

# *Stroud Public Schools*

## *"Home of The Tigers"*

---

**212 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Stroud, Oklahoma 74079, Phone 918-968-2541, Fax 918-968-2582**

*Joe L. Van Tuyl*  
*Superintendent*  
*Scott Baade*  
*High School Principal*

May 5, 2020

Seniors and Parents:

I know many of you are anxiously awaiting information on how we will proceed with graduation plans in view of all of the events regarding COVID-19. Because the situation has a history of changing, in some cases on a daily basis, we have delayed and continue to delay cancelling the traditional graduation on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. We also understand the reality is this event will be difficult to produce in the same manner as usual. Our hope is to get as close to the traditional graduation as possible and expect to have our best information late this week or very early next week to assist in providing clarity to our approach. The delay in decision is directly related to desiring the best information possible to provide a quality event for this important time in your lives.

The following information from Mr. Jeremy Smart outlines a virtual approach to graduation that will be pursued in the coming days to allow time for production. We consider this to be the lowest level of graduation ceremony we will pursue for this important event. This is a first step toward providing other contingencies to honor graduates, their families, and support groups if it is determined that a traditional commencement cannot happen.

Joe L. Van Tuyl  
Superintendent

Scott Baade  
Principal

### [Information from Mr. Jeremy Smart](#)

*Attention: Seniors and Parents,*

*Congratulations to you Seniors for making it through childhood, teenage years, and high school!  
Congratulations to you Parents for helping your child make it this far!*

*To say it has been a weird and unfortunate final year of high school would be an understatement! I can't imagine the impact of closing the physical schools during one of the most important years of your school career thus far has had on you...As if a global pandemic wasn't enough!! I empathize with you for the*

*inconvenience this has caused you, and what may seem like being stripped of a rite of passage, during this time of crisis.*

*The Stroud School Administration has decided to establish a virtual ceremony in the event a live graduation is not available. While it may not be the same as attending the ceremony “in real life”, it is a way to provide a ceremonial service honoring you. In order for this happen, we would be doing video shoot of each individual student and adult going through their actions and delivering their speeches just as it would have been done normally. Then all pieces will be put edited together to make a video of the graduation ceremony that will be streamed online. Let’s take a look at what this will look like, and what to expect.*

*We will have a video shoot consisting of 2 days. The filming dates will be determined very soon. Day 1 will consist of filming everyone with a speech and/or speaking part. Day 2 will consist of filming all Seniors completing their actions (Honoring the American Flag, walking across the stage, receiving the diploma, “posing” for the camera, moving the tassel, and some other actions needed).*

*For everyone’s safety, a schedule will be worked out so that each student is being filmed individually, so that social distancing is maintained and there is limited/no contact with one another. Graduates, Please be on time for your scheduled filming so we can maintain the social distancing protocol and also to be courteous for your fellow graduates scheduled after you. In order to maintain social distancing, the diploma will be set on a table and the Graduate will pick up the diploma from the table. This will be done in separate shots, and some movie magic will come into play.*

*Graduates...So as not to be caught off guard, here are some things to expect when you arrive for your scheduled filming:*

- 1. You will possibly see some movie lights and other equipment being used.*
- 2. You will see 2 Crew members working cameras, lights, and audio.*
- 3. We want you to enjoy this opportunity and have some fun, but we also need to be mindful of the filming schedule, taking direction, and getting everything needed in camera for your final video.*
- 4. When filming your part, we may not film everything in order from start to finish the way it will be seen in the final product. It may very well be filmed out of order. Do not worry.*
- 5. You may be asked to perform multiple “takes”, a certain action multiple times and/or multiple different ways in order to get the variations and find the best take. This does not necessarily mean you did something wrong. It could be an equipment malfunction, timing mishap, audio issue, or just needing some variations to find what works best. (What may seem weird while acting, could look amazing on camera, as our eyes see things differently than the camera sees).*
- 6. When “posing” to the camera with your diploma, we will do a normal “classy” pose, providing you with the best possible approach for your moment on stage.*
- 7. When arriving, please be respectful and maintain quiet (even when opening doors or walking down the hallway) as the graduate before you may not be finished filming, and it could ruin the audio for that take.*
- 8. Have fun, and Congratulations!*