

May 26, 2020

Dear New Paltz Parents and Guardians:

The New Paltz educational community felt the loss of anticipated graduation and moving up ceremonies weeks before we entered the season, now imminent, for such ceremonies. The first of many “what can be done?” conversations occurred in April. Since those initial conversations, PTA leaders, building administrators, class advisors and student officers have turned brainstorming into planning --- a difficult undertaking when no one can say with authority what will or will not be a “safe” public ritual one, two, three, or four weeks ahead. As of today, all planning exists in the uncertain space between what we want to do and what can be done.

I write to share what is being considered and my thoughts about the criteria that must be used in authorizing any celebratory event. An addendum of high school senior and parent survey comments follows.

ELEMENTARY

Duzine Elementary School is looking at a “second grade car parade” during the second week of June. This would involve staff standing outside of their cars in the main parking lot, maintaining social distance. Over the course of an hour, staff members would wave and cheer for second grade students and parents as they drive by in their cars around the parking lot loop. The families would stay in their cars.

Lenape Elementary School is also considering a parade. Also planned is a teacher produced slide show highlighting their students, accompanied by a personalized card to each student moving up to the Middle School.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

“Moving Up” at the Middle School will feature a virtual video that will include, among other things, a photo of each eighth grader. As organized by the PTA, students will be

photographed at designated times – as per sign-ups -- at the Middle School between June 3rd and June 6th. Students may be accompanied by two guests. Alternatively, parents may submit any photo of their choice. More information may be found at NPMS2024@gmail.com and on the NPMS PTA Facebook page.

ATHLETICS

On Friday, the Athletic Department posted a video (see following link) from Spring Coaches to Senior Athletes.

<https://www.newpaltz.k12.ny.us/cms/lib/NY01000611/Centricity/Domain/26/A%20Spring%20Coaches.mp4>

This week, the Athletic Department will post a video signing day – a montage of seniors who intend to play a sport in college.

In lieu of the traditional banquet, another video montage will be created showing the winners of the Fall and Winter Senior Awards as well as the Awards of Distinction. The video will be completed, announced, and posted in June. The intention is to distribute the actual awards via a drive-up pick up at the High School on a date to be announced.

HIGH SCHOOL

Earlier this month, New Paltz High School seniors and their parents were surveyed to determine their graduation preferences.

“I would prefer to have a virtual graduation celebration in June. This does not preclude the opportunity for other forms of celebrations to accompany a virtual ceremony such as the lawn sign campaign, parades, or other forms of recognition.”

- Of 83 student respondents, 13 answered “yes” and 70 answered “no.”
- Among parent respondents, 38 answered “yes” and 60 answered “no.”

“I would prefer to postpone graduation until July or August for an in-person celebration. An in-person celebration is subject to current restrictions being lifted and may include limitations on the number of guests students may invite to graduation.”

- Seventy students answered “yes” and 13 answered “no.”
- Among parents, 71 answered “yes” and 27 answered “no.”

Responding to the question, “What is the latest date in July or August your senior would be available to participate in graduation?” parents answered as follows:

- Week ending July 11 = 7
- Week ending July 18 = 0
- Week ending July 25 = 14

- Week ending August 1st = 14
- Week ending August 8th = 68

Fifty-nine parents and 30 students responded to the following question: *“Do you have an idea for an alternative form of graduation and/or ideas for other forms of senior recognition/celebrations? Use this space to let us know your ideas, as well as any concerns you have about these events.”* Their responses are attached.

Senior class officers reviewed the survey results and concluded that:

both seniors and parents preferred not to have a virtual ceremony and preferred to postpone the ceremony until July or August. However, it was also noted that due to the availability of graduates and their families, choosing a date would be difficult and would likely exclude many. Based on the write-in suggestions, [we] concluded that folks are asking us to be creative and attempt to create a non-traditional in-person ceremony at New Paltz High School held in late June.

