A unique graduation

The Pottstown High School’s 140th graduation is now posted on the school district’s Facebook page.

If you didn’t know better, you might be excused for thinking this was a normal graduation.

True, it was unusual the camera focused solely on the proscenium, with no shots of the onlookers, who were remarkably quiet.

And as the graduates walked across the stage one by one to collect their diplomas from a table, there was no one standing there to shake their hand and congratulate them.

But considering this graduation was shot like a movie, with the participants all filmed in individual scenes and then spliced together in the editing room, the school district did a remarkable job — pandemic or no — of giving its seniors a memorable graduation.

The high school principal, superintendent of schools, and school board president all gave brief addresses, at separate times, to a lone camera operator.

Likewise, the valedictorian and salutatorian offered short speeches, at separate times, to the camera.

Pottstown’s 194 seniors arrived at the high school’s auditorium at 15-minute intervals, with just four onlooker guests each, over a period of days to walk across the stage and pick up their diplomas, each photographed and cheered on by their loved ones. A taped band played Pomp and Circumstance.

But like good cinema, it all came together well in the end. It was an impressive feat by Pottstown’s administrators, teachers, and students. As we like to say, “Proud to be from Pottstown.”