



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

Friday, May 8, 2020

Re: 2019-2020 Prom and Graduation

Students/Parents and Guardians:

This communication specifically addresses the 2019-2020 Prom that was scheduled for April 24, 2020 and then rescheduled for Friday, May 29, 2020. This communication will also address Graduation for the Senior Class of 2020.

PROM:

During the week of March 30th, Pennsylvania residents were informed that Pennsylvania Schools were closed indefinitely and then on April 9, 2020, we were informed that schools were closed for the remainder of the year. Additionally, Governor Tom Wolf issued stay at home orders that are still in effect for our region, Adams County and the Fairfield Area School District. The decisions at the state level impact scheduled school events, including the Prom, and necessitate a decision regarding the rescheduled date of the Prom on May 29, 2020.

As the District has continued to review guidance from PDE, reopening plans (Red, Yellow, Green criteria) from PA Governor Tom Wolf, and information from the State Department of Health, etc... we have made the decision to cancel the Prom for the 2019-2020 school year.

I would anticipate that the Class of 2021 Advisors/Officers will be reaching out to students that purchased Prom tickets about the course of action that the Class of 2021 will take in regards to refunds.

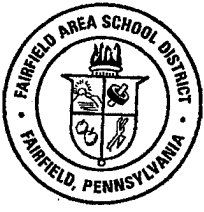
GRADUATION:

Over the course of the last eight (8) weeks I have been involved in discourse about graduation with the other Adams County HS Principals, Fairfield District Administration, HS Staff, the Class of 2020 Class Advisors and Class Officers, some parents, and I also have information from a completed poll/survey that was sent to the Class of 2020 seniors.

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

1. The Class of 2020 original graduation commencement ceremony was scheduled for Thursday, June 4 @ 6:30 pm in the Fairfield Area High School Auditorium.
 - a. Graduation has been postponed.
 - b. The Class of 2020 graduation commencement ceremony is now scheduled for Thursday, July 30, 2020 @ 6:30 pm.
 - c. Current guidelines and recommendations from multiple sources mentioned above indicate that a full in-person graduation is not possible on Thursday, June 4th and recommendations from those sources are providing the same guidance beyond June 4th...however, moving the graduation ceremony to July 30th at least provides an opportunity for the District to complete a full in-person graduation if the status of the guidelines and recommendations change in the future.
2. **PLAN A:**
 - a. It is a priority of the Fairfield Area School District and the Class of 2020 seniors to have a full in-person graduation commencement ceremony....so graduating at 6:30 pm in the Fairfield HS Auditorium is Plan A.





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

- b. However, if social distancing guidelines (again refer to the Red, Yellow, and Green Reopening information provided by PA Governor Wolf) do not permit Plan A to occur then we will move to Plan B.

3. PLAN B:

- a. If social distancing guidelines come into play in regards to the graduation commencement ceremony and the District can implement a limited in-person ceremony; we will work towards that goal.
- b. Those limitations could range from all students being 6ft apart inside or in an outside venue to one (1) student graduating at a time with limited family/guests in attendance.
- c. If a rain date is needed because social distancing guidelines permit us to complete a larger event in an outside venue then the rain date for the graduation commencement ceremony will be on Friday, July 31, 2020 @ 6:30 pm.
- d. If the School District is unable to complete a limited in-person graduation then we will move to Plan C.

4. PLAN C:

- a. As we move forward and proceed into the month of July, and if we are encountering guidelines and restrictions that prevent an in-person graduation even on a limited one (1) person basis then we would move towards a virtual graduation ceremony.
- b. This option would be enacted only if other options were not available due to guidance and restrictions.
- c. It is recognized that this option would not be at the top of anyone's priority list....

5. Communication:

- a. Working with District Administration, Class Officers, and the Class Advisors, we collaboratively have worked toward selecting Monday, July 6th as the decision day to select the appropriate graduation commencement ceremony plan.
- b. The High School will communicate the graduation commencement ceremony plan in its entirety during the Week of July 6th 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 the process. I have really appreciated working with the Class of 2020 Advisors and Officers...they have exhibited leadership in difficult times, and I sincerely appreciate all of their efforts and willingness to work towards solutions.

6. Other Items:

- a. Please look for future communication on a planned virtual Academic Awards Ceremony for Seniors.
- b. Please look for future communication from the Athletic Department on a planned virtual Sports Awards Ceremony for students.
- c. Seniors and Parents/Guardians, please look for future communication of other avenues that the District and others in the community are looking to honor this year's senior class....

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 OneCall,, and additionally the information will be posted on the School District website.

Keep Moving Forward,

Brian W. McDowell
FASD HS Principal

