

# CHEVERUS

*Office of the Principal*

May 4, 2020

Dear Class of 2020,

First of all, many thanks to those of you who responded to the Graduation Events Survey last week. The message from your class was that you wanted to gather as many of you together as possible as soon as possible, regardless of where that needed to be. Sent just hours before Gov. Mills' announcement about the restarting Maine's economy, the intent of our survey was to include you in what decisions we were able to make over the coming weeks; however, as stated in the survey's introduction we are still bound by state and local guidelines for social gatherings in hosting any Graduation events whenever and wherever we do so.

Now of course we are aware that gatherings of over 50 people will not be possible until the fall at the earliest, so we will not be able to host events such as the Senior Prom, Baccalaureate Mass and Graduation in their traditional forms at any point this summer. My heart breaks for you and your class. Your class is the first Cheverus class that I have accompanied from freshman through senior year. I have witnessed your growth as individuals and the strong class bonds that have formed over the past four years. Life has dealt you a tough card, and though we know as Cheverians in God's care you will move on from this semester and be stronger for it, today I'm filled with great sadness about the loss of your senior spring experience. While the venue and form will change, this does not diminish the pride I have for who you have become.

I'm also writing to share what plans we have for celebrating you and your class. Assuming that Gov. Mills' plan for restarting the economy unfolds as scheduled and that we are able to transition into stage 2 of her plan by June 1st, we would like to invite you and members of your family to come to campus (one family at a time) to receive your diploma, take pictures, and allow us to celebrate you in what ways we can. In order to do this safely and in a manner that allows families time to enjoy the experience, this will be a multi-day event during the week of June 1-5. Of course, this would be an optional event and students and families who do not feel they can safely and comfortably partake would not be required to do so in order to receive their diplomas.

I know we've had to say this a lot over the last two months, but please stay tuned for more details. Over the coming weeks will work out a schedule, safety & sanitizing plans, and some ceremonial details to make this event as smooth and memorable as possible. As with the survey we sent out last week, I would encourage you to email me and share your thoughts about these plans.

Finally, let me reiterate our commitment to celebrating you as a class as soon as we can safely do so. Working with our Advancement team, discussions have already begun about events that could take place at Thanksgiving or Christmas Break when many of you will be returning home as alumni of Cheverus for the first time. Perhaps you will join the Class of 2021 at Merrill Auditorium next spring so we can recognize you there as we do our Golden Grads. You will be Stags for the rest of your lives, and you have a lifetime to celebrate this.

Peace,

Dr. John Moran

Principal