



June 9, 2020

Dear Golden Eagle Class of 2020 Members and Families,

Thank you to those who participated in the motorcade celebrating the Class of 2020 on its original graduation date. The support for this class from our Golden Eagle families and community was strong and our students are grateful.

Enclosed in this mailing you will find details and instructions about this year's graduation ceremony. We had hoped to reach a time when no restrictions were in place; however, since it seems that COVID-19 green phase restrictions will last through the summer, at a minimum, we are proceeding with a June 17, 2020 commencement at Golden Eagle Stadium, with June 18 and June 19 as rain dates.

Additionally, due to the COVID-19 restriction that caps the number of attendees at any gathering at 250, along with other regulations, the ceremony will look a little different than in prior years. You will notice that seniors will be spaced six feet apart in their seats on the football field, that masks will be required when they gather closer together, and that families will be staged in their cars and then cycle through the stadium to see their own senior graduate. Although this is an atypical graduation ceremony for Somerset, it accomplishes our two primary goals: to keep students and our community safe in compliance with state regulations, and to provide an opportunity for the Golden Eagle Class of 2020 to be together as they enjoy this very important rite of passage.

We understand that there are some very different opinions regarding the need to follow the COVID-19 regulations. Some folks believe they are necessary and some do not. Nevertheless, as a public school district, we have no choice but to follow the regulations we are given. The most important aspects of this ceremony are that we appropriately honor our students' accomplishments, give them positive memories of their high school experience, and ensure families have the opportunity to witness their senior receive his/her diploma. Even within the restrictions, we are still planning an exciting event for our Golden Eagles that we know they will enjoy.



As guests at this event, we respectfully request the following:

- Please convey to your senior that their school is providing the best experiences it can to celebrate his/her successes in the context of our restrictions and that even though this graduation ceremony is not our typical style, it will be a great one! This will be a wonderful celebration and we ask that you help us make it the best it can be for every single senior.
- Please arrive in a timely manner and park in the student parking lot. If you are confused by the instructions, please know our staff will direct you through each step of the process. Just look for folks wearing Somerset polo shirts and/or orange traffic vests.
- Please remain in your car until directed to go to the field. As you will see in the enclosed instructions, you can listen to the entire ceremony on the radio. You will get to see your senior graduate, in person, on the field.
- Please ensure there is at least six feet of distance between your family and other families when you are out of your car the stadium. Some families may include immunocompromised or medically fragile folks who need you to keep a distance during this pandemic.

For educators, graduation is the best time of the school year as we see the students we have known and loved reach the goal for which they have worked for thirteen years. We are proud of them. We will miss them. And this year, our hearts have broken for them. The Class of 2020 has proven that with the future in its very capable hands, the world will be a better place. We thank you for raising amazing children and we look forward to hearing back from them as they embark on their life's journey into the world. They will always be Golden Eagles. It has been a privilege to know them. We look forward to seeing you on the 17th!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Krista S. Mathias, Superintendent
Somerset Area School District

Somerset Area School District
Class of 2020 Commencement Ceremony
June 17, 2020 @ 7:00 PM
Quick Guide to Ceremony

Step One

Student Parking Lot

Parents/guardians are required to park in student parking lot starting at 5:30 with each vehicle being assigned a group number. One vehicle with a maximum of 6 guests. 6 tickets will be given to you after you park. If you must drive separate vehicles to the ceremony, only one vehicle will be permitted in the student lot and tickets will need distributed to other guests by the family in the student lot. The ceremony will be broadcast live on YouTube and the radio.

Step Two

Field House Parking Lot

Step Two will commence when all speakers have finished their speeches. Cars will travel from student parking lot and enter the fieldhouse parking lot when their group number has been called in the student parking lot.

Step Three

Diploma Presentation

Assigned groups will enter the stadium through gate by ticket booth while keeping social distancing between groups. Ushers inside stadium will help direct you to your viewing area at the 50-yard line in front of the bleachers when your child receives his/her diploma. Graduates will then return to their seat on the field. Parents/guardians will then exit the stadium behind the bleachers and out the main gate to return to their car.

