



WEST SENECA EAST SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

J. Winnicki, *Principal* M.B. Sweeney, *Assistant Principal* P.Renzoni, *Assistant Principal*

Dear Students and Parents of the Class of 2020:

As you know, we have been planning alternative graduation options for the Class of 2020. After reviewing the guidance from the NYS Department of Health and direction from the Governor, a traditional in-person graduation ceremony with our entire graduating class and their families will not be feasible. Additionally, some of the parameters recommended by the Department of Health have the potential to make for a less than optimal experience for our families at a drive-in setting. As a result, we have made the decision to eliminate the drive-in from our virtual graduation premier plans. The premier will still be held on July 8th but we encourage you to watch from the comfort of your own homes. Instead of the drive-in, we will be providing our students and families with a “Drive-Thru” graduation ceremony.

The *Drive-Thru* option will allow students to experience walking across a stage in their cap and gown, getting a photograph, and collecting their diploma. There will also be an opportunity for parents to experience the moment with their graduate.

We will hold the event on **July 13th, and July 14th**. Each student will arrive with no more than 4 vehicles. The diagram on the next page illustrates how the event will work. The diagram shows how the vehicle(s) will proceed through the parking lot to the stage which will be set up in the back of the school by the glass doors. Parents will park in front of the stage, and the family can exit to observe the graduate as their name is announced and they walk across the stage collecting their diploma. The district will have a photographer on campus to take pictures of our graduates as they cross the stage. The graduate will then join their parents and the family will return to their vehicle exiting via Seneca Street. We believe it will take two days to schedule families for the event. Students will sign up online for a time on either **July 13th and July 14^h**, using this link: <https://signup.com/go/GNRBbbO>

In order to promote a safe experience for our families, it is critical that students and parents remain in their vehicles until they are scheduled to participate in walking the stage. **All attendees should bring a mask as a precautionary measure in the event that safe social distancing cannot be maintained** (e.g. just before and after the stage walk and photos). Graduates will NOT be required to wear masks during their stage walk and photos.

We are also finalizing our plans for a virtual graduation in a video format. The final “virtual movie” will have almost all the elements of a traditional graduation and the link will be available for viewing on July 8th . Please be aware that the Photo/Message submission deadline for the virtual movie is **June 22, 2020**. Please upload a picture and video message **while wearing your cap and gown!**

Sincerely, The *East* Senior Administrative Team

Jason Winnicki

Mary Beth Sweeney

Paul Renzoni



- 4 vehicles per graduate.
- **The Arrows:** represent the traffic pattern. Vehicles enter the back parking lot via Seneca Street only due to the ongoing construction.
- **On Deck Area:** School staff and the SRO will greet families and help direct traffic, as well as ensure that everyone stays in their vehicles.
- **Stage:** Graduate exits vehicle (may remove mask) and moves to the stage area, guests of the graduate exit vehicles and move to the front of stage.
- Graduate picks up their graduation card that has their name on it. Mr. Farugia reads the name as the student walks across the stage.
- Graduate will cross the stage and receive their diploma from a school official or a BOE member.
- Graduate and guests will proceed to the tent next to the stage to receive their senior gift from the Class of 2020 advisors.
- Graduate and guests will return to their vehicles and exit via Seneca Street.