May 22, 2020

Parents, Guardians, and Community Members of Canton Area School District,

As I reflect over the past two months and the work our school district has done to adapt, adjust, and pivot many times during this pandemic, I could not be more proud of not only the employees of the district, but the parents and community members as well. I think we can all agree. This had to be a team effort with all stakeholders involved. From our parents, to our teachers, our professionals, our school board and our essential employees, you all have played a critical role in our “survival” during this time. As a leader of this school district, I could not be more proud of our district and our community during this time. You all have been very understanding and flexible with our team as we navigated these “rough waters,’ and through it all, you trusted in our decision-making abilities. It is a pleasure to serve you all.

This week’s letter is much of the same content you have already seen. I will provide you with a few updates (in bold) around graduation.

Graduation

Graduation is set to move forward on May 29th. Below are the details as of today; however, please keep checking our social media outlets and the website should something change.

**5:40 PM** – Senior Video Presentation (Virtual, CASD Webpage link)

**6:00 PM** – Virtual Commencement Ceremony (Virtual, CASD Webpage)

**Approximately 7:15** – Diploma Procession (Live)

**Graduation Procession - This has been a very challenging task for us in the district. We have been working at this process for well over three weeks. In summary, we will be holding a diploma processional. We will not be able to use our original parade route as PennDOT would not approve said route. Therefore, we will be using an alternate route so our students can be seen by the community.**

**Parade Route:**

1. **The parade will start in the student parking lot.**
2. **The parade route will head west on Union Street to North Washington Street.**
3. **Left will be made on North Washington Street to Main St.**
4. **Cross Main Street to South Washington Street.**
5. **Left on  East Second Street to Fassett Street.**
6. **Left on Fassett Street to Main Street.**
7. **Cross Main Street to Chestnut Street (heading north) to Union Street.**
8. **Make a right onto Union Street and head back to the student parking lot.**

Graduation Reminders (for the public):

1. Outside of the graduation participants and their families (in their cars) we will not be allowing any visitors on site during this time. The public will not be permitted on our campus for this ceremony.
2. There will be a procession of the seniors, in their vehicles, that will move through town before receiving their diploma at the main entrance to the high school. We are asking that the public **DOES NOT** congregate in the streets for this procession. If you want to observe the procession, please do so with your families or in groups less than 25 at your private residence. The official procession route will be released next week.

Re-entry Plan - Closing Out The 2019-2020 School Year (REPEAT FROM LAST WEEK)

**PLEASE NOTE: If your child has things in the HS locker room, they need to be present to bag and collect their own things from the gym locker room.**

*Week of May 26th*

During the week of May 26th, we will be opening our buildings for our students and their parents to have curbside pickup (and delivery) of student and school contents (dates and times are listed below). In order for this to run smoothly, please **read carefully** the bulleted points below so we can be efficient throughout this process.

* All arriving traffic will enter the campus by way of the high school loop entrance closest to the auditorium.  This will be referred to as the “Warrior Entrance”.  Once you enter, there will be two lanes divided by cones and you will be directed to one of the two lanes. If you are a parent of a high school student or the parent of a high school AND elementary student, you will be directed to the left lane. If you are a parent of an elementary student and you do not have a high school student, you will be directed to the right lane. Once you have been designated to a lane, you will be informed by CASD employees on how to navigate to the respective school (elementary or high school) for pick up/drop off of student/school materials. **Please Note: East Veteran’s Drive (entrance closest to Tops) will be blocked off. Do not plan on entering the school district property through any other entrance. The only entrance that will be open to the public during this time will be the “Warrior Entrance”.**
* I am going to ask that all parents and guardians **bag any school contents** you have at your house prior to arriving to our school. Specifically, we know we are missing an abundance of textbooks, library books, calculators, athletic gear, musical instruments, and anything else that you would have that is considered school property. Please place your **child’s name, grade level, and homeroom teacher** on the bag prior to arriving to school. This will help us get the school contents back to the correct classroom teacher.
* Upon your arrival through the proper lane to the designated school, you will be required to hand off any of your child’s materials that belong to the school to the district employee and give the employee the name of your child.
* **The expectation is that all CASD personnel and families will have masks and gloves on during the distribution.**
* **Dates and Times for Pick Up/Drop Off of Student/School Materials:**
	+ Students with last names beginning with A-K Tues., 5/26/20 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM and 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM
	+ Students with last names beginning with L-Z Wed., 5/27/20 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM and 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM
	+ We understand that some families may have children with different last names. We will service all students in the household should their last name fall outside of the alphabetical system we have set up for content distribution.
	+ If traffic were to get backed up and you may block Route 414, please attempt to come back to the school at a different time to retrieve your belongings.

**CASD Ceremonies/Important Reminders**

**May 22** - Half day for Students and Staff – 11:30 “Virtual Dismissal”

**May 26 and May 27** – Student “drop off” and “pick up” (See times and directions above)

**May 29 –** CASD Graduation (See above for directions)

Yours in Education,

Eric Briggs

Eric Briggs, D.Ed.

Superintendent of Schools

Canton Area School District