

GLEN ROCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dear Glen Rock Students and Parents,

Last night, The Department of Education provided guidelines for traditional graduations that may occur after July 6th, 2020. Though we anticipate these guidelines changing several times between now and July 30th, 2020, please make note of the following guidance that was provided by the State of New Jersey:

- Institutions must limit the number of attendees to the number permitted under state gatherings rules effective on the date of the ceremony. Please note that current guidelines cap gatherings at 25 people which includes graduates, staff, security, etc.
- Glen Rock, as all districts, is required to submit and certify to the State that the planned ceremony will comply with applicable requirements for gatherings, including those addressing social distancing. This submission is due at least 7 days prior to the ceremony.
- Glen Rock will ensure that local emergency management, law enforcement, first responders, local elected officials, and local health agencies are **informed, have input, and approve** of the logistics and plans for the July 30th, 2020 ceremony.
- With the exception of protective gear (such as gloves, non-medical face masks), materials such as graduation brochures, diplomas, caps, and gowns should be distributed prior to the ceremony wherever possible. We will ensure that all materials, where feasible, are provided electronically prior to the July 30th, 2020 ceremony. Caps and gowns will be distributed next week and high school administration is working on how best to deliver diplomas after the virtual ceremony on June 18th, 2020.
- Chairs and other equipment should not be shared and must be sanitized before and after use.
- Graduating classes that exceed the number of individuals permitted to be at an in-person gathering at the time of the ceremony must be divided into smaller ceremonies held throughout the day or over the span of several days to limit crowds, allow for cleaning in between ceremonies, and to allow the attendees to leave the venue before the next group arrives. We hope that restrictions on gatherings are increased beyond 25 prior to July

30th. If not, we will have to plan for several smaller ceremonies on July 30th, 2020 with significant restrictions on guests.

- Tickets to students and families will be distributed in advance of the ceremony.
- All attendees must maintain a 6-foot distance from each other at all times, including entering/exiting the event, excluding immediate family members, caretakers, and household members.
- Graduates will sit with enough distance (no less than 6 feet) from one another.
- The guidelines recommend that Glen Rock conduct temperature screenings with non-contact thermometers of everyone entering the venue. It further recommends that anyone with a temperature of 100.4 °F or greater be excluded from the event. We are researching this further and will provide an update as the date draws near.
- All guests, graduates, and participants will be required to wear face masks or coverings, except where doing so would inhibit the individual's health or where the individual is under two years of age.
- Graduation speakers must also abide by the 6 feet social distancing rules and should not share microphones.

As you can see, in order to ensure the health and safety of all, the guidelines (and there are more) create a heavy burden on the administration and staff. However, we are committed to providing a memorable in person graduation for the Class of 2020, within the guidelines provided by the Department of Education. We realize this may not be what you envisioned for your graduate and we share in your disappointment and frustration. Thank you for your patience, calm and understanding during this time as we work through these guidelines and plan for the June 18th and July 30th ceremonies.

As we move forward with planning and developing details for both ceremonies, we will continue to communicate with students and families. Please be assured that Dr. Parent and Mrs. Bacolas, working with Mr. Arlotta, are actively involved in the planning for the July 30th ceremony. We are all very excited and look forward very much to celebrating the Class of 2020 on June 18th and July 30th.

We are Glen Rock Schools!



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