



Glenda Cowell, Principal

Doug Evers, Asst. Principal/A.D.

Dave Fennewald, Asst. Principal

July 14, 2020

Dear Graduating Seniors and Parents of Graduating Seniors,

Our graduation date is approaching rapidly, and as you know, guidance and restrictions fluctuate. In a world that is ever-changing, please know this: we care about our graduates and their families! We care about their education along with their safety and wellness!

We've been cooperating with the recommendations and guidelines from the Sedgwick County Health Department. As life looks different this year, graduation will look different this year. Even though we will celebrate in a unique way, we've worked to find a way for our seniors to be together during this milestone. In accordance with the Sedgwick County Health Department, we will hold graduation as a Drive-In at the Mulvane High School parking lot on July 25th at 9:00 a.m., with a rain delay date of July 26th at 7:30 p.m. We need to follow several guidelines to hold graduation together, but we can do this!

I realize this is not what we had planned and hoped for this year's graduation! As COVID cases have risen steadily, it's very challenging to find a way to hold an event with nearly 1,000 people in attendance. The Drive-In allows us to meet the guidelines while holding a live graduation ceremony with seniors and their families together at one site. I know this format is not ideal, but we have worked to persevere in finding a safe way to hold an in-person graduation option during this time. One thing's for certain, we will definitely remember the Class of 2020!

Here's more information about our memorable Drive-In Graduation plan:

- We invite all of our graduates and a few of their friends and/or family members to join us in celebrating graduation at MHS. Each graduate will be allotted one parking space for one vehicle at the MHS Parking Lot during graduation. Seniors are welcome to have other friends or family members ride in the vehicle with them. If your parents live in two separate homes, you are welcome to arrive with one additional vehicle.
- You are welcome to decorate your vehicle in honor of your senior.
- Seniors should arrive in their graduation attire between 8:15 and 8:55 a.m. The entry gate will be closed at 9:00 a.m.
- Please be patient when parking. We will stagger parking spaces, leaving every other parking space open for social distancing. All cars should face the sidewalk in the center of the parking lot. A map is attached. [MHS parking lot Map for Graduation.pdf](#)
- Plan ahead: once on school property, all seniors and guests need to remain in the vehicle. Restrooms will NOT be available.
- At the appropriate time, an usher will direct each senior to step out of the vehicle and walk to the graduation stage. Social distance markers will be noted on the sidewalk leading up to the stage. One family member or friend may exit the vehicle to take pictures of your student crossing the stage. **When**

you exit the vehicle, you must wear a mask and maintain 6 feet distance from others. (Graduates and guests will need to bring their own masks.)

- As you approach the stage, you will be given a card with your name on it. As you go across the stage, you will hold this up for Mr. Fennewald to read, and then drop it into a container. You will be given your diploma cover as you cross the stage, but as directed, we will not shake hands. Then, as you exit the stage, you will pick up your actual diploma from Mrs. Dinkel, and return to your vehicle.
- A sound system will be set up in the parking lot. You're welcome to roll down your windows and enjoy the graduation or turn on the car and listen to graduation through FM Radio. Additionally, we'll be sharing graduation through Facebook Live so friends and family may watch.
- When graduation concludes Officer Bohannon will lead graduates, in their vehicles, out of the school parking lot into town, so that seniors can find their graduation banner provided by the Mulvane Community Foundation and displayed by the City of Mulvane.
- The parking lot will close for clean up immediately following graduation.
- We will not hold graduation practice. An instructional video will be emailed on July 24th.
- The MHS Parking lot will be closed at noon on Friday, July 24th for setup.
- Modified Dress Code for 2020 Graduation Outside
 - **Gentlemen:** slacks and/or dress shorts of any solid color, collared shirt (any color polos, short-sleeved, or long-sleeved fine), no tie or socks required, closed-toed non-tennis shoes (deck shoes, boat shoes, slip-ons, Sperry's fine)
 - **Ladies:** think light and dressy, any combination of white shirt/blouse, dress, skirt, slacks, or capris, and dressy flat bottomed or block heeled shoes or sandals in white, tan, beige, pastel (no flip flops, no Birks, no Converse, no tennis shoes). If white clothes are of particular concern, wear light pastel colors, avoiding prints, words, or designs. If unsure, send a pic to rjansen@usd263.org or jmyers@usd263.org for feedback.
 - Honor Cords and Stoles issued by MHS and/or earned in conjunction with cooperating dual credit education institutions may be worn. Respectfully refrain from wearing other items during the ceremony.

As we all know, this plan is subject to change at any time due to health concerns and restrictions. We will let you know as soon as possible if this plan needs to change.

We also understand that some students may not join us for graduation, and we respect their decision. Diplomas will be available for pick up at MHS on Monday, July 27th from 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Remaining diplomas will be available for pick up at the USD 263 District Office on July 28th from 7:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

If you have questions or concerns, please email MHS Administration or call the USD 263 Central Office at 316-777-1102. We will gladly work with students and parents to address questions and concerns. We are looking forward to celebrating the Class of 2020 in a creative and historic way!

Sincerely,



Glenda G. Cowell, MHS Principal