Dear Graduating Seniors and families,

Graduating from high school is a momentous occasion, during these unprecedented times we wanted to ensure that you were able to take that walk across the stage to celebrate your achievements.

From August 4th through August 7th, all graduating seniors of the Class of 2020 will have the opportunity to walk across the stage, have their name announced, and participate in the diploma ceremony. For Northwestern High School, our ceremony is scheduled for Tuesday, August 4 and Wednesday August 5 and will take place in the auditorium of Northwestern High School. Students and families will have designated time assignments for their diploma ceremony.

**Number of Participants**
In order to promote the health and safety of all, we will follow and enforce all guidelines in place, each graduate is allowed to have a maximum of **two** family members accompany them into the auditorium for the diploma ceremony. *Each person is required to wear a face mask.* We will have additional custodial staff on hand to make sure that everything is cleaned and sanitized thoroughly.

**Health Screening of all participants entering Northwestern High School’s Auditorium**
Upon arrival at school for the diploma ceremony, the temperature of students and families will be taken, using a forehead thermometer, by school staff before admittance. All staff working at the graduation event/ diploma ceremony will be screened as well. It is required that everyone in attendance wear masks and practice proper social distancing. Anyone who does not meet CDC regulations will not be allowed to enter.

**Proper Graduation Attire**
All students must be in Northwestern High School’s cap and gown in order to participate in the diploma ceremony. As graduation is a formal event, seniors should follow the traditional dress code as the attire they wear beneath their gowns. We recommend that gentlemen wear dark pants, black dress shoes, and a light colored, button-up shirt with a tie or bow tie. We recommend that ladies wear a dress that does not fall beneath the hem of the gown, along with black shoes.

Any student that is still in need of a cap and gown should contact Mr. Jocita Deal at 301-985-1820.
Diploma Ceremony

Following the health screening and upon entry in the auditorium:

- Parents will enter the auditorium to watch their graduate walk cross the stage and take pictures.
- Graduates will proceed to the stage where they will receive their diploma and their diploma cover; their name will be called and they will walk across the stage.
- Graduates will exit the stage and then exit the building.
- Parents will exit at the same time as their graduate.

Graduates will need to complete the attached google form to receive their scheduled time for participation in the ceremony. Only graduates/students who respond will be scheduled to participate. All responses must be received by July 22, 2020.

Northwestern High School Graduation Participation Form - Due by Wednesday, July 22, 2020

Any graduate who does not plan to participate, may pick-up your diploma from the school on Thursday, August 6, 2020.

If you have any questions related to graduation, please don’t hesitate to call Northwestern High School at 301-985-1820.

Sincerely,

Dr. Murray
Principal
Northwestern High School