

TONAWANDA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Tonawanda Middle/High School

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MICHAEL BROWN
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HIGH SCHOOL ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

June 21, 2021

Dear THS Seniors and Families:

We are looking forward to and very excited for our graduation ceremony this Thursday, June 24, 2021. Below are details about the graduation ceremony for seniors and parents to review and prepare for graduation.

Graduation Ceremony: Clinton H. Small Stadium

As previously mentioned, the **graduation ceremony for the class of 2021 is on Thursday, June 24, 2021 at 6 p.m.** in the Clinton H. Small Stadium. Our rain date will be on June 25, 2021 at 6 p.m. **The gates to the stadium will open at 5:30pm for families to come in and find any available seats in the home section of the stadium. Please understand that parties/families may be sitting close to each in order to accommodate all guests to be seated and saving seats may be difficult.**

*** Graduates and guests attending the graduation ceremony who are NOT vaccinated are required to wear a mask. ***

Please read the following directions upon arrival at the stadium.

DIRECTIONS FOR GRADUATES

Make sure you are wearing your cap, gown, and tassel when you arrive. Honor graduates, FBLA graduates, and graduates entering the military may wear your honor cord/braids. Please remember to hang up your gown to get the wrinkles out! Caps are to be worn approximately two inches above the eyebrows, squarely on the head with the point in the front; the mortar board is flat when you are looking straight ahead. **The tassel hangs to the right. Gowns need to be zipped all of the way up.** Lastly, stiletto heels are NOT allowed on the track and turf. This style of shoe will damage these surfaces. Please plan accordingly.

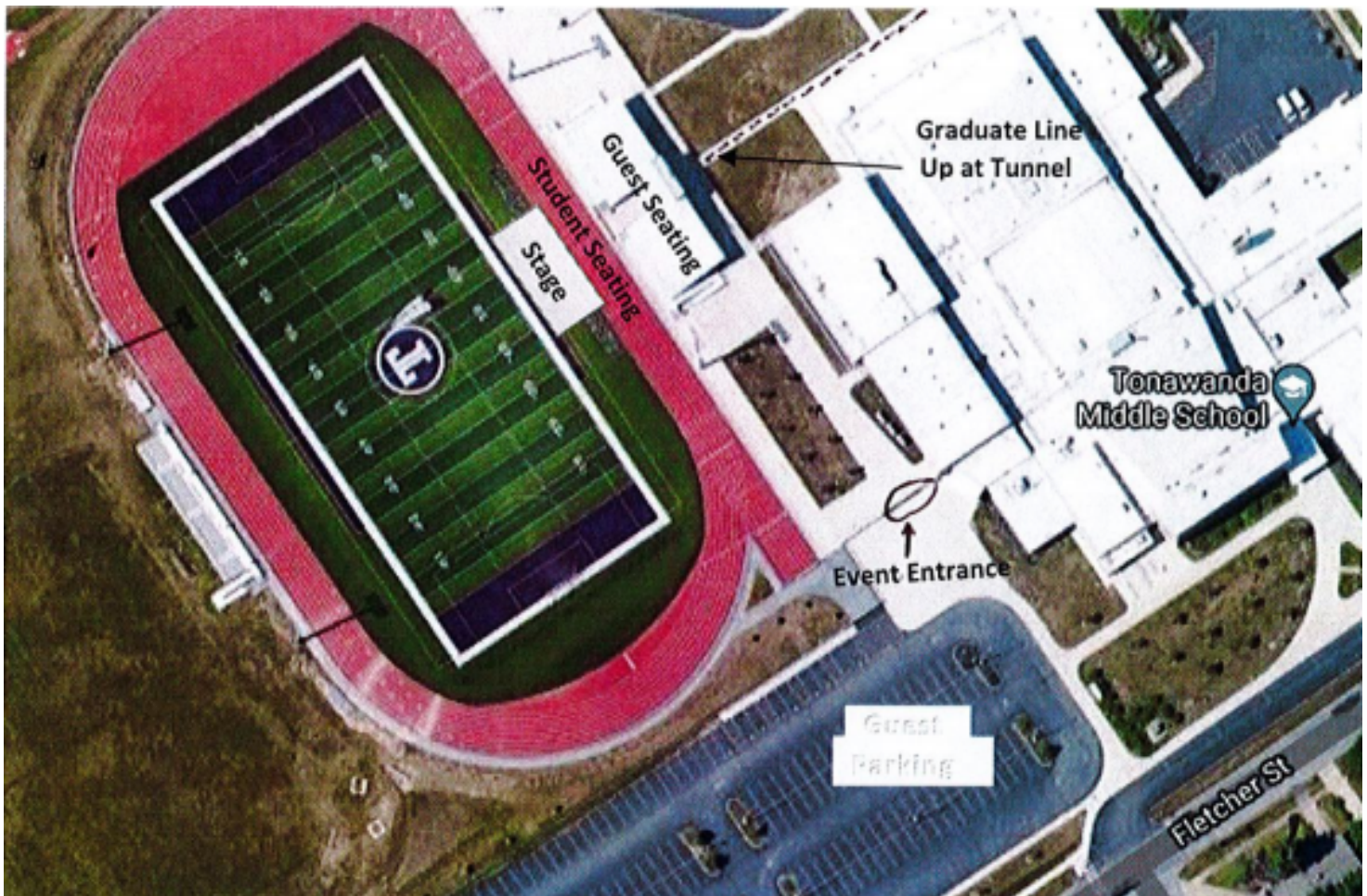
The process will be as follows:

