

Superintendent Communiqué

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Future MPS High School Graduation Ceremonies ... Please Share Your Thoughts With Us

As you probably know, Midland Public Schools' past practice for many, many years has been for the graduation ceremony at both Midland High and H.H. Dow High to be held at the same time on the same Friday evening in June in each high school's respective gymnasium.

Since I began my tenure at MPS almost four years ago, I have been receiving communications from many different stakeholders asking us to look at changing our graduation ceremony practices. Here are a few of the different reasons I've received for the requests:

- Our family has a graduate at each high school so we can't attend both ceremonies
- Venue is too small, which allows graduates too few tickets for family & friends
- Gymnasium is too crowded and/or too hot
- Bleachers are uncomfortable given the length of the ceremony
- Bleachers are unsafe for elderly family members to maneuver
- And the list goes on.



As such, we are looking at whether we should make some changes to our high school graduation practices beginning with 2018 graduation ceremonies.

In order to accommodate the number of guests for each high school ceremony, our venue choices are extremely limited in Midland. As a matter of fact, the only Midland venue that can hold the number of graduation guests needed is the Dow Diamond. Given this information, we would like your input regarding the following:

- **LEAVING THE CEREMONIES VENUES/DATES/TIMES EXACTLY AS THEY ARE CURRENTLY**
- **HOLDING THE CEREMONIES AT DOW DIAMOND WITH UNLIMITED GUESTS** [To do so given the hectic schedule of this lovely venue, we would need to look at Sunday graduation ceremonies. We are looking at having both ceremonies on the same Sunday with one ceremony beginning early afternoon and the second ceremony beginning mid to late afternoon. Each year we would alternate which high school has the first timeslot and which, the second. We would also have a back-up plan each year in case of inclement weather—inside ceremony held in each high school's gym with tickets limited to 6 if the back-up plan has to be utilized.]
- **HOLDING THE CEREMONIES AT AN INSIDE VENUE WITHIN 30 MINUTES OF MIDLAND**
- **HOLDING THE CEREMONIES IN OUR RESPECTIVE HIGH SCHOOL GYMS BUT AT DIFFERENT TIMES**

Here is the link for a short survey we are asking that you complete before the end of the day on Friday, March 3:
<https://goo.gl/forms/TJLntjBRDyNbh5im1>

Please note: If it is determined to hold the graduation ceremonies off-site, graduates would still pick up their physical diploma at their high school building and, of course, the building would be open and available for family & friend pictures.

Thank you for sharing your thoughts about the future of MPS high school graduation ceremonies!

Michael E. Sharrow, Superintendent