



South Park School District

April 27, 2020

South Park High School Families:

Six weeks ago, our school buildings were closed due to the coronavirus pandemic. In the time since the first news of a school closure was shared, we learned that school buildings throughout Pennsylvania would remain closed, and remote learning would continue through the end of the year. Instruction has shifted from classrooms to homes, and Chromebooks connect our high school students with their teachers and daily lessons. As we prepare for a new month of remote learning, we wanted to share with you updates about the events so many of our students and their families look forward to at the end of the school year.

District administrators have worked with faculty and staff and consulted with representatives from the Class of 2020 about this tentative plan. We want to emphasize the word "tentative." These plans are contingent on the guidelines from public health officials in the weeks and months to come. We are providing you with these dates for the purpose of scheduling. Our goal is to conduct as many of the end-of-year activities as possible and provide our seniors with the recognition and celebrations they deserve. However, our priority remains the health and safety of our students, families, community, faculty, and staff. Therefore, guidance from local, state, and federal health agencies will be the basis for all decisions. As we stated on Thursday, April 9, we cannot predict what the guidelines and restrictions will be this summer. However, we have developed multiple plans for a number of different scenarios for these cherished and special moments in our students' lives.

In some cases, multiple dates are listed. If we cannot hold the event on the first date listed, we will move to the next scheduled date. If we need to move an event to the next scheduled date, we will provide at least five (5) days' notice prior to the originally scheduled date.

Class of 2020 Commencement Ceremony

The Class of 2020 commencement ceremony was originally scheduled to be held on Friday, June 5. An in-person ceremony on this date is unlikely. Therefore, we have added Friday, June 26 and Friday, July 24 as possible dates for an in-person commencement ceremony. Because of the pandemic, we are planning to hold this year's ceremony outdoors at Eagle Stadium. Therefore, we have added possible rain dates of Saturday, June 27 and Saturday, July 25. If the ceremony is conducted on June 26 or July 24, it is tentatively scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. If the ceremony is conducted on June 27 or July 25, it is tentatively scheduled to begin at 11 a.m.



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Public health guidance regarding mass gatherings during the summer will likely require us to make adjustments to our procedures (i.e., number of guests per student) for any in-person ceremony. Those details will be shared as we get closer to any possible in-person ceremony date.

In the event public health guidelines prevent us from holding an in-person ceremony, we will conduct a virtual ceremony later this summer. While our focus remains on holding an in-person celebration, we will plan a virtual ceremony simultaneously, hoping we will not need it.

Prom

Thanks to the work of Mrs. Hecht, the prom committee has secured a second date for prom at the Hilton Garden Inn at Southpointe. That date is Thursday, July 2, 2020. Additional prom information will be shared in the coming weeks.

Spring Musical

The school closure happened just weeks before the South Park High School Drama Club was scheduled to present "Chicago: High School Edition." Tentative dates for the musical, if permissible by mass gathering restrictions, are July 16-19 or July 30-August 2.

Other information about end-of-year events and activities:

Senior Awards Night

We are currently working on a plan to make Senior Awards Night, originally scheduled for May 28, a virtual event. Details will be shared with senior families in the coming weeks.

Spring Sports Senior Recognition

Mr. Kayda is currently working with the booster groups of our spring sports teams to organize senior recognition ceremonies that will be aired on South Park Television (Comcast channels 14 and 1090) and posted on YouTube.

Yearbooks

Administrators are working on a plan to distribute yearbooks this spring.



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Graduation Caps & Gowns

Dr. Palmer has worked with our cap and gown distributor to develop a plan that best suits the current events. Gowns for this year's senior class will not be rented, as has been the case in previous years. Seniors will be purchasing their gowns and will be able to keep them. There will not be a change in price. Details about the distribution of caps, gowns, and diplomas are being finalized.

Personal Belongings Left in School

District buildings remain closed to students. We are working to develop a plan to safely allow students to pick up the remaining personal belongings they have in their lockers.

We are also working to honor the South Park High School Class of 2020 in new ways this year.

Light the Night

South Park residents are encouraged to turn on their lights on Monday, May 4 at 8:20 p.m. for 20 minutes to recognize the Class of 2020.

South Park TV

We are working to launch our new cable channel (Comcast Channels 14 and 1090) and dedicate the programming to the South Park High School Class of 2020. Senior photos and memories will be shared. Also, video greetings from families and community members will be broadcast. If you have not sent in a video greeting, please email it to SPTV@sparksd.org or upload it to our [Dropbox page](#) as soon as possible. The channel will launch in May.

We also have several other recognitions in the planning stages and will share information about them in the near future.

"Uncertainty" seems to be a common word used over the past six weeks. While we are unsure of what June and July will bring, we hope these tentative plans become a reality so that we can, together as a community, celebrate our students' accomplishments. Thank you for your continued patience, support, and understanding.

Sincerely,

Wayne P. Gdovic
Superintendent of Schools
South Park School District