

# Smith-Green Community Schools

*Superior Schools ... In a Supportive Community*

222 West Tulley Street, Churubusco, Indiana 46723 • 260-693-2007 • 260-693-6434 • [www.sgccs.k12.in.us](http://www.sgccs.k12.in.us)

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July 17, 2020

Busco Graduates and Families,

In light of the Governor's announcement earlier this week to keep Indiana at Phase 4.5 of the Back on Track plan, I spoke with both the Noble and Whitley Health Departments to review our plans for graduation. After working with their guidance to make some necessary adjustments, we have developed a primary plan, as well as a contingency plan that will be followed in the event of inclement weather. Please find details of each plan below:

### **Primary Plan:**

- In line with the recommendations of both county health departments, our ceremony will be moved outdoors to the football stadium to allow for improved social distancing and airflow.
- The ceremony will begin at 8pm, to allow for lower temperatures during the event.
- Graduates will be seated on the football field, and will be socially-distanced.
- Each graduate will still be permitted to have four guests; tickets have already been sent home. No additional tickets will be available.
- Guests will be seated on the bleachers in the stadium; half will sit on the home side, and half will sit on the visitors side. This will be determined based on where your graduate is sitting for the ceremony, to allow families to have the best view possible of their graduate.

### **Contingency Plan (only used in the case of inclement weather):**

- In the event that the forecast indicates the likelihood of inclement weather that would affect the ceremony, a message will be sent out to families that indicates that we will be following the plan below.
- The ceremony will be held in the CHS gym, and will begin at 8pm.
- Graduates will be seated on the gym floor, and will be socially-distanced.
- Each graduate will still be permitted to have four guests; tickets have already been sent home. No additional tickets will be available.
- Guests will be seated on the bleachers in the gym; half will sit on the home side, and half will sit on the visitors side. This will be determined based on where your graduate is sitting for the ceremony, to allow families to have the best view possible of their graduate.

### **General Information (applies to both plans above):**

- Graduates will plan to participate in the ceremony must attend graduation rehearsal at 10am on Friday, July 24<sup>th</sup>. Graduates must bring their cap, gown, and tassel with them to rehearsal.
- Individuals who are ill, or displaying any possible symptoms of COVID-19, or who have had recent significant contact (less than 6 feet for 15 minutes) with any COVID-19 positive individual must not attend.

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*"The mission of Smith-Green Community Schools is to provide a superior educational experience that ensures success for every student through excellence in teaching and learning."*

- Hand sanitizer stations will be available at entry/exit points for the event.
- All attendees are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings, especially when social distancing cannot be maintained.
- Graduates and guests will be dismissed from the event in groups, to more easily allow for social distancing at the end of the event.

I am hopeful that this will be our final modification to our graduation plans, now that we are one week away from the ceremony. However, as we are all aware by now, the situation with COVID-19 continues to change rapidly, and our plans may be required to change again based on decisions that are made by our state leaders. If any further changes are required, I will communicate them as soon as possible.

I cannot thank you enough for all of your patience, flexibility, and understanding as we have continued to work with our state and local health officials to ensure that our ceremony keeps our community safe, while still honoring our amazing graduates. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions; otherwise, have a great week, and I cannot wait to celebrate with each of you soon!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. G. Hile', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Daniel G. Hile  
Superintendent