

ELMWOOD PARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL
375 RIVER DRIVE
ELMWOOD PARK, NEW JERSEY 07407
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ANTHONY IACHETTI
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

DAVID WARNER
PRINCIPAL

Dear Students & Parents/Guardians,

As Mr. Iachetti's letter outlined, there were just too many restrictions, safety concerns, and logistical issues to overcome in order to hold an in-person graduation ceremony. However, I am very happy that the Class of 2020 will have a commencement ceremony that will honor and celebrate each student. A Caravan/Parade may be a little different, but after speaking with many students and families, it became clear that the majority wanted one ceremony that allows the class to receive their well deserved diplomas together in a meaningful way! Therefore, in partnership with the EPPD and American Legion, we have planned a Caravan Commencement exercise that will take place on Friday, June 19, 2020 at 4:00 PM. Please carefully read the directions and guidelines outlined below:

Meeting/Parade Route

1. The rally point (start) of the caravan will be at the American Legion Post 147 located at 1 Legion Place, Elmwood Park NJ 07407. There will be two separate caravans in order to reduce traffic blockage and make the ceremony more efficient.
 - a. Seniors with the last names starting with **A through K** will meet at the parking lot of Legion Post 147 at **4:00 PM**.
 - b. Seniors with the last names starting with **L through Z** will meet at the parking lot of Legion Post 147 at **5:00 PM**.
2. After assembling at the designated times above, the Elmwood Park Police Department will lead the caravan through the Borough to the high school. The route will travel west on Market St, North on Mola Blvd, and west on Gilbert Avenue. Once on Gilbert Avenue, cars will enter the high school parking lot and follow the bus lane to the main entrance of the school. Members of the administration and Board of Education will be at the entrance to the school to congratulate and distribute diplomas to each graduate. After receiving their diploma, cars will be directed out of the parking lot to River Drive. Once on River Drive, your part of the ceremony has been completed.
3. The event will be live streamed from the entrance of the school, so family, friends and loved ones can watch each graduate receive their diploma from any device at home.
4. A pre-recorded virtual graduation program, including the traditional speeches will be accessible on Youtube during and after the caravan procession.

Guidelines/Expectations

- All vehicles must be driven by a parent/guardian.

- Vehicle occupants are limited to the graduate and his or her parents/guardians (3 total).
- At no point during the organized caravan should any of the occupants get out of the vehicle - This includes the assembly at the Legion parking lot.
- All windows to the vehicle must be closed at all times, until directed to roll down the window by an appropriate official in order to receive their diploma.
- Graduates must wear a mask while receiving their diploma.
- The graduate is encouraged to wear their cap and gown and must sit in the rear passenger seat of the vehicle. If a family has multiple graduates (siblings only), they should travel in the same car with both graduates in the back seat.
- Graduates are encouraged to decorate their vehicles and display appropriate messages.

Professional Pictures

In addition to the caravan, graduates have the opportunity to take pictures at the high school by Marcel Studios. Each graduate and their family can book an appointment, using the link below to have a graduate photo and family/graduate photo on June 15th or 16th from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. The photos will be taken by the Memorial/Flag Pole near the entrance on River Drive (old front). Your child will also receive an email from Mrs. Alfonso with the link below, so please coordinate one appointment time.

<https://calendly.com/gradphotos/graduation-photo-2020?month=2020-06>

- You must use the link to book an appointment.
- These photos will be paid for using funds raised for the senior class and will be provided free of charge.
- Photos will be mailed to students once processed.
- Students are encouraged to wear their cap and gown to take the picture.
- Staff will be on hand to supervise and ensure appropriate social distancing guidelines are being maintained.

The entire staff is excited to see you on your graduation day and I am hoping that the event serves as a fun way to celebrate with your family right alongside you! However, we also understand that each situation is unique, so if you have questions or concerns which impact your ability to take part, please call (201)-796-8700 ext. 2933 or email warner@epps.org my office. We will work to ensure every student and their family has the opportunity to participate.

Sincerely,

David Warner

Mr. Warner
Principal

cc: Mr. Anthony Iachetti, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Jillian Torrento, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Leon Samuels, Assistant Principal
Mr. Daniel Basile, Assistant Principal/Director of Athletics
Mr. Vincent Benenati, Supervisor of Building and Grounds
Mr. Moises Cordero, Director of Technology
Mr. Michael Wartel, Director of Public Safety

