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Clifton High School Class of 2020 graduating seniors may not have had the time-honored graduation ceremony that their predecessors had; however, the event did not go by without the pomp and circumstance that the students deserved.

In addition to the virtual ceremony scheduled for June 19, 2020, at 5:00 pm, graduates, along with two guests, attended photo sessions at the Clifton High School Stadium on Tuesday, June 16, 2020, and Thursday, June 18, 2020. Administration, faculty, staff, and Clifton Board of Education Commissioners cheered as students processed across the field, socially distanced in their caps and gowns, heard their names read, posed for photos with the Clifton Scoreboard in the background displaying 2020, and had a professional picture with their two guests. As the students left the field, they entered a tent where they picked up t-shirts, CHS swag, and their yearbooks.

But the celebration did not end at the stadium. Unbeknown to the Class of 2020, the Class of 2000 had a surprise for the students. Clifton High School Vice Principal and CHS Class of 2000 graduate, Victoria Rogers, belongs to a CHS Class of 2000 Facebook group. After COVID-19 interrupted the school year, putting an end to a traditional graduation ceremony, the Facebook group decided that they wanted to do something special for the Class of 2020. Another member of the group, Frances Mateo, owns a New Jersey-based marketing company, Blend Marketing. Together, the group came up with the idea of printing lawn signs displaying the names and photos of the CHS graduating seniors and posting them throughout the CHS campus.

Faculty, staff, administration, and Clifton Board of Education Commissioners, on a clandestine mission, headed to Clifton High School after leaving the photo session at the stadium on Thursday to post the signs across the campus. Although some students caught onto the gift from the Class of 2000 early, Dr. Robertozzi, Superintendent of Clifton Public Schools, revealed the surprise in a video at the Clifton Board of Education virtual meeting.

According to Dr. Robertozzi, "That's Clifton paying it forward."

The signs will be on display at the Clifton High School campus until Monday, June 22, 2020, after which the students can take their signs home.

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Lawn Sign Video on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/G-4NeDYGots>