



International Polytechnic High School

3851 W Temple Avenue, Pomona, CA 91768 • tel: 909/839-2320 • fax: 909/839-2326 • <http://www.ipolyhighschool.org>

Ginger Merritt-Paul
Principal

Susan Sarrategui
Assistant Principal

Bryan West
Dean of College Admissions

April 20, 2021

Congratulations IPoly Class of 2021. We are so proud of each of you in reaching this important milestone and are excited that we are able to commemorate this achievement with a proper send off. As a school, we have been hard at work trying to plan a ceremony where you can celebrate with your family and friends. In January, having a graduation ceremony and getting to cross the stage looked very doubtful with the spike in COVID-19 cases. The county health guidelines stated that in-person commencement ceremonies were not permitted. However, just three months later the number of positive cases and community spread continue to decrease, and the county guidelines have changed as a result.

We are now able to say with positivity that there will be a ceremony and graduates will get to cross the stage to honor their accomplishment of attaining their IPoly High School diploma. The information that follows highlights our plan and guidelines for the commencement ceremony. Please note that all of the plans are guided by our commitment to the health and well-being of our school community, as well as the public health guidelines and protocols.

The graduation ceremony will be held on Monday, May 24th at 10am. The event will be a “drive-in” commencement ceremony at the Fairplex in Pomona located at 1101 West McKinley Ave., Pomona, CA 91768 at Gate 17.

Similar to a drive-in movie experience, the drive-in commencement will include a stage and large video screens. Graduates and their guests (one car per graduate) will drive to the Fairplex, park in a designated parking spot, and join in the hour-long celebration. Due to limited space and county health guidelines, we can only accommodate one car per graduate. Passengers are limited to the number of seatbelts in the vehicle. All passengers must stay inside their vehicle until the ceremony begins and once it begins, you may exit your vehicle as long as ALL members of your party stay within the designated parking space at all times. Please note, state laws will be enforced and cars not legally in compliance will not be allowed to participate. One of the county guidelines is that all graduates must RSVP and all attendees, including graduate must complete the health screening questions, prior to entering the venue. More information will be coming on the specifics.

Only vehicles that fit in a single standard size parking space will be permitted including cars, trucks, and SUVs. If you plan on using a van or a truck, you will need to make sure that it fits in a standard size space and those vehicles will be put in the back or off to the side in order not to obstruct the view of the stage from others. **NOTE: Limos, RVs, fifth wheels, party buses, etc. will not be permitted. For safety reason also golf carts, motorcycles or any form of a bicycle will not be permitted. Vehicles that are not meeting these compliance issues will be turned away at the gate and not able to participate.**

There will be a designated parking area with parking attendants guiding each car on where to park. Please do not skip ahead of the line and wait your turn as you are guided into your parking spot. No parking fees will be charged.

Grads should plan to arrive and check in 45 minutes prior to the start of the ceremony. Due to safety reasons, gates will close 5 minutes after the start of the ceremony and any vehicles arriving after that will not be allowed to enter. Also, for safety reasons and to respect the enjoyment of other guests, in-and-out privileges are not permitted. All vehicles must remain in their parking space until the end of the event. In case of emergency a car would be allowed to leave.

The county is allowing for graduates to exit their vehicles for a stage walk at the drive-in commencement ceremony. Graduates will be required to wear masks as they leave their vehicles, at which point they will be directed by staff members to line up in a socially distanced manner in a designated area leading to the stage. (All graduates will be given a mask upon entrance to the commencement ceremony. Following a photo opportunity adjacent to the stage by a professional photographer, graduates will enter from the side of the stage and exit at the stage front. A path from the front of the stage will lead them back to their vehicle.

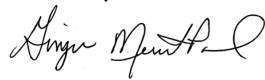
Following health and safety guidelines, food and beverages will not be available for purchase. Bathrooms will be available, but due to county guidelines no more than two guests can exit their vehicle at the same time. Once out of the vehicle, masks must be worn, social distancing is mandatory, and guests must follow directional signs and markings.

Due to limited space, we know that there will be family and loved ones who will not be able to attend. Those not attending are encouraged to join the celebration online through a **live stream** that will be available. There will be more information to come on how to access the live stream. After the live event is over, streams will be available on YouTube and linked to the IPoly High School website (ipolyhighschool.org).

Going from not being allowed to have a graduation ceremony to having the “drive-in” ceremony is very exciting and we are grateful that we can memorialize this special day for the IPoly Class of 2021. Congratulations to you and your graduate!

If you have any questions, please call the school at (909) 839-2320.

Sincerely,



Ginger Merritt-Paul
Principal IPoly