



April 29, 2020

Dear LPS Class of 2020,

I wanted to take a moment to write to you, to update you on a few things and to acknowledge the fact that the last few months of your final year with LPS is not one any of us could have imagined.

Please know that I understand the disappointment you are feeling, having many special senior year events cancelled or postponed, due to the closure of schools. From spring concerts, musicals, plays and other planned performances; spring athletics (some to have taken place on new fields for your inaugural games); competitions for our FIRST Robotics teams, DECA chapters, end of year banquets, trips and numerous other year-end events...this is a true loss. Having had two children of my own graduate from Livonia Public Schools not too long ago, I definitely understand the importance of these special activities. Please know, your hard work to prepare for these events did not go unnoticed!

I am so proud of each one of you. You are adapting, persevering and showing great maturity during this difficult time. You are not allowing this virus to define your educational career in Livonia Public Schools. I see the rays of light that you're showing to one another and to our amazing high school staff as you work hard to close out these final few weeks of your school year. **We are here to help you cross the finish line, so please reach out if you need us.** You should be proud of the grit and grace you are showing during this time... We see you. We are here with you and for you.

You will be receiving a letter via email today, from Mr. Willenborg, who is the Director of Secondary Programs, along with our three high school principals and our student activities directors. They have been communicating and working together regularly. The letter will update you on future planning for senior prom, senior honors night and commencement. **It will ask for your input.** Please voice your opinions and ideas on the brief surveys that will be included in the letter. Everyone is working very hard to preserve these special events, while navigating the guidelines of the governor's executive orders in the wake of this health crisis.



In the meantime, I would like for you to take a moment to acknowledge YOU. In just under a month, you will be part of something bigger than yourself when you become a graduate of Livonia Public Schools. As a proud LPS graduate myself (from many years ago!), I know you will carry that pride with you as you enter the next phase of life, knowing that you have done your part, you have contributed and you have made a difference as a student in LPS!

Stay strong. Stay positive. Stay engaged through to the finish line. We are excited to celebrate you as soon as we are able to do so!

My best to you,

Andrea Oquist, Superintendent