Working with their faculty advisors, senior class officers are exploring the idea of holding a virtual graduation ceremony on the High School grounds on June 26th. The ceremony would include a student drive-through for individual recognition and diploma distribution. As they noted in a recent communication, “Many details must still be finalized in order to comply with evolving government mandates and restrictions.” Commendably, these student leaders have reached out to various state, county and local officials to determine the feasibility of their thinking. Unsurprisingly, no one has yet responded definitively.

The decision to approve such an event rests with the BOE. I have told members that I admire the planning efforts of senior class officers and their faculty advisors and that I hope that their thinking can be realized. Members also know that public health and safety are non-negotiable criteria for greenlighting such a gathering: the District must heed the “best advice” of state, county, and local officials. Throughout this crisis, however, “best advice” has always depended upon the moment and usually has been equivocal. With that in mind, I will advise the BOE to delay any decision for at least two weeks. Alternative plans need to be concurrently developed against the possibility that, a month from now, risk outweighs hope.

Sincerely,

Bernard Josefsberg

ADDENDUM

STUDENT SURVEY COMMENTS

Do you have an idea for an alternative form of graduation and/or ideas for other forms of senior recognition/celebrations? Use this space to let us know your ideas, as well as any concerns you have about these events.

- We could do something in Main St. where all the seniors drive down main st. and get our diplomas at water st. where all the business' have their windows painted with signs and stuff.
- Reverse graduation on the football field, limit number of family members sitting picnic style on the field. All students and teachers distanced on the bleachers walk and get Diploma. Set up photo spots around the field on the sides (little arch ways) so at the end family's can take pictures
- These options don't suit my interest
- I think postponing graduation is the right thing to do. Outside at the high school has the perfect (but kind of small) space. If you had the guests stay 6 feet apart or more and have the student seating apart from each other. and possible projected the ceremony outside so the audience can see, could work.
- I would like if we were to given are diploma a week earlier, have a parade in town to celebrate for are 2020 seniors, give them a little appreciate how we didn't get to finish are year as what we wanted and missed out on.
- Graduating high school is a really big deal. I don't think it would be fair to completely preclude the opportunity for an in person celebration for such a momentous accomplishment.
- drive in theater
- We could do a drive by parade with all of our teachers clapping but I still believe a ceremony should still happen as many kids dream for that moment and want to be able to tell their kids that they walked the stage as many kids worked really hard to walk on the stage
- Yes!! We would still continue with graduation in June, but we would be in our cars. kind of like a drive in movie theater. The ceremony would be up high so that everyone would be ale to see from there car. If students don't have a car or cant drive then parents would drive them.
- No I have no ideas, good luck!
- No, these two options seem like the only plausible or realistic ones.
- I think that only the students go to graduation and have the usually people on stage and keep it short and sweet. While also keeping in mind the 6 feet distance and maybe even getting are school color in a mask for students (if at this time we are still required to wear

them) then everyone else can watch from a live event at home. Of course having a practice day to make sure everyone's family members know how to get on it and will be able to the day of graduation. and obviously parents are going to want photos with their kids on the field or under the walk way area that they usually decorate. Why not keep it up for a week so families can come at there own time to take pictures while also having someone there to make sure social distancing is happening. Parents can drop their student off day of graduation and on the practice day or students can drive there self. While also on both days having teachers make sure students keep little contact with each other as possible

