



WINONA SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

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OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL

Dear parents/guardians of senior students,

We are thrilled at the opportunity to have an in-person commencement ceremony at Paul Giel Field this year. The last 14 months have been difficult for many of us, including our seniors, who have had to miss out on so many of the traditions that make the high school experience memorable. To be able to have a night where we can safely gather together and celebrate our graduates is a wonderful thing.

All important graduation information will be sent directly to you. However, you can also check out a special section of our website at winonaschools.org/graduation. This page will be updated with information for our families as well as the general community.

One thing we need to make clear: All of these plans are subject to change if positive COVID-19 cases rise either internally in Winona Area Public Schools or in the general community. If the case levels rise, or if we feel that our families will not be able to follow the proper health and safety protocols, the event will be shifted to a drive-through ceremony like it was last year.

The 151st commencement for Winona Senior High School will take place at 7:30 p.m. Friday, June 11 at Paul Giel Field. The makeup time and date is 7:30 p.m. Saturday, June 12.

Graduation practice will be held from 8:30 a.m. to noon on Wednesday, June 9. The makeup date for practice will be from 8:30 a.m. to noon on Thursday, June 10.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there are health and safety protocols that we must enforce. Each student will be allowed to have up to six family members attend graduation, and all six family members will sit in the same randomly assigned pod for the ceremony. We are asking each graduating student to declare the names and phone numbers of their six guests by filling out a Google Form that was shared with your student. The form must be returned by Friday, May 21. If you need an interpreter or other assistance in filling out the form, please contact Mrs. Duffy in the high school office by emailing jaime.duffy@winona.k12.mn.us.

We want to make the following items clear:

- Each student is allowed to have up to six family members attend.
- All six family members will sit together in the same pod. No student will get separate pods. If your family consists of separate households, please work together to decide the six family members who will attend graduation.
- Unused spots cannot be shared with family members of other students.
- Each ticket will have the name of the family member on it and cannot be shared with another individual.
- The pods will be randomly assigned and will be assigned a specific gate to enter and exit.
- Once inside the stadium, you are not allowed to mingle with others outside of your pod.

HBC will be there to televise the ceremony, and it will be streamed through our website and/or Facebook page. Additional information will be shared at a later date.

As we mentioned before, all of these plans are subject to change based on the levels of COVID-19 in our school, our district and our community. We will do everything we can to keep the ceremony at Paul Giel Field, and it is imperative that you will join us in our efforts to adhere to all the appropriate health and safety protocols before and during the event.

[Google Form for 6 Family Member Sign Up](#)

Thank you,

Mark Anderson

Winona Senior High School Principal