



# CUYAHOGA HEIGHTS SCHOOL DISTRICT

DISCOVER YOUR NEW HEIGHTS

## TOM TALKS | June 9, 2020

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### **SUMMER UPDATES**

There have been many recent changes from the Governor in regards to the pandemic and how Ohio's school districts can move forward under our new normal. Please know that we have been in contact with the County Health Department and following the Governor's press conferences with great interest. The following information should provide some

clarification on how these updates affect Cuyahoga Heights Schools this summer.

**PROM** | We have received many inquiries regarding whether prom can now take place. It can not. We understand that the Governor's announcement allowing weddings and similar celebrations makes this confusing. However, the State Health Department has been quick to clarify that their criteria regarding congregate events does not apply to schools. It is disappointing, but the safety of our students is the priority.

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**GRADUATION** | The senior class advisors and I have put together the following plan for graduation. While we followed all guidelines provided by the State, this plan must still be approved by the County Health Department. The information below is being provided to give families and community an idea of how the ceremony will take place safely, while still honoring our cherished Cuyahoga Heights Schools traditions:

- **DATE:** Sunday, July 19, 2020
- **LOCATION:** Ralph P. Adams Stadium
- **ATTENDEES:** Each student will be limited to 4 guests.

- **ARRIVAL:** Students will be dropped off wearing their cap and gown at the front of the high school.

**COVID-19 MEASURES:** Each graduate will be given a scarlet and grey mask. Physical distancing will be reinforced with markings on the sidewalk to keep students spaced six feet apart.

- **SENIOR WALK:** At 9:30 AM, graduates will begin the traditional Senior Walk, taking them ceremoniously through both buildings to be celebrated by the teachers who have supported them through to this culminating event in the Cuyahoga Heights Schools.
- **GUESTS:** Immediately after graduates are dropped off at the front of the high school, guests will proceed to park on the grass area adjacent to the football field and move to their seats.

**COVID-19 MEASURES:** All guests will be seated on the football field, seats will be set up in groups of 4 and appropriately spaced. Each student will be assigned 4 seats for guests. There will be no moving of seats for the ceremony.

- **GRADUATION CEREMONY:** Students will enter the stadium from the north end by the Elementary School and proceed down the 50 yard line to be seated in the stadium stands, which will be marked to ensure appropriate spacing.

**COVID-19 MEASURES:** Every effort will be made to ensure the ceremony is conducted in the same fashion as previous ceremonies. For instance, we will still have speeches by class officers, the Valedictorian and Salutatorian. However, rather than featuring our full orchestra, we will instead need to play a recording of their performance.

- **DISMISSAL:** Upon completion of the ceremony, students and families will be dismissed to their vehicles, and guided into a line. The procession of cars will then be led on a parade through all three Villages so that our community can join in recognizing the Class of 2020. We will provide greater detail when we get closer to the event.

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**GRADUATION CONTINGENCY PLAN** | In the event the above plan is not approved, we are prepared to conduct a virtual ceremony on June 14, 2020.

- Seniors will have a scheduled time to come to the high school wearing their cap and gown. [Click here to download schedule.](#)
- Each student may bring up to 5 guests with them.
- Students will report to the doors of the Bahner Ray Auditorium at their designated time.
- Students will then proceed to the stage where they will have their

name announced, and a photo taken as they receive their diplomas. *Please note that actual diplomas will not be distributed at this event - a prop will be used for the pictures, and diplomas mailed home afterwards.*

- Graduates will be photographed with guests.
- Graduates and guests will then leave together so that the next group can come in.
- Students and guests will not be permitted to gather on the school grounds after their portion of the ceremony has been completed.
- A videographer has been hired, who will create a recording of the event to be distributed afterwards on a date which will be promoted widely.

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**BACK TO SCHOOL WORKGROUP |** Cuyahoga Heights Schools wholeheartedly supports the Governor's recent announcement that he would like to see students back in school this fall. However the State has not yet released the guidelines which we will be required to follow.

There are many logistics to work out if we are to safely resume classes in two months. Therefore, I have established a workgroup of parents, teachers, transportation personnel, food service personnel, and administrators to develop our "Back to School Plan."

This group will be tasked with developing a plan that adheres to the Governor's guidelines. For instance, we are already putting in place strategies and methods to ensure physical distancing and sanitation requirements.

At the same time, we want to ensure we are in tune with and able to address the the concerns of all those we serve. The parents of our school district have been incredibly supportive of our schools, and we realize that any plan we put in place has to take working families into consideration.

Our calendar is set, and our start date is the third week of August at this time. We will keep you notified of any updates or changes for the upcoming school year, and anxiously await to hear from the Governor on how we will have to proceed.

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**ATHLETIC CONDITIONING AND PRACTICES |** Thank you goes out to Mr. Kelber and all of our fall coaches. They have developed a plan that includes all of the new protocols set forth by the OHSAA to keep our student athletes and coaches safe during this unprecedented time. Everyone is anxious to get back into action, but it is imperative we do it the correct way and keep safety our first priority. [This link outlines how](#)

[we will proceed through the phases as outlined by the OHSAA.](#)

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**CUYAHOGA HEIGHTS SCHOOLS YOUTUBE CHANNEL** | Parents, students and community members can now subscribe to our district channel to receive notifications when new videos or live streams are available. We anticipate that more of our activities will need to be shared online moving forward, and are excited to increase our use of video to keep you connected with our schools. [Click here to subscribe.](#)

That was a lot of information, but there's a lot going on in our schools right now, even during a pandemic! I'll have more information to share with you soon. Until then, GO REDSKINS!!!

Tom

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Stay Connected with the Cuyahoga Heights Schools!



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**Cuyahoga Heights Schools** | 216-429-5700 | 216-341-3737 | [www.cuyhts.org](http://www.cuyhts.org)