



**PORT JEFFERSON SCHOOL DISTRICT  
EARL L. VANDERMEULEN HIGH SCHOOL  
350 OLD POST ROAD  
PORT JEFFERSON, NY 11777  
PHONE (631)791-4400 FAX (631)476-4408**



Jessica Schmettan  
Superintendent of Schools

Eric Haruthunian  
Building Principal

Kevin Bernier  
Assistant Principal

May 6, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians of the Class of 2021:

As our senior celebrations draw near, we wanted to update you on our plans for the Earl L. Vandermeulen High School Graduation ceremony. Based on the current COVID-19 gathering guidance from New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and Suffolk County Department of Health Services (SCDOHS), we will have all of our graduating seniors together for a traditional graduation ceremony. Each graduating senior may be accompanied by a maximum of two (2) guests.

The graduation ceremony is scheduled for Friday, June 25, 2021 at 6:00 PM in The Bowl of the High School. In order to meet the guidelines set forth by the NYSDOH, all attendees (staff, graduates, and guests) must adhere to the following:

- 1) Must wear a mask at all times.
- 2) Chairs will be placed 6 feet apart for social distancing.
- 3) All attendees must:
  - o have proof of COVID vaccination at the ceremony, or
  - o have proof of being COVID positive within the last 90 days (no earlier than March 28, 2021), or
  - o have proof of a negative rapid COVID test taken within 6 hours of the start time of the ceremony, or have proof of a negative PCR COVID test taken within 72 hours of the start time of the ceremony.
  - o Individuals must present proof of the recent negative diagnostic test or proof of their completed immunization (ex. Mobile application, screenshot, image, or paper form) to a designated staff member upon arrival to the graduation ceremony.
- 4) All attendees must complete a COVID Health Screening (please see attached).

Should your student have difficulty acquiring one of the tests above, he/she may come to the school one to two hours prior to the start of the ceremony in order to obtain a rapid COVID test. This onsite rapid test will be available for **students only**. Guests will not be able to receive an onsite rapid test.

Upon arrival, all guests will be met by security and directed where to park. Next, guests will be directed to the check-in area by the tennis courts where they will be asked for photo identification and proof of the COVID criteria listed above. From there, all guests will be shown to their seats.

This ceremony will be livestreamed for all of our family members who are unable to join us in celebrating the graduates of the *Class of 2021*. In addition, there will be a photographer present to capture the moment. Information for purchasing pictures will be shared with all parents at the ceremony.

In the event there is inclement weather on Friday, June 25th, our ceremony will be moved to either Saturday or Sunday. If we have inclement weather all weekend, we will need to follow the SCDOH and NYSDOH in order to conduct an indoor

ceremony. In order to avoid retesting for COVID, please do not get a PCR test earlier than Wednesday, June 23rd. This will ensure that your PCR test is still valid should the ceremony be moved to Saturday, June 26th.

These parameters have been put in place based on the current COVID guidance. If that guidance should change, we will update all *Class of 2021* parents and students to apprise you of the new requirements. The “Updated Interim Guidance for End-of-Academic-Year Celebrations During the COVID-19 State of Emergency” guidance can be found at the link below:

[https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2021/04/doh\\_covid19\\_updatedgraduationguidance\\_041221.pdf](https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2021/04/doh_covid19_updatedgraduationguidance_041221.pdf)

As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. We look forward to celebrating our seniors' accomplishments in the near future. Be well.

Respectfully,

*Eric Haruthunian*

Eric Haruthunian  
High School Principal

Visitor Health Questionnaire

<b>Name (last, first)</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Address</b>	<b>Phone:</b>
	<b>Cell:</b>

**Do you currently have any symptoms related to COVID-19?**

Symptoms include fever (100.0+), cough or sore throat, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, chills, body aches, headache, fatigue, new loss of taste or smell, loss of appetite, nausea/vomiting, nasal congestion/runny nose

**In the past 10 calendar days, have you been tested for COVID-19 with a positive result OR still waiting for test results?**

**In the past 10 calendar days, have you had close contact with an individual with a confirmed case of COVID-19 and is waiting for release from the Department of Health?**

\*If you have tested positive for Covid or have been fully vaccinated within the last 90 days and is ASYMPTOMATIC please select CLEARED.

**Cleared**       **Not Cleared**

- If you answered **“Not Cleared” (yes to one or more questions)**, please keep note that you will not be permitted to attend the graduation ceremony. The event will be livestreamed where you can access the ceremony from home.
- If you answered **“Cleared ” (no to all questions)** Please sign below

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_