

will hold graduation ceremonies at Central High School. Ridgedale and K.A.E.C. will host graduation ceremonies at their respective schools.

A full schedule is included below. Each graduate will be provided tickets 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.

Graduation Schedule

MONDAY, JUNE 8

9 a.m. – Halls High School
7 p.m. – Powell High School

TUESDAY, JUNE 9

9 a.m. – Karna High School
7 p.m. – South-Doyle High School

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10

Rain Date

THURSDAY, JUNE 11

9 a.m. – Carter High School
Noon – Ridgedale School
7 p.m. – Fulton High School

FRIDAY, JUNE 12

9 a.m. – Austin-East High School
11 a.m. – K.A.E.C.

PHOTO BY KEN 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

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

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

"This all kind of started when the school board announced how they were going to handle graduation and we were not happy," Ackerman said. "It was 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.

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 DeBusk.

The senior students were grateful to the community but one graduate, Trevor Holbert, 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," Holbert said.

Taylor Ackerman shared Holbert's sentiments.

"I (thought) people would