

Senior Families,

I hope this letter finds you well! Thank you so much for your patience and support during this incredibly challenging and unique year.

While Missouri has recently “reopened”, social distancing guidelines and recommendations continue to make a single, in person, graduation impossible. As you may recall, our survey results overwhelmingly communicated a preference for a single, in-person, graduation - all of us together, at home, in Adkins Stadium. We are looking forward to fulfilling your preferences, but cannot do so using our July 10th graduation date.

Our next proposed date for commencement is Friday, July 31th at 7pm; we are hoping that future phasing and social distancing guidelines will make it possible to hold a commencement commensurate with your expectations for fanfare and tradition. Feedback has also indicated that our families prefer 3 weeks to prepare and plan for graduation; accordingly, we will communicate again on July 10th regarding the viability of the July 31st date. July 31st will serve as our final attempt for a traditional single-group commencement.

Should we find a single group commencement impossible, a split graduation will occur Saturday, August 1 (this would also be our inclement weather backup for July 31); the beginning half of the alphabet will attend a 9 am ceremony and the latter half will attend an evening ceremony at 7 pm. Should a split graduation be necessary, we will communicate the details regarding the alphabetical split on July 10th.

We have continued to plan for several events including: Prom, NHS, Awards night, and Baccalaureate. Graduation will occur on either July 31st or August 1st (weather makeup and split graduation date), the following dates will apply for each corresponding event: Baccalaureate (July 26th); NHS Induction Ceremony (July 28th) ; Awards Ceremony (July 29th). Each event preceding graduation will be held at the JCHS campus in our main gym. Our hope and intent is to have adapted ceremonies for each; more details will be available as we draw nearer the dates.

While we have begun to allow and reopen activities in smaller student groups with safeguards in place; unfortunately, holding a JCHS Prom (which is typically attended by 500-700 students) has proven impossible while adhering to similar safeguards. We share your disappointment in the loss of this milestone event for our students, families, and our community; we will truly miss creating the lifelong memories associated with this special night.

We are looking forward to celebrating with you and share in your disappointment regarding the delay. Now, more than ever, it is important to celebrate, fellowship, and strengthen as a community; we recognize each event’s role in doing so and cannot wait to gather with you again!

In the meantime, we wish your family the very best; take care and we hope to see you soon.  
GO JAYS!

Bob James  
Principal, JCHS

