



# AMITY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

BETHANY • ORANGE • WOODBRIDGE

25 NEWTON ROAD, WOODBRIDGE, CT 06525 (203) 397-4830

Dear Parent/Guardian,

May 26th, 2020

This year has been tumultuous and unsettling as we have grappled with the global coronavirus crisis. It has caused school districts around the state, nation and world to upend their usual courses of action and rethink how to deliver every aspect of education. Since March 13th, the high school and district administration has been working to conceive of various ways to celebrate and honor the members of the Amity Graduating Class of 2020 while adhering to State of Connecticut Executive Orders and working to keep our community safe. We have worked through myriad proposals. The following proposal has been approved by our local Department of Public Health and will be how we will proceed with this year's commencement exercises.

Following is a detailed explanation for the 2020 Amity Regional High School Commencement Exercises:

Video Presentation of Ceremonial Portion: For the portion of the ceremony that includes Principal address, well-wishes from the Superintendent, salutations from the Board of Education Chairperson and student speeches, we will be pre-recording and publishing the ceremony on the school's YouTube channel on the evening of June 9th. This 1st portion will be available for parents, students and the Amity Community to view prior to, during or after the presentation of the Class of 2020. A link will be sent on June 9th.

Distribution of Diplomas: For the conferring and distribution of diplomas to graduates, we will be holding a drive-through ceremony. Students will be assigned, by their Spartan Seminar groups, to 1 of 4 "waves" throughout the day on Wednesday, June 10th. Each wave will have a 2 hour time-slot with 30 minutes in between each time slot. The first wave will begin at 8:30am and the entire distribution will be completed by no later than 6:00pm. This portion of the ceremony will be live-streamed throughout the day. Each wave will follow these protocols:

- Each student will be allowed up to two passenger cars for the ceremony.
- Each student will be given 2 dashboard placards at cap and gown distribution on which their first and last names will be printed. These are to be placed in the dashboard of each car; both cars are required to process together (one after the other) with the graduate riding in the first car on the passenger side, if possible. Placards will be color coordinated for each wave.
- Cars will assemble at the designated "wave" time in the Our Lady of Assumption Church Parking Lot (81 Center Road Woodbridge, CT) and be organized in order of arrival by administration/school security. Police will also be onsite to assist.
- Once the wave begins, cars will process out of the church's back parking lot driveway to Rice Road, down Rice Road to take a left on to North Pease Road and another left in the back gate of the school campus.
- There will be 3 stations which all cars will move through, however the final locations will be determined based on our ability to follow Plan A or Plan B as noted below.

You will notice there are two contingencies listed below (Plan A and Plan B). The school/district administration would prefer to distribute diplomas to graduates on the football field (Plan A) to honor this



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class in the athletic facility before it is demolished and reconstructed. However, since driving hundreds of vehicles on the track and removing fencing necessary to allow for Plan A will render the facility unusable, this plan is only possible if the construction for the facility begins on time, as scheduled, on June 12th. If the construction project does not begin as planned on June 12th, the District is unable to risk ruining the facility, so we would not be able to execute Plan A. At this point, the Woodbridge Planning and Zoning Meeting that was set to be held on June 1st, where the Amity construction project was slated to be heard and permit issued, has been postponed until July 6th. The School District Administration is currently working with the Town of Woodbridge First Select Woman's Office to try to hold the originally-scheduled hearing date of June 1st in front of the Woodbridge Planning and Zoning Board. Without issuance of this permit to the District on June 1st, the graduation ceremony will have to follow "Plan B" as outlined below.

- Plan A: Vehicle procession in stadium/on track
  - Station #1: at entrance to stadium, cars will be organized in to groups of 4 graduates and allowed to proceed by taking a left through gates in to stadium and a left on to track
  - Station #2: at the score-board end of track, car/graduate order will be confirmed in groups of 4 and allowed to proceed around curve of track
  - Station #3: in front of stands/press box along track where students will receive their diplomas at 1 of 4 designated stands
- Plan B: In front of school building
  - Station #1: at the tennis courts, cars will be organized in to groups of 4 graduates and allowed to proceed down the driveway in single-file to the next stop sign next to the District Offices
  - Station #2: at the stop sign next to District Offices, car/graduate order will be confirmed in groups of 4 and allowed to proceed in to the bus drop-off lane
  - Station #3: at the front of the school where the students will receive their diplomas at 1 of 4 designated stands
- Graduates must ride in the 1st of the two cars and be seated on the passenger side of the car, if possible.
- Once students arrive at the field placement (Plan A) or front of the school (Plan B), they will pull up to one of 4 designated spots and **only the graduate** will exit the car to receive his/her diploma. The graduate **must be wearing a face covering when exiting the car**.
- The four stations will be located appropriately spaced from one another; the Principal will be in between stations 2 and 3.



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- The diplomas will be placed on a table at the designated spot for the graduate, who will exit the car, pick up the diploma, listen for his/her name to be announced over the loud speaker, **remove his/her face covering** to have a graduation picture taken and turn the tassel.
- All other members of the graduate's party must remain in the car(s).
- Students will then return to their cars and exit out of the stadium entrance by field house where fencing will be removed to allow for cars (Plan A) and down past school building to the Newton Road exit or directly out to Newton Road exit from the front of the building (Plan B).

**\*\*Please note, there will be no restrooms available to students/families\*\***

In addition, all families will receive a 5 X 7 complementary professional photograph of your graduate, which will be sent directly to your home from GradImages.

**Graduation Wave Times/Assignments:** (Spartan Seminar groups are assigned by teachers' last names; there are usually two teachers per Spartan Seminar. Please see Unified Classroom for your child's assigned Spartan Seminar teacher.)

**8:30am-10:30am-YELLOW PLACARD** for the following seminars: D. DeMeo/Waterman, Regan/Ferguson, DiGangi/Laliberte, Rothbart/Billehus, D. Wilson/Dottori, Rainey

**11:00am-1:00pm-ORANGE PLACARD** for the following seminars: Grace/Stanley, Malloy/Lindgren, Allard/Cofrancesco, Allen/Jacobs, K. Clark/Staak, Lyons/Haas

**1:30pm-3:30pm-GREEN PLACARD COLOR** for the following seminars: Lambrecht/Mendillo, Dufner/Hulse, Wallin/Tupper, Reeves/A. Mozealous, Shamp/Furst

**4:00pm-6:00pm-RED PLACARD** for the following seminars: Dolan/Rosner, Norton/Conley, E. Serapiglia/Goncalves, Osoweicki/Serio, Duyck/Davis

Radio Broadcast: Beginning at 5:00pm, radio station WPLR (99.1) will air a radio broadcast of the commencement exercises which will include parts of the each speaker's address from the virtual ceremony and a read-through of the list of graduates. This broadcast will last roughly 1 hour and will be commercial-free.

If any person in the graduate's family (including the graduate) is feeling ill on the day of graduation, please do not participate in the June 10th ceremony. There will be an alternative date for those who are sick on June 10th that is scheduled two weeks later, on July 1st, and will follow the same process as outlined in Plan B above. A Google Form will be sent out to anyone who does not participate in the June 10th ceremony for that family to indicate plans to participate in the alternative/ill date of July 1st.

A final determination about which plan (A or B) we will be able to follow will be made on June 2nd, based on whether or not the Woodbridge Planning and Zoning Meeting has occurred, and communicated to parents. Thank you for your patience, collaboration and understanding throughout this process. We look forward to celebrating our graduates throughout the first few weeks of June!



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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anna Mahon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Anna Mahon

Principal, Amity Regional High School