Dear Families,

I am excited to share with you that our Commencement Ceremony for the Class of 2020 will be held on Saturday, June 20, 2020 at 11 a.m., in the Lincoln Gym.

The purpose of this message is to offer details to our Seniors and the broader Lincoln Prep community in anticipation of this special event. Safety is our first priority and the reason why we postponed the ceremony in the first place; and we may still need to further adapt our plans due to changing circumstances. With social distancing, seating in the gym will be limited to no more than 200 people: members of the graduating class, their families and guests, Lincoln Prep staff and faculty, and honored guests and dignitaries. All people attending the ceremony will need a ticket (more on tickets below).

The ceremony will be recorded on video and shared with the Lincoln community shortly after the ceremony concludes. In addition, given limited seating and our desire for the whole community to support our amazing graduates, we invite members of the Lincoln Prep community to drive past our Seniors to honk, celebrate, and cheer them on after the ceremony concludes (see the driveline traffic flow; the Seniors will gather to wave just outside the East Entrance) at 12:15 p.m. on Saturday, June 20. Let’s give our first graduating class a tremendous “Go Lightning” send off!

I am honored to announce that our Commencement Speaker for the first graduating class will be Professor Tim Fuller. Professor Fuller has taught at Colorado College for more than 50 years. He served as Acting President from August 2001 to January 2002. Before that he was Dean of the Faculty and College from 1992 to 1999. He chaired the Political Science Department from 1985 to 1991. He received a Ph.D. (with distinction) from Johns Hopkins University (Baltimore) in 1971, an M.A. in 1965 and a B.A. from Kenyon College (with Honors) in 1961. You may view more information on Professor Fuller’s biography on the Colorado College website.

Graduation from Lincoln Prep is multifaced including completion of 24.5 credits of high school study and successful defense of a Senior Thesis.

The Junior and Senior years are culminating years that gather all of the previous years of liberal arts study together to offer Lincoln Prep students a critical and comprehensive understanding of the Western tradition. We have sought to align our efforts in High School so that parents and students have a clear vision of what the Great Hearts graduate will look like upon graduation. Seniors in the Class of 2020 will graduate with confidence, they are articulate, and they are prepared to live fully human lives. They have studied some of the greatest masterpieces in the history of the world; they have understood the intellectual foundations of the world in which they live; they have been trained in advanced mathematics and science; they appreciate art and culture as expressions of the human spirit; they approach (after Latin) fluency in a modern European language or Ancient Greek; and, they possess the intellectual skills and disciplines that make a lifetime of learning possible.

Key Details for Lincoln Prep Seniors

- **Students**: Seniors should arrive at the East Entrance to Lincoln Prep no later than Saturday, June 20, at 9 a.m. We will have light breakfast items, coffee, and an opportunity to reconnect after being off campus for more than three months.
• **Parents and Guests:** Gym doors will be opened for parents and guests with tickets no later than 10 a.m. Seating will be socially distanced at six (6) feet apart, with designated areas for families and their guests.

• **Tickets:** Families of Seniors need to reach out to Ms. Brianne Tomasson at btomasson@lincolnprep.org no later than June 1 to let the school know how many tickets they will need for family and guests. There will be a maximum of eight (8) tickets per family (not including the graduating Senior). If your family anticipates a need for more than 8 tickets, then please communicate that need to Ms. Tomasson.

• **Dress:** Graduates must wear cap and gown. Please dress for warm weather, lightweight but respectable clothes. Seniors are allowed to decorate their graduation caps within boundaries of decorum.

• **Gloves and Masks:** We request that students, parents, guests, faculty and staff, and honored guests wear gloves and masks for the sake of safety and protecting audience members who may be in the more vulnerable populations in our community. In planning for this postponed event, we have reviewed and followed guidance from both the Arizona Department of Health Services and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

• **Photographs:** We will take a class picture and a photographer will be on site to take pictures to memorialize this special event in the life our classical school.

• **Graduation Programs:** Programs are free to all family members and guests.

• **Children:** Children are always welcome, but please try to be respectful of others at this formal, milestone event. You are welcome to bring things for children to play with quietly at their seats.

• **Special Accommodations:** Families with wheelchairs or other accommodations should contact Ms. Roz Revis at rrevis@lincolnprep.org to make special arrangements.

• **Electronic Devices:** We ask you to turn off electronic devices and other potentially distracting technology for this special event that may be a disruption to our Seniors.

• **Ornaments:** Please do not bring balloons, air horns, or ice chests into the gym.

• **Parking:** Seniors should park in the spaces reserved on the East Entrance side of the Lincoln Prep classroom building. Parents should utilize available parking around the building and parking lot, avoiding parking in the J.C. Penney parking lot.

**Cap and Gown, Distinction Cords, and Veterans**

• **Cap and Gown:** All Seniors should have their Cap and Gowns for the Commencement Ceremony. Many thanks to Ms. Brianne Tomasson, our Senior Year Coordinator, for hand-delivering both Cap and Gowns and Graduation Announcements to Seniors earlier this week!

• **Distinction Cords:** Seniors who have the following GPA will graduate with the following distinctions:
  - 3.3-3.59 – “cum laude” – White Cord
  - 3.6-3.79 – “magna cum laude” – Blue Cord
  - 3.8-4.00 – “summa cum laude” – Gold Cord

• **Veterans:** Thank you to the men and women of our local Chandler and Gilbert community and beyond who have served and sacrificed to defend our freedoms in the United States Armed Forces. Lincoln Prep honors students whose family members (parents or grandparents) include veterans by giving them red, white, and blue Graduation Cords. All Cords will be distributed the morning of commencement when graduates check in before the ceremony. If this applies to your family, then please let Ms. Tomasson know, so that we can have them ready.
**Additional Precautions due to the Impacts of Covid-19**

- Stay home if sick.
- Protect yourself while attending the event:
  - Stay at least 6 feet away from other attendees.
  - If you are at higher risk for severe illness, you should avoid attending mass gatherings. People at higher risk for severe illness include adults 65 or older and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions.
  - Do not touch your eyes, nose, or mouth.
  - After leaving the event, use hand sanitizer. When you get home, wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
  - Consider wearing a cloth face covering.
- Do not borrow or rent graduation regalia.
- Respect others’ choice not to attend or participate.

As always, please feel free to reach out to me or Ms. Warner if you have questions, concerns, or feedback about our first graduation commencement ceremony.

Have a peaceful day.

Go Lightning!

Respectfully,

Ben