

Eric W. Chase
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Good Afternoon,

I am writing to inform every one of the plans for the upcoming graduation season. The sequence of graduation events will be as follows:

- Saturday, May 11th- Senior Prom – King’s Wood Camp, Piermont
- Sunday, June 9th - Baccalaureate @ HCMS- 6:30
- Tuesday and Wednesday, June 11th and 12th - Class Trip
- Thursday, 13th- Class Night @ HCMS- 6:30
- Friday, June 14th- Awards Assembly- WHS Gym 8:15
- Saturday, June 15th- Graduation @ HCMS- 10:00

While we are more than aware of the tradition of holding graduation on King’s Plain, we feel that the condition of the campus due to our construction project will make this unsafe and untenable. Construction is slated to start at the end of April or early May in order that the addition is available by January of 2020.

The Community Building will be in the heart of the construction site and, though we feel we can work around this with our students for the daytime Awards Assembly, as very few adults attend, we will not be able to utilize the Community Building for the other graduation activities.

The first complication is parking. We will be losing 25-30% of our available parking spaces to the construction site and associated vehicles. We have considered off-campus parking and shuttling attendees from off-site but that leads to our second complication. The graduation set-up is always on hold until the last minute to determine if the ceremony will be held on King’s Plain or in the Community Building. The maintenance staff then quickly move the staging, chairs, and other materials inside in inclement weather or outside in good. Were there to be inclement weather on the 15th, they would not have adequate time to move everything to HCMS. Lastly, we also considered a tent. This would be much more than a single tent however. We would need a tent large enough for 400 attendees, another for the graduates and the podium, and a third to cover the band. This is likely to still leave a large group of people without adequate cover. We feel the cost would be prohibitive and would still incur the expense of busing attendees in for off-site as well.

I proposed this plan to Mrs. Melanson, our Superintendent of Schools several weeks ago. She then brought it to the Haverhill Cooperative School Board on March 16th, prior to the District Meeting. After a vigorous and thoughtful discussion, which gave consideration to all possible options, the Board approved the plan unanimously.

We hope everyone will understand this decision was made with the safety of all who will attend graduation on June 15th as its ultimate objective.

Respectfully,

Eric W. Chase
Principal