

Barker Central School

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May 15, 2020

Dear Senior Class Families:

This has been an unprecedented school year for a number of reasons. It has been especially hard on our seniors. Senior year is often the time in a student's life when the most memories are made and they receive closure on their schooling experience. In an effort to provide our soon-to-be graduates similar experiences, the senior class student officers have held several meetings to discuss various options that are permissible under the current state guidance. We would like to thank these student officers for their hard work and dedication to their school throughout this experience. Please see below for details.

1. Barker's Graduation Ceremony is being rescheduled to Saturday, August 1, 9:30 am in the school's Herbert F. Ludwig auditorium.
 - a. If state guidelines on group gatherings still forbids events like this, an alternative option may occur if allowed. A singular graduation option, also referred to as "drive up graduation" or on social media, may occur if allowed. Each student would be given a time slot to come to school, receive their diploma, and have formal pictures taken. More information will be announced soon as details are finalized.
2. In an effort to still have an end of year celebration, seniors and their families will be able to take part in "Barker Senior Night at the Drive-In" on Monday, June 15. A celebration video of the senior class will be played, followed by a feature-length movie (to be announced later). Seniors will have the opportunity to contribute to the video (see "video guidelines" below).
 - a. Each senior will be allowed one vehicle admission to the drive-in. Each senior will receive a ticket in the near future. The event is free for our seniors and their families.
 - b. All seniors **must** be accompanied by a parent/guardian. All behavior must follow district code of conduct guidelines, similar to any other school event.
 - c. There will be no concessions available, so please bring your own snacks!
 - d. The drive-in has also enacted social distancing guidelines we must adhere to. Please be prepared to stay in your car for the duration of the evening. Bathroom use will be available.
 - e. This event is only for senior class students and they will be required to have the ticket for admission (letter a above).

3. Video Guidelines: In an effort to put our own Barker “spin” on the video, each senior will be able to contribute two items: a video message to their families, peers or teachers; also, a more formal picture of her/himself in graduation cap and gown.
 - a. Seniors should be familiar with the use of Google Drive. It can also be downloaded to any smartphone. Mr. Costello will be collecting all of the video messages and photos via “sharing” on Google drive.
 - b. Each senior will share their video and picture with Mr. Costello. Share it to the email address jcostello@barkercsd.net
 - c. Each video should be a maximum length of ten seconds.
 - d. Please keep all content school-appropriate in a manner that abides by the district code of conduct.
 - e. Both the video and picture must be shared by Friday, 5/29 at 4:00 pm!!!!
- Some tech notes to keep in mind:
 - AVOID backlighting – Be sure that you do not shoot pictures or video with sunlight, windows, or mirrors behind your subject. All of these will create shadows and issues with a flash.
 - AVOID wind and other background noise – If you are planning to record audio be sure to check your surroundings. Windy days or running water will create noise that may make it difficult to hear an important message being shared. Be sure to speak loudly and clearly when you are outside.
 - Record video in LANDSCAPE/HORIZONTAL mode NOT portrait/vertical. Portrait mode will create black bars on the side and we need to avoid those. Your video is showing on a big screen so we don’t want to have to enlarge your video submission so it can be seen
 - Record video at 1080p HD at 30 fps if you can. 720p HD at 30 fps will work if you have to use that. We DO NOT need anything to be 4K so please avoid that and anything at 60 fps. Check your camera settings before recording.
 - Recommended file format is an MP4, but MOV will work just fine.
 - When sending image files use a higher quality. DO NOT send “SMALL” or “MEDIUM” scaled images. If the image file size is under 5 MB then send it as “ACTUAL SIZE.” If not then using the “LARGE” setting will work well.

If there are any questions regarding the technology side of this process, please email Mr. Costello at jcostello@barkercsd.net.

If students or parents have any questions about the events in general, please email Mr. Carter at mcarter@barkercsd.net.

Thank you very much to the senior student class officers, the Transit Drive-In, Mr. Jeff Costello and the Barker PTO for helping make all of this possible.

Michael Carter
Principal, Barker Central School District