

PRESS RELEASE – NORTHWESTERN CUSD #2
APRIL 23, 2020

Northwestern CUSD #2 would like to assure senior students, their parents and guardians that graduation is a top priority for our school district. However, graduation will look a bit different than in the past due to the pandemic. Schools in Illinois must follow the Governor's Orders during the pandemic and are not allowed to re-open during the Covid-19 pandemic. Schools are not allowed to host gatherings of more than 10 people during this time, not even in outdoor areas of our school campus. The Executive Order from the Governor states: "All public and private gatherings of any number of people occurring outside a single household or living unit are prohibited, except for the limited purposes permitted by this Executive Order. Pursuant to current guidance from the CDC, any gathering of more than ten people is prohibited unless exempted by this Executive Order."

Numerous school districts in Illinois are currently planning graduation ceremonies to honor seniors on graduation night. This graduation planning involves a "virtual graduation" instead of the normal graduation ceremony that is formal and held on school property. The formal graduations are not allowed at this time even if they were to be held outside due to the limited number of people allowed at gatherings.

The schools understand that a formal graduation is preferred by everyone. If the circumstances change during the summer, formal graduations can be planned and held at that time. There is a concern that schools will not be allowed to open until August or September. If that is the case, our senior students may be going to school or work at this time, joining the military, or not in the area. We do not want to miss an opportunity to honor our students, so we will plan to do what we can at this time, with the possibility of a future formal graduation if we are allowed to gather this summer.

Northwestern School district is in contact with the Macoupin County Health Department and must follow the guidelines of social distancing and limiting crowds at this time. Schools are also formally closed by Governor Pritzker for the remainder of the school year, which includes the dates scheduled for graduation. All of our community members, board members, teachers, parents, guardians, and family members understand the need to honor our graduates as well as keep our communities safe.

Northwestern CUSD #2 is actively planning graduation along with teachers, students, and other community members. The school may include some unique ways to honor graduates and make graduation as special as possible during this time and with the unique rules that are in place. Please support our schools and our graduates during this time. Class of 2020, we are proud of you!

Go Wildcats!
Dr. Kevin Bowman