

## **Commencement and Senior Awards Ceremony**

### **Senior Awards Ceremony**

- Will be held as a virtual ceremony on Tuesday, May 19 at 6:30 PM.
- All scholarships and senior awards will be presented.
- Special presentations will be made by donors and staff as we reveal senior students being honored.
- The recording will be accessible through the Mason City Community Schools District Website as well as an online format in partnership with the Globe Gazette. Additional details will be shared upon availability of the video.
- Award certificates and plaques will be mailed and/or delivered to students.
- New this year will be the opportunity for recipients to take a picture of themselves with their scholarship or award and post a thank you on the website with the Globe Gazette.
- This new format provides the ability to extend the memory of this evening beyond our walls while recognizing our seniors for their achievements.

### **Graduation Commencement Ceremony**

#### **Option #1:**

- Our first option remains hopeful that restrictions will be lifted that allow us to hold a live commencement ceremony in person on Sunday, June 7 at 2:00 PM. A typical graduation brings 3,000 plus to our school for the commencement ceremony.
- Our rationale for keeping June 7 as our official graduation date: leaving this to unknowns and uncertainty in timelines will likely increase stress for all involved; and we are not able to predict what restrictions will or will not be in place throughout the summer.
- The number of attendees will be restricted to approximately 1,000 people, including each senior graduate and up to 4 guests.
- The ceremony will be held outside at the Mohawk Football Stadium to maximize our space and ability to safely distance. Alternate plans will be communicated in case of inclement weather.
- For the health and safety of all, Option #1 will only be considered if current restrictions on gatherings have been lifted by June 1.

#### **Option #2:**

- Given the likelihood that 1,000 people will not be allowed to gather in the same location this summer, we have also planned for a more intimate in person commencement ceremony.
- Each Senior graduate and their 4 guests will still be allowed to participate in a live format.

- Groups of students and families will be spaced out safely in a format that allows seniors to walk across the stage in their cap and gown, collect their diploma, and get their picture taken by a professional photographer.
- This graduation ceremony will take place outside on our football field at Mohawk Stadium. (If weather does not permit, the Mohawk Gymnasium will be used as a backup location.)
- **A sign-up for time slots** will be sent to students to select a 30 minute window of time on Thursday, June 11 and Friday, June 12. Special time slots will be reserved on each day for students/families that have high risk members to ensure their health and well-being.
- This option maintains a traditional format of commencement that includes senior speeches, a graduation program, recognition of students, a professional photograph, and the opportunity for graduates to walk across the stage in their cap and gown in front of family.
- A professional video recording of our entire graduation ceremony will be shared with our families. Please allow four weeks after graduation for this to be completed. The recording will be accessible through the Mason City Community Schools District Website as well as an online format in partnership with the Globe Gazette. Additional details will be shared upon availability of the video.
- Option #2 will be used for commencement if restrictions have not been lifted by June 1 that allow for large gatherings of people.

## **Academic Hall of Fame**

### **Option #1:**

- Our first option remains hopeful that restrictions will be lifted that allow us to hold a live commencement ceremony in person on Sunday, June 7 at 2:00 PM. If this occurs, the Academic Hall of Fame will be held in person in the FEMA room prior to graduation at 12:30 PM.
- Restrictions will be in place to reduce the number of people in attendance to each eligible senior graduate and their 4 guests.
- Placing of name placards and pictures will be included as part of this ceremony.

### **Option #2:**

- Given the likelihood that 1,000 people will not be allowed to gather in the same location this summer, we have also planned for a more intimate in person commencement ceremony.
- Following Graduation Option #2 above, eligible senior graduates and their 4 guests will still be allowed to participate in a live format of the induction into the Academic Hall of Fame on Wednesday, June 10.
- Each eligible student and their 4 guests will come to the high school to place their name placard on the wall. Student biographies will be read and pictures can be taken.

- A sign up for time slots will be sent to students to select a time on Wednesday, June 10 that will allow all to safely distance during the ceremony.

We recognize the end of this school year has presented many challenges for our senior students. To help create lasting memories and provide special recognition to our senior class the following are also being done:

### **Special Senior Recognition**

- **Yard Signs** - In an effort to make our recognition visible, signs have been placed in senior's yards as a special shout out to all our seniors. This was included as part of a google form sent out to senior students. If you are still in need of a sign, please call the high school at 641-421-4436.
- **Senior Salute/Part 1** - Information and senior pictures have been collected to put together a salute to our seniors. This will be made available for all to view in an online format through the Globe Gazette. If you have not completed the survey sent out by Mrs. Wymore to collect your information, please email Mrs. Wymore at [kwymore@masoncityschools.org](mailto:kwymore@masoncityschools.org)
- **Senior Salute/Part 2** - Each building in the district is creating their own version of something visual to recognize our seniors. Since we can't revisit these places together, we hope this serves as a positive way to let you know we are thinking of you.
- **Caps and Gowns** - As a special acknowledgement to our senior graduates, the MCHS Student Senate is paying for the expense of caps and gowns. In collaboration with Cooper Cap and Gowns, for the first time, graduating seniors will be able to keep their cap, gown, and tassel as a memento.
- **Access to video of Senior Awards Ceremony and Graduation Commencement** Once videos are completed, a link to the video for our Senior Awards Ceremony and our Graduation Commencement will be posted on our district website at [www.masoncityschools.org](http://www.masoncityschools.org). Additional details will be shared upon availability of videos.