



April 22, 2020

Dear HHS Senior Families,

I hope your family is healthy and well.

These are unprecedented times, yet we could not be prouder of how our senior scholars have stepped up to meet the challenge of finishing their high school careers. Once again, they have set the bar high for themselves and the rest of our students. Their work is being noticed.

I love this senior class, and I wish with all my heart that they could have the in-person graduation they deserve. The ICS leadership team has been wrestling with how to hold graduation since we had to make the difficult decision to close our schools.

I met with the senior class officers last week. After listening to these class officers (who of course want to be with their friends and celebrate their time together) and a variety of ideas from parents, after weighing what we know about the current situation and guidelines from the government, and after making our best guesses about the unknowns of the future while incorporating the speculative guidance coming out of the Indiana Department of Education, we have made the difficult decision to hold a virtual graduation.

While graduation from high school is an important rite of passage, making sure our scholars and their families are safe and healthy has always been our first priority. We will miss the excitement and emotion of sharing this important event with them, but we cannot take any chances of spreading this deadly coronavirus in our Herron High School family or the community at large.

We are passionately committed to celebrating our seniors and their time with us in every way that we can:

- Every senior will get the cap and gown they ordered along with any cords and stoles they have earned in time to take and submit a picture and short video. This will ensure that every member of the graduating class will be incorporated in and individually celebrated during the virtual ceremony.
- We will also be hosting a virtual version of our Senior Breakfast (though now it is a Senior Brunch), since current conditions allow for a later start), an iconic event that our seniors look forward to every year.
- We are giving two yard signs to every senior to provide a visual celebration and, perhaps, a background for some photos.
- And while – for now – we will not be able to gather together for a whole class photo, we are going to offer the opportunity for individual senior pictures in their cap and gown on the front

One community of two great high schools.

110 East 16th Street Indianapolis, Indiana 46202 317.231.0010

HERRON HIGH SCHOOL IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH HERRON SCHOOL OF ART AND DESIGN AT IUPUI

steps of Russell Hall. HHS will pay for the photographer as well as provide a high-resolution digital photo.

We are committed to offering our seniors an in-person gathering and celebration at Herron High School when we feel it is safe and responsible for us to do so, but it is impossible to say at this moment when that will be. The senior class officers are working on gathering everyone's contact information so we can disseminate that information down the road.

Here is a rough outline of the ways in which we will be celebrating our seniors:

- **Online Shoutouts and Celebrations**
 - Senior Instagram = HerronClassof2020
 - Class of 2020 Blog Posts – Beginning May 4 on the Herron website.
- **Virtual Senior Brunch: May 1 at noon** – Invitation coming soon.
- **Cap and Gown Pickup – May 8 & 9 in Fesler parking lot, times TBA**
 - You will be able to pick up your cap and gown, cords and stoles you have earned, your yearbook (if we receive the shipment in time), and two yard signs to help announce your graduation to your neighbors. Watch for a link to schedule a time for drive-by pickup.
 - If you have not yet purchased a yearbook and would like to do so, please email Ms. Tina Byers at tbyers@herronhighschool.org. To pay the \$55 cost of the yearbook, please:
 - Go to <https://www.herronhighschool.org/current-families/pay-now/>.
 - Scroll to the third choice of "Pay School Fees"
 - Put your **student's name** and "**Year Book**" in the Description Field.
 - Make sure you have emailed Ms. Byers so she has you on her list for distribution.
 - If you left anything in your locker, email Dr. Cooney at dcooney@herronhighschool.org at your earliest convenience, and we will have your locker contents available for pickup as well.
- **Individual Senior Photoshoots** - On the front steps of Herron High School. Details and dates coming soon.
- **Virtual Commencement for the Class of 2020 – June 6 at 2:00pm**
 - This will feature individual senior videos, cap and gown photos, speeches, music, and more. Additional details coming soon.

Seniors, I am excited to celebrate you now, but I especially look forward to the day when we can safely gather to celebrate your accomplishments in person! In the meantime, I encourage you to read through some essays on this challenging time from some of your peers in Ms. Speicher's Composition class at <https://sites.google.com/view/speichercomposition/home>. I found them to be inspiring because I know that no matter how hard this is now, you are all going to go on to do great things. I miss you, seniors!

Sincerely,



Malcolm Gilchrist
Head of School