



P.O. Box 2513 • Winston-Salem, NC 27102-2513

To the Class of 2020,

Congratulations! I am proud of you. You have put in years of effort, days of work, and many hours of study. I have confidence in your accomplishments and celebrate with you in all you have achieved. The lessons you've learned, the relationships you've made, the laughter and tears you've shared, are moments that will continue to shape you. While this may be the end of one chapter, it's the beginning of many more. Sadly, the ending of this chapter has been rather dim, but as Dr. Maya Angelou said, "Nothing can dim the light that shines within." I believe that about the Class of 2020.

The past few weeks have not been easy. I am saddened to watch as so many pieces of this momentous year are taken away from you. Your senior experience has not been what anyone, especially you, could have imagined or wanted. As the first class under my tenure as WS/FCS Superintendent, you will always hold a special place in my heart, even more so given these unusual circumstances and the adversity you've been forced to face.

As our Board of Education, my leadership team, your principals, and teachers continue to make decisions that impact your year, I hope you know that everything we've done thus far is with your best interest in mind. Your safety and the safety of those you love is of utmost importance. We too have learned and experienced things we never thought imaginable. Like you, we are also "graduating" from this experience with an understanding of something unexpected and new.

With that in mind I want to share with you the decisions we've made thus far. First, your fall grades will count toward your GPA. Your spring courses will be pass/fail/withdraw. If you have met North Carolina's basic graduation requirements as of April 27, our Board of Education has decided to waive any further credits our district may have required. April 27, 2020 could mark the end of your high school educational career. If you are missing credits, have AP or IB course work and tests to complete, our teachers can continue to work with you so you can satisfy those requirements. Your teachers and counselors will work with you, individually, to help everyone navigate through.

As you make plans to finish out your course requirements, I also want to share that at this time there have been no plans made to change or cancel our traditional graduation ceremonies. If changes or cancellation becomes necessary or mandated by state leaders, we will of course communicate that with you as soon as possible.

Seniors of 2020, I grieve with you that your senior year is coming to a close in this way, but I simply cannot wait to see how you overcome this challenge. I know nothing will dim your light. It will continue to shine and there is a big world out there that needs your radiance!

With my sincerest well-wishes,

Angela P. Hairston, Ed.D.
WS/FCS Superintendent

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