



JUNE 17, 2008

**O**n June 6th, Holly High School held its 2008 graduation ceremony at Oakland University's ORENA. Many individuals have asked why did we hold our graduation ceremony there as opposed to our football field. The answer is very simple: rain, wind, and lightning. The weather that evening reinforced the idea that Holly High School will always have its graduation ceremonies indoors, not outdoors.

A follow-up question then is why do we not have our graduation ceremony in our gymnasium. A similar question followed with why do we not have our graduation ceremony in our auditorium. The answer to both questions is a simple one: seating capacity. At the June 6th graduation, approximately 2,700 individuals were in attendance.

Our gymnasium would not seat half that number of parents, other relatives, and friends. Our auditorium seats approximately 750 individuals. So, the question now becomes why don't we just limit the number of individuals who can attend the graduation ceremony.

In my 30+ years as an educator, I have never believed that limiting the number of individuals who wish to attend a graduation ceremony was a good idea. I do realize that some high schools limit graduates to a few additional individuals attending the graduation.

However, graduation is a time for reflection, emotions, and a look to the future. Our graduates have relatives and friends traveling from other states as well as just locally. I believe it is a courtesy to our community members and our students to have the graduation ceremony in a facility that can easily accommodate all those who wish to attend.

In past years, I realize that many graduation ceremonies occurred outside on football fields, gymnasiums, and auditoriums. I just believe, taking all aspects in account, that having our graduation indoors just makes for a more enjoyable evening for everyone.