

July 17, 2020

TO: Parents of the Class of 2020
RE: Graduation Ceremony Update

Congratulations Class of 2020! It was certainly not the finish that you were planning or hoping for. Despite the difficulties we have all experienced due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we realize the importance of celebrating significant accomplishments such as graduation from high school. The commencement ceremony is scheduled for **Saturday, August 8, 2020 at 10:00 AM, rain date Sunday, August 9, 10:00 AM.**

The protocols above are designed and approved with the safety of our parents, students, and staff in mind. In order to maintain the safety of everyone involved, the Marathon School District needs to adhere to guidelines set by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services as well as the Marathon County Health Department. The only way we will be able to provide your students with an in person ceremony is to ensure that we do everything we can to maintain safety with recommended protocols. The ceremony has been designed to allow for this.

- The location of the ceremony will be held outdoors on the Marathon High School football field and bleachers. See the map included for your seating location. Families in the left section of bleachers should enter via the track, entrance "A", families in the middle section should enter via the wellness center walkway, entrance "B", and families in the right section of the bleachers should enter via the football field/parking lot, entrance "C". Gates will open at 9:30 AM. Should there be inclement weather, the ceremony will be held Sunday, August 9, 10:00 AM.
- If you are not feeling well or have been exposed to someone who may have COVID-19 you should not attend the ceremony.
- When families are entering the school grounds and leaving the school grounds masks/face coverings will be required to enter the ceremony. Once you are seated and socially distanced and during the ceremony you may remove the masks/face coverings.
- Only 4 immediate family members of the graduate may attend. Immediate family includes parents, step-parents, and siblings. All family members, including the graduate, should try to arrive in the same vehicle.
- The graduation ceremony will be live streamed on the internet, school website, for those family and friends who can not attend.
- Graduates will sit on the football field and families will sit in the bleachers (see map for your seating assignment). Each row of graduates will be called up to walk the stage and receive their diploma. In order to maintain social distancing guidelines, shaking hands or hugging will not occur. Graduates will walk single file and will use hand sanitizer after receiving their diploma.
- Those attending will have to sign-in so that a list of attendees can be retained by the school should there be a need for medical follow-up after the ceremony should the district be alerted to a positive COVID-19 case. Please pre register using this link <https://forms.gle/Z1RJDLPCQrip8yzE7> The link can also be found on the COVID-19 page on the school website under the District drop down menu.
- One family member may leave their seat when their graduate is walking the stage in order to take photos. They should immediately return to their seats afterwards. Wearing a mask during this time is recommended.
- Safety provisions will be provided for those giving speeches, etc. on stage such as wiping down the microphone and maintaining social distancing.
- Following the ceremony, the graduates and their families will be dismissed by rows. There should be no congregating in the parking lots or at any place on school campus either before or after the ceremony.
- A staffed area in front of the school sign will be made available for photos. Social distancing rules will apply to this area. Only immediate families and graduates will be allowed in a photo. No group photos of multiple graduates will be allowed.
- The restrooms in the school by the concession stand will be open.

- Please be sure to bring your own tissues and dispose of them in one of the garbage cans.
- Remember that the graduation exercise is a ceremony of privilege and the school administration can deny that privilege for behavioral challenges and/or until financial, academic or time responsibilities are completed.
- The graduates will be expected to wear the school issued cap and gown. Clothes to be worn under your gowns should be of dress type – NO blue jeans or shorts. Footwear is required - NO tennis shoes or flip-flops. This is a formal ceremony.
- Students may not alter their cap and gowns. If they alter their cap and gowns they will not be allowed to participate in the ceremony.
- Absolutely NO cell phones, gum chewing or use of any tobacco products. The use of alcoholic beverages or drug use is strictly prohibited. Any student that is detected to have used alcohol or drugs will be dismissed from the graduation ceremony and law enforcement will be called. We will not embarrass the Class of 2020 or jeopardize the formality of the ceremony with this type of behavior.
- Our goal is to make this ceremony one that is formal and memorable for you and your child. They have worked long and hard to get through this phase of their lives and so have you as parents. We hope that this ceremony will be a joyous one for all involved.

A short, mandatory practice will be held Friday, August 7 at 10:00am. Please meet on the bleachers. Students will be required to socially distance and wear masks during the practice.

Respectfully Yours,

David Beranek, Ed.S.
Principal, Marathon High School