- Having a small ceremony with just students and teachers and live streaming the ceremony to family, so that we still get the opportunity to walk across the stage and get our diploma.
- 1. We should postpone the date for July with a back up date for August both with the rain dates for the next day if things haven't lifted consider doing it at Deitz stadium in Kingston to be able to practice social distancing since its much bigger and we can space the students out far enough and limit family guests And mark spots to sit with bathrooms closed 2. I have also seen the drive in movie theater idea where each graduating student comes in one car with their family and limit the amount of students at a time to go up to a stage that is set up in front of the big screen possibly 10 students at a time to spread them out to receive their diploma and be able to watch it on the screen since cars will be far away and have it recorded And someone to be able to take professional pictures
- A Stadium!
- I would much rather wait, and have an in person celebration even if that means it's in July, or August. A virtual graduation would just be depressing. I know many other schools just postponing their graduation, as well as their senior ball/ senior prom for later in the year.
- Do half the class on one day and the other half on another?
- Set up stage in football field, families stay in cars, seniors walk on stage and get their diploma and then drive home. Cars could be decorated.
- I really believe that it will be great if you guys do a physical graduation for these kids who have missed out on everything else that seniors do at the end of the year, you should definitely have only parents, brothers and sister ONLY. Have every senior sit with his or hers family six feet apart of everyone else you can also have two day graduation so you only have half class graduating at one time. I know that is really hard but for a lot of families this will be the first time they have a HS graduating in their immediate family, it will be appreciated
- If possible, and if the postponed graduation won't work out, could the teachers/faculty members create a goodbye video (it could just be separate clips from each faculty member all tied into one short film).
- You could find an appropriate space i.e. a field and hold a ceremony where everyone pulls up in their cars and sits on the roof of their respective car to have the ceremony that way.
2. You could ask seniors to send in video to put together a highlight reel of the year, including time in quarantine and maybe even some special gags (or something to make a 2020 student life) honestly I don't really mind what we do, I just would like if it doesn't cut into my summer. I've made peace with the fact that I won't have a regular graduation

and even cherish the fact that my graduating year will be one for history books. One I certainly won't forget.

- As a graduating senior I would like to have our graduation on the football field at New Paltz High School. Each student can walk the stage one by one while guests can watch via live stream
- I think that having a graduation celebration at a later date would be a bad idea. I think that seniors will be going away at that time and we also do not know when the pandemic will subside.
- I like the parade idea even if its not necessarily a "graduation ceremony" per se where we receive our diplomas but its a fun and creative way to have family and others who would be coming to graduation who wouldn't be able to if we were even able to have some kind of in-person ceremony or even a virtual one. I also chose yes for both because I'm fine with either one to be honest.
- I just want to be able to celebrate one last time with my graduating class.
- I would prefer to have a in person graduation during winter break or around May or June of the next year. If the end of August doesn't look promising.
- If we do it online, it should be livestreamed to Youtube or some other platform instead of just doing an enormous call.
- We can do something outside on the football field with a projector and maybe have it live streamed to limit the number of people there.
- I think a virtual graduation should be a last resort (postpone graduation and in the case gatherings of any sort are still not allowed, then proceed with a virtual plan or a plan B). We should still continue to have forms of recognition/celebrations like the lawn signs because it is unlikely we will be able to have a traditional graduation in any case. My idea for a modified ceremony is to have graduation on the football field, parents can sit on the bleachers and possibly in chairs placed 6ft apart (those living together can sit right next to each other) around the track. We could set a platform up in the field where students can one by one walk up as their name is called, giving time for parents to take photos.
- We could maybe do some sort of drive-in event.
- just give me my diploma
- I'd just like to be able to have one last day for the entire senior grade to take one last walk around the school and have some fun in the fields.
- Break it up as much as possible and hold it on the football field or a drive inn type of thing
- I like the drive in idea so we can all be together but keep distancing in place
- Inquire about temporary free access to Minecraft and host a virtual graduation.
- Drive in theater for student life, seniors drive through town like a parade

PARENT SURVEY COMMENTS

Do you have an idea for an alternative form of graduation and/or ideas for other forms of senior recognition/celebrations? Use this space to let us know your ideas, as well as any concerns you have about these events.

