



FAIRFIELD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

4840 Fairfield Road, Fairfield, PA 17320

www.fairfieldpaschools.org

Brian W. McDowell
High School Principal
mcdowellb@fairfield.k12.pa.us

Phone (717) 642-2004
Fax (717) 642-2029

Wednesday, March 17, 2021

Re: **2020-2021 Prom and Graduation**

Students/Parents and Guardians:

This communication specifically addresses the 2021 Prom that was scheduled for Friday, May 7, 2021. This communication will also provide initial information regarding Graduation for the Senior Class of 2021.

PROM:

Some background information regarding the 2021 Prom...The High School had a contract with Liberty Mountain to host the 2021 Prom. In January, Liberty Mountain contacted the School District Junior Class Advisors and communicated that they would need to break the contract and refund the money previously paid. Liberty cancelled all events...proms, weddings, etc. through at least the end of May. The Junior Class Advisors then reached out to other venues that we have partnered with previously in hosting the Fairfield Prom...we received identical answers, no dancing and only a few people at a table eating.

The Pennsylvania Department of Education, the CDC, and the PA Department of Health continue to provide guidance, to require, and to recommend masking and social distancing. These guidelines remain in effect, and that impacts the decision-making process as well.

Additionally, I remain in close contact with other Adams County HS Principals, and we discuss a variety of topics, issues, etc. on a regular basis. The Prom is one such topic that has been discussed throughout the 2020-2021 school year, and there is a consensus among that group as well in regards to the 2021 Prom.

So...as the District has continued to review guidance from PDE and CDC, and information from the State Department of Health, information and feedback from local venues, communication with Class Advisors, etc... we have made the decision to cancel the Prom for the 2020-2021 school year. Please know that this decision was not an easy one.

GRADUATION:

Over the course of the 2020-2021 school year I have been involved in discourse about graduation with the other Adams County HS Principals, Fairfield District Administration, HS Staff, and the Class of 2021 Class Advisors, some parents, etc...

All of the input along with guidance from PDE, the PA Governor, the PA State Department of Health, and others will form the foundation for the 2021 Graduation Plan:

1. The Class of 2021 graduation commencement ceremony is scheduled for Wednesday, June 9th @ 6:30 pm in the Fairfield Area High School Auditorium.





FAIRFIELD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

4840 Fairfield Road, Fairfield, PA 17320

www.fairfieldpaschools.org

Brian W. McDowell
High School Principal
mcdowellb@fairfield.k12.pa.us

Phone (717) 642-2004
Fax (717) 642-2029

- a. Graduation will occur on June 9th.
 - b. Graduation will not be postponed until a later date in the summer.
 - c. There is not a completed plan for Graduation at this time. Typically the High School communicates with Seniors and Parents/Guardians approximately ½ way through the 4th Marking Period. I am targeting the beginning of May to provide communication for the June 9th Graduation Plan.
 - d. While current guidelines and recommendations indicate that a full in-person graduation may not be possible on Wednesday, June 9th, I am hopeful that some of the restrictions we face will be lifted or adjusted. I envision an in-person graduation in some form. The details will be worked out over the coming weeks.
2. Communication:
- a. The High School will continue to work with District Administration, Class Officers, and the Class Advisors, as we collaboratively work towards a final plan. The first week of May will be the decision week to select the appropriate graduation commencement ceremony plan.
 - b. The High School will communicate the graduation commencement ceremony plan in its entirety by May 10th to all Fairfield HS Seniors, Parents, District Staff, etc...
 - c. We will all need to continue to practice patience, understanding, compassion and empathy as we go through this process to acknowledge this milestone achievement for our students. The High School will continue to work with the Class of 2021 Advisors and Officers to ensure that our seniors' voices are heard and thoughtfully considered.

As information becomes available regarding the Fairfield Area High School, I will communicate that information to the students, parents/guardians, and the community. Typically, the High School will communicate through a letter that is sent to parent's email addresses via One Call, and additionally the information will be posted on the School District website.

Keep Moving Forward,

Brian W. McDowell
FASD HS Principal

