

2020 Houston graduates and families,

The school closure that has resulted from the Covid-19 pandemic has created an unfortunate situation for our graduates. Additionally, it has made the task of planning and executing a graduation ceremony difficult. I can assure you that the administration of the Hardin-Houston School District has taken great care in considering all options for this year's ceremony. The plan that we have created is one that values our graduates and their families and adheres to the graduation ceremony guidance that has been provided by the Ohio Department of Education and the State of Ohio.

Based on that guidance we have chosen to conduct a single-family in person graduation ceremony. This letter will provide you with the important information regarding that ceremony. Please read it carefully and contact me (jjudy@hardinhouston.org) if you have questions.

1. Date of Graduation will be Friday, May 22 from 4:00 pm - 8:30pm and Saturday, May 23 from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm.
2. Each single-family ceremony will last 10 minutes.
3. Families will sign up for a 10 minute time slot within one of those two dates.
 - a. An online signup form will be made available through the school website on Friday, May 15 at 8:00 am. Time slots will be first come first serve. A One Call Now reminder will be sent out on Thursday, May 14.
4. Per state regulations the single-family ceremony must be limited to 10 total participants. Mr. Maier, Mr. Brown, and I will be three of the ten participants during each ceremony. Therefore, each graduate will be able to bring a family group of 7 people (1 graduate and 6 guests).
5. Face coverings are recommended, but not required, for all members of the ceremony
6. The graduation ceremony will occur at the front entrance of the school building. In the case of inclement weather all ceremonies will be moved inside the building.
7. All families are asked to please park in the student parking lot.
8. A staging area will be set up in front of the school to help graduates and their families prepare for their ceremony (instructions, cords, medallions, etc.).
9. All ceremonies will be recorded. Those recordings will be edited to create a complete video of all graduation ceremonies. That video will then be made public through the school website at a later date.

I realize that this is not the ceremony that our graduates had imagined. However, we believe that this unique plan allows us to properly celebrate our graduates and their accomplishments and stay within the guidelines provided by the State.

Thank you,

Jeff Judy

Houston High School Principal