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*Patrick A. Tutwiler, PhD  
Superintendent of Schools*

April 28, 2020

Dear Lynn Public Schools Seniors,

We find ourselves today in the midst of a very challenging time. While all of us in the Lynn Public Schools have been impacted by the COVID-19 situation, you, the proud Class of 2020, have been impacted in a unique way. I want you to know that I, along with the faculty and staff at your schools, recognize that impact. You have spent years working and persevering to earn your upcoming graduation and you deserve all of the traditional celebration that accompanies it. You have dedicated yourselves to learning and growing as scholars, as community members, and as leaders. Spring of your senior year brings with it college acceptances, job offers, military enlistments and the pride and excitement that comes with completing a significant milestone in your lives and embarking on your next steps. Interruption, disruption, redirection of any of these milestone moments I'm sure feels unfair and difficult to resolve.

Please know that we understand and empathize with you and with any sense of loss that you may be feeling due to the early school closure on your Lynn Public Schools experience. Please also know that we are fully committed to doing everything we can to honor you, celebrate you, and give you the senior experience that you have earned. Given the uncertainty of the summer months ahead and the current state executive order limiting group gatherings, it seems prudent to begin planning a celebration of your accomplishments through virtual means. **All Lynn Public Schools graduations will be held virtually on June 12<sup>th</sup>.** Your principal will be in contact with you regarding specifics around planning.

By now, all seniors have been in touch with their guidance counselor to address any questions or concerns about standing in terms of credits or other graduation requirements. Please contact your counselor if there are any outstanding questions/concerns. As always, we are here for you and fully invested in your success.

In this time of uncertainty, what is certain and sure is the pride we have in all of you for all that you have accomplished and the deep belief and excitement we have for all that you will achieve in the future. I commit to you that we will challenge ourselves to find creative ways to celebrate you and your success. I want to challenge you to bring the same perseverance, resilience, hope and optimism that you have brought to your education to this new challenge we face as a community. We need that in our newest generation of community leaders now more than ever.

May you and your families be safe and well.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick Tutwiler", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Patrick Tutwiler, PhD  
Superintendent