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GHS cross country track booster club
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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to ask for you to consider changing the Gardner High Graduation Ceremony day so that the Track & Field Athletes, whom work so hard over the 4 years of their high school career, 8th grade, and middle school years within Gardner, are celebrated for their hard work they put into their academics and sport.

The MIAA All-State Championship Meet, as well as the Middle School State Championship has historically been on the same day as Gardner High School Graduations ceremony date for many years now. In the All-State championship meet situation, it has been several decades now.

In the past GHS Track Athletes talented enough to make it to All-States have either skipped their Graduation or trouble their families to have to race the clock to get them to the meet after having the school call their name out of alphabetical order so they could leave the ceremony early. One of the possible contenders for a championship All-State title passed so she could attend her graduation a huge opportunity missed to show Wildcat Pride at a high level.

When a Gardner Track Athlete gets to the level to make it to All-States Championship they should not have to choose between attending their graduation or competing, so they may be able to represent their school one last time. I am a big fan of keeping traditions. In this case it has come at a cost to the Gardner Track & Field program, and to the athletic department of our school as a whole. Due to the coincidence of this date for the past several decades, the program missed numerous opportunities to have a Gardner High track athlete representing the school at the championships.

This year, the Gardner High School and Middle school Outdoor Track programs have some up and coming talented athletes. Should they put the hard work in and stay the course, Gardner High is due to finally seeing large numbers of track and field athletes competing at a higher level at the All-State competition and even on to Nationals, during their potential Seniors years, starting in the year of 2020 and on. Please send a message that you care about the hard work that each of the Gardner Outdoor Track & Field athletes put in by reviewing and making a permitted change to the GHS Graduation date. Make a new tradition one that celebrates our students, both academically and athletically. Please make that change!

A suggestions I have why not move graduation on that same traditional weekend to Friday night, when it is cooler in those black robes and then move all Senior week events up by making first graduation rehearsal to Tuesday morning with parents sponsored Baccalaureate at night.

The Senior awards to the Wednesday night, Thursday do the yearbook distributed bagel Breakfast, Senior walk through the schools and rehearsal. Making Friday June 5, 2020 GHS 145th Commencement Ceremony 6:30 pm - 8 pm. Another is having graduation on that Sunday June 7, 2020 that same traditional weekend then you do not need to move any of the senior week events.

I would love see this change starting next year for the 144 Ceremony if that would be at all possible I do understand that the calendar for 2018-2019 has been put together all ready may not be a possibility. Thank you for your consideration,

Candee Graves
GHS Cross country track booster President