May 19, 2020

Dear Lynn Public Schools Seniors,

In ten short days, you will officially draw your chapter as Lynn Public Schools students to a close and ready yourself for the beginning of another chapter. I know and respect the momentous nature of this important milestone. I am also keenly aware of the mix of emotions, given the challenge and limitations of the current context. In my last formal message to you, I conveyed our plan to celebrate you, your perseverance and hard work, and the fact that you “made it” through virtual means. Know that this decision was based squarely on the safety and well-being of each one of you, our beloved soon-to-be-graduates, your family and Lynn Public Schools staff. The virtual graduations will proceed as planned on June 12th.

For weeks, we have been in discussion about additions to the virtual celebration. We know full well the symbolic importance of “crossing the stage” and being handed that all-too-important representation of your hard work - your diploma. For some students, doing so would be a first in their family. We are committed to honoring that prideful moment for all students. We now have a means to safely do so. In light of recent developments and with the blessing of the Lynn Public Health Department, we have devised a plan. Please hold Saturday, August 1, 2020 on your calendar. On that date, each of the four Lynn Public High Schools will hold separate “Cross the Stage” events at Manning Field (inclement weather date to be determined).

There will be more details forthcoming. The planning to conduct this event responsibly in this context requires attention to detail and community cooperation. Your school leadership will be in contact with you regarding specifics in the coming weeks.

Should any senior have questions or concerns about standing in terms of credits or other graduation requirements, please be in touch with your guidance counselor. As always, we are here for you and are fully invested in your success.

May you and your families be safe and well.

Respectfully,

Patrick Tutwiler, PhD
Superintendent