



West Chester Area School District  
**BAYARD RUSTIN HIGH SCHOOL**

**Dr. Michael Marano, Principal**

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April 14, 2020

Dear Rustin Seniors, Parents, and Families,

Now that the Governor has declared school buildings be closed for the remainder of the school year, we are faced with making some challenging decisions involving seniors and the end of their time as Rustin students. Dr. Scanlon and Dr. Sokolowski, my colleagues at East and Henderson, and I have developed a plan to try to balance honoring and commemorating our seniors with the harsh reality of our current situation, which requires us to adhere to strict guidelines and act responsibly in trying to keep everyone safe.

With all of this in mind, here is the framework within which we will be working moving forward. I am sure that you have many questions, understandably, and my hope is that this information answers most of your questions.

- A virtual graduation will take place for each of the three WCASD high schools. This will take place at our regularly scheduled time of **June 5 at 6 p.m.** We will be collecting feedback from students to make the virtual ceremony as memorable as possible.
- We all share a strong desire to hold a live ceremony for graduates. **We will be postponing our live ceremony to Sunday, July 26, as long as we are permitted by the Governor to do so.** All three high schools in the district will hold ceremonies on this date. We will communicate in the future about timing, and be sure to give you adequate time to plan. We are working to make sure caps and gowns are ready, and we will develop a plan to get those to seniors.
- Given that all PA schools are closed for the remainder of the year, the junior and senior prom will unfortunately be cancelled. There are a number of concerns about holding a rescheduled prom in the summer, including the availability of venues and our ability to monitor young people who are no longer under our authority since they will be graduates by the summer. Senior officers will discuss options and gather feedback from the class for use of the raised funds. Additionally, the post-prom committee will decide how to handle funds raised.
- Due to the coronavirus, the yearbook warehouse has been closed. Yearbooks will either be available for pick up or home delivery at a later date. We will do everything we can to get them to you as soon as possible.
- Some students, parents, and teachers have asked when they will be able to enter the building to retrieve their personal belongings. We will allow students/teachers to retrieve their personal belongings when the Governor will allow us to do so.
- The last academic day for seniors will be on May 22, as scheduled.

As always, please reach out to me with any questions you may have. Feedback from you will be invaluable as we finalize the details of this plan.

Sincerely,

Mike Marano  
Principal

*Home of the Golden Knights*