

Dear Class of 2020 Parents and Guardians,

Around this time you would normally be receiving your Brimmer and May School Commencement invitation and tickets, along with details about the final weeks of school for the Class of 2020. It is with great sadness that we will not be able to host all of our traditional programming for this year's graduates. These are events and traditions that students, and parents, have been looking forward to all year.

However, as a School, we are committed to celebrating the Class of 2020 and putting in place plans to mark the occasion through both a virtual Commencement and a later physical celebration, if permitted. Below are the basic details on the planning to reimagine this special occasion for our students.

SeniorWeek

We are still planning to host a week of activities for the 12th grade. In the past this time has been an opportunity for students to come together prior to Commencement and reconnect with one another. This has included exit interviews, workshops, and an alumni panel. This year we had already planned to do exit interviews with Judy Guild and Joshua Neudel during the spring. We were able to do two of the five meetings in person prior to break and the remainder will be completed by next week.

For the other activities, we are planning to host meetings and activities online during the days of May 26, 27, and 28. We are still planning to host a young alumni panel, as well as bring in other people to speak to the students. In addition, we are working on a social activity that can be done online during that time. A detailed schedule will be sent out two weeks in advance with timing.

Commencement 2020: Reimagined

We will host an online Commencement on the original date of May 29, at the originally scheduled time of 5pm. While we will be finalizing the details for Commencement over the coming weeks, we are planning to share the individual student speeches during this time. We also will ceremonially graduate the students at the ceremony to mark the end of high school for them. We will share information on how to login to the event which can be shared with family and friends.

Prom

We are working with the students to create a memorable experience in lieu of not having Prom as originally planned. In addition, depending on guidelines, we are currently planning to host a party after the in-person graduation celebration detailed below.

In Person Celebration

We are planning to host an in-person event on Saturday, August 8 on the Brimmer field if permitted by government and health department guidelines. For this event we would limit attendance based on the health guidelines at that time and we would set up students (and families, if possible) across the field maintaining safe social distancing guidelines for that time.

Our goal for this event is to award diplomas to students, have a special meal together, host a class reunion, and to create an opportunity for students to be together to reconnect. We are currently in the planning stage and details for this event will be developed in more detail over the coming weeks and month, but we hope to provide an event where we can be together physically to celebrate this moment in the lives of the Class of 2020.

With the uncertainty of finding dresses and suits and tailoring, for this in person celebration, the School will provide academic graduation gowns and will not keep to its traditional graduation dress. Students could wear prom attire under the gowns for the post ceremony party.

Your twelfth graders will be receiving some surprises from Brimmer over the course of May to keep their spirits up and to let them know that even though we cannot be on campus together, we can still celebrate. We are so incredibly proud of the work that these young people have done throughout their time at Brimmer and we look forward to celebrating them and being together again as soon as it is safe to do so.

Sincerely,

Judith Guild, Head of School

Joshua Neudel, Head of Upper School

Elizabeth Smith, Director of Development