

For July 21, 2020  
Garden City High School Graduation Ceremony Plan

Dear Graduates and Families of the Class of 2020,

We have been finalizing plans for graduation and have details for our July 21st ceremonies! The governor has not increased the limit of 150 people for graduation ceremonies, so we will operate within that guideline. We want to allow as many graduates as possible to be together and allow families to share in the event as well. We have created a plan that keeps many of the trademarks of a traditional Garden City High School graduation ceremony.

We will have two ceremonies:

- 9:00am - Last Names A-K (146 graduates)
- 11:00am - Last Names L-Z (149 graduates)
  
- Families will be able to park their vehicles (**one vehicle per graduate**) on the grass field adjacent to the turf field and listen to the ceremony on an FM radio station.
- Social distancing is required and graduates must wear a face covering while in attendance. Graduates may remove their face covering for pictures and when they maintain appropriate social distancing from other individuals.
- Graduates should wear traditional Garden City HS graduation attire: a white dress or white jacket, black pants and black bow tie. Shoes should be appropriate: flat bottoms, not heels which may sink into the turf. Dresses should be appropriate for a dignified ceremony.
- We will livestream the event on Instagram: @gardencityhs
- We will post a video on Youtube after the event.
- Here is how it will work:
  - Arrive and enter the main parking lot on Merillon Ave between 8:15-8:45am or 10:15-10:45am, depending on your ceremony. (**One vehicle per graduate**) You may have as many people as you like inside your vehicle.
  - Vehicles will be directed through the gate near the softball field and onto the driveway towards the athletic fields.
  - Graduates will be dropped off near the gate to the turf field and vehicles will be directed to park on the grass facing the turf field. (Like a drive-in theatre)
  - Families will be given copies of the event programs in their vehicles.
  - Graduates will leave their phones with their families and be directed to their assigned seats on the turf field where they will receive roses or boutonnieres, envelopes including certificates and event programs, and their photo identification cards.
  - We will play *Pomp and Circumstance* as graduates find their seats, which will be facing west towards the families' vehicles.
  - The dais will be situated between the graduates and the families, on the western side of the turf field.
  - We will include live speeches at both ceremonies.

- Graduates will be announced individually to walk up and receive diploma covers and we will have professional photographers taking individual photos of graduates with their diploma covers.
- When the graduates are announced, groups of families will be invited to leave their vehicles to come to the fence and see their graduate up close as they receive their diploma cover. They will then be asked to return to their vehicles so other families can come up to the fence without creating a crowd. \*\*The cooperation of everyone practicing social distancing is important for this to work. We ask families to come to the fence only when their graduate is soon to be called and then return to their vehicle immediately afterwards. Congregating will not be allowed.\*\*
- As the ceremony concludes, recessional music will play and graduates will return to their vehicles which should then exit the high school campus immediately. Gathering for photos will not be allowed. We will need to clear the fields after the first ceremony as soon as possible to set up and let vehicles in for the second ceremony.
- If the governor increases the number of people allowed at graduation ceremonies to 300 or more we will keep the same format as this and have one ceremony at 9:00am on July 21st.
- Graduates will receive their diplomas on the 21st.
- The rain date will be July 23rd with the same format.
- There will be no access to the fields other than the gate from the main parking lot. All Rockaway Ave. entrances including the bleachers will be off limits. We are required to adhere to the state guidelines. Thank you for your cooperation!
- I will send another message on July 17th with any updates or details.

I look forward to seeing you all soon!

Sincerely,

Kevin Steingruebner

Principal