



MAYNARD H. JACKSON HIGH SCHOOL
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Greetings Class of 2020:

Let me start by sharing how proud I am of the Class of 2020. You are an amazing group of young men and young women, who will make a positive impact on our world. I truly miss you all. I am blessed to have known you and to have seen you grow over these past four years. You definitely deserve a better celebration and conclusion to your journey than our current reality. However, even in the face of our circumstances, I want to share how excited we are about your upcoming graduation. We truly hope that your time at Maynard H. Jackson High School has been personally fulfilling and academically rewarding. I know that you are well-prepared for your next journey in life.

As promised, I am sharing some important information about a variety of topics.

- **Senior Clearance Process**

- The clearance process involves your counselor ensuring that you have earned all credits required to earn a Georgia High School Diploma.
- **The last official day for most seniors is Friday, May 1, 2020.** The only exceptions to this are the students in Dual Enrollment, Credit Recovery Classes, and those working towards a Summer graduation.
Additionally, seniors who are failing a current course on May 1, 2020 will continue to work until cleared.

- **Grad Nation 2020--#WorthTheWait**

- As was shared last week, our district is moving forward with a two-step plan regarding graduation—(1) a Virtual Graduation Celebration in May; and (2) a traditional ceremony in July (or later) when State and Department of Health guidelines allow.
- In regards to the Virtual Celebration, we will need your help. I am awaiting word on the format, and will share it ASAP. Each senior will have a slide (using a common format).
 - Additionally, for this virtual celebration, we are looking to incorporate a *Don'tRushChallenge-style* montage utilizing your Cap & Gown/Diploma Cover. Obviously, this will require a VERY quick turn-around. Please make sure that you are on the Class of 2020 REMIND so that I can share info in a QUICK and EFFICIENT FASHION. (text to 81010 the message @mjhs20)
- In regards to the traditional ceremony, I will share details as they become available from the district. During last week's Town Hall, Dr. Carstarphen mentioned the possibility of the week of July 20 or July 27.

- **Distribution Dates**

- We are scheduling TWO NO-CONTACT, DRIVE-THRU dates in May in the MJHS Parking Lot to distribute items as outlined below:
 - **Distribution Date #1 (Wednesday, May 6, 2020 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm):** Cap and Gown, Diploma Cover*, T-Shirt, Pin, any available Cords/Stoles, and Surprise Gift;
 - **Distribution Date #2 (Wednesday, May 27, 2020 from 9:00 to 1:00 pm):** Diploma**, any available Cords/Stoles/Awards, Program, and possibly Yearbook***

**It is important to note that the receipt of items, like the Cap & Gown and Diploma Cover, DOES NOT DENOTE that you have officially been cleared for graduation;*

***Diplomas will be issued to May 2020 graduates who have been cleared, paid fees, and returned all school items that are owed;*

****The Yearbook may be delayed beyond this date as our printer has also been impacted by COVID-19 and is operating on a skeleton crew. We would make another pick-up date available for the yearbook if this is the case.*

- **Senior Fees**

- Our original Senior Fee amount for this year was \$225 (with a \$25 early-bird discount for payment during 1st semester). Based on our new COVID-19 reality, **we have looked at the senior fees and have adjusted the amount to \$125.** (Please note: since we sadly did not have a Prom ☹️, any unpaid Junior fees have been waived).
- This reduced amount of \$125 takes into account those expenditures that have already been made on behalf of our seniors, including the Yearbook, Diploma Cover, Program, Senior T-shirts, Bag, and Pin.
- Those students who have not paid their fees yet will still need to pay the \$125 to cover the cost of the items above. We will be opening up the online payment system for this purpose. **The new deadline for the reduced fee of \$125 is Friday, May 15, 2020.**

- **Refunds**

- To date, only about 130 seniors have paid Senior Dues. Based on the amount paid, we are preparing a spreadsheet of refunds. Additionally, we're taking into account any junior dues that were paid last year, and partially refunding those where applicable (up to \$80), since we did not have a Prom this year ☹️.
- In lieu of a refund, several parents have reached out about donating their fees. If this is something you would like to do, please e-mail me your desire to do so at adanser@atlanta.k12.ga.us
These donated funds would support other senior families who may need help covering the cost of fees this year.

- **Supply Return (Class of 2020 ONLY)**

- *JROTC Uniform*—Drop-off during Senior Distribution Day #1 on May 6
- *Musical Instrument*—Drop-off during Senior Distribution Day #1 on May 6
- *Chromebook*—Drop-off during both Distribution Days (May 6 and May 27)
- *Textbooks*—Drop-off during both Distribution Days (May 6 and May 27)

- **Clearing Lockers**

- Unfortunately, I do not know when this can occur. As soon as I receive word that we can allow entry into the building, I will arrange and communicate a schedule for students to clear lockers, starting with 2020.

- **Ongoing Support**

- Typically, this time of year for seniors, while exciting, often brings about feelings of anxiety and uncertainty about what lies ahead beyond high school. For many, this pandemic could be exacerbating those feelings. This is perfectly natural and normal, as you are about to experience a huge transition during an unprecedented time in our history. Please remember that we have many people here at MJHS who are still able and willing to support you, even from afar. These support staff include counselors, administrators, the graduation coach, the social worker, teachers, and myself. All you have to do is ask. We are here for you!

In closing, I want to reiterate how proud I am of your accomplishments and look forward to celebrating the culmination of your K-12 educational journey, albeit in a different way than ever before.

MJJ ALL DAY! CLASS OF 2020 ALL THE WAY!

Adam J. Danser, Principal