



Rankin County School District

TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

BRANDON FLORENCE McLAURIN NORTHWEST PELAHATCHIE PISGAH PUCKETT RICHLAND

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April 17, 2020

Dear Class of 2020,

As you know, on Tuesday, April 14, 2020, Governor Tate Reeves announced schools would be closed for the rest of the school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. While this affects all students, we realize you, as seniors, have been impacted more than anyone. I am sure you are feeling a range of emotions while dealing with this unexpected change to your senior year and the overall disruption in your life.

We know that you, your family, and your friends were looking forward to the events that are the culmination of your academic, extra-curricular, and athletic high school experience. Awards day, prom, yearbook signings, senior parties, and many more special moments are cherished events for seniors and their families. The RCSD Board of Trustees and I share in your disappointment and sense of loss due to this health crisis. While we have never experienced what you are going through, we do empathize and sympathize with you.

We want you to know that your teachers, principals, and district leadership are committed to thinking “out of the box” to find ways to celebrate your graduation and your accomplishments. We are working on a graduation plan but we still have a few details to work through related to the Governor’s executive order and CDC guidelines. However, early next week, you will be receiving specifics from your principals and counselors. While we can’t share when and where graduation ceremonies will take place just yet, you can be assured we want the Class of 2020 to receive the memorable recognition you deserve while dealing with the constraints of the situation.

We also realize you are in the process of finalizing your “after high school” plans. We will continue to provide you with information and opportunities to help you navigate this next step. Please continue to reach out to your teachers, counselors, and principals for support.

In closing, Class of 2020, your senior experience has been abruptly interrupted but the final chapter has yet to be written. All of your teachers, staff, and principals are committed to working with you so that this last chapter honors your footprint and legacy. Your senior year story has an unexpected twist and ending but what a story it will be! “Tell the story of the mountain you climbed. Your words could become a page in someone else’s survival guide.” (Morgan Harper Nichol - musician, songwriter, artist, speaker, and writer)

Stay healthy and stay strong,
Dr. Sue Townsend
RCSD Superintendent of Education

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