Dear Seniors and Families of Sarasota High School Seniors,

As you know, last week we relayed the disappointing news that our traditional commencement ceremony to honor our Class of 2020 had to be cancelled. Ever since that moment, we have been developing an alternate plan to provide a way to honor our students while still adhering to the FL DOH guidelines of keeping gatherings below 50 persons, maintaining social distancing, and recommending the wearing of masks/face coverings.

The plan outlined below gained district approval. We are grateful for the opportunity to honor and recognize the hard work and perseverance of our Senior Class of 2020. Here are the plans for our alternative graduation ceremony:

**Where:** Cleland Stadium at Ihrig Field

**When:** July 16, 2020
6:00 - 9:00 pm (staggered by alpha)
- 6:00 pm (A-F)
- 7:00 pm (G-M)
- 8:00 pm (N-Z)

**How:** (please carefully review the requirements and procedures below)

1. **One vehicle per graduate.** Graduate must be a passenger (preferably seated in front passenger seat) and not a driver in the vehicle.
2. Vehicles are directed to report to the US-41 parking lot (staging area).
3. Vehicles will be directed in small groups by security staff to travel north on 41, turn right on Browning Street, and then turn right again on Varsity Way behind the stadium.
4. Vehicle Entrance - Northwest gate behind the home stands.
5. Each vehicle will receive a program, a Life Touch name card, and a Sailor face mask when their vehicle enters the stadium.
6. Graduate will wear their cap and gown and get out of the vehicle at the 50 yard line - home side, so Life Touch may take a photo of the graduate inside or just outside the vehicle with guests remaining in the vehicle and the home stands in the background. Class of 2020 banner will be hung in this area. Graduate will return to the vehicle if needed.
7. Vehicle will continue around the track to the east side.
8. Faculty will be lined up six-feet apart around the track.
9. Graduate will be directed to get out of the vehicle with their mask on just prior to the stage (risers) on the 50-yard line - east side and maintain 6-feet spacing as indicated by hash marks on the track/field.
10. Graduate will step onto stage. Vehicle will follow along with graduate.
11. Graduate will give their name card to admin/counselor who will read their name over the loud speaker.
12. Graduate will receive their diploma cover.
13. Graduate will get picture taken with Mr. Jones
14. Graduate will exit the stage.
15. Graduate will get back into their vehicle and complete the loop to the exit (north side of the field).
16. Vehicle will be directed to drive north (not west) when they depart the gates of the field.

It is our sincere hope that this ceremony provides an opportunity for your graduate and family to commemorate this pivotal moment in their lives.

Sincerely,
The SHS Administration Team and Graduation Planning Staff

**PLEASE NOTE:**
Our district is closed July 6 – 10. Any emailed questions or concerns may not be immediately addressed.
Please visit our social media pages for updates or information.
Facebook: @SarasotaHighSchoolSailors
Instagram: @SarasotaHighSailors