May 16, 2020

To the Parents/Guardians of the New Brighton High School Class of 2020:

We hope this letter finds you and your families safe and healthy. Yesterday, Governor Wolf announced that Beaver County will be moving to the Yellow Phase of COVID-19 recovery on May 22, 2020. While Yellow Phase is by no means a full release from the restrictions we have been under during the COVID-19 pandemic, it will allow some additional flexibility in planning our Graduation Ceremony. The Yellow Phase still restricts group size to 25 people or less, and the Secretary of Health has explicitly stated that in-person graduations are not allowed.   However, as we have promised to do, we are continuing to make adjustments as our restrictions are lessened and yesterday's announcement now allows us to implement some new aspects to our ceremony.

Following the Governor's announcement, we spoke to local and regional contacts to receive guidance on additional plans that we believe we can now put in place for our graduation ceremony. We are continuing those conversations this weekend and we are confident that these adjustments are acceptable and in full compliance with the Yellow Phase regulations. We will continue to host graduation within the main high school parking lot, as it is essential that this format remain in place for us to be together but not be considered a "large gathering." However, we have received assurances that we can now implement additional plans to alter how our students receive their diplomas and participate in the ceremony.

We remain committed to providing our students with a memorable event that celebrates their achievements and we will continue to monitor guidelines and make adjustments as COVID-19 safety measures evolve. While this letter does not provide specific details yet, we wanted to immediately assure you that Governor Wolf's announcement yesterday allows our planning to evolve as well, and details will be forthcoming this week for families.

Sincerely,

Joseph A. Guarino, Ed.D.
Superintendent