

Class of 2020 Farewell and Celebratory Events! T-Hawk Tribute

Over the past many weeks, the Algonquin Regional High School leadership team, District leaders, and our towns' safety officials have been monitoring the COVID-19 health situation closely in preparation for upcoming graduation events that honor and celebrate the ARHS Class of 2020. The Steering Committee and the Senior Class Advisors have done amazing work planning celebratory events while working within safety restrictions. As I've shared with students and families, the plan includes many phases, which I outlined in a recent communication and also provide in this document. Since that communication, and much like everything in the COVID-19 world we live in today, our plans have changed slightly. Recently, districts across the Commonwealth received new guidelines from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, which allows us to now consider holding an outdoor graduation ceremony after July 18, 2020.

Our ARHS leadership team was excited to see these new guidelines. As a result of these new guidelines and the great work of the ARHS leadership team, I am excited to share that there will be two additional opportunities to celebrate the Class of 2020. The first new event is a **T-Hawk Tribute** ride, which is detailed below. It's an opportunity for seniors to drive through the ARHS campus and wave good-bye to faculty and staff. The second new event is an **outdoor graduation** held on Thursday, July 30, 2020, from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM (Details to follow).

I believe that the events planned to celebrate and honor our graduates will continue to send a message to the Class of 2020 of how proud we are of their achievements and how excited we are for their next chapters as Algonquin Alumni. Again, I want to thank families for their partnership in these uncharted times. I also want to acknowledge all of the efforts, thoughts, and planning by students, faculty, staff, and Northborough and Southborough safety officials, to recognize our Class of 2020 graduates.

Dr. Sara Praguski Walsh
Principal, Algonquin Regional High School

Summary of Graduation Events: Celebrating the Class of 2020	
Senior Week (Recognizing accomplishments)	May 18 - 22, 2020
Faculty Farewell: T-Hawk Tribute	May 28, 2020
Swag Bag Deliveries (Special delivery of caps and gowns, yearbooks, and more)	June 2 and June 4, 2020
Awarding of the Diplomas	June 7, 2020
Formal Video Graduation (Please encourage your graduate to participate)	June 30, 2020
Outdoor Graduation*	July 30, 2020 (Rain date July 31, 2020)
Class of 2020 Late Fall Celebration	Fall 2020
A huge thank you to the Steering Committee, Senior Class Advisors, and Mrs. Capalbo	

*If no changes are made by the local Board of Health, DESE, or Governor Baker.

Phase 1:

- **Senior Week - May 18 - 22, 2020 (Plus additional events!)**

- Senior week consists of multiple events as well as culminating recognition by faculty and staff.
- Thank you to our advisors, coaches, clubs, and community support for videos, social media releases, and celebrations.
- Please note that not all videos and social media events have been released.
 - Thank you to athletics for their social media work as well as one more surprise!
 - Thank you to fine arts for their senior recognitions!
 - Senior Awards video is scheduled for recording on Friday, May 29, 2020. During the awards ceremony, we will announce scholarships and senior recognitions. The video will be released to NCAT and SAM shortly thereafter.

- **T-Hawk Tribute - May 28, 2020 (DETAILED DIRECTIONS TO FOLLOW)**

- We are encouraging all graduates on Thursday, May 28, 2020, to join us in a Faculty Farewell from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm by driving through the ARHS campus.
- We ask that parents drive their graduate along the diploma distribution route and wave goodbye to all of their K - 12 educators!!!
- We encourage our families to celebrate and decorate their cars as seniors wave goodbye.
- There will be more details on how to stagger our seniors to support a great flow of events

Phase 2: Swag Bag Deliveries - June 2 and June 4, 2020

- Swag Bag Deliveries are scheduled! Keep an eye out for the yellow buses!
- Faculty & Staff will deliver senior cap and gowns, yearbooks, diploma jackets and more.
- We plan to make sure each senior who signed up to have their bag delivered knows they are truly special as well as make the deliveries memorable and momentous.

Phase 3: Formal Video Production - June 30, 2020 (Photos and Video due June 8, 2020!)

- We have our faculty speakers selected, student performer submissions, and an amazing rendition of the school song!
- Remind seniors to submit their formal cap and gown picture, as well as a video of them turning their tassels.

Phase 4 - 5: Awarding of the Diplomas - June 7, 2020

- Our signup sheet has been shared and almost ALL families have successfully signed up!
- Please remember two cars for each graduate!
- Graduates, please plan to walk and participate in this red carpet event with your friends!
- We are still working on a few more details regarding staging and social media! Stay tuned!

Phase 6: ARHS 2020 Outdoor Graduation - Thursday, July 30, 2020 (Rain date - July 31, 2020)

- We will hold an outdoor graduation on Thursday, July 30, 2020 (rain date Friday, July 31, 2020) starting at 6:00 pm for seniors to come together in a full class graduate march in, individual recognition, a second turning of the tassel and the opportunity to cheer for peers!
- *Please know that although we have received permission to move forward with this event it can only take place if public health requirements allow and with public health restrictions.*

Phase 7: Class of 2020 Late Fall Celebration - Fall 2020

- *The work for this phase is ongoing; further communication regarding this event will be provided in the fall.*
- *Please know that although we have received permission to move forward with this event it can only take place if public health requirements allow and with public health restrictions.*