

May 4, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians of Class of 2020 Davison Alternative Education Seniors:

I hope this letter finds you safe and well. I know this is an exceptionally difficult time for our seniors (and parents/guardians) who should be celebrating all the rites of passage that a student who is coming to the end of their K-12 school career should be experiencing right about now. We, as a district, are deeply saddened that we are unable to provide those same experiences for our students due to the school closure and stay-at-home order caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

We know many of you have questions about those celebrations, namely graduation and delivery of diplomas, and this letter is meant to address at least some of those questions.

### **Graduation**

Let us start with graduation. It is our sincere hope that we are able to provide some type of graduation ceremony for our seniors. However, due to the current stay-at-home order and social distancing guidelines, this year's ceremony has been postponed to Wednesday, August 26. We are hopeful that social distancing guidelines will be relaxed at that time in order for us to hold our ceremony at 7 p.m. in the Davison High School Auditorium. Of course, if anything changes that would prevent us from holding the ceremony on this date or in this setting, we will be sure to relay that to you.

Delaying the ceremony will allow us to give our seniors the proper celebration they deserve. If you have ever been to a DAE graduation, you will quickly learn that there is something pretty special about these young adults. Many of our students have had to overcome some pretty big obstacles, caused many times by situations out of their control. It is inspiring to watch them walk across the stage after working so hard to achieve their goals. I just cannot express how proud I am of them!

Another reason for delaying the ceremony is that seniors who need extra time in order to fulfill the requirements to graduate will now have it. Davison Alternative Education *is* a credit recovery program and we were just getting ready to start Trimester III when the shutdown of school buildings was ordered. We know that distance learning is not the most optimal form of instruction, but your student's teachers are here to help. Please reach out to them directly if your senior is behind and needs assistance. We truly want ALL of our students to be successful!

### **Diplomas/Caps and Gowns/Personal Belongings**

We will be distributing caps and gowns and diplomas to those students who have fulfilled the requirements for graduation on Thursday, May 28. Seniors will be receiving information soon with a designated time to pick up their items. In order to keep our students and staff safe, we will be holding a “curbside drop-off” where DAE staff will place the student’s bagged items in the trunk of the student’s car. Students will need to stay in their car and observe social distancing guidelines in keeping six feet away from others. I know this will be hard to do as many have not been able to see their friends but, please, for everyone’s safety, we ask that students do not congregate or gather at the school.

### **Prom**

This is a very tough decision for us to make but at this time we have cancelled any plans to hold a prom this year. There is simply no way to ensure that social distancing measures can be enforced with this type of social activity. We are sincerely sorry that we are not able to offer this activity at this time. If circumstances change and we can figure out a way to make a senior prom happen we will.

In closing, I think we can all agree that our school year did not end the way we wanted. We did not get a chance to say goodbye and we will all wrestle with finding that closure that those end-of-the-year celebrations provide us. But while the current situation we find ourselves in is not ideal, we are determined to remain positive and make the best of it. We miss all of our students and wish our seniors nothing but the very best in their future endeavors.

Stay healthy and stay safe!

Jerry Piger, Principal  
Davison Alternative Education