- Students to be able to walk and handed their diplomas
- A virtual senior ball? A way for students to sign each other's yearbooks, perhaps allowing students to come in to the HS for 20 minutes each to have access to yearbooks. You would need to provide gloves, etc. This may be a duplicate survey. If so, my apologies.
- Graduation at our football field in June. All senior families stay in their decorated cars. They take turns leaving car, crossing stage, get back in car. Filmed for YouTube.
- I would like for Ceremony to still take place on Football Field. It is possible to keep students and everyone else 6 ft apart. Each graduate would be limited to parents only, and yes those who have 2 sets, also invited. No band, maybe Seniors in Choir can sing 2 pieces "National Anthem" and something else of their choice. Pipe in Pomp and Circumstance. No awards, 3 speeches at the most, each student gets name called walks across stage, gets applause and a pic, we can get a photographer. Once all students are done and return to seats...they can still throw caps in air. Masks can be worn...families sit together, 6ft apart utiziing bleachers , field and lawn outside of field. Bring your own chair or have chairs available. This can be live streamed for families and friends to watch at home. (With help from BOCES) We have over a month to plan this. A rain date as well. There are other details that would need attention and planning, but I think it can be done. I know there are many who would be willing to help figure this out and to help that day with keeping things flowing and safe. Don't forget to include PTSA and Facilities!
- Seniors on football field with parents watching. everyone following distance guidelines. then i addition to that a live youtube streaming video that friends and others can watch from home. My nephew's school does this every year and it was really nice.
- Would prefer in person graduation later in summer conditions permitting, but if virtual is the best we can have, then I guess that will have to do.
- [Name Withheld's] idea is to use the New Paltz High School football field for ceremony in reverse. The families on the grass/bring a chair. The graduates on the bleachers along with teachers.
- Drive - in Graduation Ceremony parent's staying in a car and use the large screen to project videos and name of the graduates. Graduates could walk 6 feet appart cross of a screen-stage.
- I would like to propose that the graduation ceremony take place in August at the historic Mohonk gate house. Not only is it a beautiful setting but it allows for enough space to have a real ceremony. There can be a grand pomp and circumstance through the tree allee and perhaps diplomas can be distributed under the archway to the gatehouse. There

is a new parking area and we can close Gatehouse Road for additional car parking. We would hire an Audio/video crew. Cameras and drones could be set up to get close-ups of the graduates. I would suggest having several viewing screens for family members to be able to see close ups while maintaining social distancing. The graduation could be broadcast live for grandparents, friends, etc since attendance will be limited. This video of the ceremony will also be taped for the graduates to keep. Each family will be given one square on the lawn. Only immediate family members will be invited. Each family will sign a release that they will abide by the graduation ceremony guidelines including following the social distancing rules set forth by our state and county officials at the time. We will draw a grid on the lawn defining each family space. A map will be created numbering each of the family spaces. Numbers will be chosen in advance by lottery which will be filmed live. I feel choosing this setting would give the grand finale that our seniors deserve. Since this is a destination chosen by many for pictures ie. before the prom, this will also provide the perfect backdrop for photos. Class of 2020 face masks will be worn by all participants and their family members. As a former television producer I'd be happy to be involved in working out the details of this event whether this idea is chosen or any other idea if my services can be of any assistance.

- There are several beautiful, outdoor, open space areas in New Paltz that can accommodate large gatherings while still adhering to social distancing requirements.
- Graduation at a drive in theater where everyone stays in their cars and graduates up on the screen.
- Would love a parade with the kids at the car ..
- Use the football field - have students spread out safely among the bleachers and have families in their cars and lined up until their child is next to be called. Each family would walk onto the field only for their child as he/she receives their diploma. Each family would return immediately to their car. After all students receive their diplomas, they each join their families and a parade of cars goes through town...maybe?? It would take a lot of time and patience, but I think a live graduation is so important.
- We do not have any ideas about alternative graduation ideas at this time. Question 6, concerning July or August dates, required a response. We do not have an answer at this time. We responded "Week ending August 8" because it was the latest date on the list.
- Perhaps if we can't have a graduation event over the summer we could have a belated one in December when everyone is back home for the holidays.
- [Name Withheld] put an idea in her survey that we agree would be great considering the unfortunate circumstances.
- I could not submit my response without answering questions 4 and 5 but it doesn't matter to use which option is taken. Any celebration would be appreciated but if it is not possible, that would be fine too.
- Perhaps get permission to use the Mohonk Mountain House to use the GateHouse Road area. Specially accommodation for parking or busing.
- Have it at the High School field, strictly enforce 2 guest per student. Have the graduation on local TV for all who can not attend.
- My son would not attend a July or August graduation. Graduation is June. I have seen the idea of graduation at the Ulster County Fairgrounds with a big screen to televise to guests

