

West Holt Public Schools District No. 239

P.O. Box 457 • ATKINSON, Nebraska 68713 • (402) 925-2848 • FAX (402) 925-2177

Paul Pistulka
SUPERINTENDENT

Kevin Young
JH/HS PRINCIPAL

Tracy Larson
PRE-K - 6 PRINCIPAL

5/26/2020

Dear Senior Parents:

Thank you for all of your understanding during this time of trial due to the restrictions that have been place upon us due to COVID-19. I feel our school did well on May 10th to honor our graduates with an online/virtual graduation. However, there were a few key parts of the graduation ceremony which we were not allowed to do in a traditional sense. West Holt would still like our graduates to experience some of what they missed since the directive health measures have been reduced.

Before explanation of our plan, please understand that in this situation, decisions have to be made. I know that not all of these decisions will make everyone happen. There are several different ways to approach this situation, and this is the approach that the school is taking. I greatly appreciate your cooperation in this situation.

On June 13th at 2pm, West Holt will host a senior diploma presentation ceremony. The ceremony will consist of the following.

- Students will march in one-by-one to pomp and circumstance playing on the gym audio.
- Administration will give an opening to the ceremony.
- The senior video will be viewed.
- Administration will give some parting words to the class of 2020.
- Senior song and flower presentation to parents and family.
- Presentation of diplomas on stage and the presentation of the class.
- Final song and processional.

**We plan to show the ceremony on the school's facebook account live.

The capacity restrictions that have been put in place have limited attendance in the gym to approximately 330 people. With 27 graduates, we will allow 10 people to be invited by each family. This will still allow us to have some leeway with faculty, administration and board members. There are not restrictions on who those 10 people may be, however we ask that you be cognizant of those who will be in attendance. If anyone has been sick or is feeling ill, they need to stay home and not attend. Likewise, understand that anyone who attends will be doing so at their own risk and clearly understands the situation at hand. Finally, we ask that there not be any trading or giving of seats to other families. Although this has happened in the past, we are supposed to keep people in their cohort or groups as best we can. Giving seats to another family will make this difficult and extremely hard to plan for.

Receptions or gatherings during the weekend or afterward are completely on your terms. However you choose to celebrate your graduate is completely your decision. I understand this may be short notice, but I feel the sooner we complete this process the better.

I have received feedback that has been both positive and negative toward what the school has done for this graduating class. Some families have expressed really wanting to have their child receive a diploma on stage and have one last chance for closure to their high school careers. Others have indicated that what has already been done has been great, and they feel enough closure has come to their children and families. Please know that this ceremony is not required, and you do not have to attend, but it would be great if everyone could. If you would rather not participate or have other plans for that weekend, it is understood. Although you will be missed, I understand the challenge of making all of our busy schedules arrange.

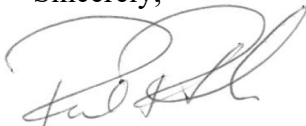
Here is what you need to do as a family –

- Contact Becky Borer at school with the following information. She can be reached at 402-925-2848 or becborer@westholt.org.
 - o Will your family participate in this ceremony?
 - o How many will be in attendance?
 - o How many flowers will need to be ordered to be handed out by your graduate?
 - o Other questions that she will forward on to the administration.

** Please communicate with Becky prior to 3pm on this Thursday, May 28th.

Thank you again for your understanding of the school's decision in this case. I look forward to seeing all of you in June and to get an opportunity to say farewell to our senior class!

Sincerely,



Paul Pistulka
Superintendent
West Holt Public Schools