



*Schools of Opportunity that Welcome, Love, and Inspire All Students to Go Places and Do Things that Matter*

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## **Phoenix Union Announces a 4-Part Graduation Plan**

Later this month, well over 5,000 Phoenix Union seniors will earn their high school diploma. We are proud of our graduates, the Class of 2020, and they deserve the best graduation experience possible, even with nationwide restrictions on large gatherings. In order to deliver the most memorable experience for our graduates, in partnership with Student Government representatives, we developed the following 4-part plan.

### **Cap & Gown, Yard Sign Distribution**

Beginning Tuesday, May 5 through Thursday, May 7, all seniors are encouraged to pick up their cap & gown, as well as a Class of 2020 yard sign, at their school. They will be greeted by their teachers, staff, and administration as the first major component of our graduation plan. Dates and times for distribution can be found on our [ClassOf2020 website](#).

### **Drive-In and Drive-Through Graduation Ceremonies**

Pre-Coronavirus, graduation ceremonies were scheduled for the week of May 18. In order to get diplomas to our graduates as originally planned, every school in Phoenix Union will host *Drive-In* or *Drive-Through* graduation ceremonies. Much like cap & gown distribution, students are encouraged to arrive to campus at their assigned times (listed on our [ClassOf2020 website](#)). Graduates should come dressed in their cap & gown. Our families are encouraged to decorate their cars to honor their graduates. Upon arrival, students and families will be met by each school's staff. Music, photos, and other fun surprises will occur as cars make their way to the graduation zone. Once cars arrive at the diploma zone, each graduate will receive their diploma and be given an opportunity to take photos and celebrate their accomplishment.

### **City-Wide Fireworks Display**

At the request of our Senior Class Presidents, Phoenix Union will host a massive, city-wide fireworks display at all eleven comprehensive campuses. Fireworks will begin at 8:20 p.m. – that is 20:20 military time on May 22. All displays will be Fourth of July-style, large fireworks that can be seen all throughout the Valley. Each firework display will last approximately 10 minutes.

### **Graduation Celebrations, If Possible**

Finally, because what students, families, and staff want most of all is an opportunity to gather in person to celebrate our graduates, Phoenix Union is also prepared to host *Graduation Celebrations* in June or July, if national and state guidelines permit. These *Celebrations* will look and feel much like large *pep assemblies* during which graduates, dressed in caps & gowns, hopefully in the presence of family, get to experience guest speakers, music and performances, and can throw their caps into the air with their fellow classmates. Phoenix Union leadership continues to track CDC guidelines closely to determine if large gatherings will be permitted at any point this summer.