



ABBY THORNHILL, 10
The friendships I've made at Sion



NAILA FOY, 11
How confident, hardworking, kind and positive I am



TENIA FREDERICK, 12
The adjustments I've had to make to succeed over the last years



GRACIE DORMAN, 12
I'm very honest

POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE *below*

Dressed in her graduation regalia, Counselor **Erika Ellwanger** cheers for the seniors driving through the graduation parade. Teachers and faculty lined the senior parking lot to wave at the seniors. "I could not have been more excited to see the seniors and their parents driving through. It made my heart incredibly happy to see their smiling faces. I felt an immense sense of pride for each senior, and now they have a unique story to tell, though likely not one they would have chosen," Ellwanger said.

PHOTO | EMILY WEIANS



PREHISTORIC PARTICIPANT *right*

Disguised as a Tyrannosaurus Rex, senior **Zoey Jensen's** mom **Vonda Jensen** participates in the senior graduation parade with her husband **Dave Jensen**. Dressing up in blow-up costumes was an alternative because it's a barrier, like a mask for social distancing. "I wasn't surprised because they find any possible opportunity to dress up in those and I think it's the funniest thing ever," Jensen said. PHOTO | OLIVIA POPE



SENIOR SMILES

Standing through the sunroof of her car, senior **Lauren Mead** looks around at the teachers gathered to celebrate graduation. Seniors were originally supposed to graduate May 21, but it was pushed to Aug. 6 due to COVID-19 social distancing restrictions. "I was obviously a little disappointed that we didn't have our planned graduation but it was still nice to see the teachers and celebrate the seniors," Mead said. PHOTO | EMILY WEIANS



CAPTURE THE MOMENT

Riding in the back seat through the graduation parade, senior **Kyleigh Smith** takes pictures of teachers waving at her. Teachers wore their graduation regalia to the parade, something they always do on graduation. "Seeing all the teachers reminded me how much Sion cares about us and will always be there," Smith said. PHOTO | EMILY WEIANS

A ROYAL PARADE

Crowned with a tiara, senior **Sophia Angrisano** gasps in shock at the sight of all the teachers at the graduation parade May 21. The parade was held in the senior parking lot in celebration of the day seniors were supposed to be graduate. "It was kinda bittersweet to see all of the teachers at the parade," Angrisano said. "I was glad I got to see them one last time but sad under these circumstances."

PHOTO | EMILY WEIANS



CLASS OF COVID-19

find ways to celebrate graduation

faculty and staff line the parking lot for a parade to celebrate seniors on the original graduation date

DESIGN & STORY | LILY HENKLE

Standing through the sunroof of her car, senior **Sophia Angrisano** gasped in shock at how many teachers lined the parking lot at the senior graduation parade. Teachers dressed in graduation regalia to celebrate the seniors on the day they were originally supposed to graduate.

"It was sad that we didn't get to participate in the normal graduation festivities on our supposed to be graduation day," Angrisano said. "But I like that everyone is making the best of the situation. I think it is amazing that Sion is still doing everything in their power to give us the ending we wanted for so long."

Because of COVID-19 social distancing regulations, the original graduation date of May 21 was pushed to June 25. And then it was pushed again to Aug. 6. The administrative team had the idea to honor the original graduation date by throwing a parade for the seniors. Pearl picture congratulation signs also adorned the lawn along Wornall Road.

May 21 was a day that was supposed to be filled with tradition, white dresses, crowns and speeches at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts. Instead, to keep socially distant, seniors just drove through in their cars while teachers stood six feet apart, waved, yelled "congratulations" and held up signs for the graduates.

"The parade was so sweet. I think it took being away from the faculty to make me miss them," senior valedictorian **Caroline Ehren** said.

With restrictions slowly lifting each month, students are hopeful to be able to celebrate their graduation the traditional way in August.

"I'm really hopeful to have graduation in August," Senior Class President **Paula Sweeny** said. "It will be really great to see all of our classmates and teachers for one final send off, especially since we were unable to celebrate with the other normal senior traditions."



THE FEELING THAT I FELT ON MAY 21ST WAS UNEXPLAINABLE. I NEVER IN A MILLION YEARS WOULD'VE THOUGHT THAT MY GRADUATION WOULD'VE BEEN POSTPONED THIS LATE.

Dennise Carmona 12



billboard graduation

GET THIS: seniors get surprised by graduation billboards

- Seniors **Madigan Brown** and **Gia Clementi** thought they were just meeting up with their moms to have an outdoors social distance dinner May 26.
- When they got to the spot they were meeting in Lee's Summit, they looked up and saw themselves on the billboard above them.
- Clementi's mom **Kim Clementi** surprised the two with the billboards that included their names, their high school, and where they're going to college.
- "I had actually seen other senior billboards before and joked with my mom about if I was on there with my friends," Clementi said. "Little did I know, she and Madi's mom already knew we were going to be on there."

PHOTOS SUBMITTED | GIA CLEMENTI & MADIGAN BROWN

drive-thru dresses seniors participate in drive-thru graduation dress pick-up



While pulling up to bridesmaid boutique **Bella Bridesmaids**, seniors **Meg Wilkerson** and **Caroline Knopke** await the delivery of their white graduation dresses. Due to COVID-19, many seniors couldn't pick up their dresses at school, so they did a curbside pickup at **Bella Bridesmaid** the week of March 23.

"When going to pick up my graduation dress it felt really weird, because it was my first time leaving the house since lockdown," Knopke

said. The original date for dress pickup was March 23 at school, but after spring break, classes began online and students were no longer coming to school. Due to this in person pick up was no longer an option.

"It just wasn't what I anticipated at all," Wilkerson said. "I didn't believe at the time that graduation would get pushed back all the way to August." PHOTO | DANA KALT