

April 9, 2021

TO: Parents of the Class of 2021
RE: Graduation Ceremony Update

Congratulations, Class of 2021! 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 **Sunday, May 30, 2021 at 2:00 PM. If it should rain we will move into the main gym (family groups will sit in bleachers and will be asked to socially distance).**

The protocols below 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, Marathon County Health Department, and the Marathon School Board. 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.

- Seniors last day at school will be Thursday, May 27, 2021.
- Seniors will have a graduation ceremony practice on Friday, May 28, 2021 at 10 AM. This practice will last roughly 45 minutes.
- The location of the ceremony will be held outdoors on the Marathon High School football field and bleachers. Only 4 immediate family members of the graduate may attend. Immediate family includes: parents, step-parents, siblings, and grandparents. All family members, including the graduate, should try to arrive in the same vehicle.
- Parents will receive 4 tickets and seating assignments later in the Spring. Families will be in three sections of the bleachers; A, B, and C (refer to map). If the weather does not permit for an outdoor ceremony we will move indoors to the main HS gym. Seating will be in the bleachers on both sides of the gym and will be limited to the same 4 registered people that would have been attending for the outside graduation.
- 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, it is recommended that masks/face coverings be worn. Once you are seated and socially distanced you may remove the masks/face coverings.
- The graduation ceremony will be live-streamed on the internet (school website) for those family and friends who cannot attend.
- Graduates will sit on the football field and families will sit in the bleachers.
- Each row of graduates will be called up to walk the stage and receive their diploma in order to maintain social distancing guidelines.
- Those attending will have to register 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://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdUjXqp0WhSX4HYBFhvuwfz9TFJI-TM_WeNy_mE0uyOos62Wg/viewform?usp=sf_link

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.
- 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.
- The Marathon City Police Department plans to offer a police-escort parade through town ending by Veterans Park.
- 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 gown 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 2021 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, May 28, 2021 at 10:00 AM for the graduating class of 2021. Please meet on the bleachers by the football field. Students will be required to socially distance and wear masks during the practice.

Respectfully Yours,

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