

Virtual Graduation Ceremonies

Dear Tustin Unified Families:

Due to the recent Executive Order from Governor Newsom regarding prohibiting social activities and community gatherings in order to reduce the spread of the coronavirus, we must inform parents and students of the Class of 2020 that high school graduation ceremonies will not be held in person as we had hoped.

The governor's order is very clear: "State public health directives prohibit professional, social and community gatherings. Gatherings are defined as meetings or other events that bring together persons from multiple households at the same time for a shared or group experience in a single room, space or public place, such as an auditorium, stadium, arena, large conference room, meeting hall or other indoor or outdoor space. They pose an especially high degree of transmission and spread of COVID-19."

Though Tustin Unified was looking forward to celebrating its 2020 graduates in person, we must put the health and safety of students, staff and parents first.

The COVID-19 cases in Orange County have dramatically spiked since the District made the announcement four months ago to have traditional graduation ceremonies in August. TUSD had hoped by postponing the original May date, COVID-19 would be reduced by August, and the District could continue with in-person plans. Unfortunately, the surge makes that impossible.

As Tustin Unified's high schools plan the virtual ceremonies, their goal is to create a memorable experience that captures the recognition and genuine admiration and respect the District feels for its students. TUSD knows it won't be the same as an in-person event, but we will do our very best to deliver an outstanding program to honor the members of the Class of 2020.

Graduates, their families and friends will be able to view each of the virtual graduation ceremonies during a livestream on the dates and times listed below.

More details on the livestreams will be sent to parents from your school. Information will also be posted on the high school websites. If someone misses the livestream, the videos will be available online.

The schedule for the virtual graduation ceremonies is as follows:

- Tuesday, August 4 – Tustin Adult School and Tustin Connect at 6 p.m.
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- Wednesday, August 5 – Foothill and Beckman at 6 p.m.
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- Thursday, August 6 – Hillview and Tustin at 6 p.m.

Tustin Unified is encouraging students to wear their graduation regalia while viewing the virtual ceremony so they can take part in long-standing traditions such as being invited by their principal or student leader to move their tassels and toss their caps.

Thank you for your patience and perseverance during these unusual circumstances. Stay safe and be well.

Gregory A. Franklin, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Tustin Unified School District