

Piqua City Schools
215 Looney Road
Piqua, OH 45356
937.773.4321
board@piqua.org

4/28/2020

Senior Class of 2020,

Hello to each of you. I wanted to provide an update about our graduation planning. We are going to continue with the plan that was released on April 22. We continue to have the support of our local health department to proceed with a July 3rd ceremony at Alexander Stadium with appropriate safety measures in place at this time. Please remember that the Governor and our local health department will have the final say about holding a public gathering on this date, however. I feel we have a good plan in place to keep everyone safe and there are still three options for students and their families to choose from that best meet your needs. Those options are listed again below for your convenience to assist you with your decision. If we get communication that prevents us from moving forward on July 3rd, or we need to make some adjustments with our plans for July 3rd, we will get that information out to seniors that have selected this option.

At this time, I am asking that you please vote for your choice so we know how to plan accordingly. Seniors should use this link: <https://forms.gle/ThWEGFYr3efhVhHu8> to select an option. We will also have this link on our website for easy access at www.piqua.org. If you do not know how to log into your Google email account to access this link, please contact the technology hotline at 937-916-3150 for assistance.

Again, we suggest that you talk with your family about all three options prior to selecting what is best for you and your family members. We ask that you select your option no later than Monday, May 4, 2020, 4:00 P.M. Due to the amount of planning involved with offering three options, seniors may not change their option choices after the May 4th deadline. Please lock in your decision with care so you are confident with your choice.

Thank you once again to the senior class officers for their input. We feel we have three good choices for each of you to select from. We look forward to celebrating with you in any way that you choose.

Option one (1)

A student choosing option one (1) will receive a diploma by mail. Students choosing this option will be asked to provide an address for which it is to be delivered. We will use a photo of the student in the graduation video so s/he can be included as part of that keepsake.

Option two (2)

A student choosing option two (2) will be given the opportunity to sign up for a designated time on May 18 from 9:00AM to 5:00PM or May 19 from 2:00 – 8:00PM to receive his/her diploma at Alexander Stadium with a photo opportunity. We will have times throughout two separate days to meet work schedules. Students and their families will be invited to come to Alexander Stadium at their designated time in place of attending a ceremony. At this time there is a 10 person limit to the Governor's order that we must follow. If that number changes, we will notify students that have chosen this option so you can make adjustments. We will have the stage set up on the field. The student will be announced, filmed, and photographed coming up to the stage to receive his/her diploma that will be presented to the senior by his/her parents. Additional photos of the senior and family members will be taken at the senior's request. All photos will be placed in a shared folder for the senior to retrieve at no cost to the family. Film of the senior getting the diploma will be added to the graduation video so s/he can be included as part of that keepsake.

Option three (3)

A student choosing this option will attend a graduation ceremony to be held at Alexander Stadium on Friday, July 3rd, beginning 8:00 P.M. **Please note that this ceremony will only take place if it is permissible for us to gather on this date with this number of people.** Moving the ceremony to this date will hopefully provide us the time we need to make this happen. It will also provide a three-day weekend which is helpful to family members that wish to travel to Piqua for the event. **Those in attendance will need to follow any and all guidelines in place at that time such as social distancing, wearing a face mask, etc...**

Additional information about this option includes:

- * Each senior can request up to six (6) tickets for family members to attend. A ticket must be provided at the gate to enter.
- * Seating will be arranged in groups of six (6) for each family on the home and visitor's side of the stadium. Once we get a total number of seniors who will be attending the ceremony, we will divide the class into two equal groups alphabetically. A senior class officer flipped a coin today to decide how the seating would be arranged. The beginning of the alphabet was heads and the end of the alphabet was tails. Heads was chosen to sit on the home side and tails was chosen for the visitor's side. After the coin flip, it was determined that the beginning of the alphabet will be sitting on the home side of the stadium for graduation. This arrangement will provide plenty of space for families to sit while meeting the distancing guidelines.
- * Staging will be set up so both sides have equal access to seeing their senior receive his/her diploma.
- * At the conclusion of the event, we will dismiss each side by rows/sections to help with social distancing guidelines.

* Parents and seniors will be kindly asked to exit the stadium and continue to celebrate and take photos at home so as not to gather. To assist with photos at the stadium, seniors attending the ceremony as part of option 3 will be provided a date/time to be determined where s/he and the family can come to the stadium on a day prior to graduation to take photos if you wish. Students and their parents may take photos at various locations at this time including the stage area.

* In order to attend this ceremony, the senior must attend a **mandatory** graduation practice. There are no exceptions to this. At the practice, students will learn important information about how the ceremony will take place as well as required safety precautions that we will need to follow. Students that have selected option 3 that do not attend the practice will not be permitted to participate and the diploma will be mailed to the address we have on file.

* It is a great tradition at the Piqua High School for Commencement to be a first class ceremony. We wish to maintain this tradition and treat all aspects of the evening with dignity. We know that many of you are really looking forward to this night so we want it to be the best for everyone participating. We will provide guidelines for this evening at practice so we can continue with this tradition that has been passed down to seniors by each graduating class before you.

* If there is inclement weather on Friday, July 3, we will NOT be moving the ceremony inside. Doing so would require us to limit the number of people even more. Instead, we will watch the forecast and announce a new time/day that weekend as soon as possible. We feel that is better than further limiting the number of people that can attend an inside ceremony due to social distancing restrictions. If we have to move the time, we will do our best to avoid July 4th events.

* Again, this plan has the approval by the health department. **It is important to stress, however, that as this pandemic continues we may receive new orders from the Governor that may require us to cancel this in person event.** If that happens, we are obligated to follow those orders to keep students, families and the community at large safe. If Governor DeWine communicates orders that require us to cancel the ceremony, seniors will be asked to choose either option one (1) or option two (2) listed above. It is our hope that this does not happen! Like you, we want to celebrate your graduation.

Best Wishes!

Dwayne A. Thompson

Dwayne A. Thompson
Superintendent,
Piqua City Schools