

# Oblong Community Unit School District No. 4

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March 12, 2021

Dear Students, Families, Faculty & Staff,

Several important dates and events are quickly approaching as we move into the final quarter of the school year. Homecoming, Prom, and Graduation are all around the corner during the next three months. The Illinois Department of Public Health guidelines has limited these events as to what can be done. The guidelines change weekly so we are planning for the current guidelines but preparing to provide more as the guidelines allow. I wanted to provide a brief update on what we know at this time.

Homecoming is scheduled for Friday, March 26<sup>th</sup>. The IPDH recently announced that we can have 20% capacity at outdoor extra-curricular events. As a result, I spoke with our students and we have worked together to plan Homecoming week. We are planning a version of the Parade. It is too late to obtain a permit to close Route 33 but the route can include Range St. and Missouri St. We will have the traditional dress-up days at the High School. The Homecoming Court and Queen will be announced at halftime of the Football game. The students have created a great plan of an outdoor faculty/student softball game and bonfire on Saturday night in place of the dance.

Prom is scheduled for April 24<sup>th</sup>. Due to IDPH guidelines, this must be an outdoor event as indoor events have a maximum capacity of 50. If this changes and indoor events can have a percentage capacity, then we will move the event indoors to the Grade School. We have secured tents and are planning to provide as great of an experience as possible for our students within the guidelines provided by IDPH.

Graduation is scheduled for May 13<sup>th</sup> at the Grade School and May 14<sup>th</sup> at the High School. We have not yet set the time due to changing guidelines. Currently, this would also need to be an outdoor event. However, if restrictions continue to ease we will move to the more traditional event. An outdoor event would start earlier due to daylight and an indoor event would be at 8:00 PM.

This school year has been a challenge. Our students continue to exceed my expectations and have been incredible despite all the stress created by COVID-19. I am proud of them. We will do everything we can and provide every opportunity to ensure they have the best experience possible. Our theme this year has been "It's not easy but it's worth it". As we move toward the end of the school year we will work tirelessly to provide students experiences at Homecoming, Prom, and Graduation. Although it may look different due to the guidelines, we will do everything we can to make the experience the best it can be.

Sincerely,



Jeff Patchett

Oblong CUSD #4