



Montgomery Area Jr./Sr. High School
120 Penn Street
Montgomery, PA. 17752

April 21, 2020

To Montgomery's Class of 2020,

Words can't express how deeply sorry I am that your final year has been cut short due to the global pandemic we are currently facing. As I said in my email last week, there are many missed opportunities that we will never be able to replace. However, we remain committed to providing two events that we know are very important to you and your families: prom and graduation. The contents of this letter will hopefully provide you with some clarity as far as what we are currently planning. We have no way of predicting the future and do not know what restrictions from the Governor or the PA Department of Health we will be facing in June and beyond. Please understand that nothing is definite and will depend entirely upon the guidelines in place at that time.

The prom, currently scheduled for May 15, will be moved to Wednesday, August 5, 2020. The location for the event will be the MACC, as this was the intended location all along. Specific details regarding the event will be released closer to that date. At this point, we are planning to offer the event free of charge to all juniors and seniors and their one date/guest. A valid school ID/driver's license will be required to enter and no one 21 years of age or older will be permitted. We will need the minimum number to be 200 people allowed for public gatherings by August 1, 2020 in order to proceed with the event.

Senior Awards Night, currently scheduled for June 2, will be cancelled. Award/Scholarship recipients will be posted on the district website on the day the event was scheduled. The reason we are not delaying the release of award/scholarship recipients is the fact that monetary awards factor into financial planning for college in the fall. I am being told that very few of you have applied for scholarships, despite having a meeting with Mrs. Liscum before the closure and after emails containing the scholarship forms were sent. I believe you also had individual conferences two weeks ago during which time scholarships were discussed. The deadline for some of the biggest scholarships is quickly approaching. Most others are due no later than May 1. Do not miss out on the opportunity to earn some recognition and money for your hard work over the years!

Senior class dues are being waived for the year. Those that have already paid their \$30 for the year will have their money refunded. Graduation caps and gowns will be available for pick up on Monday, April 27 and Wednesday, April 29 behind the tech wing during lunch distribution from 11:30-12:30. If you are unable to pick up your items at that time, you will need to contact Mrs. Mounsey (jmounsey@montasd.org) and make alternate arrangements. Please note, that your sophomore and junior class dues totaling \$60 must be paid in full in order to receive your cap and gown. Payment can be made in cash or a check made payable to Montgomery Senior Class on the dates listed above. Mrs. Mounsey will be emailing you with the amount you still owe.

Diplomas will be mailed to all seniors meeting the graduation requirements on Friday, June 5. We are tentatively planning two separate events for graduation. On Friday, June 5, there will be an informal graduation. We would like to have a parade through town and ultimately end up at the Pike Drive In Theatre. Once at the Pike, we will be screening the Senior Class video (currently in production by Dylan Ring). If you have not submitted your old photos/videos to Dylan, please do so as soon as possible. I also need you to complete the slideshow document that I emailed to you last week and to return that to me either through an email or shared via Google Drive. When sharing through Google, you will need to use my jstoudt@g.montasd.org address. If restrictions prevent us from utilizing the Pike, the video will be made available to families. We are also planning a formal graduation ceremony on Friday, August 7 in the jr./sr. high school auditorium. We will need the minimum number to be 250 people allowed for public gatherings by August 1, 2020 in order to proceed with the event. We will more than likely have to limit tickets to graduation for each senior. At this point, I would plan on only immediate family members being able to attend. We will have a link on the district website to a livestream of the ceremony. We realize that with a graduation in the summer, some seniors may not be in attendance due to military enlistments, vacations, etc. If all current social restrictions are lifted by Friday, May 29, we will have our traditional graduation ceremony on Friday, June 5.

There will be some other ways in which we recognize you and your class in the coming weeks. I wish I could give you some more concrete information and dates, but it isn't possible at this time. I have to plan for the worst-case scenario, but will remain optimistic that things may change. You are all in my thoughts.

Sincerely,

Joseph G. Stoudt
Montgomery Area School District
Junior/Senior High Principal