



## BRANDYWINE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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**LINCOLN HOHLER**  
*Superintendent*

**RALPH ACKERMAN**  
*President, Board of Education*

**JOHN A. SKROBOT, III**  
*Vice President, Board of Education*

May 12, 2020

Dear BSD Class of 2020,

This month should be full of celebrations and important rites of passage for you: spring concerts and musicals, athletic events, prom, final projects and exams, award ceremonies, and of course commencement. Instead, we are all staying home to stay safe, learning and teaching remotely, adjusting to the new normal, and eagerly anticipating a return to some of the social activities we love and miss, even if they are greatly modified. A few weeks ago, you provided us with your input on two of those important events – prom and commencement. Thank you for taking the time to provide your feedback and thoughts. We heard you.

As I reported in the School Board meeting last week, there will not be a virtual graduation ceremony on May 31. We will honor our seniors this month in various ways, some of which have already begun. However, based on the results of the survey and careful consideration by members of our District and school administrative teams, we are going to delay an official celebration of the Class of 2020 until this summer. Our final decision and plan forward will take into account the health, safety, and welfare of our students, staff, families, and greater community based on the guidelines and recommendations of the Governor's Office, Department of Education, Division of Public Health, and CDC.

With that in mind, I have a few updates to share with you. Please reserve the week of July 26 to August 1, 2020 for BSD's Class of 2020 celebration at our three high schools. At this point, there are a few options being considered: indoors or outdoors (with a rain date), full or modified traditional ceremony, individual or small group celebrations on campus, or virtual ceremony. On Monday, July 13, we will make a final decision about the path forward based on the current restrictions and conditions. This will give us time to finalize our plans while giving your family notice so they can make arrangements as well. For this reason, our decision will have to be absolute on July 13 unless conditions worsen and restrictions are tightened, requiring us to scale back in order to conform to the most recent guidelines.

Please know that we are doing our best to provide you with a commemoration of your accomplishments that is as festive and celebratory as the conditions will allow. Our number one responsibility is to ensure safety, but as long as we can do that we will do everything in our power to give you the sendoff you have earned. Your principal will communicate with you regarding a prom update. In the meantime, know that we are all so proud of you for the resilience, perseverance, and patience you have demonstrated throughout these difficult circumstances.

Stay well!

Sincerely,

Lincoln Hohler  
Superintendent