



Illinois School for the Deaf

125 S. Webster Avenue
Jacksonville, IL 62650
217-479-4200 Voice / TTY
217-717-9654 VideoPhone
217-479-4209 Fax

Founded February 23, 1839

Senior Family Letter

April 29, 2020

Hello Seniors and Families,

You have been on my mind a great deal lately as we continue to shelter in place with remote learning. I can't thank the entire ISD team enough for the compassion they regularly demonstrate for our graduates facing this unprecedented loss.

Your students IEP goals and objectives will continue to be updated throughout the end of the year. The teaching and support service staff are continuing to reach out and provide remote learning opportunities and services to your students. Please be sure to keep ISD updated on current contact information.

Some students/families have asked about credits toward graduation and grades in progress. Our grading process has changed based on COVID-19 and updated ISBE recommendations. Students will receive grades and credit based on their 1st semester grades and 2nd semester work completed. Teachers will provide feedback, assess student progress and learning, and communicate this to student and parents. ISD has adopted the principle of no educational harm to any child during remote learning which means students will receive either Pass or Incomplete. Please try your best to encourage students to return the work packets that have been mailed to you. The Illinois State Board of Education has changed graduation requirements for the class of 2020 per Executive Order 2020-31 and Emergency Rules from Governor Pritzger. The minimum requirements have been reduced for language arts, mathematics, science and social science as well as elective classes. Exempted requirements are PE, consumer education, participation in the SAT test as well as the government and Constitution tests.

Graduation for the class of 2020 will be held at a date to be determined in the Fall of 2020 once we are able to publicly gather for a delayed event. Out of respect for all of our families, we want to honor the seniors in person as some do not have access to a virtual platform (Zoom, Google Hangout, etc). ISD has all of the caps/gowns/tassels and will hold them until such time as graduation is held. All items ordered through Jostens (including the caps and gowns) will need to be paid (online) by May 22, 2020. Once orders have been paid, Jostens will ship the items (rings, sweatshirts, mugs, etc) to the address on file.

Should you have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me, via email christine.good-deal@illinois.gov or call voice (217)-479-4254 or VP (217)-882-6362. Thank you for your patience and understanding during this fragile time in our history. I can't wait to see you all in the fall to celebrate the Class of 2020!!

Sincerely,

Christine Good-Deal, High School Principal

A residential school for students who are deaf and hard of hearing operated by
the Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Rehabilitation Services.

*Accredited by the Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf and
North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.*