1. Upon arriving at the stadium, you will walk over to the tunnel of the stadium by the concession stand. A staff member will be by the gate upon entering the stadium to direct you to where you will line up.
2. There will be two single file lines formed from the tunnel, down the sidewalk towards the building.
3. You will be provided a note card and pen once you're in line. You will need to write how you would like your name announced to include your middle name if you would like to. You will hold on to this card up until your row is called to walk up to the stage.
4. The procession will begin promptly at 6:00pm. The graduates will start to walk through the tunnel and to their respective rows. (There will be staff to help guide you to your seats.) Once every graduate is seated, the ceremony will begin.
5. Once the valedictory speech is done and Ava is seated, Mrs. Infante will begin to call one row at a time to come line up at the stage. Make sure to bring your notecard with your name to the stage. Once every graduate from the row is lined up at the stage, you will then be directed up the stairs of the stage to Mrs. Infante. You will then hand her your notecard. As she calls your name you will walk across the stage to Mr. Brown to receive your diploma cover.
6. Once Mr. Brown gives you the cover, you will turn and face the audience and Mr. Balk, the photographer, will take your picture. Wait 3 seconds for him to take your picture. **(Obtaining your photos from graduation:** Graduates or parents of

graduates please email kharszslak@tonacsd.org with your full name after the ceremony. Photos will be sent to the email address provided.)

7. You will then continue walking the rest of the way across the stage and walk down the stairs. At the bottom of the stairs, your school counselor will give you a packet of graduation materials. In this envelope will be any awards and scholarships you earned as well as your diploma. (Do not lose this folder.)
8. You will then walk back to your seat and sit down.
9. After the last senior receives his/her diploma and returns to his/her row, Dr. Oldenburg will then present the graduating class of 2021.
10. Graduates will be asked to stand and will then be asked to move their tassel from the right to the left side signifying them as graduates from THS.
11. The Board of Education President Heather Sternin will accept the graduates in the Tonawanda Alumni Association.
12. After the closing remarks are done, one row will be dismissed at a time, starting with row 1.

A diagram with specified locations is provided below for your convenience.



The program for our evening will include:

Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance
Chorale - Star Spangled Banner, Alma Mater and *Lean on Me*
Salutatory Address
Valedictory Address
Presentation of Diplomas
Acceptance of Graduates
Induction to Tonawanda Alumni Association
Closing Remarks

As a reminder to all attending:

- Each graduate in good standing will be able to participate in his/her graduation ceremony.
- All THS Student Code of Conduct expectations and policies will be strictly enforced.
- Smoking, vaping and alcoholic beverages will not be allowed during this THS sponsored event.
- Please ensure proper nutrition, hydration and personal care needs are addressed before attending the ceremony.
- Not adhering to these expectations and procedures may jeopardize the receipt of a student's high school diploma.
- Stiletto heels are NOT allowed on the track and turf. This style of shoe will damage these surfaces.

We would also like to take an opportunity to provide you with information on some additional opportunities for our graduates and families.

Please note a mask must be worn by any unvaccinated person and all recommended COVID related practices should be followed. We will remove the photo board of your student that was hung along the fence in the stadium. **If you wish to obtain your photo board to keep, you can pick it up at Door 1 on Wed, June 30, 2021 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.**

Again, we are looking forward to this event. The staff, graduate leadership and district office could not have been any more collaborative than they were. Many hours, thought and listening to one another and our community is how this event came to fruition. We hope you enjoy this unique event.

Sincerely,



Michael Brown, Principal



Mrs. Sarah Infante, Assistant Principal