



Dear PHS seniors,

We know this isn't how you pictured your senior year ending. Many of you have imagined what it would feel like to walk across the stage to get your diploma, or how special your senior prom would be. Now, because of circumstances completely out of your control, you are being asked to give up these special moments. We know it's hard and unfair, and we want to tell you that we are so sorry this is happening to you.

We also want to tell you how proud we are of each and every one of you. History will remember you as a generation that made great personal sacrifices to protect the health of your community – to save lives. Thank you for doing your part to help as many people as possible.

Behind the scenes, we are working as hard as we can to make sure that you are able to celebrate your graduation with your loved ones. We want to say up front that graduation can't look like it has in the past with ceremonies being held at Colorado State University's Moby Arena or the Fort Collins Lincoln Center.

Following Superintendent Dr. Smyser's announcement about schools not re-opening this school year, a team immediately met to lay a foundation for what 2020 graduation could look like in PSD. Please know that district and high school leaders will do everything we can to make in-person 2020 graduation a reality, if possible. We, too, would prefer to be together to celebrate.

We have not yet finalized plans, and options on the table include potential in-person ceremonies later in the year and virtual celebrations. However, we must be clear that this global pandemic is shifting sometimes by the hour, and its manifestation in our community may or may not allow for in-person celebration, even if it is delayed.

We want to come up with plans that are effective and do right by seniors, always keeping in mind what keeps the most people as safe as possible. We plan to come back to you with more information after we've processed further as a team.

Some of you have already reached out to us, and others, and shared some creative ideas for graduation, thank you! If we do have to go the route of a virtual ceremony, please think about what you would like to see and, if you're willing, share those with me. No matter what the ceremony looks like, you are soon going to be high school graduates. That's an accomplishment that no one can ever take away from you. As you enter adulthood in these uncertain times, we ask that you continue to treat each other with respect and grace.

In the not-so-distant future when you go off to college, enter the workforce or serve our country in the military, you will share this unique experience with members of the class of 2020 all around the world. You will all be able to look back on this difficult time and know that together, you did your part. That's Ubuntu. I am who I am because of who we are. We are Poudre.

Sincerely,

Kathy Mackay
Principal
Poudre High School

Dr. Sandra Smyser
Superintendent

Scott Nielsen
Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Schools

