



Opportunity · Unity · Excellence

Contact: Aaronda Beauford
Office: (610) 789-7200, ext. 3232
E-Mail: abeauford@upperdarbysd.org

For Immediate Release
Thursday, April 16, 2020

UPPER DARBY SCHOOL DISTRICT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PIAA LIGHT THE STADIUM CAMPAIGN

*Upper Darby High School joins over 40 other schools in honoring the Class of 2020 and
frontline Coronavirus/COVID-19 responders*

Upper Darby, PA - Upper Darby School District a member of PIAA District I is joining PIAA District XI member schools to light the stadium in honor of high school Seniors who have had their final year of high school cut short due to Coronavirus/COVID-19 and in support of nurses, doctors, and first responders who have sacrificed their time and well-being to ensure our health and safety during this global pandemic. Upper Darby School District will light Memorial Stadium on Friday, April 17, 2020 between the hours of 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. As part of the event, Upper Darby High School's Memorial Stadium lights will be on and the scoreboard will display the score of 20-20 in honor of this year's graduating class with 4th Down and 19 Yards to Go displayed as the down and distance signifying Coronavirus/COVID-19 being on its final down.

Please note that supporting residents are NOT permitted on stadium grounds during this ceremony and should remain home in compliance with Governor Wolf's stay-home directive. **Please do NOT report to Upper Darby High School or the stadium grounds.** That facility, as is the case with all the District's facilities, is not open to the public during the state-mandated closure.

Residents will be able to view the opening of the lighting event via the District's official YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCks7kcuopoCEA-fbmLWy2kw>, Instagram, FaceBook, and Twitter social media accounts. Also, watch for the **April 20th release** of a video of the event.

To support this initiative from your home, get your favorite noisemaker (cowbells, horns, etc.), rally towel, or other District memorabilia and take a selfie picture or video. Send it to socialmedia@upperdarbysd.org, tag Upper Darby School District using @UDSDofficial, tag PIAA using @PIAADistrictXI, and hashtag #PIAATogether.

“As the world struggles to deal with the impact of the Coronavirus/COVID-19, we are figuring out ways to celebrate our students and honor those in our community who are saving lives. We also recognize that this is not how our seniors and their families want to end high school,” says Dr. Daniel McGarry, Superintendent of Schools. “We hope that our participation in this event will give them a little hope and inspiration during this difficult and unprecedented time. The lighting of our field has multiple meanings and that is the beauty of what light brings. Light symbolizes hope and promise. We stand in support of our first responders, police, doctors, nurses, and others on the front line supporting our community who are working hard to get us all through this one day at a time. We also want to celebrate our Seniors and Senior Spring Athletes. None of this is easy, and we are focused on finding solutions to celebrate our over 900 graduating seniors. We will get through this crisis by coming together to solve the adversity we are now facing.”

###