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Dear NUSD Community,

Soon after we moved to distance learning, I made an announcement that we hoped to be holding graduations at our comprehensive high schools in August. I made this decision as I understand the student and family perspective and desire to come together and share this experience with friends and families. Unfortunately, after many conversations with Marin County Public Health Officers over the course of the past few weeks, it has become abundantly clear that a traditional graduation, or even one that includes the gathering of all students in a socially distanced manner, will not be possible in August.

With this in mind, I pulled together a Graduation Committee of students, parents, and staff from NHS and SMHS to find consensus around graduation ceremonies for each comprehensive high school. This was a challenging process as emotions, understandably, run high about this passion filled topic. We explored many options ranging from larger gatherings at venues outside of Novato and Marin County to ceremonies on each of our high school campuses. We looked at our values and what we needed in a graduation ceremony and compared that to the options available to us.

**The committee reached consensus to hold on campus ceremonies during the first half of June.** Staff at both schools have been working hard to fine tune the details and logistics of these ceremonies since last Wednesday afternoon. Later today, you will receive the specific details of these important ceremonies from Novato High School and San Marin High School. While our 2020 graduation ceremonies will not be identical to the traditional ceremonies of the past, they will be anchored in their traditions. I am proud of the work that has gone into listening to the community and making our graduations the best and most personalized possible for our seniors given our current circumstances.

**Our elementary and middle schools, Marin Oaks and NOVA Independent Study have also come to decisions on their promotions or graduation.** If you have a promoting or graduating student from one of these schools and haven't yet heard from your school about the details of their promotions or graduation, you can expect this site-specific information in the next few days.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we navigated these important conversations to achieve safe, thoughtful and inclusive graduations and promotions.

Sincerely,

Kris Cosca

*Engage. Inspire. Empower.*