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DRIVE-IN

*Washington
Latin*

Graduation

Grand ReOpening!
June 15, 2020

WASHINGTON LATIN



Gates open @ 7:00 pm
Bergie's Drive-In
Middle River, MD

DRIVE-IN DETAILS

GRADUATION OVERVIEW

Here are the details for our first-ever Drive-In Graduation!

WHEN: Monday, June 15, 2020, 7:00 – approximately 10:00 pm. Ceremony will begin at approximately 8:30 pm

WHERE: [Bengie's Drive-In Theater](#), 3417 Eastern Boulevard, Middle River, Maryland, 21220

WHO: Our 2020 Seniors and their immediate families, along with some faculty. Limit one car per family *unless a second is approved by Team Grad!*

WHAT: An evening of social distanced fun, including Pre-Grad Tailgate and Graduation Ceremony

HOW: By practicing COVID-required social distancing (no hugs, no high fives, staying 6 feet apart or more) and using the big screen, we can have a SAFE in-person ceremony.

WHY: Some things just don't translate to Zoom; ceremonies matter, and this class deserves to be celebrated for all their work and accomplishment at Washington Latin!



COVID SAFETY

Safety First

How this event will be COVID-safe

Bengie's had to pass Maryland Health Department requirements to be able to re-open. The theatre is allowed to operate on the condition that they adhere to strict COVID safety guidance. The management has established procedures and we must comply with their rules, not only to be safe ourselves but also because they will not permit us to do otherwise.

In addition to the theatre's rules, Washington Latin has designed the event to be safe with the following:

Limit on numbers – Only immediate family members and select Latin faculty will attend. The norm is one car per senior, with a few families coming in two vehicles.

Limit our movement – Each car and its immediate perimeter will be its own bubble of social activity.

- We **WILL** tailgate with our carload of family, speak to anyone within earshot in nearby parking spots, wave across the distance. The parent/guardian in charge of each car will have responsibility and authority to set the limits and make sure seniors and other family members are following the rules.
- We **MAY NOT** leave our car's perimeter except to use the restrooms, snack bar, and for the ceremony.

Maintain our distance – All guests must stay at least 6 feet apart from others outside their household. That means no hugs, high fives, fist bumps, etc. The sharing of food between households is not allowed, nor is visiting other cars or wandering away from the vehicle. Example: you need to use the restroom? You go, you come back – no lingering, taking the long way back to your car, etc. For both restrooms and the ceremony itself, people must be back at their cars in order for the next person or group of people to queue up.

BENGIE'S RULES

Bengie's is committed to strictly following all CDC guidelines and orders from the State and Local health departments. These operating procedures are for the safety of all patrons and staff. Anyone who does not follow these safety policies will be asked to leave. Due to the ever-evolving circumstances surrounding COVID-19, these policies may be changed without notice.

EMPLOYEES

Employees are required to take their temperature before beginning their shift. They must wear masks and gloves at all times and have been trained in current cleaning and sanitation procedures.

SOCIAL DISTANCING RULES

- If you or anyone in your party does not feel well, please stay home.
- Masks must be worn on the entrance road of the theatre and until your vehicle is parked. After parking, masks must be worn at all times when you are away from your vehicle.
- Please practice social distancing (6 feet of separation) anytime you are away from your vehicle. Limit contact with people who did not arrive in your vehicle.
- Patrons are expected to stay at their vehicles when not visiting the snack bar or using the restrooms. This policy will further assure the safe distancing of others.
- High contact surfaces will be cleaned at regular intervals.

RESTROOMS

- Restroom capacity will be limited to half capacity (every other stall).
- Please adhere to distancing marks the ground when a line forms for the restrooms.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be placed at the doorway to the restrooms.
- Single-use paper towels are available for hand drying; air hand dryers are out of service.
- An employee will monitor restroom lines for capacity and cleanliness.
- Restrooms will be cleaned and sanitized at regular intervals and out of use stalls will be shifted to allow disinfectants adequate time to work.



