



Cory-Rawson Local Schools
April 23, 2020
Heath Huffman, Superintendent

CLASS OF 2020

Hello:

We find ourselves in an unprecedented time as the world fights to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic. This health crisis has drastically altered all of our lives, including the lives of the students of Cory-Rawson Local Schools. As the superintendent of this district I take my responsibilities for our students seriously. Prior to recent events, I often communicated to students, "My number one priority is to keep you safe." When I made that statement in the past (in my mind at least) I was referring to keeping kids safe from fire, tornado, intruders to the building, potential hazards (liquid on the floors, etc.), physical harm, icy/snowy roads and/or foggy conditions, etc. It did not cross my mind we would have to work together to fight a deadly virus. This is, however, where we find ourselves.

With this in mind, I share the following guidance from the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) released late this afternoon-- <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Student-Supports/Coronavirus/Graduation-and-Recognition-Ceremonies>. As you will read, the Ohio Department of Education statement includes the following directives:

- * Schools should hold (graduation) events virtually rather than conducting in-person events of this type and record these events whenever possible and practicable.
- * Congregate graduation ceremonies should not be held.
- * Schools should conduct graduation ceremonies and other recognition events in a remote manner that honors each student in a safe and responsible way, prioritizing the health needs of students, their families, and the community.

Additionally, the Ohio Department of Education recommends holding a virtual or alternate recognition on the original intended graduation date or a date very close to that date.

Mrs. Gaietto, Cory-Rawson High School principal, and I (virtually) met with students in the class of 2020 this evening to discuss these topics. Most importantly, we shared our district's commitment to honoring the Class of 2020's accomplishment of graduating from high school. Ideas were discussed and shared regarding what graduation may look like. Beyond that, Mrs. Gaietto encouraged students to provide feedback and ideas to her moving forward. Another meeting with senior class members will be scheduled next week to continue our discussion.

We realize this is not only a difficult time for our seniors, but for their parents, family members, and friends as well. Your pain is recognized.

If you have any questions about these topics or any others related to our district, please contact Mrs. Gaietto or me.



[Email Mrs. Gaietto, CRHS Principal](#)

[Email Mr. Huffman, CRLS Superintendent](#)

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