



TPSD Announces Plans For Senior Graduation

TUPELO, Miss. — Seniors will graduate, and more importantly, they will walk across the stage to receive their Tupelo High School diploma just like every class prior to them.

But with a twist.

Due to the outbreak of COVID-19 that forced the early closure of schools across the nation, districts have become creative with their implantation of graduation programs to send their seniors off in style, and the Tupelo Public School District is no different.

On May 6, 7 and 8, THS seniors will report to their designated location to be filmed walking across a stage and receiving their coveted diplomas. Each senior will be allowed to have four parents and/or legal guardians in attendance to experience this special moment.

The filming sites are the Performing Arts Center and the small auditorium at Tupelo High School, the Civic Center at Tupelo Middle School and the auditoriums at Milam and Lawhon. Notifications regarding times and locations are being sent to all graduating seniors.

“I would like to express my personal thanks for your support of Tupelo High School over the years,” THS principal Art Dobbs said. “The combined efforts of our parents and community truly

make a difference. As a result of the many changes and closures due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the class of 2020 will have a commencement ceremony unlike any in THS history. Our plan to recognize these graduates has undergone significant adjustments, but we will not let that diminish our celebration of all that they have accomplished to get to this milestone.”

The format for the seniors, who will pick up their cap and gowns from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. on Thursday, April 30 at the attendance center, features them walking across a stage to receive their diploma. Individual video segments will be edited together into a full graduation ceremony, including student speeches and presentation of the valedictorian and salutatorian, salute to the flag, and more.

Normal graduation attire is required, and the district will follow the COVID-10 social distancing guidelines. At each of the five locations, no more than 10 people will be allowed, including TPSD staff, while students and their four family members will be required to remain in their car until their designated filming time.

Later in the summer, students will receive a complimentary DVD of the graduation ceremony.

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