



May 26, 2020

Good afternoon seniors and senior families,

You may have heard that Spokane schools have announced their graduation plans, and I have received many questions about how Phase 2 changes our plan. The simple answer is that it does not, our plan was contingent on Phase 2 being in effect. Below I have provided a look at the basics of the plan for the Spokane schools and then discuss our plan.

The following is an excerpt from the *Spokesman Review* regarding the plan for the Spokane's public schools:

- "Graduates will arrive at a scheduled time with family members in their own vehicles, probably in groups of 10 cars every 15 minutes.
- Only one car will be allowed for each graduate as plans currently stand.
- The graduate will exit the vehicle, walk to a stage or platform and pick up their diploma.
- As they do so, they will be videotaped and photographed. At that point, the graduate will exit the stage, return to their vehicle and drive away.
- The individual videos will be edited, combined and sent to families by the end of June, the board was told."

The plan for NWCS:

NWC has been fortunate to already have done much of what the public schools are planning to do (when we held the Senior Parade); we see an opportunity for more. According the "Graduation Guidelines" provided by Washington State, the movement to Phase 2 allows us to **bring individual seniors into the building to walk the stage** and receive their diploma (this is filmed to be included into a graduation video). What this means for us is that we can set up a stage in the their school and film our seniors walking that stage, picking up their diploma, and posing for photos.

We *have* set-up the stage in our chapel and are preparing for seniors to come in to the school. I (or one of our Senior Advisors) and the videographer will meet with each senior so they can walk the stage in their cap and gown and receive their diploma. And, based on the Phase 2 allowance to "Gather with no more than 5 people," (*Washington's Phased Approach*) **we can ask parents to join us to witness this momentous event** (keeping it to a gathering of no more than 5).

We are planning to do the filming of this next **Monday, June 1, starting at 1 PM**, and it will be incorporated into our graduation video.

We will be scheduling 10 minute sessions for each senior. Mr. Taylor is in charge of scheduling, and he and Mrs. House will be in contact with all of you soon to sign-up for times and to communicate the basic procedures we need to follow (We will provide a clean and disinfected location and will be following the health and safety guidelines laid out by the health department throughout).

I know this is not yet the full celebration we hope for, but in light of the current situation, we are very excited to **bring seniors back IN and to include parents.**

Recap of our graduation plan:

As part of the graduation video, which includes speeches by valedictorians, announcement of awards, and the "Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony," we will

- bring individual seniors and their parents into the school for a 10-minute session
- seniors will walk the stage in their cap and gown, pick up their diploma, and be photographed
 - parents are invited to be in the room to witness, take pictures, and pose with the graduate on stage
- this will be filmed and incorporated into a graduation video, which will be released June 6, 11 AM
 - If there is significant interest, we can bring in a large outdoor screen for a live viewing as mentioned in last week's letter.
- hopeful for a full gathering by early August

God bless,

Christopher Wells

Dean of Students and Instruction NWCS

English Teacher

AP Language and Composition;

College Composition/ EWU-ENGL101 & 201

cwells@nwcs.org