
NEWS FROM THE MINNEAPOLIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Minneapolis Public Schools Announces Move to Virtual Graduation Ceremonies; Celebrating Class of 2020 a Top Priority

MINNEAPOLIS – The Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) Class of 2020 is going to be part of an historic event – the District’s first-ever virtual graduation ceremonies. Faced with the need for families to finalize their graduation plans amid ongoing COVID-19 concerns and the need for social distancing, the District has decided to move in this unprecedented direction.

“We understand the incredible meaning that traditional graduation ceremonies hold for students and families,” said MPS Superintendent Ed Graff. “This was certainly not our first choice, but in consultation with our Citywide Student Government, principals and health officials we believe this is currently the best option for our 12 District high schools.”

Superintendent Graff added that he hopes the Class of 2020 and everyone who loves and supports them will find new ways to make memories and celebrate this rite of passage despite the unexpected circumstances.

Final details are still being worked out but High School Associate Superintendent Shawn Harris-Berry said plans include MPS airing graduation ceremonies for each high school on Facebook Live through a link on the District’s website and on Minneapolis Comcast Cable Channel 15. The plan is for the virtual ceremonies to be held on the same dates as the originally-scheduled ceremonies. Portions of the ceremonies will be live and portions will be pre-recorded. All recorded ceremonies will be archived on the MPS website for later viewing.

Detailed information about the distribution of diploma covers, caps, gowns and other logistics will be shared with families soon.

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“Our hope is to provide students and families with an e-vite to send to family and friends so that they can gather virtually from around the world to watch students earn their high school diplomas,” Harris-Berry said. “Our goal is to make these ceremonies as special as possible for these students who have accomplished so much during their school careers.

This isn’t the graduation celebration most had in mind, but MPS is committed to hosting an innovative alternative that keeps students, staff and families safe. MPS is proud of the Class of 2020’s courage and calm during this uncertain time and looks forward to celebrating with them on a job well done.”

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