



WILLIAM J. GRETZULA, Ed.D.
Superintendent

PENNSBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT

134 Yardley Avenue • Post Office Box 338
Fallsington, Pennsylvania 19058-0338
Telephone: (215) 428-4111
Fax: (215) 428-4270
www.pennsburyisd.org

April 21, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians, Students, and Staff of Pennsbury High School,

As the parent of two high school students, a senior and a freshman, I truly understand the impact the sudden school closure has on the minds and hearts of our PHS students and staff. While opportunities to meet virtually and engage in digital content may fill the need for some, I know it pales in comparison to the experiences we enjoyed when we were in schools together. The timing was abrupt and came close to the end of the year when we were poised to recognize the tremendous efforts of students throughout the 2019-2020 school year, and especially our amazing seniors!

With buildings shut, the Pennsbury School District Administration wants to share that, while our priority must be to remain focused on the safety and security of our students and families, we are committed to providing opportunities to celebrate the accomplishments of the Pennsbury High School Class of 2020. Unfortunately, the reality of school closure for the balance of the academic year forces us to make the following decisions:

- Sports Nite must be cancelled. We share the disappointment of our juniors and seniors in making this announcement, but we know that everyone understands such large crowd gatherings are prohibited at this time.
- The Senior Prom cannot be executed as we had hoped before the COVID-19 pandemic. It is clear that the traditional format is not possible. This saddens everyone involved. Many alternative ideas have been discussed, and timely information about alternative plans will be shared by the high school administration in the coming weeks.
- The 2020 Commencement ceremony is being postponed. At this stage, we are moving the formal PHS graduation celebration to July 22, 2020 in an effort to increase the possibility of a traditional ceremony in Falcon Field. If it is determined that this still cannot take place due to extended stay at home orders or social distancing guidelines, we are also planning for alternatives to ensure our graduating seniors receive proper recognition for their efforts and accomplishments.

MISSION

Recognizing our proud traditions and diverse community, the Pennsbury School District prepares all students to become creative, ethical, and critical thinkers for lifelong success in a global society.

PHS Community Update

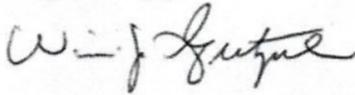
April 21, 2020

Page 2

Students, staff, and administrators are continuously working together to determine ways to engage our students and celebrate their successes. We are exploring various options to honor our students in other ways and will communicate our plans with the school community. Some upcoming annual events, which are being planned in a different format than usual, include the National Honor Society induction ceremony, Academic Awards, and Falcon Athletic Awards. High school principals will be reaching out to students and families as more specific information is ready to be shared. We may also be seeking photos and quotes as we plan for these ceremonies to occur in virtual settings.

We appreciate the enthusiasm of both our staff and students in developing creative ways to celebrate our Senior Class and look forward to these events!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. J. Gretzula". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

William J. Gretzula, Ed.D.
District Superintendent
Pennsbury School District