



Good Evening Upper Darby School District Community,

This is Dr. Greg Manfre, the Director of Secondary Education for the Upper Darby School District, providing more information regarding our efforts to hold an in-person graduation ceremony. Over the past several weeks, we have been providing you with updates regarding the work that our Graduation Committee has been doing. We recognize the importance of celebrating our 2020 Senior class, and to that end, we have been attempting to find the best way possible to do so.

The recent guidance regarding Pennsylvania's phased reopening of the Commonwealth has provided more clarity on our ability to hold an in-person graduation ceremony for the Class of 2020. While I certainly recognize and agree that the mandated school closures have hurt the Class of 2020, the School District is attempting our best to navigate many of the restrictions that are beyond our control. Like every organization dealing with Governor Wolf's guidance, information from the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), the Chester County Department of Health, and Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidance regarding this pandemic, our district and school community is facing the very same adversity. We hope you understand that the logistical planning for close to 1,000 graduates meeting Green Phase guidelines is more unique and complicated when compared to other ceremonies.

Many people in the community have requested the opportunity to gather on our football field and have a graduation ceremony that includes the entire class of 2020. The Graduation Committee addressed this request previously. We will explain again why this option is not possible. Unfortunately, the latest guidance from the CDC and Green Phase guidance from Governor Wolf prohibits more than 250 people from gathering in one space at one time and recommends 6-feet of social distancing. Again, this is guidance even in the Green Phase. Please review the graph below from the Pennsylvania Department of Education's (PDE) Website.



- Institutions may more fully resume in-person instruction and other routine operations.
- Restrict large, non-instructional gatherings to no more than 250 people.
- Continue to adhere to [CDC](#), [DOH](#), and [PDE](#) guidance.
- Monitor [public health indicators](#) and adjust plans as necessary.

Therefore, a ceremony with all of our graduates and their guests will simply not be possible given the fact that over 950 students make up the Class of 2020. Yesterday, Principal Simone, sent an email asking for our graduates' interest in attending smaller graduation ceremonies in our Performing Arts Center (PAC) after having met with the Graduation Committee. The link that enables our graduates to indicate their desire to attend a small gathering (RSVP) in-person ceremony is below. Please note that these will be abbreviated, small ceremonies in order to meet recent guidance in the Green Phase.

Please complete the RSVP via the following link to indicate interest in participating in a graduation ceremony. As previously communicated, we are looking at a total of about 14 ceremonies to accommodate the entire Class of 2020. We will adjust the number of ceremonies based on the number of RSVPs we receive. The RSVP closes on Tuesday, July 7th, at 5:00 PM. We will follow up with graduates who have submitted an RSVP in an email and provide each graduate with her/his assigned graduation date and time. Students should check their Schoology email accounts for this information. **Graduates' Schoology email accounts will remain active until August 31st.**

LINK:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpOLSeOZXik5oyluBVjnKhHNOIMicR6j1_q6mdl5qSc97gi9PoGkO/viewform?usp=sf_link

Resources are limited, and a strict timeline is needed to provide the in-person graduation ceremony. **Again, despite being in the Green Phase of reopening, we are still limited to a maximum of 250 individuals to assemble in any given space and can only provide a ceremony for 75 graduates at a time with each graduate having a maximum of two guests.**

Thank you and we look forward to your feedback.

