

Home of the Roughriders
Pima High School

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Dear PHS Seniors and Families,

I am writing to provide an update regarding the Class of 2020 graduation. The decision to move to a virtual graduation ceremony was made in light of the current stay-at-home orders, social distancing requirements and restrictions on large gatherings. The current guidance from the Arizona Department of Health Service and the Graham County Department of Health is to not hold High School Graduation gatherings. This very difficult decision was made with the safety of our students, staff, families and community in mind. The virtual graduation will take place on the same date and time as the already scheduled -- Wednesday, May 20 at 8:00pm.

To the extent possible, the virtual graduation ceremony will replicate as many components of our normal in-person graduation ceremony as possible. In fact, we plan to include pictures and recordings of each graduate in an attempt to make the ceremony more personalized. The graduation will be streamed for families to view from the comfort and safety of their own homes.

We have spent considerable time discussing the decision to move toward a virtual graduation. In doing so, we discussed other possibilities, options and ideas. Clearly, the decision to move to a virtual ceremony was made based upon an unpredictable, uncertain, and ever-changing future amidst COVID19. In the event that all restrictions are lifted, large gatherings are permitted, and we can safely provide an in-person graduation ceremony at that time, we most definitely will do so. Although we know an in-person ceremony is everybody's preference, in order to provide each student the opportunity to be recognized at this significant milestone, we must plan immediately to execute a virtual ceremony in the event an in-person graduation is not possible. We will certainly leave the door open for a recognition and/or celebration of the Class of 2020 at a future date.

Details on how to access the virtual graduation ceremony will be made available prior to May 20th.

Respectfully,

Cody Barlow, Principal
Pima High School