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## Update #20 COVID-19 Impacts, Graduations

April 24, 2020

Dear Class of 2020 students and families:

We are writing to provide an update regarding the Class of 2020 graduation. This week's updates from Riverside County Public Health have been a sobering reminder that restrictions, large gatherings, and social distancing continues to be the standard for bringing people together.

Although this news is not unexpected, we were hopeful, and have held off on making final decisions regarding graduations. Like you, we know an in-person ceremony is everybody's preference, however, the health and safety of our students and their families and abiding by public health orders is a priority. Based upon our best guess of what type of restrictions may exist when we arrive at graduation time, the decision was made to proceed at this time with having a virtual graduation **at minimum**. If all restrictions are lifted, and large gatherings are permitted, and we can safely provide an in-person graduation ceremony on those dates, we will.

In the interim and to the extent possible, the virtual graduation ceremony will replicate as many components of an in-person graduation ceremony, including student speeches, honors, and student recognition, etc. The ceremony will be streamed for families to view from the comfort and safety of their own homes and may be shared with friends and families throughout the world.

The voice of our students is extremely important to us as we move forward in finishing this school year strongly, and as we honor and celebrate the Class of 2020. A senior exit survey will be sent to all seniors within the next two weeks. The purpose of this survey is to solicit college and career information as well as gather feedback on alternative ways we can honor and celebrate the Class of 2020 after June 30 and when and if social distancing regulations are lifted.

As we move forward with planning and identifying details for the virtual graduation ceremony, we will continue to communicate to students and families. It is important to note that each graduating senior will also be asked to participate in the virtual graduation and will have an opportunity to submit pictures and/or information they would like to share with our virtual audiences.

As difficult as this has been, we are encouraged by the Class of 2020. We acknowledge and empathize with the challenges they have faced. We also are confident that our Class of 2020 are incredible leaders and bright lights who are all destined to succeed in their chosen path!

Our future is in great hands as these students grow into our future leaders.