

Upper Dauphin Area School District

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May 15, 2020

Dear Seniors, Parents, and Upper Dauphin Area School Community :

The Upper Dauphin Area School District School Board, Administration, and Faculty is working to honor the members of the Class of 2020 in an equitable and safe manner. In deciding on the format for graduation ceremonies, the following factors were considered:

- Protection of students, families, and staff members during the pandemic,
- Pennsylvania Department of Education guidance that seniors graduate on time,
- Participation in graduation events by as many graduates as possible,
- The orders put in place by Governor Wolf and the Pennsylvania Department of Health,
- The use of traditional school facilities in some facet of the celebration,
- Feedback from multiple stakeholder groups
- District resources that can provide a quality celebration for our graduates.

As such, the UDASD Administration Team, in consultation with the UDASD School Board, have made the following plans related to graduation:

- From 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM on June 2, 2020, graduates and their parents will be invited to the high school stadium to receive their actual diploma and have their photo taken by the school's photographer on the stadium field.
 - The auditorium or gymnasium will be used in the event of inclement weather,
 - An individual photo in cap and gown and a photo with the graduate and the graduate's parents will be taken at that time,
 - The background will be decorated similar to previous graduation ceremonies
 - Additional instructions will be provided within the next week to each senior.
- A virtual graduation ceremony will be broadcast at 8:00 PM on June 2, 2020 that includes the announcement of each senior, video of seniors walking across the stage to receive their diplomas, and all graduation speeches.
- An overall 'Celebration of Graduates' video will be produced and posted by mid-June that includes the original graduation ceremony, the graduate photos taken on June 2nd and other videos and photos.
- In the event that state government orders related to the pandemic allow, the UDASD will research and consider opportunities to further recognize the Class of 2020 during the summer of 2020.
- The UDASD will create a webpage containing all videos and class night awards for the Class of 2020.

Our mission is to empower our students to be lifelong learners in order to reach their greatest potential.

The Administration Team believes that this plan addresses the factors listed previously. Most importantly, it allows for an equitable ceremony that includes all graduates, an opportunity for graduates and their parents to take part in some facet of graduation in the traditional environment, and allows for a compilation of a 'Celebration of Graduates' to recognize the resiliency of the Class of 2020.

It is important to know that these decisions have not been easy ones and the Administration Team has tried its best to hear all sides prior to creating this plan. However, in order to protect the health of everyone involved and create a celebration that can be held regardless of the pandemic level, it was decided to proceed with the above plan. It is our hope that the cumulative effect of this plan in addition to other 'surprises' being planned by our faculty and staff will be that our seniors are properly recognized and understand that UDA faculty and staff cherish each one of them and wish them the absolute best as they pursue their future endeavors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Shade', written in a cursive style.

Jared W. Shade
Acting Superintendent