in their cars. I believe seating for parents in chairs could work within social distancing requirements while remaining family members remain in their cars. The football field could work too unless it rains Within social distancing protocol the school is large enough to have students dress in cap and gown and line the halls. As each student is announced the parents could walk in take their pictures and file out in a regulated manner. Just a few ideas

- One idea is to have a social distance ceremony at the Gatehouse, which would require permission from Mohonk. There is a parking lot that fits 80 cars, plus the adjacent street parking (parallel to the alley of trees). Seniors and immediate family members could space out the required 6 feet on either side of the path. Each senior could pass underneath the Gatehouse with their diplomas and walk 'x' number of feet on the path, under the beautiful alley of trees and the backdrop of the mountain ridge . Another idea is to have a social distance ceremony on one of the HS fields (Track field is the easiest). Seniors could be 6 feet apart and walk 'x' number of feet around the track. Immediate family members could either be spaced out amply around the track or even stay at their cars in the parking lot.
- It would be ideal to have the graduation in June, outdoors; however, I would opt for a July event if that offers more options. I would love to see the class be able to gather in person -- socially distanced -- at large outdoor venue, such as a football field or Dietz Stadium or Dutchess Stadium. Thank you for your consideration of the graduates and their families. I know we all want what is safest -- but still memorable and special -- for the graduates.
- No concerns. If a traditional June celebration is postponed, would prefer to hold in person in a larger arena in July where spacing can be maintained as needed or have families park in cars in the high school lot and kids walk to get diploma. Aidan's idea is to have an elevated platform in the high school lot, or another hand-off location, where diplomas could be dropped through a shoot/PVC pipe of sorts to each kid.
- If we could find a space that allows for the seniors to be an appropriate space apart, like the football field or a bigger football stadium, that would allow them to be together. I feel the students would wanted to be together, even if they have to be six feet apart! The crowd is the problem, how to keep a crowd apart. Limit the people who attend.
- Each of the kids do a short video recording of a way in which they want to show celebrating graduating high school - for example a clip of them walking down a path in the woods with their cap and gown on. Then someone (or a group of people) compile and create and montage of the videos to share with the whole school community.
- If we can't be on NPHS grounds, or maybe the Ulster county fairgrounds, the drive-in theater idea is appealing. We are not interested in a virtual or online graduation and prefer something in-person even if it has to be delayed, and/or the number of guests is limited and/or some social distancing rules have to be observed.
- I thought about a walking parade down Main Street, 6 feet apart in caps and gowns with family groups 6 feet apart lining both sides of the street. or Using the whole football field, track and bleachers to social distance families. While gratuities walk in 6 feet apart and across the stage. It could be done a several smaller groups. Last names A-G, H-M.....
- Football field with bring your own chairs.

