



Pearl River School District

Pearl River High School
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Michael J. Murphy
Principal

May 11, 2020

Dear PRHS Senior Class of 2020,

The senior year is an experience students look forward to throughout their school career. Each class develops its own unique personality, endearing them to the school's staff, while making memories that will last a lifetime. The Class of 2020 is no exception in this regard as they too have woven their unique pattern into the fabric of the Pearl River School District. This class has done this in a way that their footsteps, in the form of accomplishments, relationships, and mere presence, have echoed throughout the hallways of every building.

Seniors, this has been an incredibly challenging year marked by tragedy and loss. You have had a great deal to endure in the span of one year, the year that should have been your most exciting year in high school. We understand that you are experiencing a wide range of emotions during this time, and we are here to support you in any way we can. Please know that as we continue to forge forward together, we are proud of your resilience, determination, and hard work.

Understanding your apprehension over the status of Senior Class events, please know that the school administration and the staff are continuing to work toward delivering the experiences PRHS graduates have come to know and expect. True, some of these events will look different, being carried out in a way that may not afford a full room of applause, or a hug from a best friend or close classmate. However, these events can be experienced with those members of your family who continue to celebrate all they know you are and all they know you can and will be.

Given the regulations and directives that remain in place, we work to plan events in a way that is permitted, yet acknowledges and celebrates the Class of 2020. We refuse to let barriers such as social distancing and limitations on large gatherings prevent the recognition of your accomplishments and the recognition our PRHS Senior Class members have earned. The award ceremonies and the Class of 2020 Graduation will occur. We are reviewing the results and comments from the survey that ended late last week. We know there are

numerous ideas that are worth reviewing; while others may not be allowed at this time per county and state directives. We remain hopeful that we can plan a graduation that affords the option which best celebrates the class.

Please review the following list of senior-related events to see the present status:

Senior Selection Day Video	6/1/2020
Senior Prom	6/5 cancelled. Backup established 6/24 -unless social distancing requirements remain in effect. Decision to be made early June, 2020.
Paint the Wall	Postponed until, and if, social distancing requirements permit. Alternate “event” under consideration.
Senior Athletic Awards	Was 6/9 and now rescheduled for 6/11 - virtual ceremony*
Class of 2020 yearbook distribution	TBA - presently coordinating delivery date and a “senior distribution event”
Grades 8-11 Academic Awards (Class of 2020 Top Ten Percent)	Was 6/3 and now rescheduled for 6/15 -virtual ceremony*
Senior Academic Awards	Was 6/11 and now rescheduled for 6/17 - virtual ceremony*
Class of 2020 Commencement	As scheduled for 6/25 (program format TBD)

Please note that we are working on the preservation of all events. This takes time, and coordination with outside agencies, and may require students to submit recorded footage or pictures that are necessary for the celebration. We know that the prospect of missing traditional senior experiences, in the way that they have

been honored in the past is extremely difficult. You are a big part of Pearl River and you deserve your moment and its celebration. We ask for your patience and understanding, as we work through this.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Murphy

Principal

*Denotes the development of an online/virtual event that would be watched via an online feed. This production is being produced with a media/tech company and the school. Awards such as certificates, trophies, and scholarships will be mailed home or distributed as part of the graduation program.