



**Calvert County
Public Schools**

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Dear Families of the Class of 2020:

Like so many other aspects of 2020, the Calvert County Public Schools graduation ceremonies will not look quite like we had expected. Although the statewide social distancing guidelines mean that our graduations will not have the traditional crowds and applause, we have done our best to develop a plan that will preserve the elements of graduation that are most important to our seniors.

Our planning began with a committee of seniors, high school administrators, and central office staff. The students were vocal about the importance of an actual graduation ceremony, while recognizing that the large-scale event at the Showplace Arena would not be possible this year.

The committee believed it was important to consider which elements of graduation held significance to those most directly affected—the senior class. All of our high schools emailed a survey to the students' school email accounts, with reminders posted on social media. Of approximately 1,200 seniors, 731 responded. Their priorities were clear:

- Walk across the stage, with an opportunity for photos;
- Graduate with peers; and
- Invite their family, even if the number is limited due to the Governor's orders.

Students also preferred to delay graduation in the hopes that the stay-at-home orders would be lifted, while recognizing that some students may not be able to attend due to employment, military, and college commitments.

Calvert County Public Schools, therefore, will delay graduation until the end of June. Because we will not be in Stage 3 of Governor Hogan's Roadmap to Recovery, a traditional graduation will not be possible. Instead, we will provide two recognitions for our students. Each high school will (1) host a modified graduation, which students and their immediate family may attend, assuming that stay-at-home orders are lifted by then, and (2) broadcast a virtual ceremony.

Details are still being finalized for the school-based event, which will depend upon the Governor easing stay-at-home restrictions and allowing gatherings of more than 10 people. Most likely, small groups of students will be scheduled to report to school over the course of a few days. Seniors will walk across a stage in cap and gown to receive their diplomas—whether it is in the auditorium, the stadium, or a temporary viewing area—and social distancing measures will be followed. **Your principal will share more detailed information as it becomes available.**

The virtual ceremonies will follow the traditional graduation program and include speeches and a photo of each senior. The dates and times that the virtual ceremonies will be aired are:

- June 29 – Patuxent High School – 5:30
- June 29 – Huntingtown High School – 7:30
- June 30 – Northern High School – 5:30
- June 30 – Calvert High School – 7:30

Details for viewing will be shared by each high school.

We recognize the disappointment that many of you may be feeling at the loss of the traditional recognition of this milestone. We will do our best to celebrate the accomplishments of our students and honor their wishes in these unforeseeable times.

Yours truly,



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