- 1. Do two postpone dates first in July with rain date the day after the second in August with rain date after if we are not able to have it at our school on the football field (guest can bring chairs to sit on the lawn area and bleachers and limit guests then we can do it at deitz stadium in Kingston since there is more room to take proper measures to social distance including no use of bathrooms unless guidelines are made for that (rest areas block off every other stall and only let in a certain amount of people at a time everyone wears masks when entering 2. Drive in movie theater one car per student , set up a stage in front of the theater have 10 students at a time to line up far apart to pick up their diploma off of a table on stage while its being recorded and live streamed and shown on the big movie Screen with professional pictures taken since family will be far back (We have technology let's use it) For senior ball we can do a farewell ball in August if things are lifted by then we can even have it in the school gym if we cannot have it at a venue and do finger foods , and DJ Lawn signs with our students pictures at the entrance of the school A billboard with the big class picture on it that was taken during pep rally On the day that graduation was suppose To be have all students drive through the school with cap n gowns on ,cars decorated and have as many faculty members as possible lined up from the front Entrance to the back cheering them On but not in place of graduation just a recognition day
- IMPORTANT: [Name Withheld] will NOT be able to attend a late graduation week ending July 11th. He will be moving on June 30th Out of state to the college town he will be living. So he would not be able to participate in a late graduation to be held in July.
- I do not think an in person event is safe at this time without a cure or vaccination for COVID 19. Virtual would be best for now.
- Hopefully we can have a real graduation, but it will be important to maintain wearing masks and social distancing, and someone will need to enforce this. It would also be nice to do something extra in June if the actual graduation is in July or August. One idea could be meet up somewhere where everyone stays in their cars, such as a drive-in, or a zoom end of year meeting/celebration.
- Car parade down North Putt with Seniors names on vehicles.
- Celebrate the last day of classes 6/26 with a parade in New Paltz (preferably down Main Street) where teachers, staff, community members, siblings and parents are masked and distance themselves through route supporting the graduates with music and cheering. Seniors can decorate their vehicles. 2. As an alternative graduation option - consider renting the Hyde Park drive-in so family members can be safely inside their cars. Microphone connected to radio station so parents can listen. Students go up on stage to receive diploma wearing mask and gloves and be congratulated by staff/teachers distanced on stage and wearing PPE. 3. Also, see if staff/teachers could create a video that can be shared online to announce scholarships and other outstanding achievements. These kids have worked so hard to get to the finish line, thank you for trying to honor that appropriately!
- Football field with a rain date and limit the amount of guests per graduate. Video tape and live stream and put on YouTube so family members who could not go could see. I have no concerns about this. The Seniors deserve this.
- Football field with social distances Drive in theater. A parade with seniors six ft apart

- Utilizing our football field and allowing a maximum number guests (2 per student) can allow for social distancing regulations to occur, with everyone wearing masks. Or do graduation over the course of a day, where families drive up to the parking lot and receive their diplomas from the principal, perhaps the graduate can get out for a photo opportunity. We only have 194 graduates, this shouldn't take too long. Or have a parade down Main Street, New Paltz (I can get the road closed that day) with the principals waiting at the end to hand out diplomas that way. There are so many options that can occur that there is no need to do a virtual graduation.
- At a stadium where the senior can sit with their family in their cap and gown. An Announcement of their name could be broadcasted over the loudspeaker and they stand up when their names are called I would think this gives enough separation of 6 to 10 feet per family if the stadium is big enough. 2 to 4 members per family, plus senior. This also would keep the seniors from wondering around and stay with their families but they can still wave and smile to one another. This would most likely be the last time they will ever see most of their classmates again
- There has been discussion about doing a socially distant graduation on the football field. If we can pull it off on the high school campus, that would be ideal. The other options that I have seen that I think could work are finding a stadium for social distancing or using a drive in where families stay in cars and can watch live and on a screen.
- New Paltz is home to many beautiful outdoor areas, including the Ulster County Fairgrounds, The Field of Dreams, Town and State Parks, etc. We should utilize these if, for some reason, NPCSD properties are unavailable. Social distancing and PPE could certainly be utilized to accomplish a somewhat normal ceremony. Perhaps we could divide things up by alphabetical order or some other means to limit the size of a gathering? I also feel the need to bring up the fact that the Governor's orders are, in all likelihood, a violation of both State and United States Constitutional law... At the State level, the Board of Regents oversees the NYS Education Department, not Governor Cuomo. Although the recognition part of some type of virtual graduation is okay, the actual physical graduation is what we and many others have been looking forward to for more 12 years. It is beyond heartbreaking that this particular class has had not only the end of their school year and sports seasons ripped from them, but now the possibility of no graduation ceremony... we need to find a way to do this for these young adults!
- I have heard of other schools around the country using outside stadiums that seat large numbers which would allow for social distancing, but not sure if it's an option for NPHS. Would need further research. Above, I'm open to any recognition ceremony to celebrate our Senior's accomplishments. But ultimately of course, I would prefer an in-person graduation.
- There are so many ideas being posted to the 2020 NPHS celebration page. It is inevitable that someone will not be happy with what ever decision is made. Please just do what is best for the district and will accomodate the most Senior Graduates.
- I am hopeful the decisions surrounding graduation will follow the same process as in future years. These are unusual circumstances but the decisionmakers regarding graduation (location, time, etc) should not be impacted. I trust the student representatives, class advisors, and administrators. I would hope, once a decision is made,

