

Channahon Junior High School
24917 W. Sioux Drive
Channahon, IL 60410
Home of the Indians!



Dr. Chad Uphoff, Principal
Mr. Brad Homerding, Athletic Director
Mrs. Maura Krakowski, School Social Worker

Phone: (815) 467-4314
Fax: (815) 467-2188

May 19, 2020

Dear 8th Grade Students, Parents/Guardians,

Based on the Governor's 5-Phased Plan to re-open Illinois that was announced on May 5th, I no longer foresee any chance that we would be able to have our in-person, socially distanced, football field graduation ceremony in June or July. We have created a new plan for graduation that I am just as excited about, and I hope you will be too. It is titled the **"CJHS Graduation & Diploma Walk"** ceremony. It will take place in the CJHS parking lot on our original graduation date of **May 28th**. **I feel this will provide students, parents and the CJHS staff, an opportunity for some much needed, and much deserved, celebration!** Details are as follows:

- **Each graduate will receive an assigned time slot to receive their diploma at the Graduation Diploma Walk.** Your assigned time slot will be sometime between 3:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 28th. **If any families need a time slot after 5:00 p.m. due to work purposes**, a parent should please email me at cuphoff@csd17.org immediately (before the end of business this Wednesday, May 20th). Due to a limited number of nighttime slots, please only request that if it is needed for work purposes. **You will receive your assigned Diploma Walk time slot this Friday, May 22nd, at 8th Grade Pick-up Day.**
- **8th Grade Pick-up Day is being moved to this Friday, May 22nd (see the 8th grade pick-up day letter I sent today for your exact pick-up/drop-off time range).** Graduates will receive their cap and gown, including all regalia they have earned, on **this day (May 22nd)**. This will give you time to steam out any wrinkles in the gown. Graduates should wear their cap and gown to receive their diploma.
- **How will the ceremony on the 28th work?**
 - You will drive your graduate to the school at their assigned time (please drive into the school main entrance on Sioux Drive via the west, or Navajo Drive). This will avoid traffic congestion.
 - The parents, or same household family, may ride in one car and attend. If custodial parents do not live in the same household, you may ride in two cars (just enter the parking lot at the same time).
 - You will enter the main entrance (bus lane) in front of the school. You will be directed to go into one of two lanes. At the end of that lane, you will be directed to stop at the "on-deck" location.
 - When it is your turn, you will be sent to one of two parking spots, one on each edge of the big east lot. Mr. Homerding is ten feet from one spot, and I am ten feet from the other.
 - The graduate gets out of the car and has their complete name read by Mr. Homerding or Dr. Uphoff. **The graduate does a "Diploma Walk"** to a table in the center of the lot to receive their diploma. They will have their picture taken and receive their diploma/awards packet. They walk back to the car and leave the parking lot. **This will take approximately three minutes to complete.**
 - Graduates will exit to the east, toward Dove and Sunset.

- **Guests:** 1) Same household family members can be in the one car. We will allow the parents to get out of the car to film or take pictures of the **diploma walk**. 2) We will film the ceremony as a whole, and release it on Youtube within a couple weeks for other family members to see. We are hiring a photographer to take a picture near the diploma table. More information will be shared on that at a later date.
- **Safety & Social Distancing:** Any CJHS adult working the event, or cheering on the graduates, will be wearing masks and always remain at least ten feet from the graduate. The graduate will not have to shake hands or come into contact with anyone at the ceremony. If any family has safety concerns with the Diploma Walk, you may choose to receive the diploma and graduation packet in your car window.
- Due to the high volume of steady traffic moving through the JH on the 28th, and the need to keep the event socially distanced and safe for all, we would please ask that families not stop for any additional pictures on that night between the hours of 3:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. The CJHS Teachers are setting up a wonderful **“Graduation Celebration” Picture Spot** in front of the CJHS. I will email families and students when this picture spot is ready for pictures (it will be a ‘stop by’ on your own schedule). We anticipate it may be ready as early as this Friday afternoon in the lawn in front of the building by Sioux Drive (May 22nd).

The Channahon Junior High Faculty & Staff, District 17 Board of Education, Dr. Henkle, Mr. Homerding and myself, are honored to be a part of this important milestone event in the lives of these graduates on May 28th. I hope all of our graduates, and their parents, will be able to participate. These graduates have demonstrated great perseverance and resilience throughout the past two historic months. We are very proud of what they have accomplished!

Sincerely,

Chad Uphoff
Principal
Channahon Junior High School

cuphoff@csd17.org
(815) 733-0167