Step Four

Leaving Field House Parking Lot

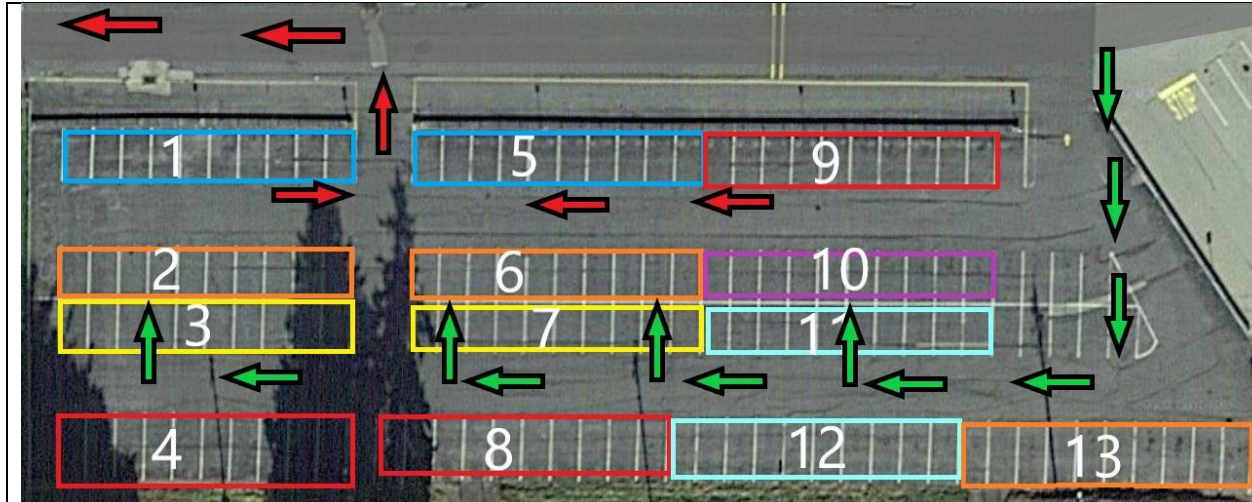
Cars will leave the fieldhouse parking lot after you have watched your graduate receive his/her diploma by turning right and traveling down S. Franklin Ave, right on Tayman Ave, and right on S. Columbia Ave to your assigned pickup location at the JSHS Campus.

Step Five

Pickup Location at JSHS Campus after Ceremony

Cars will return to the JSHS campus on S. Columbia Ave and park in their assigned area.

Step One – Parent/Guardian Parking in Student Lot (Prior to Commencement)



- Parents/Guardians will enter the student parking lot and be assigned a group number starting at 5:30 PM
- Graduates need to arrive at the fieldhouse gymnasium no later than 6:15 PM
- One vehicle per graduate with a maximum capacity of six people.
- All guests, except graduates, will listen to the ceremony from their cars as the ceremony will be live streamed on YouTube “SASD NEWS”

or, QR code



and broadcast on Forever Radio 103.5 FM

- Parents/guardians will be directed to the fieldhouse parking lot by assigned groups before graduate names are announced in the ceremony (approximately 1 hour into the ceremony)

Step Two

Field House Parking Lot



- Step Two will commence when all speakers have finished their speeches
- Cars will travel from student parking lot and enter the fieldhouse parking lot following the green arrows when their group number has been called in the student parking lot
- All will park in the row highlighted in green in the appropriate lettered section
- Cars will leave the fieldhouse parking lot following the red arrows after their groups have watched their graduate receive their diploma – exiting by turning right and traveling north on Franklin Ave

