



Developing 2021 Graduation Plans

Helena Public Schools

April 2021



Graduation Planning:

At this time, gathering plans are not required for submission to Lewis & Clark Public Health. However, we continue to meet regularly with County Health including ongoing discussions pertaining to our developing graduation plans.

Should Lewis & Clark County experience a significant increase in COVID-19 cases across the coming two months and county requirements change accordingly, we will work with County Health to consider any needed modifications.

General Information:

Four Outdoor Ceremonies at Carroll College (Nelson Stadium):

- ***Friday, June 4, 2021***

- Access to Success: 3:00pm
- Project for Alternative Learning: 5:00pm

- ***Saturday, June 5, 2021***

- Capital High School: 9:00am
- Helena High School: 1:00pm

- Times/Dates may be adjusted in accordance with inclement weather

- Plan A: Above
- Plan B: Shift times but keep dates
- Plan C: Move ceremonies indoors (limit shifts to 2 tickets per graduate)
- Plan D: Move ceremonies to the following weekend

Closer to Normal:

With two months until our graduations, there is no way to accurately predict virus activity within Lewis & Clark County. Therefore, the below protocols are subject to change.

Anticipating an allotment of 10 tickets per graduate – Equates to 75% attendance to allow for distancing between families.

- Two “golden tickets” honored should ceremonies need to be moved indoors.
- No ticket max expected for PAL and Access to Success ceremonies

Assuming that ceremonies will take place outdoors, we are expecting that masking will be required in congested areas (entry/exit) and optional once seated as a family.

Cleaning efforts will focus on high traffic areas, including restrooms, between ceremonies.

Closer to Normal:

Ceremonies will be somewhat abbreviated (aiming for 90-minute ceremonies for both Capital High and Helena High).

- Ceremonies will include a (non-masked) student processional including the playing of *Pomp & Circumstance*
- Band and Choir performances included as part of our ceremonies
- Student speeches (speakers in the process of being selected/prepared)
- Three feet of distancing between seated graduates
- Yes, students will be allowed to throw their caps upon being announced as graduates

Planned Accommodations:

Enhanced video and sound will be included as accommodations due to virus-related protocols:

- All graduation ceremonies will be lived-streamed and available on-demand for online viewing.
- Similar sound setup to our 2020 ceremonies will allow for better hearing across the Nelson Stadium stands and any overflow areas.

Preparation & Communication:

Graduation practice for all students is not viewed as necessary at time.

- Counselors will preview ceremony details and student responsibilities with graduates in anticipation for June graduations.
- Practice opportunities will focus on students that are either speaking and/or performing.

Graduate picnic/BBQ remains in planning as a pre-graduation opportunity for the Class of 2021

Graduates and families can expect school-specific information across the coming weeks pertaining to tickets, ceremonies logistics, graduate caps/gowns/regalia, and other graduation related information.



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