



May 8, 2020

Dear Class of 2020 Graduates and Families,

I want to thank you for your patience during this time as we anxiously waited for approval from the Governor for in-person graduation ceremonies. While many schools made the decision before the Governor's order to postpone or make alternative plans, we chose to wait for the Governor's decision to avoid additional stress with making a change and then needing to make another change after guidance was released.

The Governor announced in his press conference on Tuesday afternoon that outdoor in-person graduations are approved under certain circumstances and strict safety measures. Updated guidance on in-person dates was released yesterday that now allows us to have an in-person graduation on or very close to our originally scheduled graduation date. We are excited to announce that we will be holding an outdoor in-person ceremony for our graduates. Below are the final dates and times.

Gateway Tech High School – Friday, May 29th at 7:30 pm

Gateway College Preparatory School – Saturday, May 30th at 7:30 pm

Both graduations will be held outside on the soccer/lacrosse field at Gateway College Preparatory School. Indoor graduations are not approved. The time changed to later in the day to provide a more comfortable temperature for graduates and participants.

In addition to the change in time, below are necessary modifications to meet safety measures in the Governor's order.

- Each graduate will be allowed only **4 guests** to attend the in-person ceremony.
- We are working on plans to live stream the ceremony for family, friends, students, staff, and guests who aren't able to attend in-person.
- All guests will go through required screening questions prior to entering.
- Hand sanitizers will be located at the entrances.
- Face coverings/masks are recommended but not required.
- The graduate and guests in the same household need to arrive and depart in the same vehicle. The graduate and their guests need to arrive and check-in together.
- Guest seating in the stands will be assigned. Golden Gate members will have assigned priority seating. All other seating will be randomly assigned and communicated prior to graduation.



- All participants will keep 6 feet or more of spacing between each other, except that members of the same household may be allowed to sit together in the audience, but must be at least 6 feet away from any other family group at all times.
- School administrators will wear gloves to hand out diplomas.
- Graduation rehearsals are not allowed and will not be held prior to the ceremony.
- Specific plans for arrivals and departures to ensure appropriate social distancing are being developed and will be communicated out closer to graduation.
- Air horns and other noise makers are not allowed at graduation and should not be used during the ceremony. This is even more important this year as we provide live streaming of the ceremony.
- Confetti and other items to be thrown are prohibited before, during and after the ceremony. Personalized signs are allowed and a great way to celebrate your senior.
- All facilities will be thoroughly cleaned between graduation ceremonies.
- Professional photographs will not be taken at graduation. Traditional after ceremony photos will not be allowed in order to maintain safety. See the information below for a photo opportunity before graduation.

Caps, Gowns, Cords, and Stoles: Pick-up of graduation attire (caps, gowns, cords, and stoles) is scheduled for **May 26 – 28** with scheduled appointment times. Graduates will have the opportunity at the time of pick-up to dress in their cap, gown, cords, and stoles and have their picture taken individually and with immediate family members. Graduates can bring up to 4 immediate family members to join them for pick-up and pictures.

We are grateful to be able to hold an in-person graduation as close to a traditional ceremony as allowed. We know how important this event is to celebrate our graduates, their accomplishments, and transitioning to a new post-secondary journey. Congratulations Class of 2020!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Carla Silber'.

Carla Silber
Superintendent/COO
Orenda Public Charter School District