

GLEN ROCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Brett Charleston, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
charlestonb@glenrocknj.org



620 Harristown Road
Glen Rock, NJ 07452-2398
(201) 445-7700
Fax (201) 389-5019

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Dear Glen Rock Students and Parents,

I never thought that I would need to provide students and parents information and updates regarding virtual end of year ceremonies. It seems surreal, cemented by Governor Murphy's Executive Order this past Monday, that we will not be able to return to school this year. In fact, just yesterday he added that "...under the order, recreational and entertainment activities are also prohibited within the facilities of public, private, and parochial preschool programs, or elementary and secondary schools, including charter and renaissance schools that remain closed to students..." Essentially, traditional graduations, including those that claim to adhere to social distancing guidelines are prohibited until the order is lifted. I, like you, am saddened and frustrated that we will not be able to honor and celebrate in person the achievements of the Class of 2020 with a traditional graduation ceremony on June 18th, 2020.

The decision to hold a virtual graduation ceremony on June 18th was made to provide 'finality' for the Class of 2020 as students, parents, and staff may or may not be available to participate in the rescheduled traditional ceremony on July 30th and, if needed, September 26th. This very difficult decision was made with the safety of our students, staff, families and community in mind. The virtual graduation will take place at the same time as the already scheduled 2020 graduation.

Where feasible, the virtual graduation ceremony will contain as many components of the traditional graduation ceremony, including student and staff speeches, recognition, student honors, etc. We are working on the best platform to record and stream the ceremony for families to view from their homes.

We will announce the dates for the distribution of caps, gowns and announcements in the near future. The distribution plan will be developed by our Director of Security and approved by the Glen Rock Police Department prior to its dissemination. As such, we will provide details, dates and times as the date draws near.

Recently, Mr. Arlotta virtually met with the senior advisors and student leaders from the Class of 2020. During this meeting, students provided input and shared their thoughts on what they would like included in the virtual graduation. It is paramount that we ensure that our students are heard and have input as we honor and celebrate the Class of 2020. Rest assured that the High School Administration will continue to hold these meetings and include students, through their elected leaders, throughout the planning process.

As I shared earlier, in the event that all restrictions are lifted we will be prepared to pivot and conduct a traditional ceremony that our students so clearly deserve. As we move forward with planning and developing details for the virtual graduation ceremony, we will continue to communicate to students and families.

We are Glen Rock Schools!

Be well,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brett Charleston". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Brett Charleston, Ed.D
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