May 15th, 2020

Dear Senior and Parents:

On May 14th, 2020, Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Arlotto, provided guidelines for all high school graduations in Anne Arundel County. I know many of you are disappointed by the decision, I fully understand. We know there are many who do not agree, but we are required to adhere to all restrictions imposed by Governor Hogan and follow recommendations of the State Health Department. With that said, having a live graduation or a large celebration of any type may put our students’ health and well-being at risk. At Southern, the safety of our students is my first priority.

Now, we can begin moving forward with planning the Senior Spotlight on CRAB radio, senior awards, and our digital ceremony. To make our digital ceremony special for each student, I need every student to submit three pictures. Please use this link to upload your appropriate and endearing photos: https://forms.gle/iub5bW5EPnEeTiRE8 or email to tstakem@aacps.org. Also, I would like every student to submit a picture of themselves in a cap and gown. Yes, please include your stoles and chords too! The link to submit your photo is: https://forms.gle/ABdjbumWH2bQkAGa9 or email to tstakem@aacps.org. All pictures must be done by May 20th in order for them to be included in the digital ceremony.

Information regarding diplomas and yearbooks will be forthcoming. If students and parents would like to make suggestions that comply with state and local guidelines and restrictions, please email me at aahopkins1@aacps.org.

Additionally, we will be working with senior class officers to plan graduation ceremony for the summer. I would like to host the summer celebration at our stadium so students can receive the recognition they deserve. Please remember this is contingent upon the restrictions and guidelines set for by the state and health department.

Furthermore, please have your senior tweet photos of themselves and tell AACPS and our community your future plans. Please use the hashtag #AACPSBEYONDAWESOME. AACPS and Southern will put reports on our social media pages.

I recognize that what we are doing will never equate to walking across the stage and traditional graduation celebrations. I do hope that our Southern families understand that we are doing everything that we can and are allowed to do to let our Seniors know that we do care and have not forgotten them.

Always in my heart, Class of 2020.
Angela Hopkins

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