a request to the PTSA requesting specific help and/or augmentation, if needed, would be made. Parents, grandparents, family, friends, etc. are invited guests, not stakeholders. Many thanks to all as you try and plan during this most uncertain of times.

- I just want to make sure that he can wear a cap and gown and receive his diploma along with any other recognition. He has worked VERY hard and deserves to be recognized for his work.
- Have students sit 6 feet apart in field.. have a stage- podium where speakers can speak encouraging words . have each person walk up to stage one at a time to get their diploma. then go sit back down. SUGGEST more evening time due to warm weather. OR have it at SUNY GYM with AC. music piped in through speakers ! not a real band. OR yet maybe standing 6 feet apart 3 or 5 students could sing ... immediate family only..not grand parents/aunts and uncles. each sitting 6 feet away. OR just video tape it and send link to parents. Most important are the kids getting a physical graduation.
- I am a faculty member of Pine Bush CSD, here are the plans for their seniors which I think is thoughtful To create a personalized experience, Pine Bush has partnered with Herff-Jones to create a special ceremony for our graduating seniors and their families. Seniors will be asked by Herff-Jones to send in a very brief video clip with a personalized message and a photograph of them wearing their cap and gown. The ceremony can be viewed on mobile devices, laptops, or desktop computers. A recording of the ceremony will be preserved on our website where it can be easily downloaded for any who want it. The second part entails the actual presentation of diplomas and will occur the next morning. With the support of the Town of Crawford, Town of Wallkill, and New York State Police Departments, we will be able to stage a festive Parade of Graduates along Route 302 on Saturday, June 27, beginning at 10 a.m. Seniors will begin their journey from either CVMS or the CES parking lots. They will then be driven in this procession along the seven mile parade route from Circleville to Pine Bush High School, where they will be announced as they receive their diplomas. Diplomas will be handed to the students through their car windows as they drive by their teachers and administrators for one final time. We'll take a professional photo of each graduate receiving their diploma. We hope and expect that this will be a community-wide celebration of all the members of the resilient Class of 2020, after all they have endured and accomplished.
- Will students be receiving their caps/tassels & gowns? It would be great to have those, if possible, so the students can at least "dress the part" and wear them for pictures with family. Thank you to all, from the bottom of my heart, for all you are trying to do to make this special for the students in such difficult time.
- Use of a drive in theatre or large field with a stage and projection, such as at the Field of Dreams (also live streaming). Each senior could be permitted to have one or two cars parked in the field, with their family members, would walk across the stage (masked) to accept the diploma - while being projected on a large screen. Gloves or hand sanitation can be provided for additional safety, before and after accepting the diploma. Alternatively, this could be done individually, one family at a time at the high school, with a video compilation distributed, after each senior had their moment to accept the diploma. We feel the first option provides more of festivity, as all seniors would actually be participating in one event, together, with at least some of their loved ones present.