BENGIE'S RULES

FOOD & SNACK BAR

- The snack bar will operate with carryout restaurant precautions and safe distancing.
- The snack bar will not be self-service. Employees will gather all items for patrons. Please adhere to marked lines, spaced 6 feet apart, on the ground when a line forms for access to the snack bar.
- No more than two patrons per car may come to get food from the snack bar to limit the line and person-to-person contact.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be placed around the snack bar.
- You may bring your own food or order from the Snack Bar or both, but you may not cook, grill or in any similar way prepare food on the premises.
- You may not share food with people not in your household.

CAR RULES

- You may not run your engine while parked (not even to use your AC). Please be sure your car battery is adequately charged to run your car's radio without running the engine, and please be sure you know how to run your radio without running the engine. You may bring a battery powered radio to use instead of or in addition to your car radio.
- Liftgates/doors may not be raised and left open higher than the roof of your vehicle; Bengie's staff must be able to see the whole lot and all cars at all times
- You may sit in front of your vehicle or in your vehicle, but you may not sit on top of your vehicle.

OTHER RULES

- You may not bring drugs (including pot), alcohol, or fireworks onto the premises.
- You may not throw anything at patrons or at the stage/screen – no confetti, birdseed, etc.
- The playground will be closed.
- No pets allowed.
- Shirts and shoes must be worn at all times.



PLANNING FOR 6/15

Illness - PLEASE stay home if you are sick in any way, but especially with COVID (or related symptoms). We know many DC citizens joined the BLM protests and authorities suggest all protesters get tested at the free DC testing sites. We encourage you to do as well.

Please note: the drive-in does NOT allow us to leave cars running once parked. Please do not plan on having your windows closed and the AC running. This means that being sealed in your car is not an option.

Guests – As you know, we are limited to immediate family.

- We do hope everyone can come. Note: Pets are not allowed!
- We have heard from everyone, but if your answer has changed, either way, please make sure to let us know! **Note that only those who have RSVPed and are on our list can be admitted to the event on the 15th!**
- We hope to **livestream** and will post a video immediately after the event.

Cars – Bengie's Drive-In is operating under COVID restrictions (more on that below), thus only using half their available parking spaces to keep cars at least six feet apart. One car per graduate is the norm, and we have a list of those who need two cars. **Please let us know if you have car questions.**

Drivers – Each graduating senior needs to be accompanied by at least one parent/guardian, and each car under his/her firm guiding hand.

What to wear

Tailgate – The attire is neither beach casual nor graduation formal. Please find a middle ground. Please do not wear short shorts, tank tops, or anything that both your parents and your principal would not like. PLEASE wear shoes that allow you to walk on grass and gravel. **NO HEELS!**

- **Caps and gowns** – Please bring your cap, gown, stole, tassel, and mask, or wear them! We ask that you be wearing your regalia (fancy word for graduation apparel) when you come to the stage.
- **Headphones** – You may bring wireless headphones to connect to your car radio and to listen to the ceremony while sitting just outside the car. **Yes, you may wear headphones!**



DRIVING & ARRIVAL

GETTING THERE

Address

Bengie's Drive-In Theater, 3417 Eastern Boulevard, Middle River, Maryland, 21220, 410.687.5627 www.bengies.com

Directions - The theatre is off I-95 just north of Baltimore. It is about 48 miles from the school. It takes about 1.0-1.25 hours to get there from DC (depending on traffic, etc.) There are tolls along 95, which you can pay with a toll tag or at the booth.

Caravan - Some parents have suggested families meet in DC and drive out together (in their own cars, of course). This sounds fun – have at it! We will leave it to families to organize.

Two-car families - Two-car families who want adjacent spaces, please be sure you enter this gate one after the other. Please meet up BEFORE you get in line so as to not slow the check-in.

ARRIVAL & CHECK-IN

The gates open by 7:00, but you do not have to get there exactly at that time. The first part of the event is unstructured and casual. Seniors can arrive any time between 7:00 and 8:00, though of course we hope to see everyone for the Tailgate.

The Bengie's marquee is the start of the line up. Smile, you have arrived! Hang out, listen to the playlist, and be informed, reasoned, and flexible! In other words, just be patient, as it might take a while to get through the line.

The Latin Grad Team will be checking you in (that is, verifying that we know you, that you have a parent in each car, etc.) We cannot allow "drive-ins" – that is, we can only have the number of cars as previously agreed.



CHECK-IN, TAILGATE

CHECK-IN (cont)

Get in line, stay in line.

