May 26, 2020

Dear Class of 2020, Parents/Guardians,

The past two months have certainly been a challenge for all members of the B-P community. This is especially true for the Class of 2020. This time of the year is typically filled with excitement for the end-of-the-year activities: Prom, Senior Awards Night, Senior Success Day, Yearbook signing, and most of all, Graduation. These are events seniors have been looking forward to for years, and it is unfortunate that they will not proceed as anticipated. Regardless, this is an exciting time in your school career, and we plan to make it a celebration to remember!

We have come up with a graduation ceremony that will take place at Bristol-Plymouth on Saturday, June 13, 2020, at 10 a.m. rain or shine. In order for this to happen, we must follow very strict safety measures that are extremely important for all to adhere to. Please be patient with the logistics and time that this process may take. The schedule below is approximate times, but the arrival at the pre-staged parking areas is very important.

Prior to June 13th, the first portion of the graduation ceremony that includes the welcome, pledge, national anthem, special awards, commencement speaker, class president and valedictorian speeches will be pre-recorded. The recordings of these events will be shared on the B-P website upon completion of the video.

On Saturday, June 13, 2020, at 10 a.m., the diploma presentations will take place outdoors in front of the main office area of the school in a caravan/drive-thru style graduation ceremony. Graduating seniors, and their families, will travel, at staggered times, to Bristol-Plymouth’s campus, entering from County St. only. There will be a procession to follow and you will exit on Hart St. only. Seniors should come wearing their caps, gowns, honor cords, pins, military or scouting distinction, and tassels. There will be no time for attire alterations once on campus. Tassels should be worn on the right side of the cap until the senior is declared a B-P graduate (after receiving the diploma). The details are outlined as follows:

- One car is allowed per graduate. Vehicles without a graduating senior will not be permitted into the B-P parking lots. We cannot accommodate additional spectators.
- Students and families can decorate their vehicles if they choose to do so. Any decorations should be appropriate for such an event.
- All students and their families MUST remain in their vehicles throughout the entire ceremony from the pre-staged areas, parade to Main Office Entrance, and after diploma presentation, unless it is the student’s turn for his/her diploma presentation.
- You will be greeted by a member of the B-P staff and directed to a pre-staged parking lot area until it is time to proceed. Pre-staged parking areas will be by shop within the student parking lots with parking attendants to offer directions for the flow of traffic around the building.
- You will receive a paper to display with your name and shop on it to post on your car’s dashboard for viewing by the administration to read.
- Begin arriving at the pre-stage parking areas from County St. at 9:30 a.m. at the following scheduled times:
• At 10 a.m. the first shop will begin to parade to the front of the school for the presentation of diplomas.
• Cars will stay in the shop procession line in the front of the school (as directed by attendants).
• **Only the graduate will exit the vehicle** as their car approaches the graduation area to proceed to diploma pick-up.
• Diplomas will be opened and laid out on tables with the student’s name for easy pick-up. **OR**
• Each diploma will only be handled by one person (either the Superintendent or a School Committee member) who will be wearing masks and gloves.
• Students should wear the tassel on the right side of the cap, and after receiving their diploma will shift his/her tassel from right to left, and will be a Bristol-Plymouth RTS graduate.
• The graduate will proceed to the Lifetouch professional photographer staged photo area and will take a graduation picture. Any additional pictures will have to be taken off campus.
• The student graduate will immediately return to the vehicle and exit out through the Hart St. exit.
• There will not be an option to stop and take pictures on the school grounds during this ceremony to keep everyone safe through this traffic flow.
• Some faculty and staff members may be positioned around the campus and waving, cheering, and possibly holding signs to acknowledge our graduates as they exit the campus. It is imperative that seniors **DO NOT** exit their vehicles at another time to attempt to hug or shake hands with any of the faculty and staff. This measure is put in place for the students’ and staff’s safety.
• The Taunton Police Department will provide the police detail that we need to ensure everyone is adhering to the graduation drive-thru plan and following all established school and campus rules.
• If it rains, we will proceed as planned. We will put tents up to shield the rain in the front of the building.
• During this caravan graduation ceremony, the building will be closed and off-limits. Therefore, we will not have access to public bathrooms. Two portable bathrooms will be available in the pre-staged parking lots.
• Graduation presentation of diplomas will be live-streamed and videotaped for a complete graduation ceremony to be available at www.bptech.org. During the live-stream portion, the ceremony can be viewed from any device and from any location.

In closing, I am attaching a campus map for your reference for entering, parking, proceeding, and exiting the campus. If you or anyone in your family is exhibiting any COVID-19 symptoms or have potentially exposed to some with confirmed or suspected COVID-19, please do not attend the graduation ceremony. We will be happy to schedule an individual, private ceremony over the summer with you and your family! I would like to thank the B-P faculty and staff, the City of Taunton, Taunton Police Dept., the Superintendent, and the School Committee for their support of this plan. I look forward to seeing you all on June 13th!

Sincerely,

Karen Guenette