide due to the Safer at Home mandate in place in Wisconsin with restrictions that will likely continue into June. With the students’ wishes in mind, we have elected to postpone the June 7 graduation ceremony. Our plan is to hold a ceremony on **Sunday, July 26, at 1 p.m.** Our hope and desire is that the celebration will be held face to face, even if we have to be creative with an outdoor ceremony or limit the number of guests able to attend. The State of Wisconsin and Health Department will ultimately guide this decision, but we are holding out hope that we can honor our students the right way. If a face-to-face graduation ceremony is not allowable, we will hold a virtual ceremony on the same day and time (Sunday, July 26 at 1 p.m.). Either way, the 2020 Graduation Ceremony will be held on this day. A decision on which format (face-to-face or virtual) will be made and communicated to families by July 6. Know that this decision was not taken lightly and our ultimate goal was providing our students a memorable experience and one that will be remembered for the rest of their lives.

## **Senior Awards Day**

Another tradition is the Senior Banquet and Awards Night. Again, the current health emergency we are facing prevents an on-site and in-person activity. We are working to provide a virtual ceremony to honor our students. The event will be held on **Sunday, June 7, at 1 p.m.** A link will be provided as we get closer to the day. We selected June 7 as it was our original graduation day and we thought it might be a great time to honor the students for their hard work and dedication. The recorded event will also be available so it can be watched anytime after June 7.

## **Prom**

Prom has been postponed to **Wednesday, July 15**. The event will be held at Westosha Central High School. We picked Central for a couple of reasons. First, and most importantly, we wanted our students to experience this special night at their school, a place that was abruptly taken from them in March. We felt it was the perfect venue for the end of year party. Additionally, finding an off-site venue with the uncertainty of the state restrictions was difficult. More information to come about Prom in mid-June.

## **Senior Drive Thru**

We are adding a special event to this year's end of the year activities. The district will be purchasing every senior a congratulatory yard sign. Instead of just giving these to our seniors, we have planned a great night to showcase the signs and honor our seniors. The first annual "Senior Drive Thru" will take place on **Wednesday, May 20**. Below is a quick preview of the night with more details coming next week.

Here is our plan:

## **Senior Drive Through**

Date: Wednesday, May 20

Time: 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Route: Enter from Highway 83 by Tennis Courts

Follow Falcon Way

Turn left by Student Parking Lot entrance (Student Parking lot blocked on both sides)

Follow along past Varsity Baseball Field and Football Field

Take a right and drive from the west to the east in front of the school

Take a left and exit on Highway 50 using the exit by the traffic lights

## **Staff Involvement:**

Staff will be invited to stand on the parade route to wave and honor our seniors

## **Student/Family Involvement:**

- We had to make a number of promises with the Kenosha County Health Department and State of Wisconsin to hold this event so we need your full support and following of directions.
  - Families are encouraged to decorate vehicles
  - **One student** per vehicle
  - Parents are encouraged to drive the vehicles so students can enjoy the moment
  - Students/family members will **NOT** be allowed to get out of their vehicles

## **Student Graduation Signs on Display**

- Signs will be displayed along the route described above
  - Signs put out during the day on May 20

- Signs will be taken down after 7:30 p.m.
- Athletic senior banners will also be displayed on the athletic fences
- Sign pick-up to follow on Thursday, May 21 or Friday, May 22

The event will be a night to celebrate our seniors. We hope that every family participates! Further instructions to come next week.

### **Senior Drop-Off of Textbooks/Technology and Pick-Up of Senior Sign and Yearbook**

- Students will return to school on **Thursday, May 21, or Friday, May 22**, between 8 a.m. and noon
  - Students will drop off
    - Textbooks
    - District technology devices
    - Library materials
    - Any other school-issued property
  - Students will pick up
    - Senior signs
    - Senior sports banners
    - Items from their academic and athletic lockers
      - Items will have been bagged and identified by name
      - Contact Mr. Lindh prior to Wednesday, May 20, for items in their athletic lockers
    - 2019-2020 Yearbooks
    - Pick up Laude stoles and honor cords

### **Drop-Off and Pick-Up Schedule:**

Last Name Beginning with A - F:	Thursday, May 21	8:00 - 10:00 a.m.
Last Name Beginning with H - M:	Thursday, May 21	10:00 a.m. - noon
Last Name Beginning with N - S:	Friday, May 22	8:00 - 10:00 a.m.
Last Name Beginning with T - Z:	Friday, May 22	10:00 a.m. - noon

Students should enter the school property from Highway 83 by the tennis courts and follow Falcon Way to the back of the building as the Highway 50 entrance will be closed due to road construction. Students will **not** be permitted to get out of their cars.

Students needing to keep their technology devices and/or textbooks to finish out the school year (Advance Placement testing or classroom assignments) need to contact Mr. Lindh prior to Wednesday, May 20, at [lindhj@westosha.k12.wi.us](mailto:lindhj@westosha.k12.wi.us). Further directions will be sent in the May 15 update.

### **Finish Strong**

This message is to our seniors: ***Finish Strong***. Many seniors are enrolled in coursework that is needed to meet graduation requirements and a passing grade is needed to graduate. Students must remain engaged in their school work, completing assignments and tasks assigned by teachers. Graduation requirements are still in place and passing second semester classes is part of this expectation. Students not meeting class proficiencies and earning passing grades will be issued an incomplete and will be required to attend summer school to receive their diploma.

**Closing Comments**

With that, I want to thank you for your patience, understanding, and flexibility during this unprecedented time in our school community. The pandemic has caused considerable disruptions to our daily lives and has led to enormous challenges for our students, staff, and families. I am heartened to see us all support one another as we have figured out how to manage this situation together. Our focus is now on our seniors. While this plan is not the same as a traditional year's activities, our reality today is not traditional. What is normal is our amazing and talented graduating class; we plan to celebrate them today, tomorrow, and forever!

As always, please contact us with any questions.

Your Partners in Education,



John Gendron  
District Administrator



Dale Van Keuren  
Principal