



Pearl River School District

Pearl River High School
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Michael J. Murphy
Principal

June 10, 2020

Dear Seniors and Senior Parents,

The Governor recently announced that schools can hold graduations with 150 people in attendance. Although this has opened the door to other options, social distancing and additional limitations remain in effect. Please note that 150 attendees includes those needed to work the ceremony in close proximity to the location of the celebration. In order to investigate and determine our options, and the general preference of our senior class and parents, we met with a focus group made up of student leaders and parents in order to discuss/brainstorm realistic options. That discussion provided the foundation to build a survey for all to be involved.

The survey below outlines four options for the graduation ceremony. In any option, a date would be chosen in any case in order to allow families and staff to plan around the date and their respective needs. We ask that you indicate (rank) your preferences, being sure not to duplicate the same preference rank twice. There is the possibility that some options may increase the number of support staff needed to work, thereby decreasing the number of students permitted to attend.

Each graduation option requires disinfecting and cleaning the setting when a ceremony has ended and before the next one can begin. We have determined that using the bleachers for seating guests is not feasible due to this requirement. Timing would also be a factor and increase the need for staffing (thereby decreasing the number of students who could be at a given ceremony) if a venue that necessitates multiple ceremonies is chosen.

Representatives from our student leadership who participated in last night's discussion were unanimous in their desire to graduate together, as one class. Unfortunately, as of today, the governor has not afforded that opportunity as our class exceeds the maximum number by nearly 30 students.

We ask all seniors and senior parents to complete this survey, being sure to record your name, and status as a student or parent. We ask that you complete the survey by Saturday, June 13, 2020 at noon.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Murphy

[Click here for the survey.](#)