



June 16, 2020

Dear Class of 2020 Graduates,

We have held out hope for a traditional in-person graduation for the Class of 2020, most recently setting tentative dates in July. But the health and safety of our school community of students, staff and families remain our number one priority. After consulting with county and state health officials, we have made the difficult decision to cancel our traditional in-person graduation ceremony at Lincoln High School and McKinley Academy. We are exploring alternatives that will meet the graduation guidelines supported by local and state health care professionals.

Like many of you, we are disappointed and saddened that you will not have the opportunity to enjoy our historic commencement ceremony outside of our beautiful school. This was not a decision that was made lightly. We are all frustrated; however, it is important that we recognize the CDC, state and county graduation guidelines for large gatherings in public spaces.

A graduation committee at Lincoln has spent the past couple months surveying students and consulting with health officials while pursuing different options. Lincoln's graduation event will remain scheduled for July 18, with a rain date of July 19.

The graduation committee is working now on an alternative graduation format to celebrate the achievements of the 2020 Lincoln Ship graduates. The details of this event will be shared in the coming weeks.

We have taken steps to honor our graduates, such as spotlighting seniors on our social media accounts, handing out Class of 2020 yard signs, recording a virtual ceremony for our senior scholarships and awards night, and recognizing our spring athletes with #BeTheLight events. We realize that these actions do not replace the historic face-to-face graduation ceremony; however, we want you to know how proud we are of your accomplishments.

We will continue our work to create an alternative graduation event that will celebrate and honor you in a year that we will always remember.

Congratulations, and we look forward to your many future accomplishments.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Holzman". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mark Holzman
Superintendent
Manitowoc Public School District

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lee Thennes". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Lee Thennes
Principal
Lincoln High School