



COOK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 130

Office of the Superintendent

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May 1, 2020

Dear Families of the Cook County School District 130 graduating class of 2020,

This spring was a time that many of you have been anticipating for some time due to its numerous events and celebrations that lead up to graduation. I know some of you feel upset, frustrated, or any number of emotions regarding how statewide preventative measures to maintain the health and safety of our communities caused a disruption during this special time in your educational journey.

Across our District, once it was announced that all schools statewide would be closed to in-person instruction for the remainder of the year, teachers and staff have shared how they were heartbroken that they did not get a chance to celebrate your achievements and accomplishments alongside you. As a group and as individuals, the graduating class of 2020 has made a lasting-impact on Cook County School District 130.

Our soon-to-be graduates have continued to demonstrate resiliency in the face of a global pandemic as demonstrated by their continued commitment to personal education and growth. In this time, our students are learning important life lessons of flexibility, adaptability, and togetherness for the benefit of the greater community. These are things we know will make them successful in high school and beyond.

To recognize the work of our students and families, all three of our middle schools will be conducting virtual graduation ceremonies on the evening of Wednesday, May 27, 2020. As more details become available, our principals will share information about how to participate in this celebration of our graduates. Please take time to ensure that the school has a viable and accurate email address on file for you and your family.

We know that this is not ideal or at the same level of pomp and circumstance as previous graduating classes, but we still want to offer a ceremony that will bring closure to your time with Cook County School District 130 before moving on to high school.

For families that have paid for the cap, gown, and tassel, you will have an opportunity to receive these mementos during the scheduled pick-up time of your child's personal belongings. You will also have an opportunity to take pictures in front of graduation signs that we will be putting up at each of our middle schools to recognize our students.

In the meantime, I encourage our soon-to-be graduates to remain focused on a strong finish to their studies at Cook County School District 130. Our faculty and staff will continue to offer daily remote learning opportunities that will prepare them for high school while making those final lasting connections with teachers and classmates.

I appreciate your hard-work, dedication, and perseverance through this unprecedented time, and as a result, the Class of 2020 and its families will always be remembered by District staff. I look forward to our celebration on May 27, 2020!

With respect and admiration,

Colleen M. McKay, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Cook County School District 130