

## We Celebrate Together

Our schools have a very special relationship with the Dover community. Over the past three months, the outpouring of support for our students has been overwhelming. We cannot thank the community enough for the way in which they have continued to think outside of the box in order to care for our students and staff.

The reality that we will not be finishing the 2019-20 school year in a traditional manner is difficult to accept. The realization that the end of this year will look very different is disappointing for teachers, staff, students and parents at every grade level. For our high school seniors and students who have been looking forward to completing major milestones as the year comes to a close, this has been especially difficult.

Nevertheless, Dover students are resilient. They have faced this challenge with optimism and desire to keep others safe. Our high school students have created videos to share with our younger Tornadoes. Students of all ages have helped their families and neighbors in this time of need.

For our students, families, and community we have found new ways to celebrate other noteworthy times. On April 24, our staff gathered around Crater Stadium to honor our seniors. As our students drove past the stadium, there was great celebration from staff members who miss them very much and their parents who are so proud of them. In May, our teachers organized “Wednesday Waves” where staff members drove through our neighborhoods to greet some of our youngest learners.

May 22, 2020, was to be our official graduation ceremony for our 201 seniors and their families. Graduation day is a milestone that celebrates the culmination of the hard work and perseverance our students have shown over the past 13 years. Technology will allow us to celebrate our graduates in an all-new way. We are grateful for the ability to provide our students and families with a video celebration to mark this important occasion.

The accomplishments of this class are many. Academically, 35 students will graduate Summa Cum Laude, 12 students Magna Cum Laude, and 16 students Cum Laude. We applaud their rigorous coursework and outstanding achievement in those classes. Whether planning to attend college, trade school, or enlisting in the military, these students have worked to support their future studies with over \$735,000 in scholarships.

We all applaud the Class of 2020, who are celebrating milestones in unique ways. The memories created through alternative ceremonies or celebrations will be unlike those experienced by any other class in the history of Dover City Schools. Their motto: “Behind us are memories. Beside us are friends. Before us are dreams that will never end,” will serve them well as they step out into their futures. We wish them all the best!