



Swenson Arts and Technology High School
2750 Red Lion Road
Philadelphia, PA 19114
<https://swenson.philasd.org/>

May 28, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

On April 9, 2020, Dr. Hite shared the news that our school buildings would remain closed for the rest of the school year and that the school-sponsored social events you have been looking forward to all year, such as proms and graduation, would be cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Even though these events cannot move forward in a traditional way, we remain fully committed to safely celebrating the Class of 2020 .

On June 9th, at 11:00 am, there will be a District-wide virtual graduation with the afterparty from 7:00 -8:30 pm on the same day. Customizable and shareable invitations are now available on our <https://www.philasd.org/2020grad/> webpage.

In addition to these plans, Swenson Arts and Technology High School will host our own virtual graduation for students on June 10, 2020 at 4pm. More information about virtual graduation and invitations will be available the week of June 1, 2020. With safety as our top priority, no in-person events for seniors will be planned by the District or Swenson until further notice.

As you are also aware, senior activities that you may have paid for in advance have been canceled because of COVID 19. We are committed to providing you with an appropriate refund as soon as it is possible to do so safely for staff and families. The information below outlines the approach that the District is taking regarding the reimbursements:

Refund

There are four factors that are being considered for the refund:

1. Dues paid - This is the amount of money you have paid for senior dues this year
2. Personalized Items - These are items that are specific to this school year and were to be paid for as part of your senior dues. At Swenson, we have purchased caps, gowns, Swenson Class of 2020 tassels, diploma covers and yearbook. You will not be refunded monies that went toward those purchases, as that money has already been spent and you will receive those goods.
3. Non-Personalized Items - At Swenson, we have not purchased any non-personalized items prior to the building closure. You will receive a refund for the part of your dues that were collected toward Class of 2020 non-personalized items.
4. Events - Swenson's Senior Luncheon at Pen Ryn Mansion was also part of the senior dues. This event has been cancelled due to COVID. You will receive a refund for the part of dues that were collected for this event. The exact dollar amount and how it was calculated will be included with your refund when you receive it.

Format

Dues will be repaid with a check from Swenson. The School District has worked with Wells Fargo Bank to ensure that any family who wishes to cash the refund check will be able to do so at a Wells Fargo branch without any service charge.

Refunds will be mailed to your address that is on file. If you are worried that this address is incorrect, please contact Swenson Secretary, Carol McLaughlin at cmurray@philasd.org to submit a change of address form.

Timing

Because the reimbursement checks will be generated by each school, they cannot be issued until the Mayor and Governor have declared it safe for non-essential travel and our buildings are reopened to staff. We will inform you as soon as that occurs.

If you have questions and/or concerns, you can contact Principal Langston at clangston@philasd.org
We thank you for your understanding and look forward to virtually celebrating our seniors in June.

Sincerely,
Colette Langston
Principal