April 19, 2021

Dear Senior Parent(s) & Guardian(s),

This letter will serve as an update to our ongoing correspondence on graduation. We will still be holding a modified traditional graduation for our seniors on Friday, June 25th. Due to current Executive Order given by Governor Cuomo and Department of Health regulations, we will need to change our original plans and split graduation into two separate ceremonies. The ceremonies will take place at 11:00 AM & 4 PM in front of Chester Academy. In the event of rain, the ceremony will be postponed until Saturday, June 26th (audience 1 (9 AM) & audience 2 (11 AM). You will be able to select the ceremony that best works for your needs using PTC Fast. The link will go live on Monday, May 10th at 7pm.

Please note, the ceremony number you select for June 25th will also correspond with the ceremony number for the rain date.

https://www.ptcfast.com/schools/Chester_Academy_Parent_2021_High_School_Graduation

In light of the current guidelines & restrictions, attendance will be strictly limited to our graduates and two tickets for parents/ guardians. Each graduate will receive two tickets in the mail. Please make sure to bring those tickets with you for admission to the ceremony. We are requiring all parents & students to wear a mask at all times and remain at least 6 feet from others that are not in your family group, throughout the graduation. Masks may only be taken off when your student is having their picture taken by our photographer while receiving their diploma. As stated, this is a traditional ceremony. We will follow our annual format, with some adjustments, given our current circumstances. Both ceremonies will be streamed live so that family and friends can celebrate at home.

If students are receiving any community scholarships or awards, they will also be recognized at this time. Their diploma and any awards will be placed in their diploma sleeve in advance of the ceremony.

To ensure proper social distancing, we are requiring graduates and their parents/ guardians to arrive in one car together starting no earlier than thirty minutes prior to the ceremony. Please remain in your car until ten minutes prior to the start of the ceremony. At this time, parents will proceed to their seats and students will report to the teacher parking lot (next to the gym) to line up for the procession. Staff will be present to direct cars to designated parking spots in the rear of the building. All seating will be six feet apart in our audience. Given the small size of our ceremony and the spacing between chairs, all seats will provide a great view of the ceremony. Social distancing will be maintained for all students, parents, and staff throughout the entirety of our commencement. At the conclusion of the ceremony, instructions will be given for a safe, socially distanced departure from the campus.

We ask all students, parents and guardians to stay home if you are sick. Also, if you are traveling prior to the graduation, please check for updates on the New York State travel Advisory webpage. (https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory)

We are looking forward to a memorable celebration of the Class of 2021! Further guidance regarding specific student and family procedures will be provided, as we get closer to the graduation ceremony.

Respectfully,
John Flanagan