

February 24, 2021



Dear 8th Grade Parents/Guardians,

I hope this letter finds you in good health and good spirits. This is not the letter I imagined I would be sending you. There are many things we have had to endure and figure out over the past 11 months. The word “unprecedented” is a word that has become part of our everyday vocabulary and yet, I feel this pandemic has built within us a sense of strength and resilience. I hope you have been able to spend quality time with your child and learn, as I have, to celebrate the tiny moments together. I truly miss them and hope to see their faces and hear their laughter very soon.

While this has been stressful on us all, we are thinking ahead to brighter days for your child. I wanted to update our 8th grade families on some time-honored, Golden Door traditions and how they will be handled this year.

- **Graduation**: Due to the uncertainty surrounding the reopening of our school and social distancing regulations at this time, our graduation ceremony will look differently than it normally would. Please understand, your child’s safety is our number one concern. With that being said, our plans for graduation remain undetermined. If we are able to get permission and safely accommodate our graduates, we will try to have an in-person ceremony. However, right now, we are planning for a virtual ceremony and a drive-by celebration. Students will participate in the ceremony, wear caps and gowns and still be acknowledged in a live Zoom ceremony. This ceremony will be recorded and each graduate will receive the link for their families. The drive-by celebration will be a lively, fun way to acknowledge the students in front of our school. More information to follow as soon as definite plans are made. As discussed, I am still looking into an in-person ceremony. If we are able to safely host an in-person event, please understand that the number of guests per student will be

extremely limited. Again, as soon as I have definite plans, I will let you know.

- **Graduation Pictures**: We will be taking in-person graduation pictures on **April 14th, 2021**. You will receive a Google form to sign up for a 15 minute time slot. Please sign up as soon as you receive the form via email. We need to make sure all students are able to take pictures safely, while observing social distancing regulations. You will be able to view and purchase packages on-line. Please sign up! Your child will not be allowed to enter the building unless an appointment is made. As always, safety is our number one concern.
- **Graduation Fees**: This year's graduation package fee will be \$75.00. This fee can be paid by cash or money order only. The fee includes the following:
 - ✓ Cap and Gown and 2021 tassel
 - ✓ Leather, personalized Diploma cover
 - ✓ Leather, personalized Autograph book
 - ✓ Decorations and graduation supplies
 - ✓ Small token of appreciation for 8th grade staff
 - ✓ Small gift for each graduate
 - ✓ Class of 2021 T-shirt

Graduation fees are due on March 24th, 2021. You will be asked to come to school with payment in the form of a cash or money order on March 24th, 2021. Upon arrival on March 24th, the students will be measured for their cap and gowns and receive their graduation rings (if ordered). I will only be at the school between 9am-3pm on 3/24/21. Please make arrangements to be at the school with your child anytime between those hours. Social distancing regulations will apply. Please make every effort to come to school on this day. I will be placing the order that evening so we may be able to receive our cap and gowns before picture day.

- **Annual 8th Grade trip**: Due to the concerns related to the ongoing pandemic, our 8th grade trip to Philadelphia has unfortunately been cancelled.
- **Formal Dinner Dance**: Due to concerns related to the ongoing pandemic, we will unfortunately not be hosting a formal dinner dance for our graduates. (If this changes, I will let you know)

For your convenience, I will be available on Wednesday 3/3/21 at 5pm via Zoom should you have any questions.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84837246192?pwd=dElhcVVDWERpR3EwdkFmTkM0NXFNdz09>

Meeting ID: 848 3724 6192

Passcode: 413493

If you have any questions, comments or concerns in the meantime, please email me at flopez@goldendoorschool.org or call/ text me at 201-790-2025. Hope to see you on the 3/3/21 at 5pm!!!

Warmest Regards,

Mrs. Fanny Lopez
Assistant Director
Golden Door Charter School