

SENIOR PARADE HONORS GRADUATES

BY SHANNON BECK

Instead of having a traditional graduation ceremony, the class of 2020 celebrated with a parade May 24. The parade started at the school after seniors had portraits taken and received diplomas outdoors from Principal Steve Brand.

"I really loved the parade and thought it was great," said senior Lauren McCollum. "It was a quick thing but so worth it, and I think it would be nice to have as a tradition for every class. So many members of the community were there to support us, and it was a lot of fun getting to see everyone and their decorated cars."

After not being in school since March 13, the students and teachers of Mount Vernon gathered at school. "My favorite part of the parade was getting to see all of my classmates again," said McCollum. "I love every person in our grade and was so excited to see people dressed in their caps and gowns! We've been learning and growing together for years and it was nice getting to reflect on memories with each other."

"I thought the parade was amazing," Principal Brand said. "The weather was perfect. The community came out and supported the seniors and nearly all of the seniors participated. I felt like the parade



Lauren McCollum receives her diploma from Principal Steve Brand in the back of the high school May 24.

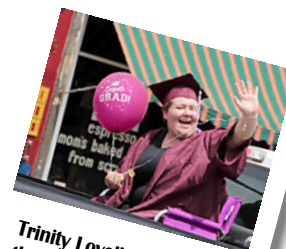
gave everyone closure by being honored as the 'main event' of the parade." Brand has triplets who graduated this year.

Brand was glad he got to ride with his children in the parade and see the joy they got from the event. Many seniors decorated their cars with signs and posters, they also rode on top of their cars or in the back of a truck.

"When seeing everyone together, it became a reality of how much I missed everyone in the senior class," Brand said. "I have gotten the opportunity to spend a lot of time with my own kids, but have missed out on time with the students in school. I know how important learning is...that's why we have school, but I believe relationships are every bit as important. I was grateful to see all the students!" Brand said.



Philip Weaver rides in a bus for the parade.



Trinity Lovell rides through uptown Mount Vernon in the parade May 24.

Top of the Class

VALEDICTORIANS AND SALUTATORIAN HONORED



VALEDICTORIAN

Caroline Voss '20



VALEDICTORIAN

Karly Connolly '20



SALUTATORIAN

Aubrey Frey '20



ALL SMILES!

Senior Chloe Bunch waves at the crowd during the graduation parade on May 24.

APPROPRIATE HOOD ORNAMENT

Senior Jaruthat Dervo, who often appeared as the Mustang mascot at games and assemblies, decorated his parade vehicle with a mustang head





PROUD PAPA
Principal Steve Brand drives Kaleb, Summer, and Nolan Brand as they prepare to start the graduation parade on May 24. Brand handed his triplets their diplomas behind the school before the parade.



Addisen Santee smiles and poses for a picture at the start of the parade.



Senior Wyatt Stanbro gives a thumbs up as the graduation parade begins.



Mathew Trachta rides in the parade.



Sam Stoner waves at the camera.

FACULTY KIDS

TEACHERS DRIVING THEIR SENIORS IN THE PARADE



Henry Maddock '20



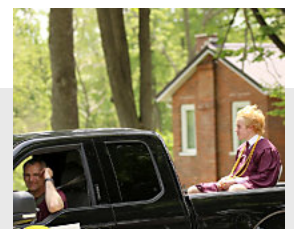
Luke Wade '20



Jack Kragenbrink '20



Josh Hauge '20



Graham Bradbury '20