

MANASQUAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

"One School, One Team, Making a Difference"

July 6, 2020

Dear Parents and Students,

We will be holding our Eighth Grade Graduation Ceremony on Wednesday, July 15th at 6:00 p.m. on the Vic Kubu Warrior Football Field at Manasquan High School. A rain date for the event is scheduled for Thursday, July 16th at 6:00 p.m.

As graduation approaches, I need to share some important guidelines that will help us to ensure a memorable ceremony for you and your child, while adhering to the most recent social distancing and safety guidelines for outdoor events. Please carefully review all of the following information with your child.

Due to the current school closure, there will be no formal graduation practice this year. Students will be required to report to the high school on July 15th at 5:00 p.m. for check-in dressed in cap and gown. Staff and security will arrange students for the procession onto the football field following social distancing guidelines.

If you have not yet done so, please know that district resources and property including textbooks, laptop and charger must be returned prior to participating in the graduation ceremony. All fines and obligations must also be settled to allow for participation in the graduation ceremony. Students are eligible to participate provided they have satisfied all New Jersey Department of Education and Manasquan Board of Education requirements.

Guidelines for the Audience:

1. Admission to the Manasquan Elementary School Graduation Ceremony is **by ticket only**. Each Eighth Grade graduate candidate will be allotted four tickets only, to ensure compliance with outdoor guidelines due to COVID-19. Please know that this includes infants and small children. There will be no replacement tickets for lost, stolen or forgotten tickets. Each family will receive their four tickets by mail. Please contact us if you do not receive your tickets.
2. **Face coverings are required for all graduates and guests at the ceremony**. Guests must arrive with their own face covering of their choosing which must be worn throughout the ceremony. All graduates and guests are required to wear their face covering during all parts of the ceremony and maintain social distancing.
3. The graduation ceremony will begin promptly at 6:00 p.m. The gates will open at 5:00 p.m. Once the graduation ceremony begins, no one will be admitted to the ceremony.
4. There will be NO saved or reserved seating. Family members attending the ceremony will be directed by security to seating areas strategically spaced to respect social distancing.
5. During the ceremony, all members of the audience must remain in their seats.
6. Audience members are expected to be courteous. Noisemakers, inappropriate yelling or commentary, etc. will not be permitted. If a disruption occurs, the offending party will be removed by security from the premises.
7. Following the recessional of graduates from the field, guests from the stands will be dismissed in sections. In order to limit contact between persons and families, we encourage all graduates and guests to leave the campus immediately after the ceremony. Please take all your pictures ahead of time.

Graduate Candidate Guidelines for Ceremony:

1. Arrive at MHS on July 15th by 5:00 p.m. Please report to the sign-in desk at the high school gymnasium entrance. Do not bring sunglasses or purses with you. Sunglasses will not be permitted during the ceremony. Face coverings are required for all graduates and guests at the ceremony. **In the interest of uniformity, we ask all graduates to please wear a blue/white standard paper surgical mask.** If you do not have one, one will be provided upon your arrival. All graduates and guests are required to wear their face covering during all parts of the ceremony and maintain social distancing.
2. Please dress appropriately considering the summer season and temperature, balancing comfort with dress attire. Boys should wear slacks (no shorts) a collared shirt and, if you feel comfortable enough, a tie. Girls should wear a comfortable dress or outfit with flat shoes. For safety, heels are not recommended due to walking on the field. No flip flops are permitted for any graduate. If your attire or demeanor is not appropriate, you will be taken out of line and you will not be allowed to walk.
3. Caps and gowns are not to be decorated, including to promote political agendas, campaigns, inappropriate messages or slogans that might disrupt the ceremony. **MES cap and gowns need to be returned undamaged.** Dignity and respect during the ceremony will promote a united Class of 2020.
4. Graduates should not yell or shout out to their family or classmates during the ceremony.
5. Graduates are expected to walk across the stage with dignity. If you call attention to yourself by dancing, strutting, etc., your diploma will be held. If it is determined that you behaved inappropriately, you will not receive your diploma until a meeting is held between the parents and administration.
6. Every Eighth Grade graduate will receive their diploma at the ceremony.
7. The Manasquan Elementary School Graduation Ceremony is a dignified event. Celebratory distractions, such as beach balls, silly string, etc., will not be permitted. Security will remove individuals participating in such activities.
8. All graduates will recess out from the ceremony in an orderly fashion and will be dismissed in the front of the high school.

9. In the front of the high school following the ceremony, all Eighth Graders will be directed to return their cap and gown. You may keep your tassel.
10. If a prospective graduate candidate does not wish to abide by the district's Graduation Rules and Dress Code, they are welcome not to participate. The graduation ceremony is a privilege, not a requirement or a right.
11. Any individual not complying with our district guidelines will be subject to the authorities of the Manasquan Police.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL GRADUATES AND GUESTS:

1. **According to CDC guidelines, please take your temperature before coming to the ceremony. Anyone whose temperature is above 100 degrees or exhibiting any symptoms of illness should not be attending.**
2. **In accordance with the current NJ travel advisory, anyone (graduate or guest) who has travelled from any of the states identified in the travel advisory up to 14 days prior to the ceremony may not attend.**

The Manasquan Elementary School Administration, Faculty, and Staff wishes the very best to all of the "Class of 2020."

If you have any questions or concerns please contact us at 732-528-8810 (extension 2000) -- cgraziano@manasquan.k12.nj.us or rkirk@manasquan.k12.nj.us .

Thank you very much for your anticipated cooperation. We look forward to seeing you on July 15th!

Sincerely,

Colleen Graziano
Principal

Richard Kirk
Assistant Principal