



Pocono Mountain West High School

Dr. Mark A. Wade, *Principal*

Mrs. Brenda Fladger, *Assistant Principal*
Ms. Melanie Piccarreta, *Assistant Principal*
Mr. John T. Richards, *Assistant Principal*

May 26, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Members of the Class of 2020,

The Pocono Mountain West High School Graduation Ceremony will be held on Saturday, June 20, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. at the Pocono Raceway. Should inclement weather force postponement of the event, the new date and time of the graduation ceremony will be announced through a ParentLink phone call, by local media and on the District's web page. In all circumstances, graduating students should report to the Main Gate/ Gate 1/ Tunnel Road of the Pocono Raceway one hour before the start of the ceremony.

The following procedures will be enforced to ensure a successful and dignified graduation ceremony:

- To participate in the graduation ceremony, a student must successfully complete all academic requirements, and satisfy any and all obligations by June 17th at 12:00 PM
- All obligations to the school, such as Chromebooks, textbooks, novels, calculators, athletic equipment, etc., must be satisfied by Wednesday, June 17 12:00 p.m., or seniors will not be permitted to participate in the graduation ceremony. All obligations must be satisfied through Ms. Brenda Fladger, 12th grade Assistant Principal.
- Graduates must observe proper decorum and dignity at all times during the ceremony. There will be no horn honking during speeches, student performances, or name reading.
- **All students, parents, and guests must remain inside of their vehicles at all times, in accordance with Pennsylvania social distancing regulations.**
- If possible, graduates should be seated in the front passenger seat of the vehicle at the raceway. Vehicle magnets that will be provided in senior care packages should be posted on the same door as graduates. **Graduates should also be wearing their caps and gowns.** We ask that there be only one graduate per vehicle. This will assist with vehicles moving when names are called, as each vehicle can only hold one place in the processional. This will also help to provide a quality photograph opportunity for our senior students as they cross the finish line. If families have transportation concerns, please contact Mrs. Fladger at bfladger@pmsd.org as soon as possible.

Additional Information

- All vehicles must display a parking tag to enter the Pocono Raceway. Vehicles without a parking tag will not be allowed to enter. Graduate vehicles will have a lavender parking tag and each graduate will receive two guest vehicle tags, which will be gold. These tags must be displayed in the windshield and will ensure that vehicles arrive at the proper location. Parking tags will be labeled and provided to students during senior care package distribution.

- **All guests must utilize a traditional passenger vehicle. Limousines, firetrucks, recreational vehicles, horse-drawn vehicles, riding in beds of pick-up trucks, pedestrians, etc. are not permitted.**
- Students may decorate their vehicles. Vehicles may not display inappropriate or offensive messages.
- All vehicles should tune their radios to 87.9 FM to listen to the graduation ceremony once at Pocono Raceway.
- Parking is limited. Each graduate will be issued two (2) guest parking tags for admission to the graduation ceremony. The parking tags will be provided during senior care package distribution.
- Observance of the “No Smoking” Policy #1142 is required while at the Raceway.
- Raceway staff will allow guests to enter the raceway beginning at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 20, 2020. **Graduates must arrive at 9:00 a.m.** Color-coded parking passes will determine your ability to enter the raceway and prompt staff to direct your vehicle to the proper location.
- The ceremony will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m. Parents and guests should plan to arrive on time and to stay for the entire ceremony. **Due to the nature of the event, any graduate who arrives once the ceremony has begun will not be able to participate and will be directed to the guest section, to watch from their vehicle.**
- **Once the ceremony begins, no one will be able to leave until the end of the ceremony, due to the parking arrangements on the track.**
- **Because graduation is one of the most memorable events in a lifetime, please encourage family, friends, and graduates to maintain the dignity that this ceremony deserves. All horn honking should be held until the entire class has received diplomas. Participants and observers should refrain from shouting, whistling, and catcalling, as all participants deserve to hear each graduate’s name.**
- Please note that no one will be permitted to leave their cars while on the racetrack during the graduation ceremony to videotape or to take photographs. We will have professional photographers on the track, and they will provide you with the opportunity to obtain quality photographs. Photographs can be viewed after graduation at <https://poconomountainwesths.shutterfly.com/>. Please note that all students, families, and guests must remain in their vehicle
- If a student is not going to participate in the commencement ceremony, Dr. Mark A. Wade, Principal, must be notified by email at mwade@pmsd.org from their parent/guardian or call at 570-839-7121 x81411 no later than Monday, June 1, 2020.

Thank you for your help in making this graduation a successful and memorable experience. If you have any questions, please feel free reach out.