



WEST HIGH SCHOOL

20401 Victor Street, Torrance, CA 90503 (310) 533-4299

May 7, 2020

Greetings West High Parents and Guardians of Seniors,

Thank you for your patience as we work through the planning of senior end of the year activities in this very new reality. I know how hard it is to wait to hear information, but I wanted to be able to give you as many specifics as possible. And even though there are a lot of things not happening this year in a traditional way, I want to share with you some tentative plans and dates about what **is** happening, and how excited we are for what we can provide for our seniors. I say tentative because, as we all know, things continue changing on a daily basis and we don't want to make promises we can't keep due to health restrictions and add to any disappointment.

So here is what we have in the works! We are currently working with a professional video production company to produce virtual programs for "Pursuit of Excellence Achievement Awards", Baccalaureate and Graduation. These will each be modeled after our traditional formats including speakers, student performances, and pictures of all of our graduates. We also have a few surprises in store that we think will go a long way to raise the spirits of everyone! For each of these events, a private link will be sent out to families on a predetermined date. Our goal is to release things a little bit at a time to build up the excitement!

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| Pursuit of Excellence Academic Achievement Awards Video Release | Wednesday May 20th (tentative) |
| Baccalaureate Video Release | Friday, June 5th (tentative) |
| Virtual Graduation Video Release | Week of June 8-11th (date TBD) |

The most exciting plans are those we are working on for Graduation. During the last week of May/beginning of June, we will host a drive through pick-up on campus ***in small assigned groups*** for every senior to receive a personalized Graduate Lawn Sign, Cap and Gown, Yearbook, and to begin dropping off their textbooks (Dates will be finalized once we have received shipment of Caps and Gowns). We had hoped to schedule a Graduate Car Parade for the weekend of June 6th, but were informed this week that by state order we are not allowed to conduct end-of-year gatherings even in vehicles at this time. We are still over a month away from graduation, so if this directive changes we are set to move forward with those plans even with very late notice. Then, during the week of June 8th, we will release the Graduation Video for all seniors and their families to watch together. (Date and time TBD). More specific details will follow for each of these events as soon as we have everything organized.

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| Drive Through Pick-Up | Week of May 25th-June 5 (tentative) |
| Virtual Graduation Video Release | Week of June 8-11th (date TBD) |

Our seniors have had their eyes on June 10th as their graduation date for the entire year, and we think it is important to honor that date as closely as we can. While we all hope for a change of the Stay-at-Home Orders, we need to plan for a great celebration for this graduating class in the likely event that does not happen. Right now we are preparing dual-plans for both virtual celebrations and in person events. I know

the uncertainty is very difficult, it is extremely difficult on our end as well. We are working to make sure we give accurate information and don't add to the disappointment by making plans we may not be able to follow through on due to circumstances beyond our control. I will continue to update you as dates and times are confirmed, but we hope the end of the year will be just as, if not more, memorable than ever!

Lastly, attached is a letter from our Activities Office with more specific directions for both parents and students on what you need to do to help us make all of this happen. Please make sure you review it as it includes important dates and timelines. We hope to message to our students the enormity of the historical year in which they are graduating, and that while things may not be traditional for them, it certainly doesn't mean they won't still be great!

Most Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kara J. Heinrich". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "K".

Kara Heinrich, Principal