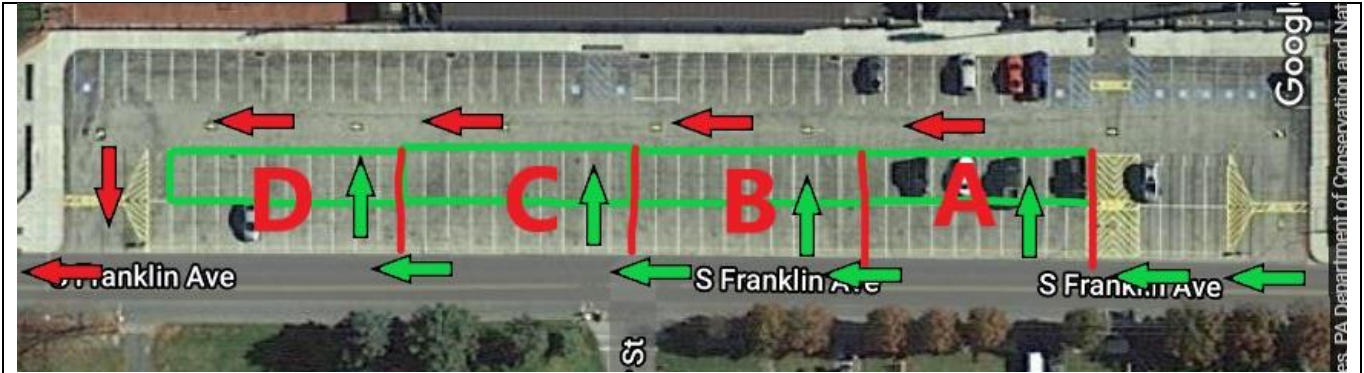
Step Three - Parents/Guardians Traffic Flow for Diploma Presentation



- Assigned groups will enter the stadium through gate by ticket booth while keeping social distancing between groups
- Ushers inside stadium will help direct you to your viewing area following the green arrows
- You will be at the 50-yard line in front of the bleachers when your child receives his/her diploma
- Graduates will then return to their seat on the field
- Parents/guardians will then exit the stadium behind the bleachers and out the main gate following the red arrows
- Please return to your car

Step Four

Leaving Field House Parking Lot



- Cars will leave the fieldhouse parking lot following the red arrows after their groups has watched their graduate receive his/her diploma – exiting by turning right and traveling down S. Franklin Ave, right on Tayman Ave, and right on S. Columbia Ave to your assigned pickup location at the JSHS Campus
- Please be mindful other parents/guardians will be waiting to replace your vehicle when the next assigned group arrives from the student parking lot

Step Five

Pickup Location at JHSH Campus after Ceremony



- Cars will return to campus on South Columbia Ave and park in their vehicle in their assigned area.



Class Of
2020
Somerset Golden Eagles
2020

Class of 2020 Commencement Ceremony Practice

- Seniors are invited for a senior luncheon and yearbook signing starting at Noon on June 17, 2020 at the stadium. Lunch will be provided by Chuckwagon.
- Graduation practice will start after the luncheon. Rain or shine.
- Rain dates for the commencement ceremony will be June 18 or 19. Any student choosing not to participate in commencement at 7:00 PM can stop by the senior high office the day after the ceremony for their diploma.
- Seniors are highly recommended to attend the luncheon/practice.
- Seniors are asked to wear a mask and practice safe social distancing.



You are cordially invited to

Baccalaureate

a night to gather together in prayer and praise

Who? **Seniors only** (due to health guidelines).

When? June 16, 2020, at 7 pm. **Arrive from 6:30-6:45.**

Where? The football field (or, the auditorium if weather is inclement.
You will be notified if moved inside by 5 pm on June 16).

Attire? Wear your cap and gown. Masks are required.

Parents may watch the event livestreamed on YouTube on our “SASD News” channel.

This event is run by the Class of 2020 and participation is optional. Those who do participate will be asked to wear a mask and will be provided with a distanced seat for safety. You may choose to remove your mask **ONLY** while seated.

Questions? somerset.class.of.2020@gmail.com

or message us on our class social media

