

8th Grade Graduation Information:

Dear 8th Grade Families,

With the end of the school year quickly approaching, I want to share a few important pieces of information regarding graduation and the last day of school.

Graduation Update

Eighth-grade graduation ceremonies for Julian will be held June 13 at Oak Park and River Forest High School. With COVID-19 restrictions easing across the state, we have received some questions about whether we can increase the number of guests who can attend our ceremonies in person. Unfortunately, based on the latest guidelines, this is not possible. While the overall capacity for outdoor venues has increased from 25% to 60%, six-foot social distancing is still required between households. Additionally, District 97 is only permitted to allow 700 guests in the bleachers. As a result, we are moving ahead with our plans to provide two tickets per student.

The graduation ceremonies for Julian will both be streamed live on the [District 97 YouTube page](#). Live streaming will begin at 3 p.m. for Julian.

Graduation Attire

All students participating in the June 13th graduation ceremony are expected to wear the cap and gown that was provided to them. Students may wear dress attire underneath their cap and gown, however all students are expected to wear the designated cap and gown.

Location and Line-up Information

Families will be provided student drop-off and line up location next week. Students should plan on reporting to Oak Park and River Forest high school no later than 2:15 p.m. on June 13th.

Rain Delay and Graduation Postponement

We will commit our best effort in ensuring that our students experience a safe graduation. We recommend that families and students bring ponchos and umbrellas on graduation day in case of rain or other inclement weather. Our tentative rain date will be June 19, however we will do our best to hold the ceremonies on 6/13, as we recognize families may have other obligations on this date.

PCR Testing Prior to Graduation-June 10th

All students participating in graduation must participate in our weekly PCR testing program. **Students who do not test will not be allowed to attend or participate in the ceremony.**

Students must test on Thursday, June 10, 2021 at Percy Julian Middle School between 4pm and 8pm. Sign up for appointments using this link: <http://bit.ly/JulianGraduation>

Please sign up early to ensure your time slot is reserved.

Graduation Tickets and Diplomas

Graduation tickets and student certificates (diplomas) will be distributed to students on Thursday, June 10th, during their graduation ceremony PCR test event. This is the only time that we will distribute graduation tickets to students and their families. Students must present their student identification in order to be provided with their graduation tickets and certificate (diploma). Students and/or parents will sign to verify receipt of tickets.

Safety Reminders and Remote Learning Option

We want every eighth-grader to have the opportunity to attend graduation, so we are asking our school communities to be extra cautious about following COVID-19 safety guidelines over the next three weeks, particularly if you are not vaccinated.

District 97 is still obligated to follow the Oak Park Department of Public Health requirements regarding the length of quarantine for positive COVID-19 cases (currently 10 days) and individuals identified as close contacts (currently 14 days). If students are under a quarantine order on June 13, we will not be able to allow them to attend graduation.

We know that a mandatory quarantine at this point in the year would be incredibly disappointing for our eighth-grade students. If families wish to keep their children home from school to avoid this risk, they will be permitted to participate in school remotely through the end of the year. If your student will be participating remotely, please complete CrisisGo each day and select, "My child will not be in attendance on-site today for reasons unrelated to quarantine or illness."

We understand that these safety restrictions can be challenging, especially in the context of important milestones for students. However, it's important for the health and safety of our community that we continue to follow public health guidelines regarding COVID-19. We will do everything possible to enforce safety protocols during these last weeks of school, and we appreciate your support in doing the same at home.

Last Day of School and Device Collection for 8th Grade - Tuesday, June 8

We are in the process of planning our 8th grade last day of school attendance. The last day of school for eighth-grade students only will be Tuesday, June 8 with a noon dismissal. The D97 Technology Department will be collecting district-issued devices from students on this date. If students forget their device or charger, they must drop it off at the school on Thursday, June 10 between 4pm and 8pm, when the student participates in PCR testing for graduation. We will be communicating more information in the coming week.

8th Grade Celebration

We are planning to have outdoor celebrations for eighth-graders on Tuesday, June 8 from 9am to noon. **These events will be open to all students (on-site and remote)**, and will be subject

to the COVID-19 safety guidelines provided by state and local health departments (e.g., social distancing, face coverings, etc.). **However, all students (that would like to participate in the 8th grade celebration) must participate in the mandatory Covid-19 PCR testing on Thursday, June 3rd or Friday, June 4th.**

Transportation for remote students: For remote students who qualify to ride the bus, transportation to and from school will be provided. Please look for a separate email from Ms. Jackson that will have route number and bus stop information for your remote student.

PTO SPONSORED LUNCH DURING JUNE 8TH CELEBRATION

The Julian PTO will be providing lunch for our students from FireHouse Subs. A major expression of appreciation to our Julian PTO! Our PTO will also order ice cream treats for our graduates. We would like to thank our amazing PTO for their partnership and willingness to ensure our students are celebrated.

If the weather is inclement, the outdoor celebration will be **cancelled** and remote students should plan to join via zoom at 9:05 am with their Advisory teacher. All 8th graders will be dismissed at noon on June 8th.

Drop-off location

[Graduation Visual Images and Reminders](#) (new)

8th Grade Video:

[8th Grade information video](#)

[8th grade information letter](#)

[Graduate visual slide deck](#)

[Parent thank you](#)

Thank you,

Jeremy E. Christian