



Pearl River School District

135 West Crooked Hill Road
Pearl River, New York 10965

www.pearlriver.org

Phone: 845-620-3928 Fax: 845-920-0494

Michael J. Murphy
Principal

Suzanne V. Horton
Gaetano Vitiello
Assistant Principals

June 19, 2020

Dear Class of 2020 and Senior Parents,

The graduation survey for the Class of 2020 and their parents revealed the opinions of 233 respondents, made up of senior students and senior parents. The survey was drafted with the help of a committee of senior students, senior parents, the class advisor and administrators. Four choices were developed with the committees input from which participants had the ability to rank their preferences.

Survey Results:

51% of all respondents chose the 3rd option as their first choice, which was to delay the graduation until July, adapting an on-field ceremony to the restrictions in place at that time. The remaining student and parent selections occurred across the other three choices, with none receiving more than 24%.

PRHS Graduation Plan:

The PRHS Class of 2020 Graduation is now rescheduled from Thursday, June 25 to Friday, July 10th, establishing a rain date of July 13th, and an alternate rain date of July 14th. If the Governor's Office does not make any changes to the current guidelines we will have two graduation ceremonies as outlined in the paragraph below. If the Governor's Office issues new guidance that would allow a single ceremony, we will mobilize quickly and make that possible. The PRHS administration will make a final decision on the ceremony's format based on the directives of the Governor and the NYS DOH in place on July 6, 2020.

Ceremony 1 (A-L)- Student arrival by 3:15pm in the Pirate Cove parking lot. Personnel will be on hand to direct students upon arrival. Live streaming will begin with the **start of the procession at 4pm**. ALL STUDENTS MUST WEAR A MASK IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE.

Ceremony 2 (M-Z)- Student arrival by 6:15pm in the Pirate Cove parking lot. Personnel will be on hand to direct students upon arrival. Live streaming will begin to begin with the **start of the procession at 7pm**. ALL STUDENTS MUST WEAR A MASK IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE.

If we are able to have one ceremony, student arrival (A-Z) would be by 6:15pm and live streaming would begin with the start of the procession at 7pm.

Please note that in keeping with our desire to respect student voice, class members have indicated that, aside from the specific choice noted directly in the survey, their preference is to maximize the number of classmates within the same ceremony, acknowledging the sacrifice of not having parents on the field and/or in the stands. In short, being together was the most important factor.

The ceremony will be streamed live for those unable to attend. Movements of students and personnel would be carefully planned and choreographed in advance with the assistance of Class Advisor Mrs. Kim Haugier and PRHS staff. In the case of two ceremonies, speeches, remarks and musical arrangements would be recorded in advance and played during each ceremony. Mr. Murphy's "Welcome" and Dr. Pochintesta's Presentation of the Class would be live for both ceremonies, as would the calling of names and the walk across the stage by each graduate to receive his or her diploma.

We plan to contract with a production company to assist with the graduation ceremony for the recording (and playing) of speeches, providing the sound system and a video wall that will allow the class to see the recorded speakers delivering their speeches, and capturing both ceremonies (or one, if permitted) digitally, to permit editing (the two into one) and recording, for future playback.

The Class of 2020 has truly undergone some challenges and setbacks. We look forward to providing a commencement and graduation celebration worth remembering.

Respectfully,

Michael J. Murphy