

August 5, 2020

Update from Dr. Derek Arrowood, Superintendent, Hamilton Heights School Corporation

The weather held out for Hamilton Heights High School's 55th graduation ceremony on Saturday. To provide the Class of 2020 a close to traditional ending to their senior year celebration was a strong testament to an extraordinary team effort. These students were deserving of a special send off and they received that and more.

This was only the second time (the first in 1974) that commencement was conducted outdoors. While the pandemic upended the last part of their year, these seniors rose to the challenges to achieve the requirements necessary to finish their four-year high school career. While graduation marks the end of high school, it signals the beginning of a much longer, more important journey.

The legacy of the Class of 2020 won't be that ceremony. It won't be what was lost, but rather what was gained during the last segment of their senior year. It will be how they take their experiences here — pandemic and all — to guide and measure their priorities in life. Regardless of their next steps, whether to pursue further education or go straight into the workforce, they will be able to draw from their formative years at Hamilton Heights and significant life experiences to date, to effect change during their lifetime.

Speaking of making the world a better place, we are readying to welcome students to the start of the 2020-2021 school year next Tuesday, August 11. Despite the uncertainty that surrounds us, the start of a new school year is still an exciting time, not only for students but for families and our staff as well. We recognize that due to the unique nature of how we are opening this year, it does come with added stress and concern. Please be mindful of these additional stressors and give each other grace and patience as we rise to meet the challenges before us.

We encourage you to become familiar with our updated and improved website. The revamped site — still found at www.hhschuskies.org — is more user and mobile friendly and has been redesigned to offer a new look and provide a more relevant online presence. The dedicated space for all things related to COVID-19 including our Re-Entry Plan, the latest guidance, updates, helpful information, links, Q & A, and more can be accessed directly at this [link](#). We welcome and appreciate your feedback as we continue to make this a reliable, helpful and informative site for all things Hamilton Heights.

We sincerely thank our families for entrusting us with the education of your children. We are grateful every school year, but especially amid a worldwide pandemic, for this honor and privilege. We believe in the youth of our community and deeply appreciate the opportunity to help them discover their potential and become the best version of themselves. It's what motivates us every day and, although it may look different this year, it still energizes us and fills us with hope. #WeAreHuskies

