



# Axtell Community School

*Rob Gregory, Superintendent*  
*Jeffrey C. Schwartz, Principal*

April 21, 2020

## Seniors & Families

I hope this letter finds everyone doing well and adjusting to the new life we are forced to follow in this pandemic. Many of us have been forced to make significant changes in our lives that haven't been easy. I have learned not to take anything for granted and be grateful for the small things in life.

I'm writing to let everyone know of the graduation plans for the class of 2020. This was not an easy decision to make for Mr. Schwartz and myself but we feel we have arrived at a good plan and we hope you all agree. Following our Zoom session, a short time ago with the seniors we felt that the majority of the seniors wanted some recognition on the original graduation date of May 16. We would like to recognize all of you on that day as well.

So here it goes.....During the week of May 11, I would like all the seniors to call Mr. Schwartz at school to make arrangements to pick up your graduation materials with the exception of your diploma and flower. Mr. Schwartz will send out a google doc form to give you the opportunity to sign up for a time slot for our diploma presentation on the 16<sup>th</sup> at the Community Building. Each immediate family will receive approximately 20 minutes to provide us the pictures needed to complete the virtual ceremony to be released after all of the face to face graduation date options have been exhausted. While you are at the Community Building you will be presented your diploma by your parents and you in turn will present your flower to them. We will be taking individual pictures, family pictures, and possibly some other footage for the virtual ceremony. Eldon Holmes will be available for picture packets as well. Mr. Schwartz will be in contact with the individual seniors that earned Valedictorian, Salutatorian, as well as those selected to do the welcome and farewell addresses. We will record those presentations at the Community Building as well to be included in the virtual graduation ceremony if we need to release our ceremony at a later date.

Of course all of these plans are depending on Governor Ricketts, and his public gathering/social distancing regulation currently in place. Mr. Schwartz and I would prefer to have a face to face traditional graduation ceremony in the Axtell Community School Gymnasium to pay tribute to our seniors. Our plan other than May 16 is to have two ceremony dates selected. Our first ceremony date will be Sunday, June 28, the second date selected is Sunday, August 2. If both of those dates fail due to the coronavirus we could possibly host a graduation ceremony in the gym over Labor Day weekend in early September if Axtell Community School is not in session. The Axtell School Board meets twenty days prior to both scheduled graduation dates on June 8 and also on July 13. We will announce after the school board meeting our plans for the upcoming graduation dates. When Governor Ricketts lifts the regulations pertaining to public gathering and social distancing we will announce our decision for the upcoming Graduation date and try to give every family ample time to plan or cancel festivities to your extended family or people invited to our celebration.

I would be at fault if I didn't give out a couple reminders. Keep in mind that Axtell School must follow the public gathering regulation so when coming to the Community Building on May 16 each immediate family will be limited to no more than 9 family members. If a senior must schedule a time to include both parents, please visit with Mr. Schwartz to make those accommodations. Also, for the families waiting their turn on the 16th please do so in your car. Finally, as you probably noticed above, the district is hoping to celebrate with the seniors of 2020 this summer. We hope the dates and format selected will allow peace of mind for everyone and give us the opportunity to celebrate this very special class of 2020.

Educationally,

Mr. Gregory & Mr. Schwartz