Once you are in line on Entrance Drive, you are where you are! No changing lanes or “gaming” your position. Bengie’s has a strict policy against this. While on the entrance road please stay close to the vehicle in front of you, we are trying to keep cars from backing up on Eastern Blvd. (MD State Route 150).

No left turns into the line.

Most families will arrive from 95 or BW Parkway from the east. Just in case, however, note that there will be no left turns into the theatre from the westbound lane of Eastern Boulevard. (You may be in this position if you “overshoot” the entrance.) Bengie’s policy is to turn away any moviegoer who makes this turn; for our graduation, we will be more understanding, but you still need to go all the way to the end of the line and not cut by making this left.

Bengie’s staff will be directing traffic and parking cars.

- Please roll down your window so you can hear the traffic director’s instructions. Give them the utmost attention. Drivers, PLEASE turn off your cell phones, read the signs, and obey the traffic director.
- Each car will be checked in and then directed where to park by the Bengie’s staff according to a complicated algorithm that involves COVID distancing restrictions, site lines, and eons of experience ensuring everyone enjoys the event.

Tailgate Party!

This is the part of the event when families arrive, get settled, and have some dinner they have brought with them or purchased from the Snack Bar (see their [menu here](#)). Over the drive-in frequency, we will play music and pre-recorded messages from faculty, but it will not be dark enough to have anything on screen until 8:30 pm.



