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June 5, 2020

Dear Northfield Families,

 As always, I hope this letter finds everyone and their families healthy and safe. As previously shared, planning for many year-end events has been on-going. One such event was the retiree recognition parade we had this Wednesday. Thank you to everyone who participated in wishing Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Lundbeck, and Mrs. Shami a heartfelt quarantine farewell to the next phase of their lives. I personally would like to thank them for their commitment to our children over the years. Being the great people they are, I will miss them personally and professionally and I wish them all of the best as they move forward. I know our principals will continue to share more detailed information for all future events, but below is a summary of some events we have coming up:

Sign Parade:

Through the generosity of our PTO, we will be dropping of graduation signs at the homes of our 8th grade students in a car parade. The signs will be put on the lawn of each student’s home to commemorate their graduation from the Northfield City School District. The parade will be on Wednesday, June 10, 2020. Anyone interested in joining is asked to meet at the middle school cul-de-sac at 11:45.

Outsiders Drive-In Movie:

In lieu of the annual in-school activities associated with our 8th graders reading the “Outsiders”’ novel, we will be airing the movie on an outdoor screen on Thursday, June 11, 2020 (rain date will be Friday, June 12, 2020). The movie will begin at 8:00 p.m.

Drive-by Graduation Ceremony:

Our graduation ceremony will be held on Wednesday, June 17, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. Families are asked to arrive at the Mill Rd. parking lot at 5:30 p.m. to line up for the procession. Families and graduates, in their cars, will cross Mill Rd. and drive down the middle school drive-way towards the cul-de-sac. No one will be permitted to exit their cars, but administration will be present to recognize the students and their families as they drive around the loop and then exit up the drive-way towards Mill Rd. Student graduation speeches and their names will be broadcast through a radio station as this procession occurs. Upon exiting our school property, we ask families to drive to Mainland Regional High School to receive a message from the high school on their electronic sign.

We recognize this is not traditional, but under the current group gathering limitations of 25 people in effect through executive orders this is the best alternative to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of our 8th grade students. Please know that we will continue to monitor future guidance on these limitations and we will be prepared to offer in person recognitions in the future as they become permissible. It may turn out to be that our 8th graders will have more than one graduation recognition and I am sure we would all agree that they are very worthy of it if this is possible.

 As we approach the end of the school year, it is important to continue to remind your children that the work they are doing is important and it will count towards their grades and their learning. We know that the students and their families have had to make significant adjustments in their learning habits and their efforts are recognized and valued. In order to give the students credit for their work they must continue to submit all assignments. Please consult with your children and their teachers to check if they are missing any work and remind them that they can hand in assignments for credit, even if it is late. However, the deadline for submitting all work will be June 16th at noon.

 In closing, I will share that over the past few months we have been offering various resources to help our families manage the ongoing reality of living life in a pandemic. The social unrest that is currently happening in our country is certainly an added emotional experience that our children must process. While our students are in school, the Northfield City School District teaches acceptance through our curriculum, tolerance through social programs, and respect through our actions. We recognizing the potential challenges of having these necessary and difficult conversations your children so below are resources to help you in doing so if you feel like you have to:

[Talking to Children About Tragedies and Other News Events - American Academy of Pediatrics](https://www.healthychildren.org/English/family-life/Media/Pages/Talking-To-Children-About-Tragedies-and-Other-News-Events.aspx)

[Talking to Children about Violence Tips for Parents - National School Psychologists Association](https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/school-violence-resources/talking-to-children-about-violence-tips-for-parents-and-teachers)

[How to Talk to Children About Difficult News – American Psychological Association](https://www.apa.org/topics/talking-children)

[Social Awareness and How to Talk to Kids About Race and Racism – Parent Toolkit NBC News and Learn](https://www.parenttoolkit.com/social-and-emotional-development/advice/social-awareness/how-to-talk-to-kids-about-race-and-racism)

Enjoy your weekend!

Respectfully,



Pedro P. Bretones

Superintendent of Schools