

Graduation Plans Mountain Lake High School

Updated: May 15, 2020

Over the past month, senior advisors, senior class officers, administration, and school board members have met to discuss, dream, and plan for the Class of 2020 graduation ceremony amidst difficult circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic. All of these people desire things to be different from what they are. We wish that you could have experienced a normal graduation ceremony.

That being said, we plan to follow the graduation guidelines from Minnesota Department of Education, Minnesota Department of Health, Center for Disease Control, and Governor Walz's executive orders to the best of our ability.

Our current graduation plans include three pieces: 1) a virtual ceremony, 2) awarding of diplomas, and 3) a senior parade. All of these will take place on May 22.

Virtual Ceremony:

- A virtual graduation ceremony will be released on the school website and Facebook page on May 22, tentatively at 4:00 p.m.
- We encourage you to watch this ceremony in your home at 4:30 p.m.
- The virtual ceremony includes many pieces of our traditional ceremony like the senior slideshow, student speeches, the featured speaker (Mr. Jans), announcement of scholarship recipients, and the reading of names and thank yous.
- There will be a moment during this ceremony for seniors to move their tassel and toss their cap.
- Senior officers plan to have a Zoom session at 4:30 p.m. for seniors to join together virtually.
- Seniors: during the virtual ceremony and Zoom event, wear your cap and gown! This is your time.

Awarding of Diplomas:

- Graduates will pick up diplomas from the front lawn of the high school.
- Graduates wear their cap and gown.
- Each graduate should arrive in one car with family members from their household according to an assigned time between 5:30 p.m. and 6:45 p.m. on May 22. Cars will arrive in front of the auditorium.
- Each family will wait in their vehicle until it is their turn. If car windows are open, please maintain 6 feet of distance between your vehicle and other vehicles.
- The graduate and two (2) adults are allowed outside the vehicle to receive the diploma.
- One of the adults with the graduate will pick up the diploma from a table and award it to the graduate while the graduate's name is read.
- A photographer will take a picture of the graduate receiving their diploma with the two adults.
- Once a graduate receives their diploma, the graduate and adults return to their car and leave.
- School officials participating in the ceremony will follow social distancing guidelines.

- This will be livestreamed on the school Facebook page.

Senior Parade:

- At 7:00 p.m., the senior and his/her family are invited to join in a parade led by Mountain Lake fire and police departments through most residential streets in Mountain Lake.
- Each senior can have one car in the parade. Family members from their household are encouraged to join them. The graduate and family must stay in the car.
- Seniors may decorate their cars and are encouraged to hang a sign on each side of the car with their name. Tagboard is available at school on May 18.
- The parade line up will start on 3rd Avenue at the corner of County Rd 1 near Mountain Lake Automotive. Cars should line up on 3rd Avenue after 6:45 p.m.
- Community members are encouraged to stand on their lawns or on the street and congratulate graduates and families as they pass by. Adherence to social distancing guidelines needs to be followed. Gatherings of over ten people in one location are not permitted.

Anyone showing symptoms of COVID-19 (cough, fever, shortness of breath, chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste/smell or recent exposure to COVID-19) should not participate in the graduation events.