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# Graduation: should it be inside or outside?

The 2019-2020 calendar year will always be remembered for the COVID-19 virus. Through school closures, online classes and much more, the Class of 2020 missed out on memories that a large majority of high school students look forward to as their

high school careers come to a close.

In an attempt to save some of these school events, a graduation ceremony still took place. The one adjustment made to this ceremony was that it took place outside on the football field to ensure social distancing.

Unsure of how the change of scenery would impact the ceremony, many people were skeptical of the shift, but those who attended loved it. Due to the praise this graduation received, this year's ceremony should be taken back outside on the newly-installed turf.

After the conclusion of the 2022 football season, The Motz Group began installing new turf on the football

field. It would be a great way to unveil the new field while also honoring the Class of 2023 who will never get the opportunity to compete on it.

There are many obvious reasons why this decision should be a no-brainer. For anyone who has ever attended a sporting event or band concert in the gym, the heat is noticeable. During any graduation ceremony, there are always far too many crammed into the gym. The entire senior class is tightly pressed onto the gym floor while family members must sit shoulder to shoulder in the bleachers. If held on the football field, space to feel comfortable during the ceremony will not be a problem due to the large sets of bleachers that surround the field.

One awesome aspect of the 2020 graduation was the ending. As the seniors celebrated on the field, fireworks added to the excitement. That would be wonderful to add to this year's ceremony, considering that none of the students graduating have seen a normal school year. This class deserves this special touch.

It seems as though any proposition brings about conflict and questions, and this situation is no different. One reason the past two graduations have not

been held outside is the amount of equipment that must be transported and set up on the football field. An outdoor graduation puts more stress on those responsible for setting up and taking down; however, there are solutions. On the day of graduation, all seniors are required to come to school and rehearse the ceremony. This would be a great opportunity to utilize the entire class to help prepare for the graduation and transport any equipment needed.

The biggest potential problem if graduation were to be moved outside is the weather, though. Unfortunately, there is no way to prevent a rainy day. Those who are in charge of planning and running graduation must pay close attention to the weather forecast days prior to the ceremony. There are two possible solutions. Suppose the forecast looks as if it will not allow the ceremony to be held outside on the day of graduation. In that case, the ceremony either can be moved to the following day or clubs that have volunteered their time to set up can help move equipment back to the gym.

After discussing this topic with fellow seniors, it is our hope this year's graduation will be held outside on the football field.