

Graduation changes

Due to the restrictions due to the COVID-19 school closure across the state of Oregon, many time-honored ceremonies intended to celebrate the achievements of graduating seniors cannot be conducted in the traditional manner.

The Baker High School administration, school staff, and ASB officers have collaborated with local government officials and the senior parent group to organize alternative activities to celebrate this year's graduates.

Prior to a decision, input was gathered from multiple groups, including a survey of the senior class. Some logistical details are still in development, but the overall plan is as follows:

A drive-through graduation is planned for Sunday, June 7, beginning at 2 p.m. for graduates of Baker High School and Eagle Cap Innovative High School.

Graduates, in vehicles with their families, will begin in the Baker Sports Complex parking lot, then proceed south on Fifth Street to the bus lane in front of BHS to receive their diploma.

Graduates will be wearing caps, gowns, cords, and medals. Vehicles may be decorated, and graduates need to be seated in the passenger side.

Once vehicles pass through the bus lane to receive their diplomas, they will gather in the student parking lot to prepare for a parade through town.

Local government and emergency person-

Graduation Parade

When: 2 p.m. June 7

Where: Begins at Baker High School and goes through downtown Baker City

nel agencies will lead the procession along the route through town and manage social distancing.

Diploma presentations at BHS will be live-streamed on the internet and recorded for posting at a later date.

Valedictorian and keynote speeches will be pre-recorded with Elkhorn Media and posted online for viewing during the parade.

Lights to honor athletes

In April, Athletic Director Buell Gonzales Jr. coordinated with local emergency services personnel to light selected athletics facilities at 8:20 p.m. (2020 military time) each Friday night. This effort honored student-athletes and recognized the spring season lost to COVID-19 closures.

Signs to honor grads

Signs honoring 2020 BHS seniors are being created in the District Print Shop to be placed on front lawns of senior students.

Business displays

The senior parent group is in the process of creating photographic signs celebrating graduates to be displayed at downtown businesses. These will feature the student's yearbook

photos.

Business displays

For several years, the graduates dress in caps and gowns to walk through district schools. This year, seniors are volunteering to create a video and provide advice to Baker School District students. This video will be recorded and sent to the schools for potential broadcast release.

Awards Night

The senior awards night will be pre-recorded with school and district personnel announcing the recipients of scholarships and other awards. The recording will be posted to variety of social media and websites on the regularly scheduled date of Wednesday, May 27.

Virtual Assembly

A virtual assembly is being organized for seniors to take place on June 3. This event will be livestreamed and recorded, and it will include the traditional senior slideshow that is created by the yearbook staff.

Graduation party

The traditional senior grad night party is canceled. However, the senior parent group is planning to host a virtual senior party on the evening of commencement.

Any prizes and gifts that seniors receive will be available for pick-up at the front of BHS on the morning of Monday, June 8.

More Shout Outs

In this together

I would like to give a shout out to Bea Brooks and Julie Mespelt for their assistance with the home resource packets. I would also like to give a shout out to Phil Anderson, Katy Collier, Geno Bates and Amanda Wilde for their help with streamlining the Home Resource Packet process. And I would also like to thank the faces behind the doors, these are the secretaries, teachers, para-professionals, maintenance, transportation and custodians, their help is also appreciated and noticed. I also appreciate the administrators, teachers and staff of Baker High and Baker Middle school, for they too, haven't missed a beat in keeping our students engaged in learning. Lastly, I would also like to give a shout out to the district office staff for being available whenever needed. Bottomline is we are a team, working together, to find a way to help teach our children (students). I feel blessed to work with these individuals.

Julie Homan, print shop

Child care staff:

Shout out to Veronica Baxter, Mitchell Stephens, Amanda Washington, Rochelle Adams, LeAnn Cripe, Karen Emmons, Kevin Lee, and Donita Culbertson for stepping up and working in emergency child care. This group has made the best of the situation and ensured all the children feel loved, safe, and are having a good time. Couldn't ask for a better staff!

Angela Lattin

The BMS vlog

Once a week, the office staff at Baker Middle School post a vlog (video log). My daughter and I enjoy watching these videos every week to see what Mr. Flanagan, Mr. McCauley, and Ms. Trader have to say. They have other staff members join every week, and Olivia likes to see the familiar faces. Mr. Valerio's "Well Done Wednesday" jokes were a welcome reprieve for the middle of the week. When nothing is normal,

these BMS videos give us something to look forward to each week.

Lisa and Olivia Jacoby

Thanks, LaKayla!

I appreciate LaKayla Gerber. She has worked tirelessly with me and helped me be a more effective educator for my students with distance learning and technology. She worked with a good sense of humor, considering my antiquated computer and printer/scanner, slow internet speed in Sumpter, having the internet go on and off throughout our sessions, and having to deal with a student like me who is technologically challenged. I learned so much from LaKayla. What a wonderful teacher: kind, supportive, knowledgeable, a good communicator, and patient are just some adjectives I would use to describe her. I am so glad that our District has amazing people like LaKayla on our staff. It truly "takes a wonderful village!" I am so appreciative! Thank you!

Sharon Foster

To all the cooks:

I feel so fortunate to have such an amazing team of food service staff! To say it was a bit chaotic for the first month of the closure in the school food service world would be an understatement. A whole new service style was created overnight and felt like it changed daily.

Every cook jumped on board immediately to help and has continued to pour their love (and most importantly, their patience!) into their work, everyday. They don't always know who they will be working with, what they will be preparing for the day, or how many meals they will need to make, but each day they walk in... with smiles on their faces!! And that is what I am truly grateful for. Thank you for being patient with me, I know it hasn't been easy! You all are true school lunch superheroes, and I cannot thank you enough Debbie White, Karla Shute, Alita Arendell, Darcy McCauley, Sara VanDyke, Becky Cross and Patty McGinness.

Jessica Dalton