

Magaret Academy, Paul Valley Academy and L&N STEM Academy, which will host graduation ceremonies at Central High School, Ridgepole and K.A.E.C. will host graduation ceremonies at their respective schools.

A full schedule is included below. Each graduate will be provided scripts to bring up to four guests. Attendees will be expected to follow precautionary guidelines such as physical distancing among guests, wearing a mask or cloth face covering and staying home if experiencing fever, cough or other symptoms.



PHOTO BY BOB LAY

*Several Central High School seniors are saluted and cheered at a recent parade on the school's campus.*

# COVID-19 won't stop the Class of 2020

## Graduation Schedule

### **MONDAY, JUNE 8**

9 a.m. - Hills High School  
7 p.m. - Powell High School

### **TUESDAY, JUNE 9**

9 a.m. - Harris High School  
7 p.m. - South-Coyle High School

### **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10**

Rain Date

### **THURSDAY, JUNE 11**

9 a.m. - Carter High School  
Noon - Ridgepole School  
7 p.m. - Fulton High School

### **FRIDAY, JUNE 12**

9 a.m. - Austin-East High School  
Noon - K.A.E.C.  
7 p.m. - Gibbs High School

**By Ken Lay**

Since March, Knoxville's schools have been closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Classes, school activities, sports and some proms have been canceled and many schools have postponed graduation ceremonies until mid-June.

That left parents and administrators to take things into their own hands to honor the Class of 2020.

Carter, Hardin Valley Academy, Christian Academy of Knoxville have had parades honoring their senior classes.

On Friday, May 15, Central High School had a drive-by parade to honor its 2020

and so much of the Fountain City Community wanted to send the students off with a bang that traffic was backed up past Essary Road.

The seniors were positioned in the school's main parking lot, observing social distancing guidelines, while vehicles circled the perimeter of the school with horns honking and congratulatory signs waving.

Many of the 2020 graduates were dressed in their caps and gowns while they accepted praise from the passing vehicles.

The event was organized by a group of senior parents who wanted to salute their children one final time.

"This all kind of started when the school board announced how they were going to handle graduation and we were not happy," Ackerman said. "After done with the blessing of the administration and (Central principal) Dr. (Andrew) Brown, it was done with the approval of the administration and Dr. Brown got the message out."

"We just wanted to do something for these seniors in this class and we knew that we were going to get support from our community in Fountain City."

Prior to the event, Ackerman said she was hoping for a big turnout and she obviously got it.

honor Central's seniors.

"With the county starting to open things up, we wanted to give people the opportunity to acknowledge and cheer on their seniors," said DeBask.

The senior students were grateful to the community for one graduate. "Senior Robert said he expected community to show up in force.

"Fountain City has always been a really big, really good family and we were expecting something like this," Robert said.

Taylor Ackerman shared Robert's sentiments.

"I thought people would show up because they knew how hard we were trying to