

Westlake High School

Mt. Pleasant Central School District

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Dear Parents and Class of 2020,

I hope this update finds you and your family in good health. While I know that I should not have been shocked by the decision by Governor Cuomo to keep schools across the State closed, I can certainly share that I was hoping for a different outcome. This decision now allows us to move forward with more concrete discussions on a variety of end of year celebrations and ceremonies. While I know that any of the options we discuss to recognize, honor and celebrate the class of 2020 will not replace what every senior and family was looking forward to, we will try to recreate, to the best of our ability, the celebratory nature of this time of year.

We began our discussions with the entire senior class two weeks ago and we heard loud and clear that at that time they were interested in us holding out as long as we could to avoid a virtual graduation. I have been discussing some ideas with members of the Guidance Department, faculty, members of our Mount Pleasant administrative team as well as my administrative colleagues from around the region. Additionally, I know from my discussions with Dr. Kotes that he is steadfast in supporting the High School and is looking forward to hearing the options. All of these discussions were hampered by the unknown future status of where schools would be once Governor Cuomo gave his next executive order. Knowing that schools are on virtual learning for the rest of the year does not remove our ability to think creatively and celebrate our seniors. To that end I have formed a committee to finalize these plans. This committee has senior parent representation from our BLT and PTA, has student representatives from our Student Council, has faculty representation as well as administrators. Prior to the formal announcement from Governor Cuomo, we had crafted a list of potential options for graduation that came from my conversations with parents, students, teachers and colleagues. All of these ideas and more will be discussed with the ultimate goal of making sure we provide a memorable event that is in keeping with the significance and pomp and circumstance that High School Graduation deserves.

I appreciate the offers that have been coming in to help, the ideas and thoughts and most importantly your willingness to be part of the process to make something good out of an unimaginable end to the 2020 school year. It is my goal to report out on the committee's work by the week of May 18th.

Thank you for your support and understanding as we work to bring a memorable close to the Class of 2020's time at Westlake High School.

Dedicated to excellence,



Keith Schenker