GRADUATION! 8:30

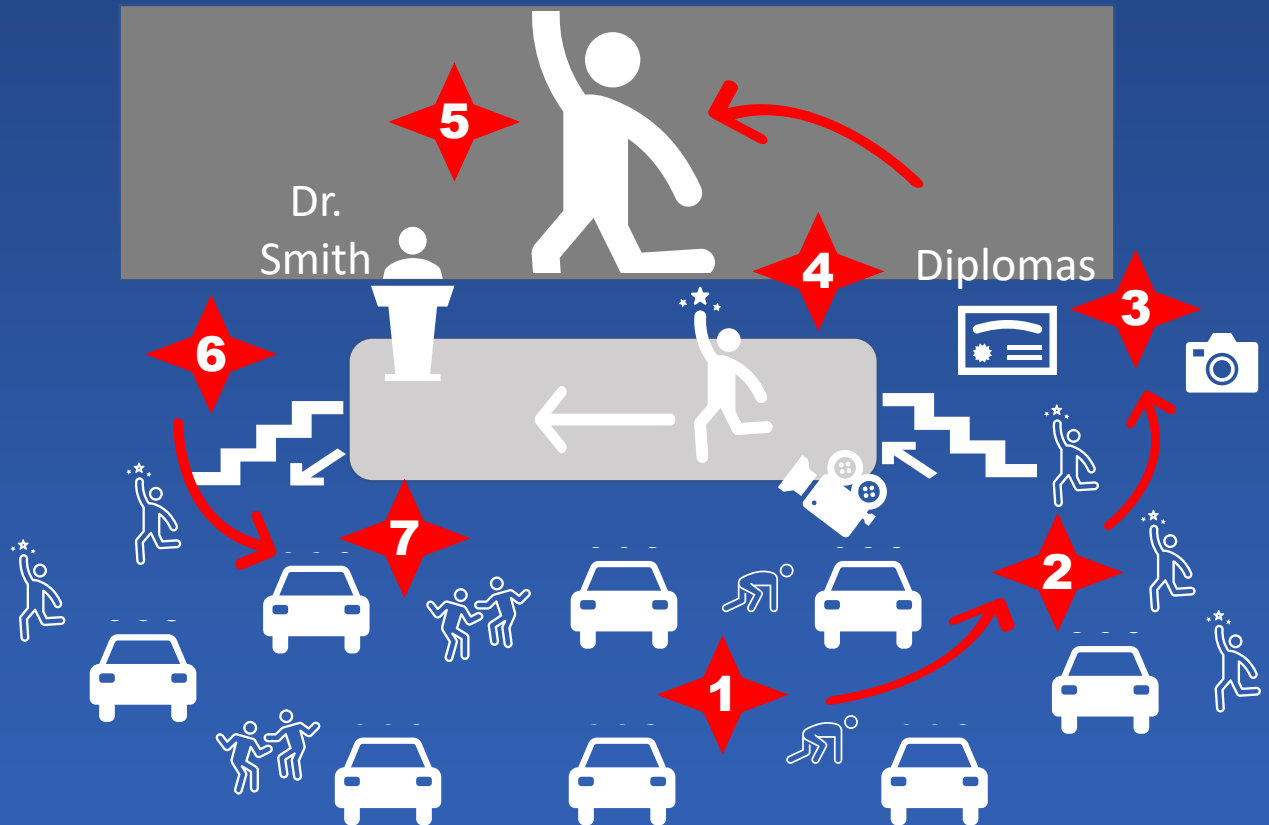
GRADUATION DETAILS

Here are the basics for this unusual ceremony:

- **Don the regalia** - Students will bring their cap and gowns and should be prepared to put them on over their tailgate outfits. There is NOT likely to be time for all students to change in the restrooms, so students should be prepared to put on their gowns over their street clothes at their cars.
- **Listen through the radio** - All ceremony activities will be broadcast through the drive-in sound system, which is audible through car radios. For once in your Latin lifetime, you can use wireless earphones!
- **Live and pre-recorded** - Our student speaker, Kimberly Montpelier, and faculty speaker, Ms. Kara Brady, will speak at the event live. We will also share other messages and music that will be pre-recorded.
- **Groups of 10** - We will call students to line up in groups of 10, standing 6 feet apart. One group will be called to the stage, and the next will also be called to be ready to head to stage next. We will wait for each group of 10 students to complete their procession across the stage and return to their cars before calling the next group to the stage.
- **Diploma pick-up** - Rather than receive their diplomas from Mr. Anderson and shake his hand, students will pick them up from a table.
- **Photographer at the stage** - Our regular photographer, Chris Smith, will take a picture of each graduate holding his or her diploma.
- **Live & on-screen** - When each student's name is announced and s/he walks across the stage, a photo or live video feed will appear on the movie screen behind them.
- **Turn the Tassel** - At the very end, after the last graduate has crossed the stage, all graduates will stand in front of their cars and turn the tassel from right to left to signify that they have officially become Latin alumni!
- **Watch the show** - We will close with a beloved tradition, the senior slide show. Please stay in your cars for this final walk through Latin memories.



GRAD PROCESS



1 Seniors called in groups of 10. One group gets ready to process at cars.

2 At the same time, a group of 10 seniors is called to stage, lined up 6' apart.

3 When Dr. Smith says next senior's name, s/he takes the diploma from table.

4 Our photographer takes photo of each senior with diploma.

5 The senior walks across stage as his/her image is projected on screen.

6 Grads return to cars.

7 Families celebrate at their cars (no approaching stage!)

DEPARTURE

Departure Process

NOTE: You do not exit through the entrance at Bengie's.

Bengie's staff will direct you out.

- Please follow their directions.
- Open your window (mask on), turn off the radio, put down your phone, and listen.
- Please be patient; it just takes a while to clear the lot.

If you need to leave early (we hope you won't) please email us before Monday, so we can park you in a place for a convenient exit.



QUESTIONS

A Few Questions & Answers

What if we have to arrive after 7:00? What about leaving early?

It is fine to arrive any time before 8:30. Please just let us know if that is the case, so we can be expecting you.

We would appreciate it if you would stay for the whole ceremony. Please let us know if you need to leave early, so we can park you in a spot that makes that easy.

Will the restrooms be cleaned to a COVID standard?

Yes. Bengie's has worked hard to meet the MD standards and has retrained staff in COVID-safe hygiene standards, including cleaning protocols for the restrooms. Please see the Rules section for more details.

Are we allowed to bring food? Alcohol? Grills?

Food, yes.

No cooking or grilling allowed!

Absolutely no alcohol, drugs!

Are there restaurants or stores nearby where we can shop if desired?

Yes, plenty to choose from in the area! Note that there will be no in-and-out privileges, so you should purchase food **before** you enter the theatre.

Can we take pictures at the event?

Yes. The web site's rule about no photography applies to the regular movie showings. We do have permission.

Can you request to be parked near a friend?

No, sorry. But remember that the parking spots are arranged in a grid, so you have a radius of other cars adjacent to you – and no doubt at least one of these will be a friend!

