AACPS has worked collaboratively with our state and local government agencies to arrange a wonderful opportunity to recognize graduates of the Class of 2020. On June 4th, 2020 and June 5th, 2020, each graduating senior of Southern High is invited to attend a Cap and Gown Gala and Diploma Distribution at the high school. Seniors will be allowed to walk across a stage in their cap and gown as their name is announced, be photographed by Lifetouch Photography, and receive their diploma and graduation memorabilia.

For graduates and their family:

- Graduates are to bring their cap/gown/tassel/stole/cords.
- Graduate will arrive to campus in no more than two vehicles per graduate, accompanied by no more than four (4) family members total combined for both vehicles. Example, graduate in vehicle #1 with four family members total – OR – graduate in vehicle #1 with two family members and accompanying vehicle #2 has two family members.
- Family members must wear mask/face covering.
- Graduate is the only person attending the event that will have the OPTION to wear a mask/face covering, all other attendees MUST wear mask/face covering, this includes the Principal (and staff) who will be wearing a mask/face covering.
- Anyone experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or whose family members are experiencing symptoms, may NOT attend event.

Procedures for Cap and Gown Gala:

- Prior to arrival to campus, the graduate is to write in big, bold print on an 8 ½” x 11” inch piece of white paper the first and last name of the graduate.
- Upon arrival to campus, place the latter piece of paper on the graduate’s dashboard or on the passenger side window. Paper and marker will NOT be provided for you upon arrival to campus.
- Upon entering the school campus, the graduate’s vehicle(s) is to enter the school near the visitor lot, then enter the bus lane area and follow the loop, making your way to the front of the school Main Entrance. Note: If the graduate has a second vehicle accompanying them, they can gather in the visitor lot prior to entering the bus lane area.
- Southern staff members will direct the graduate’s vehicle(s) to create a single line of vehicles.
- While waiting in the Parent Loop, everyone MUST remain in your vehicle at ALL TIMES, until your vehicle reaches the head of the line at the Main Entrance. Staff members will come to your car to if you senior has books, calculators to return or needs to pay an obligation.
- Once the graduate’s vehicle reaches the Main Entrance, staff members will direct the graduate and their family members (no more than four family members per graduate) to exit the graduate’s vehicle(s), with the graduate making their way to the stage located on the Main Entrance sidewalk area. Graduate to wear their cap/gown/tassel/stole/cords. Graduate should wear their tassel on the left.
- Family members are to remain at the sidewalk area located directly next to the graduate’s vehicle, family members may NOT approach the front of the stage. Graduate will walk to the side of the stage, whereby they will indicate to the Southern staff member their (graduate’s) name.
✓ A Southern staff member will announce the graduate’s name on the mic/speaker.
✓ After the graduate’s name is announced, the graduate is to walk up the stage steps to the top of the stage.
✓ The graduate is to remain on stage, standing in place on the stage for the family and Lifetouch (photographer) to take a picture of the graduate.
Note: For health/safety guidelines, the Principal will NOT hand the diploma to the graduate, and the Principal will NOT shake the graduate’s hand. The Principal will be standing behind the table on the stage, 6ft. from the graduate wearing a mask/face covering.
✓ After the graduate exits the stage, the graduate will handed their bag which include their diploma and return immediately to their vehicle.
✓ After the graduate and accompanying family members assemble back in their vehicle(s), the graduate and family members are to immediately exit the campus in their vehicle(s), making way for the next graduate to be recognized. Graduates and their family members may NOT gather and may NOT remain on campus.
✓ Please be mindful of the latter so we can accommodate the large number of graduates that will be attending during the same hour/day.

Schedule for Cap and Gown Gala:
When coming to SHS for the Cap and Gown Gala and Diploma Distribution, please comply with the following protocol for your personal safety, and the safety of others. Days/times are as follows for the last name alpha of graduating seniors:

- Thursday, June 4
  - 8 – 8:45 a.m.  A, B
  - 8:45 – 9:30 a.m.  B
  - 9:30 – 10:15 a.m.  C
  - 10:15 – 11:00 a.m.  D
  - 11:00 a.m. – Noon  E, F
  - 12:30 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.  G, H
  - 1:15 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.  J, K, L
  - 2:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.  M
  - 2:45 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.  N
  
- Friday, June 5
  - 8:00 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.  O, P
  - 8:45 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.  Q, R, S
  - 9:15 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.  S
  - 10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.  T, U
  - 10:45 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  V, W, X
  - 11:30 a.m. – Noon  Y, Z
  - 12:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.  Open

- Monday, June 8
  - RAIN DATE

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in helping making this event a success for the Class of 2020. If you have any issues with the time that has been assigned, please email Ms. Stakem, tstakem@aacps.org or Ms. Hopkins, aahopkins1@aacps.org