

Dexter Regional High School



12 Abbott Hill Road Dexter Maine 04930

Phone: (207) 924 – 5536 Fax: (207) 924 - 7673

Stephen Bell
Principal

Roy Pelotte
Assistant Principal

Jennifer Towle
Guidance Director

May 18, 2020

Dear Seniors and Parents/Guardians:

I hope this letter finds you and your family staying safe and doing well. We are living in a time that none of us could have predicted and certainly a time that none of us have experienced before. A school shutdown and transition to online/remote learning is an unprecedented event. While some decisions have come easily, one of the most challenging things we are facing is the planning of a graduation event for the Class of 2020 that is within all the current guidelines and restrictions. We have two goals in mind. The first is to provide a meaningful and memorable graduation ceremony, while the second goal is to keep everyone safe.

In late April, I held a Zoom meeting with the leaders of the senior class (Class Officers and Student Council reps). Two major themes evolved from that meeting that have helped guide our planning. The seniors felt strongly about having an event in June (at the regular date if possible) and they wanted an event that would be in person and not virtual or remote. With this in mind, the following is our current plan for Graduation for the Class of 2020.

- Dexter Regional High School Graduation will take place on Sunday, June 7th at 1pm (Rain Dates are June 13th or 14th)
- The graduation will take place on the football field & will be a “drive-in” event. The graduation stage will be set up in the End Zone by the scoreboard
- We are trying to limit the event to 1 hour (1-2pm) out of respect to the graduates and families that will be sitting in their cars before, during and after the event. We respectfully ask that cars are shut off and not running during the ceremony (prior to and after the ceremony is fine)
- Parking will open approximately 2 hours before the graduation and we will close parking on the field & track approximately 10 minutes before the start of the ceremony (late vehicles will not be allowed to park and therefore will not see or participate in the event). No parking will be allowed the night before.
- On Thursday, June 4th two meetings will take place. At 11am, we would like all of the female graduates to meet in the gym (we will practice social distancing). At 1pm, all of the male graduates will meet in the gym. Graduates will receive their Grad Bag at this meeting (see below). Sunday’s graduation event & expectations will be covered in detail. Graduating seniors need to plan on being at their respective meeting. Much like marching practice was mandatory to participate in Sunday graduation in the past, this meeting is mandatory. Seniors have 2-3 weeks to plan accordingly. Work is not an excuse! Technically, the only excuse would be a Doctor’s appointment – with a note from the Doctor’s office. Attendance will be taken and this is the time that graduates will get their parking passes for the Sunday event.
- Each graduate will receive a Grad Bag that will include their cap & gown, medical records, Senior Assembly awards, a face mask (school colors) to wear at graduation, program, etc.
- Each graduate will receive 2 Parking passes for the graduation event. One pass is a field pass and the graduate will need to be in that car during the event. Students and families are encouraged to decorate this car appropriately. The second pass will be for parking on the track around the football field. Staff parking will be reserved on the bank between the football tower and the

football snack shack. How many individuals are in each car is up to the graduate. The only limitation is two vehicles per graduate.

- Each parking spot will be approximately 10x20 and everyone is expected to stay in the vehicle before, during and after the ceremony (the only exception is when the graduates are called to the stage, only the graduate will be leaving their vehicle). Cars, trucks, vans and SUV's are acceptable and appropriate. No trailers and no oversized vehicles like a limo (space is limited).
- Each senior will receive a graduate sign (this is a lawn sign similar to a political sign). These will be used during graduation and students can take them after the event. We encourage them to place these signs on their front lawn for the rest of June.
- The graduation event will include some of the traditional speeches by the Val & Sal of the class, but most importantly will include a trip to the stage for each graduate to receive their diploma and other awards. Traditional handshakes and hugs will not be part of the ceremony, but Scholarship announcements will be part of the diploma presentation. Some awards that typically are given during senior assembly will be given at graduation (such as Athletes of the Year).
- We will be live-streaming the event and video copies will be available to the graduates at a later time.
- We are planning on a couple of large screen TV's on the wings of the stage and the Senior Slide Show will be playing prior to the event. It might be a good idea to bring binoculars for viewing purposes.
- We are investigating ways to transmit the event on car radio's (TBA)
- At the conclusion of the graduation event, there will be a Class of 2020 Graduation Parade through town led by the Dexter Fire Department and Dexter Police Department. The parade will end at the fire station and graduates are free to go at that time.
- Both DRHS and TCTC will be open for emergency bathroom use, but we respectfully ask everyone to stay in their cars if possible.
- Because of current guidelines and restrictions, there will be no Prom and no Operation Graduation this year. These cancelled events can be added to the list of cancellations this spring that included the Musical, Spring Concert, Academic Awards Night, Spring Sports Season, Winter and Spring Sports Banquets, Tiger Awards, etc.
- The Class of 2020 will be invited to attend the 2021 Prom next spring.

It's important that seniors continue to check their school email on a regular basis. As the graduation date gets closer and more information is available we will continue to share that information and communicate using the school email. Information will also be shared on the district's website and on Facebook.

Seniors can also plan on cleaning out their lockers and turning in books, calculators and iPads on June 4th. All bills and payments owed to the school will need to be cleaned up and taken care of prior to graduation. This includes class dues, lunch bills, overdue library books, lost uniforms, lost or damaged schoolbooks, etc. We will be sending out individual notices soon with what is owed by each senior.

If you have questions or concerns, please call the high school at 924-5536 or email me directly at sbell@aos94.org We look forward to recognizing, honoring and celebrating with the class of 2020 on June 7th.

Sincerely,



Stephen Bell
Principal