



KINGSWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Committed to Excellence

*Dr. James J. Lavender
Superintendent of Schools*

May 20, 2020

Dear Seniors and Parents of Seniors,

We have spent the past several weeks mulling over dozens of options, vetting countless ideas and pushing for an in-person graduation ceremony that recognizes and celebrates each one of our 436 seniors. We appreciate that this has been a highly emotional experience for our students, parents, faculty and staff and today's correspondence is intended to end weeks of speculation and abate the anxiety this chronic state of uncertainty has generated in each of us.

While we all want to celebrate on our football field next month, New Jersey's plan to restore economic health, "The Road Back," indicates that mass public gatherings will not happen anytime soon. Therefore, we forge ahead, acknowledging the situation that exists, regardless of how we feel about it, and identify what is within our control.

On behalf of our administrators, class advisors and school community, I present to our seniors, Kingsway's plans to recognize and celebrate the Class of 2020.

Yearbooks

Due to production hurdles generated by the pandemic, we anticipate the arrival of this year's publication to be pushed to the middle of June and we will plan for you to pick up yearbooks as soon as possible. However, we are excited to share with our seniors, for the first time in school history, a sneak peek of the Lancer by clicking [2020 Vision: Unprecedented Times, Unforgettable Memories](#). Enjoy!

Senior Swag Deliveries – Beginning June 1st

In preparation for graduation, our seniors will need several items in advance. Therefore, our school administrators will be joining me to deliver the following items between June 1st and June 3rd. Seniors will be notified of the estimated time of delivery.

- Graduation Cap & Gown
- Stoles, Chords, etc.
- Varsity Letters
- Graduate Lawn Signs
- Senior Trip T-Shirts
- Custom Dragon Face Masks

Home of the Dragons

Individual Graduation Ceremonies – Beginning June 5th

Although we cannot gather in the stadium as an entire class, at this time, we can and will provide an opportunity for each one of our seniors to walk across the stage to receive their diploma. Therefore, we are conducting *individual graduation ceremonies* beginning on Friday, June 5th.

- **Report to South Gym.** Beginning Friday, June 5th, seniors and their parents (no more than two guests) will be invited to report to the South Gym to walk across Kingsway's stage and receive their high school diplomas. Seniors are expected to wear their caps and gowns and other academic regalia for this event. Due to social distancing requirements, we will be implementing strict and efficient procedures to ensure that every senior, and their families, can bear witness to this milestone accomplishment.
- **Social Distancing & CDC Guidelines.** Because the density of attendees within a confined area presents risk to our students, parents and staff, we have taken measures to ensure that no more than ten (10) people will be permitted inside the South Gym at any time and we will enforce a minimal distance of six feet among attendees. Masks will be required to enter the building. To ensure that we can afford all 436 seniors a memorable experience, your cooperation, patience, flexibility and punctuality will be necessary.
- **Where do I Report?** Seniors and parents are expected to car pool, park curbside outside the South Gym entrance (back of high school), and remain in their cars. An administrator will direct you to enter the building through the South Gym foyer at the appropriate time. Please be mindful that social gathering on our campus is prohibited.
- **When do I Report?** Seniors will be sent a separate invitation and permitted to invite up to two guests. Reporting times will be set alphabetically. Ceremonies will begin on Friday, June 5th and run continuously, with the exception of Sunday, through Wednesday, June 10th between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
- **Video and Photography.** These moments will be captured and incorporated into our *Virtual Graduation Ceremony*. Parents will also be permitted to take additional video or photos while seniors walk onto the stage.
- **Building/Locker Clean Out.** After our seniors receive their diplomas, they will be permitted to pick up personal items, clean out lockers, and return resources such as text books, athletic gear/instruments and technology equipment. Outstanding obligations will be settled at this time.

Senior Awards Banquet – June 11th, 6:00 pm

We will recognize a number of our seniors for outstanding accomplishments with awards, scholarships and recognition during our *Virtual Senior Awards Banquet*. This event will be made available to you on Thursday, June 11th at 6:00 pm and honorees will receive separate invitations.

Virtual Graduation Ceremony – Friday, June 19th, 6:00 pm

We have contracted with a production company to assist us with producing a memorable *Virtual Graduation Ceremony*. This production will include photo and video highlights of the Class of 2020, while



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retaining the traditional elements of a graduation ceremony. We will broadcast this ceremony on Friday, June 19th at 6:00 pm. Details to follow.

Live Graduation – Summer Options

As stated numerous times, we stand committed to recognizing and celebrating our seniors during a live, in-person graduation ceremony. While we are taking the necessary steps to ensure that every senior has their moment through individual and virtual ceremonies, we are optimistic that we can, at some point, conduct some form of a traditional in-person graduation ceremony in our stadium. I previously [communicated to you on May 13th](#) that Kingsway officials are a leading voice in this push for a live, in-person graduation ceremony and we will continue to advocate on behalf of the Class of 2020. Joining Kingsway [is every high school in Gloucester County](#) as well as a number of high schools from Salem, Ocean, Atlantic and Camden Counties. While we remain optimistic, we are also realistic and continue to plan for what is within our control. Therefore, we are reserving the following dates in the event that we can assemble the Class of 2020 on our football field for a traditional ceremony.

- **Option A: Live Graduation, Wednesday, July 1st (6:00 pm)** – Graduation will occur on Wednesday, July 1st at the high school stadium (rain date Thursday, July 2nd at 10:00 am).
- **Option B: Live Graduation, Friday, July 17th (6:00 pm)** – Graduation will occur on Friday, July 17th at the high school stadium (rain date Saturday, July 18th at 10:00 am).

Thank you for your prompt attention to this communication. As a reminder, you can continue to monitor updates on our website by clicking the link [HERE](#). Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Very truly yours,



Dr. James J. Lavender
Superintendent of Schools

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