



Caesar Rodney High School

Home Of The Riders

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Dr. Sherry Kijowski, Principal
239 Old North Road · Camden, DE 19934

April 27, 2020

Dear CRHS Family,

We hope that this letter finds you safe, healthy, and social distancing. The past few weeks have been filled with a number of changes and uncertainties that have impacted all of us in one way or another. This time has been especially difficult for the 477 students that are part of Caesar Rodney's Class of 2020 and their families. Their senior year was cut short and they are missing out on the events and milestones that make senior year so memorable. The CRHS admin team and I are as heartbroken and as disappointed as they are. We wish we were together as they transition from the familiarity of CRHS to the next chapter of their lives while pursuing their post-secondary goals.

Given Governor Carney's orders that Delaware schools remain closed through the end of the 2019-2020 school year, and with the current stay-at-home order and social distancing guidelines still in place, we have developed alternate plans for several senior events and commencement. We have also created a few additional ways to recognize and celebrate this year's senior class. Our hope is that we can all work together to honor our seniors, make their end-of-year events meaningful, and preserve as many Caesar Rodney traditions as possible.

Commencement for the Class of 2020

In the event that the stay-at-home order and social distancing guidelines are lifted prior to June 6, 2020, Caesar Rodney High School will hold commencement as previously scheduled in Rider Stadium. However, given that schools are closed for the remainder of the year, it is highly unlikely that graduation will be held on our campus at that time.

In the event that commencement cannot be held on June 6th, we have selected Saturday, July 25th @ 9:00 am as the alternate date for commencement in Rider Stadium. The number of guests admitted to the stadium will be determined by Delaware's safe social distancing guidelines at that time. If large gatherings continue to be prohibited on this date, the in-person ceremony will only involve the students in the stadium with their classmates (similar to the U.S. Air Force Academy's graduation). And, if the size of the graduation class prohibits us from having all of the seniors in the stadium simultaneously, students will graduate alphabetically at a designated time. If we are unable to hold the ceremony on July 25th due to restrictions or weather, an alternate plan will be arranged for a ceremony on Saturday, August 1st. Any ceremony designed by CRHS will be streamed on YouTube for families to view as well (just like we've done in year's past).

If the change in date does not allow for a senior to participate in our summer graduation ceremony, the diploma can be mailed to his / her home address. This request should be emailed to Dr. Sherry Kijowski (sherry.kijowski@cr.k12.de.us).

Senior Tribute Video

We are working on a tribute video for the Class of 2020 and are planning to stream the video on YouTube on June 6th. Please stay tuned to our social media accounts for additional details in the near future.

Senior Awards Ceremony

The senior awards ceremony scheduled for Thursday, June 4th has been cancelled and will not be rescheduled. However, those students who have received an award or scholarship will be recognized in the official printed commencement program and will receive their awards during the summer. Caesar Rodney thank you notes will also be provided for students to send to their benefactors.

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The Caesar Rodney School District is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate in employment or educational programs, services or activities based on race, color, religion, national origin, veteran or marital status, age, disability, sexual orientation or genetic information in accordance with state and federal laws. Inquiries about compliance should be made to the Title IX, District 504 and ADA Compliance Officers: Paul L. Dunbar Administration Building, 7 Front Street, Wyoming, DE 19934. Phone (302) 698-4800

Recognizing & Celebrating Seniors

- **Door Decorating**

Caesar Rodney High School has already started recognizing seniors with their “door posts” on our social media channels. If you have not already done so, we encourage families to decorate their front door, or another area of their home, with pictures and memorabilia of their senior year. Please send a photo of your decorated door to sherry.kijowski@cr.k12.de.us.

- **Yard Signs**

The CRHS administration, faculty, and members of the board of education will distribute and post a yard sign keepsake for each member of the Class of 2020, beginning April 30th. Stay tuned for your visit and be patient since we have 477 signs to deliver! We hope to see lots of social media posts with you and your sign!

- **Electronic Billboard**

Mark and Ruby Schaeffer have graciously donated electronic billboard space to the CRHS Class of 2020. Their billboard is located near the Royal Farms on Route 10. Senior photos will be displayed on the board for 45 days of celebration and recognition. We anticipate that the billboard will go live during the week of May 4th.

- **Yearbooks and Caps / Gowns**

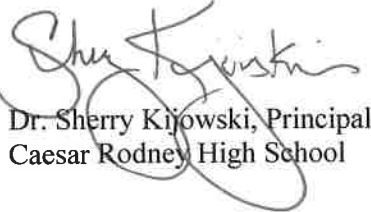
CRHS staff members and volunteers will also work with Jostens distribute caps & gowns and yearbooks as soon as they are received and organized. This will likely be in mid-May. Stay tuned for school messenger phone calls regarding distribution dates.

We will also celebrate our seniors during “Caesar Rodney Senior Week” June 1 -- 5, 2020. The days will include following themes for social media (all pictures should be emailed to sherry.kijowski@cr.k12.de.us):

- Monday (6/1) – All In Day! What clubs, activities, and teams did you participate in at Caesar Rodney? Share a picture or two with some of your favorite pastimes!
- Tuesday (6/2) – So Long Ago! What are some of your best memories from elementary school and middle school? Show us those awkward haircuts and outfits that mom insisted you wear!
- Wednesday (6/3) -- Lights on for CRHS Seniors. We encourage everyone in the Rider community to turn on their porch lights at 8 p.m. to show our support and love for the Class of 2020! Take a ride around town and see the community’s support for you.
- Thursday (6/4) -- Throwback Thursday / Favorite CRHS Memory Day
- Friday (6/5) -- #crhsproud! Tell us something that makes you proud to have graduated from Caesar Rodney High School

As the circumstances surrounding COVID-19 continue to evolve, we will be sending more specific details regarding these events as the dates approach. We appreciate your continued support and patience as we work together to develop a plan that will (hopefully) allow us to hold our traditional end-of-year events, albeit later than we originally planned for.

Go Riders!



Dr. Sherry Kijowski, Principal
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