

June 2020

Dear Parents / Guardians and seniors:

A very exciting day is approaching for you and your high school senior. Graduation from high school represents an important accomplishment in the lives of our students. We typically would have shared graduation ceremony information with you in April, but due to the circumstances and several unknowns, we waited until now to share it with you.

Our number one priority is to ensure a safe environment for students, families, staff, and community members.. Therefore, in collaboration with our safety partners, and in accordance with the NJDOE guidelines, we have developed the following procedures for the Class of 2020 Commencement Ceremonies on July 8th (rain date July 9th):

1. We ask all participants to enter via the lower entrance of Memorial Field, next to the pool. The top gate will NOT be open.
2. The [Permitted Items Policy](#) will be in effect for each ceremony.
3. All participants will need to wear a mask when entering the facility; once seated and socially distant, masks can be removed. Students will receive a mask that matches their cap and gown upon arrival to the 9:30am ceremony. Production timelines prevented the masks from being mailed in advance.
4. Based on recommendations from the NJDOE, <https://www.nj.gov/education/covid19/boardops/commencement.shtml>, everyone attending the event will need to take their temperature at home prior to the ceremonies. If your temperature is 100.4 or above we ask that you remain home. As you enter the parking lot of the Centennial Avenue Pool, medical professionals will also take your temperature while you remain in your car. If any individual has a fever of 100.4 or above, he/she will not be allowed to enter the facility.
5. Socially distant markings will be placed on the home field bleachers. Be sure to respect the best practice of staying 6ft apart from each other. Please note, no one will be permitted to stand in front of the bleachers.
6. Restrooms will be open and available for use. While waiting in line for the bathroom, be sure to remain socially distant.
7. The snack stand will NOT be open the night of graduation. **Students and spectators are encouraged to bring ice cold water to the ceremony.** Water will be available for students, but we are trying to limit the number of items that need to be distributed.
8. At the conclusion of each ceremony, students will be guided out directly to the parking lot area. At that time, parents will be dismissed and can use both the top and bottom gates to exit the facility.

In order for the annual graduation ceremony of Cranford High School to be conducted in a dignified manner, the Board of Education has a policy that places certain rules in effect and requires that all graduating seniors and a parent /guardian [sign](#) a statement acknowledging that they are familiar with all graduation rules (see rules below) and will abide by them. **If this acknowledgment form is not signed by the graduating senior and a parent / guardian, that senior will not be allowed to participate in the ceremony. Due to the current circumstances we ask that only the parent sign this [form](#).** Please complete prior to July 1st.

Graduation Rules:

Board Policy states that “any graduating senior who attends the graduation ceremony under the influence of drugs or alcohol will not be allowed to participate in the ceremony.” We enlist your support and supervision in helping to eliminate the need to enforce this rule.

Board Policy also outlines proper attire for the graduates:

1. CAPS AND GOWNS ARE REQUIRED TO BE WORN DURING THE CEREMONY.
2. In a typical year we would not allow shorts to be worn, but due to the date and time of the ceremonies, we ask that students dress accordingly to prepare for elevated temperatures.
3. Flip flops will not be permitted. Footwear must minimally have a strap that secures to the back of the foot or heel.
4. Please respect the school dress code.

The policy prohibits graduates from bringing inappropriate materials to the ceremony. Inappropriate materials, including but not limited to beach balls, balloons, whistles, air horns, fireworks, bubble materials, etc. will be confiscated. Failure to abide by this rule may also result in the student not being allowed to participate in the ceremony.

Let's all work together to ensure that the ceremony is a wonderful experience for all!!

On July 8th at 9:30am, all graduating students, dressed in their caps and gowns, will arrive at Memorial Field. Parents/Guardians and guests will NOT be permitted at this time. The students will be socially distant on the football field according to this seating chart: click [HERE](#). An abbreviated ceremony containing student speeches, a walk across the stage, and turning of the tassel ceremony will occur. Pictures of the entire class will be taken and the event will be recorded. This ceremony will begin at 10:00am.

On July 8th (same day) at 5:15pm, students with a last name starting with **A-K** will return to Memorial Field with two family members in attendance for a full graduation ceremony, including the posting of colors, songs, speeches, conferment of diplomas, and tassel ceremony. This ceremony will begin at 6:00pm.

Then, the second group of students with a last name starting with **L-Z** will return to Memorial Field at 7:45pm with two family members in attendance for a full graduation ceremony. This ceremony will begin at 8:30pm.

If there is inclement weather, the rain date will be July 9th.

Two tickets for admission to the graduation ceremony will be mailed to each graduating senior in approximately the next week.

If you have a family member who requires special seating accommodations, please contact Mrs. Warren at the attendance office (email warren.jill@cranfordschools.org or tel. 908-709-6285) to make arrangements.

We are incredibly excited to celebrate the commencement of the Class of 2020!! Thank you for your outstanding support and partnership and we look forward to seeing you at graduation!!

Sincerely,



Mark Cantagallo
Principal