

March 5, 2019

Dear Class of 2019 Students/Parents,

As Spring arrives I want to communicate some important information about commencement. My staff is actively planning for the 150th commencement ceremony of LaPorte High School that is set for Sunday, June 9 at 2:00 p.m. One hundred and fifty years is quite the commemoration! Hundreds of graduates and their families will be celebrating this momentous occasion together. We excitedly plan for this big day! It is our top priority to ensure a safe and memorable experience at this year's commencement which is the purpose of this letter.

The safety and well-being of our students is our highest priority and we are continuing to work very hard to keep our school and school events as safe as possible. As you are aware, schools and public officials all over the world are taking additional measures to increase safety. Commencement is a major event that requires much planning and we believe that additional safety and security measures are needed in order to maximize safety on our campus.

One such measure that will be implemented this year is the requirement of a ticket to attend the commencement ceremony, regardless if it is held at Kiwanis Stadium or in Slicer Gym (in the event of inclement weather). Each graduating senior will be issued eight (8) admission tickets to pass out to guests of their choice for the ceremony at Kiwanis Stadium. The tickets will be labeled for Kiwanis. If the weather causes the ceremony to move indoors, each graduating senior will be issued six (6) tickets (labeled indoors). These tickets validate that guests have a purpose and/or connection to our graduating students at the ceremony which ensures a safer environment.

Seniors will receive instructions on the process for picking up their eight (8) tickets during the month of May. Those who will not use all eight (8) tickets are encouraged to turn any extra into the Counseling Office; those who need more than eight (8) tickets may request additional tickets in the Counseling Office. Please note that students are not guaranteed to obtain additional tickets.

In addition to the ticket policy, other safety and security measures being implemented at the ceremony include: the presence of security police, availability of wand metal detectors, and rules prohibiting fireworks and distracting noise makers. Guests are reminded that school policy prohibits knives (including pocket knives), weapons, and drugs/alcohol on school grounds. This includes "Juuling" and electronic cigarettes. We also discourage the possession of bags and large gifts at the ceremony.

Students will be receiving more information about commencement this Spring as well receiving a letter mailed to each student's home address. Please be sure to read these communications that





Ben Tonagel, Principal

602 "F" Street ■ LaPorte, Indiana 46350 ■ 219.362.3102 ■ Fax: 219.324.2142

address commencement attire, indoor tickets, parking, photography, and live internet streaming of the ceremony.

Thank you for your understanding and support of school safety. Although sometimes an inconvenience, the primary goal of the safety and security measures at commencement is the safety of our students and guests.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Ben Tonagel

