

CORONAVIRUS

U.D. will light Memorial Stadium to salute seniors and health care responders

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UPPER DARBY » The lights will be on at Upper Darby High School's Memorial Stadium Friday evening, not for a game but to honor the over 900 seniors who have had their final year of high school cut short due to the coronavirus pandemic 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 will be joining 40 other high schools taking part in the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association campaign

which will light their stadiums from 7-9 p.m.

As part of the event, 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, signifying coronavirus/COVID-19 being on its final down.

Residents will not be permitted on school grounds during the lighting and should remain home in compliance with Gov. Tom Wolf's stay-at-home directive.

"We recognize that this is not how our seniors and their families want to end high school. As the world struggles to deal with the impact of the coronavirus/COVID-19, we are figuring out ways to celebrate our



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students and honor those in our community who are saving lives," said 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."

McGarry said the light-

ing of the field has multiple meanings and that is the beauty of what light brings - 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," McGarry said. "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."

Students and families will be able to view the opening of the light-



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ing event via the District's official YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCks7kcuo-poCEA-fbmLWY2kw>. A link to the event will also be shared on the District's Instagram, FaceBook, and Twitter social media accounts.

District officials are en-

couraging students to use their favorite noisemaker and school memorabilia and take a selfie picture or video and send it to socialmedia@upperdarbysd.org, tagging Upper Darby School District (@UDSDofficial), PIAA using (@PIAA-DistrictXI) and #PIAATogether.