



To Ensure Quality Learning  
Today For Tomorrow

April 23, 2020

Students and Families of the Class of 2020:

Friday, April 17 Governor Reynolds ordered the closure of all Iowa Schools for the remainder of the year to continue to combat COVID-19. The purpose of this letter is to outline our plans related to senior events. Again, this is not the senior year any of us hoped for. This plan is intended to make every available attempt to provide the Class of 2020 with a celebration for the great work they have accomplished at Prairie. It is our hope by delaying and/or modifying these events, we can provide some sense of normalcy and closure to our seniors time at Prairie.

Participating in the commencement ceremony is not a requirement to graduate high school. Commencement is a celebration of completing graduation requirements and qualifying for a diploma. Therefore, regardless of when commencement is held, students have graduated when students complete their requirements. Graduation is the completion of state and local graduation requirements to receive a diploma. Graduation will be certified on May 23, 2020. Deadlines for submitting work related to graduation requirements will be Wednesday, May 20, 2020. Once graduation requirements are complete, the student has graduated.

It is our hope that social gathering restrictions allow for a regular experience for these senior activities, but we will adjust procedures based on the posted CDC recommendations and state-level directives for the time that the event occurs. Our priority is to hold some version of an in-person commencement. Given the reality of the current situation, prom/post prom will be very unlikely, but we do not want to eliminate the possibility of prom if, in fact, it can be held.

This document outlines the contingency planning for these events. Please be aware that all announcements related to these events will come through school communication channels and/or official school social media. Again, this is an unfortunate situation for our seniors; however, the intent of this plan is to do everything within our power and planning to celebrate the class of 2020.

Yours in Service,

*Douglas Wheeler*

Douglas Wheeler, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

*Karla Thies*

Karla Thies  
Prairie High School Principal

## Prairie High School Class of 2020 May Celebrations

We will be celebrating the SENIOR CLASS of 2020 at ***Prairie Friday Night Lights*** during each of the following dates beginning at 8pm (dusk). We will follow all CDC recommendations regarding social distancing. All attendees will stay in their vehicle for the duration of the “parade”. This is a family event to celebrate your PHS graduate.

- **May 1** - Congratulations Seniors - **Yard Sign Pick-Up** and Senior Names on Jumbotron
- **May 8** - Senior Pictures highlighted on the Jumbotron
- **May 15** - Senior gift from The Prairie Schools Foundation and Senior Activities Recognition on the Jumbotron
- **May 22** - Cap and Gown Night - Senior Awards Night - Recognition on the Jumbotron

**Pick-up Jostens Orders of Graduation attire and materials - Friday, May 15 from 11am - 2pm.**

## Prairie High School Class of 2020 Prom and Commencement Planning

**Due to the timing of announcements related to state-level regulations/restrictions for COVID-19, we will announce cancellation or modification of the following activities one week (7 days) in advance of the scheduled event. As each date approaches, we will make a decision and announce the intent to hold the event(s) or move to plan B, C, etc.**

### **Plan A** - Changes to events and details will be announced by May 15, 2020

- Graduation - Saturday, May 23 at the US Cellular Center or Prairie High School at 12:30pm
- Prom/Post Prom - will be on Friday, June, 26 - details are listed in Plan B below

### **Plan B** - Changes to events and details will be announced by June 19, 2020

- **Prom/Post Prom - Friday, June 26**  
*Seniors and their guests only - parents/guardians ONLY*
  - Grand March - Prairie Performing Arts Center at 6pm
  - Prom/Post Prom - Prairie High School from 7pm-12am
- **Graduation Commencement - Saturday, June 27 beginning at 12:30pm**
  - Prairie High School - John Wall Stadium (PHS Gym if indoors)
    - If CDC restrictions make it feasible to allow for an audience, we will only allow parents and guardians to attend the ceremony. Tickets will be issued and family arrangements will be considered in the number of tickets issued.
    - If CDC recommendations continue with gathering restrictions we will hold multiple ceremonies throughout the day. Seniors will have a graduation ceremony with a smaller subset of the graduating class. An assigned time will be given to individual graduates by June 12, 2020. Please keep your entire day open, after 12:30, if multiple ceremonies are held, you will be assigned to one of these ceremonies.



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**Plan C - Changes to events and details will be announced by July 3, 2020**

- **Prom/Post Prom - Friday, July 10**

*Seniors and their guests only - parents/guardians ONLY*

- Grand March - Prairie Performing Arts Center at 6pm
- Prom/Post Prom - Prairie High School from 7pm-12am

- **Graduation Commencement - Saturday, July 11 beginning at 12:30pm**

- Prairie High School - John Wall Stadium (PHS Gym if indoors)
  - If CDC restrictions make it feasible to allow for an audience, we will only allow parents and guardians to attend the ceremony. Tickets will be issued and family arrangements will be considered in the number of tickets issued.
  - If CDC recommendations continue with gathering restrictions we will hold multiple ceremonies throughout the day. Seniors will have a graduation ceremony with a smaller subset of the graduating class. An assigned time will be given to individual graduates by June 26, 2020. Please keep your entire day open, after 12:30, if multiple ceremonies are held, you will be assigned to one of these ceremonies.

**LAST Contingency**

- **Prom/Post Prom - Canceled**

- **Graduation Commencement - July 13, 14, 15, 16**

- Graduates will set an appointment to attend a private graduation ceremony with their family at Prairie High School. This ceremony will include a reading of the student's name, honors received and future plans, followed by a photo.