

May 17, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians of Senior Students,

It is hard to believe that your child's senior year of high school is quickly coming to a close. When we returned to school in early April, I had a chance to talk to the senior class. I told them to grasp these last few weeks and make the most of them because time flies and you do not get a chance to redo things. And now those final moments are here.

I appreciate the opportunity to share some thoughts with you and also to let you know what is going to happen over the next few weeks. If you have any concerns about your child's eligibility for graduation, please contact me or Mrs. Maggie Schaffer as soon as possible. Also, keep in mind that all school fines, dues, and other obligations must be satisfied to participate in the graduation ceremony. If you are making a payment by check, please make the check payable to the Palmerton Area School District.

### **Keystone Exams**

From May 17 through May 25, the students in grades 9 through 11 will be taking the Keystone tests. These are regular school days for the senior class.

### **Graduation Tickets**

From May 24 through May 31, seniors can request tickets for the graduation ceremony in the guidance office. Initially, these requests will be limited to a maximum of 8 tickets per student. If a senior believes that he/she will need additional tickets, they should let the guidance counselor know. There will a sign-up sheet in the guidance office for the number of tickets you need. Virtual students may e-mail their ticket request to Mrs. Maggie Schaffer. We will make every effort to get the extra tickets **if there are any available** after we process the initial set of requests. If you do not need all eight tickets, we would appreciate it if you would limit your request accordingly. The graduation ceremony tickets will be distributed on June 4 at the graduation practice. The caps and gowns will also be distributed that day in the High School Auditorium.

### **Senior Awards**

The Senior Awards ceremony is set for May 26 at 7:00 PM in the High School auditorium. Students receiving awards will receive an invitation and tickets for the event.

### **Final Exams**

Final exams for seniors are scheduled for June 1 and June 2. (June 3 will be a make-up day for any missed exams as long as there is a **valid** excuse.) The end of the school year is always a hectic time. We ask that the seniors do everything possible to be present for their scheduled exams. Make-ups will only be considered for true emergencies and/or a doctor's excuse.

### **Baccalaureate Program**

The Baccalaureate Program that is sponsored and run by some of the members of the Class of 2021 will be held on Sunday, June 6. This ceremony will be at the Blue Mountain Community Church in Palmerton.

### **Graduation Ceremony Information and Requirements**

Practices for our graduation commencement ceremony will be on June 4 and June 7. As noted earlier, the graduation tickets will be distributed at the first practice session. Seniors should arrive there by 9:00 AM for both practice sessions. Seniors needing a ride to a practice session should contact me or Mrs. McHugh. Students are required to attend both practice sessions in order to participate in the actual ceremony. The graduation ceremony is set to start at 7:00 PM on June 7 in our stadium. Students should plan to meet no later than 6:00 PM outside of the gates to the stadium track. (The rain date is June 8.)

Proper attire is required to attend the graduation ceremony. Our young ladies can wear either dress slacks, dresses, or skirts along with dress shoes. (Heels are not permitted on our turf - only wedges or flats.) Our young men should wear dress shirts with ties (or a collared shirt), long pants (no jeans), and dress shoes. Sunglasses will be permitted if it is a sunny day. Also, please note that ALL cell phones should be turned off to avoid interference with the sound system. Other electronic devices such as headphones and iPods will not be permitted.

Everyone has worked very hard to reach this important milestone. Graduation is a special ceremony marking a very important life event. Please treat this event with the respect and dignity that it deserves. Your celebration can start later at the graduation party being sponsored by some of our senior parents.

As always, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Paula A. Husar  
Principal

cc: Dr. J. Frankelli – Superintendent of Schools  
M. Schaffer – Guidance Counselor  
V. McHugh – Guidance Counselor