



# Kenmore East High School

*An International Baccalaureate World School*



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May 29, 2020

Dear Bulldog Seniors and Families,

We are thrilled to invite you to our non-traditional graduation ceremony, which will take place on Saturday June 27th, 2020 beginning at 11:00 a.m.

As you know, the Covid -19 pandemic has prevented us from holding many of our traditional end of the year events, and graduation is no exception. The New York State health and safety guidelines do not permit any large gatherings until phase four of the re-opening process, which is beyond our established graduation date. For this reason, most towns and counties in the area have cancelled all large gatherings for the summer. On Friday May 29th, the Office of the Lieutenant Governor (who is in charge of the Western New York region) recently informed several area superintendents that an in-person graduation is not permitted at this time.

We have been working with your class advisors and officers, as well as district officials, the Town of Tonawanda Police Department, and the Erie County Department of Health to provide the best possible alternative to our annual graduation ceremony, and we are very excited to honor this achievement with you! Together we have developed a plan that is in full compliance with federal safety guidelines and will ensure a safe environment for our students, staff, and families.

This letter will detail the plan:

When: Saturday, June 27th

Where: Kenmore East High School

Time: 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 (ish) p.m. (\*Virtual “live” stream at 11:00 a.m. from your homes, diploma conferral beginning at 12:00 p.m. at school).

## The Overview:

Students & families will participate in a “drive-thru” graduation ceremony. Students - you will have the opportunity to walk across an outdoor stage to receive your diploma. Along with this opportunity, students will receive a gift from the Senior class, prizes from the post-prom committee, and you will get to wave goodbye to your teachers from your cars as you drive through the parking lot.

## The Details:

At **11:00 a.m.** we will stream the formal portion of our graduation ceremony, which you can view from your home. Gabi Vasi will lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. We will also broadcast messages from Superintendent Bovino, Principal Heyden, Class President Anna Russo, Class Salutatorian John Abramo, Class Valedictorian Evan Haieck, and National Honor Society President Emily Scholfield. Furthermore, there will be musical selections for your listening pleasure. These will all be made available for viewing on the school’s web site.

We have established a rolling schedule of times for students & families to arrive at Kenmore East for diploma conferral (see below). Please adhere to the time you have been assigned, based on your last name.

<b>Arrival Time</b>	<b>Student’s Last Name</b>
12:00 - 12:30:	A - B (36 students)
12:30 - 1:00:	C - D (30 students)
1:00 - 1:30:	E - G (40 students)
1:30 - 2:00:	H - K (40 students)
2:00 - 2:30:	L - M (38 students)
2:30 - 3:00:	N - R (35 students)
3:00 - 3:30:	S (34 students)
3:30 - 4:00:	T - Z (24 students)

Families will pull into the KE parking lot from **Brighton Road**. (please see the map at the end of this letter). They will drive along a marked off “parade route” through the parking lot. Along this route there will be teachers and staff cheering for them. The Town of Tonawanda Police Department will assist with traffic control.

- All staff will be set up at least 6 feet apart, and we will practice appropriate social distancing guidelines.
- Students will be able to say hello from their cars and wave ~ students & families must stay in their cars and not approach staff in order to maintain proper social distancing. Feel free to decorate your cars!
- Students -please make sure you are wearing your caps and gowns.
- One car is permitted in the parade per household.
- Cars will be directed to pause at the end of the driveway connecting the two parking lots. A traffic attendant will notify families when it is their turn to approach the stage area.
- Families will approach an outdoor stage set up in the grassy area/fields behind KE. Students: when it is your turn, you & your family may get out of your car. The student will walk across the outdoor stage, your name will be read, and you will move your tassel from the right side of your cap to the left, signifying that you are officially a Kenmore East High School graduate! Families may video/take a picture, and students will receive their diploma cover. We will also be capturing the event on video.
- Students: once you have received your diploma cover, you and your family will be directed to two more stations before departing via the Fries Road exit. The first station will include all student diplomas, which can then be placed in the decorative cover. At the second station, each student will receive a “gift bag” from the senior class.

We are so proud of our graduates and we look forward to making this an event to remember! Please continue to review the Kenmore East website for further information.

\*Seniors - more detailed directions will be provided to you from your advisors before the Big Day!

See you on the 27th!

Patrick Heyden  
Principal

# GRADUATION PARADE ROUTE

