

*Principal*  
Kenneth L. Hammel

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Thomas R. Hammel  
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June 1, 2021

Dear Class of 2021,

In accordance with COVID-19 guidelines, we are pleased to announce a plan for our Gates Chili High School Class of 2021 Commencement, which will allow our students to graduate as part of a more traditional ceremony.

Due to the complexity of these events and in order to maintain proper safety protocols, we ask that you carefully review the plans below, including the contingency plan which will be implemented, if needed, due to weather. The final decision will be made on Tuesday, June 22 and will be communicated via the district website and phone call. The district reserves the right to alter plans should the governor modify executive orders again. In order to comply with current guidelines, each family must complete the mandatory health survey at [www.gateschili/GradHealthSurvey](http://www.gateschili/GradHealthSurvey) attesting to the health of themselves and all guests in their party who plan to attend commencement. This link will be live on June 22 and must be completed no less than three (3) hours prior to arriving on campus on June 23.

**Primary Plan – Outdoor Ceremony on Wednesday, June 23, 2021**

Weather-permitting, Gates Chili High School will host four (4) outdoor ceremonies in Spartan Stadium. Each outdoor ceremony will feature a student processional and recessional around the stadium, as illustrated on the map on page 3.

**Primary Plan Time Schedule**

**Ceremony Time:**

9:30 a.m.  
12:30 p.m.  
3:30 p.m.  
6:30 p.m.

**Last names beginning with:**

A-E  
F-K  
L-P  
R-Z

**Students should report to their designated ceremony only. Students are to arrive 45 minutes prior to their scheduled ceremony time and enter GCHS Door 5. To preserve the integrity of our facilities, students will not be permitted to wear high heels in the stadium. Only flat-bottomed shoes, including sneakers or wedges will be permitted.**

Families should report directly to the stadium no more than 45 minutes prior to their student's ceremony time. To adhere to current safety guidelines, the outdoor ceremonies will be streamed live and a maximum of five (5) family members will be permitted to watch from the marked areas along the stadium perimeter. Families will be permitted to bring lawn chairs for use outside of the stadium. Facilities will be cleared for cleaning and sanitation between each event so we kindly request that families exit the campus immediately after their designated ceremony. A link to the live stream will be available at [www.gateschili.org/GradLive](http://www.gateschili.org/GradLive).

## Secondary Plan – Indoor Ceremony on Wednesday, June 23, 2021

In the case of severe or inclement weather, we will follow an indoor plan, which follows social distancing guidelines within the building. Under the secondary plan, students and families should park in the west lot and enter together through GCHS Door 1, where you will receive additional information before entering the staging area. Once at the staging area, staff will guide students and families through the building to accept their diploma.

Arrival Time:	Last names beginning with:
9:30 a.m.	A-B
10:15 a.m.	C
11:00 a.m.	D-F
11:45 a.m.	G-H
1:30 p.m.	I-L
2:15 p.m.	M-N
3:00 p.m.	O-P
3:45 p.m.	R
4:30 p.m.	S
5:15 p.m.	T-Z

Under both plans, a professional photographer will capture every graduate as they cross the stage. Pictures may be ordered at [www.gateschili.org/GradPortraits](http://www.gateschili.org/GradPortraits) using the password **2021**. Additionally, a professional videographer will record graduates as they cross the stage. The recording will include greetings from school leaders, senior class officers, and the valedictorian and salutatorian. A link to the complete video will be posted at [www.gateschili.org/Commencement2021](http://www.gateschili.org/Commencement2021) in July. As a reminder, students who have embellished caps and/or gowns will not be permitted to walk the stage.

All students and guests on campus will be required to wear masks or face coverings and maintain social distancing guidelines. Students will be permitted to remove masks only while crossing the stage.

We are excited to honor our seniors and their accomplishments. See you on June 23!

Sincerely,



Kenneth L. Hammel  
High School Principal

# GCHS Graduation 2021 - Primary Plan

