Dear Parents of 2016 graduates,

In an effort to clarify questions and communicate the plan for the Commencement 2016, I thought it would be judicious to send out “The Plan”. This will be a unique experience for all of us, I appreciate – in advance – your adaptability and willingness to go with the flow during this year’s graduation. Please peruse this document. If you have questions, don’t hesitate to call or write me. This is going to be a great event!

Date: June 10, 2016
Time: 7pm
Location: Tulalip Amphitheater

High School Commencement is a very important event in the life of your student. The event brings together family and friends from far and wide to celebrate the accomplishments of the Class of 2016. Lakewood High School has traditionally provided a very classy ceremony, and while we are in a different location, we still plan to have a very formal event. Please help us maintain a respectful and orderly environment so that each student receives an equal amount of recognition for their achievement.

The Plan

Seating:

- There will be approximately 1600 chairs for general seating behind the band, students, and staff seating.
- Each graduate will be receive 10 tickets for general seating in chairs on Wednesday, June 8th. Additional people are welcomed, but they will not have a chair.
- Spectators may arrive after 5pm. As saving seats will not be allowed, guests with a ticket will have to be there to take a seat.
- Overflow seating, including an area for “bring your own” lawn chairs will be behind the provided chairs; and standing room on the concrete steps at the back of the amphitheater will be available for people without tickets.
- Disabled seating for wheelchairs will be on the concrete pad on the South side of amphitheater. These seats must be reserved in advance. For each wheelchair, there will be a seat for one accompaniment. The front row on the south side of the public seating area will be reserved for disabled people not needing a wheelchair. Students have been instructed to contact Mrs. Karrie Flint, in the counseling office, at LHS with the names and particular needs of each disabled person. Seats will be reserved with signage.

Student timeline:

- Students will check in at the LHS Theater at 5:30pm.
- Individual student pictures and the “Class Picture” will be taken at this time. Packets will be available in the main office and need to be turned in Friday morning during rehearsal.
- Students should be wearing their robes and mortarboards and dressed formally. Students will not be allowed to take a purse or bag with them to graduation. All items for the grad night celebration should be checked in Friday morning.
- Students will align in the theater the same as they will at graduation. They will get on the bus in order of their seating. Leave LHS at 6:30pm. Students will disembark the bus at the south entrance – one bus at a time. They will stay in line along the path leading into the venue.
- At 7pm, the graduates will walk into the amphitheater through the south entrance and fill in the seats from the front toward the back. Performers, the valedictorian and salutatorian, and Honor Roll students will sit in the front rows.
At the time “diplomas” are awarded, students will file out to the right, line up on the south side of the stage, walk across the stage from south to north, receive their diploma, and file back into their seats from the north side.

Parking:

- The Tulalip Tribe assures us that there is enough parking. We encourage people to carpool.
- Parking will not be allowed in the area to the south of the amphitheater. This is where students will go to meet their parents and board the senior trip buses after the ceremony.
- Disabled parking is clearly marked on the south side of the amphitheater.

Security and supervision:

- Two Snohomish County deputies will be on site.

Other Important information:

- The senior video will be shown during the Senior Awards night at 6pm on June 9th in the gym and at the Awards Assembly on the morning of June 10th. We will also post the show online on the morning of June 10th.
- Seniors will be able to pick up their diplomas at school beginning on Monday, June 13th in counseling office.
- After commencement, graduates will gather in the parking lot to the south of the amphitheater where Family and Friends can meet them.
- The Senior Graduation Party buses will pick up students in the parking lot on the south side of the amphitheater and will leave 45-60 minutes after the ceremony concludes.
- Students not going to the Graduation Party are responsible for their own transportation after commencement.

The What if.....

If, on June 1st the 10-day forecast calls for inclement weather on the days leading up to graduation and on June 10th, a decision will be made to have graduation back at LHS in the gym. This will necessitate the reimplementation of the 6 tickets per student strategy, a plan for transporting people to/from parking facilities at LES and CCE will be established.

Rehearsal:

- We will have rehearsal on Friday morning, June 10th...with band, speeches and awards.
- Seniors will need to wear their robes.... But not their hats.
- Rehearsal is mandatory for students planning to participate in commencement.
- Seniors must be in the gym at 7:15 am for rehearsal.
- Seniors will be released after our End of the Year Assembly.

Let’s make this the classiest, yet most unique commencement in the history of Lakewood High School. We appreciate your patience, flexibility, and commitment to providing a great experience for your son/daughter.

Sincerely,

Mike Curl,
Principal, Lakewood HS
360-654-2105
mcurl@lwsd.wednet.edu