



Notre Dame-Bishop Gibbons School

2600 Albany Street · Schenectady, NY 12304-1899 · (518) 393-3131 · Fax (518) 370-3817

Dear ND-BG School Community Members:

Our senior class has faced a spring semester like no other in the history of our school. Due to this fact I feel that we have an obligation to work together to ensure a memorable ceremony for the historic Class of 2020. I write today to share information related to our plans for the Notre Dame-Bishop Gibbons Class of 2020 graduation ceremony.

We have reached a conclusion that it would be unsafe and irresponsible to plan a public event like our graduation ceremony for our originally scheduled date of June 13, 2020. You were notified of this fact in the correspondence you received from Superintendent Virgiglio over a week ago.

In addition, our administration does not want to rush through a virtual or curbside graduation ceremony. Our students, teachers, and families have all put in too much effort to reduce this culminating experience into something less than spectacular. Our students deserve better due to the circumstances that they have found themselves in for their last months of their high school experience.

We have focused our planning on a traditional graduation ceremony, while proceeding safely and in accordance with the government guidelines that are in place when the ceremony takes place. Every effort will be made to honor our traditions and allow for the memorable and formal event our graduates deserve. However, we anticipate the need for flexibility and patience due to the many restrictions that have been placed on us.

The first attempt for the graduation ceremony will be July 11, 2020 at 9am. In the event that it is not possible to host a graduation ceremony on this date due to gathering or other restrictions, we will use July 25, 2020 at 9am. The location of the graduation will be shared at a later date. Committees have been formed at the diocesan and school levels to assist in the planning of the event. The diocesan committee will assist in reaching conclusions on issues that relate to safety and health, while the local committee will focus on the particulars of ceremony. We hope that this partnership leads to a meaningful experience for our students and families that is also safe for all participants.

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*A Catholic School
of Academic Excellence*
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We ask for your patience and understanding as we proceed with this planning process. We don't anticipate perfection due to the restrictions that have been placed upon us, but we do aim to have a special event for our graduates that also honors our school's traditions. Your cooperation and support are appreciated. You can anticipate receiving updates as decisions are made and as information becomes available to us. I again thank you for your commitment and support of our graduates.

Sincerely,

Mr. Jones

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