

Olmsted at Kensington

Michael Gruber Ed.D., Principal Catherine Dulak, Asst Principal James Fredo, Asst Principal Leslie Potempa, Asst Principal
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June 5, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Below you will find the graduation plan for Olmsted #156. As you realize this is not the graduation ceremony that was envisioned by anyone. However, due to the unique situation we are in, we are trying to do the best we can to ensure students are recognized for their achievements. Two issues are guiding our decisions and those of the district. The first is the coronavirus. While we want to have an appropriate ceremony, we have to do so with social distancing in mind and in accordance with guidelines set by the district and the Department of Health. That is why there will be only one car for each student. Each car will have the student and two other individuals. Cars can be decorated. The second issue is safety. We want the ceremony to be safe for everyone involved. There will be security at the ceremony to assist. The governor would not allow a large ceremony and only a specific number of students can go through each half hour.

The ceremony will take place over two days

Dates: Tuesday June 16, 2020 (Students: Ababiya to Kreuzer)

Wednesday June 17, 2020 (Students: Lamar to Wojtasik)

Time: 9:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. each day

Details:

Set-Up: The Oakmont side of the school near the auditorium will be set up just as the stage would be at Graduation – School Banner, Flowers, Table with Awards and Diplomas.

Procedures:

The school parking lot will be the staging area for parents. There will be one car for each graduate. Cars would be called from the parking lot and turn right on Hempstead and proceed to Suffolk, make a right onto Suffolk, proceed past the front of the school and make a right on to Oakmont and proceed to the graduation area. Staff will direct traffic from the parking lot. A teacher, with a walkie, will communicate to the staging area the name of the graduate coming for their diploma. Once in the graduation area Dr. Gruber will be present each graduate their diploma and any award(s) he/she may receive. Dr. Gruber will authorize the graduation for each student individually and ask the graduate to move their tassel from right to left to signify the graduate is now an alumnus of Olmsted. Students are asked to sit in the either the front or back passenger seat. The student will remain in the car. The car would be directed to move on and the next car called. Some staff will be spread out along the route of the cars – socially distant with masks – to cheer the students.

June 16th

Arrival times:

9:45 a.m. – Ababiya - Budniewski (11 students)

10:15 a.m. – Bulluck. – Floyd (10 students)

10:45 a.m. – Gajewski – Hohle (10 students)

11:15 a.m. – Hollander – Kadas (10 students)

11:45 a.m. – Kafee – Kreuzer (10 students)

June 17th

Arrival times:

9:45 a.m. – Lamar - Mattingly (10 students)

10:15 a.m. – McCrory – Mwalimu (10 students)

10:45 a.m. – Negron - Rice (10 students)

11:15 a.m. – Richardson – Schmarder (10 students)

11:45 a.m. – Serrano – Wojtasik (14 students)

Graduation Fee:

The graduation fee, as noted in the letter sent to all parents dated October 23, 2019, had \$190.00 as the graduation fee. That fee is being reduced to \$130.00. Refunds will be provided to students who paid over \$130.00. Seniors who still need to make payments can do so when they come to return their laptops and pick-up their caps and gowns. A number of students had made payments toward their senior camping trip. This money is being transferred to defray the cost of their graduation fee. If students had already paid their graduation fee, the trip money will be refunded

District Expectations

District wide expectations for all high school graduations include but are not limited to the following:

- Each verified graduate will be allowed two guests to accompany them – no exceptions
- All participants must wear a mask – please come prepared with your own personal mask
- Everyone present will follow all explicit directions defined by school staff

Please keep in mind that the Buffalo Public School District reserves the right to postpone any and all graduation events if deemed necessary for safety and security reasons. Please be well, be safe, and enjoy the commencement ceremonies of our 2020 high school graduates.

Department of Health Expectations

Schools must notify individuals attending the event, including graduates, their immediate household, or school personnel, that any individual who (1) displays symptoms consistent with COVID-19, (2) has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 14 days, or (3) within the last 14 days was a close or proximate contact of an individual who had symptoms of COVID-19 or tested positive for COVID-19, is not permitted to attend the ceremony.

General Comments:

This senior class is a really great group of young adults. We are working hard to make this a memorable day for them. It's challenging to put together a ceremony under normal conditions and under the current conditions it is mind-boggling – but we will give them something memorable. I will have a virtual meeting with students next week. I will e-mail this letter to all parents and make a robo-call. Personal calls will be made to the families of each student to let them know about the ceremony. A video of the ceremony will be available and placed on-line for students and families. What might feel like a disappointment to some now, will be a talking point 30 years from now as students relay this experience to their children and grandchildren.

Thank you all for your support.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Michael Gruber Ed.D.
Principal