

Graduating Seniors Information

- 1) **Graduation rehearsal**-Graduation ***rehearsal will take place at the Florida State Fairgrounds Expo Hall on May 14th from 3:00 pm-4:30pm. You must attend rehearsal in order to participate in graduation.*** This rehearsal will last as long as it takes for us to cover all necessary information and rehearsals. Only seniors are allowed. Do NOT bring friends, guests, etc. Parents may attend but they must sit in the bleachers. ***DO NOT PLAN TO LEAVE EARLY!** Casual school appropriate attire should be worn to attend rehearsal.
- 2) **Graduation**-Graduation will take place at the **Florida State Fairgrounds** on **Thursday, May 22 at 6:30pm. Graduates must be at the Expo Hall by 5:30pm dressed appropriately with their cap and gown on.** Anticipate time delays such as traffic and parking issues. If you enter too late, you will not be able to participate in graduation! Try to carpool as much as possible due to the parking fee of **\$10.00. Cash or card will be accepted.** Parking attendants will have limited change. Do NOT bring coins, they will NOT be accepted. Parking will only be available through the Hwy 301 entrances.
- 3) **Tickets:** Each graduate participating in graduation will be given **Ten (10) tickets. Tickets MUST be signed for when they are distributed to graduates.** Tickets will be distributed to students on May 13 during a senior assembly. No additional tickets will be available.
- 4) **Seating:** - Guests will be allowed to enter the venue 45 minutes before the ceremony in the Expo Hall. Infants and small children who need to be held by an adult will not need a ticket. Tickets are general admission and will be first come first serve. No saving of seats is allowed. All guests must have a ticket. Large bags, camera bags, noise makers, or banners are not permitted in the Expo Hall.
- 5) **Disabled Guest Seating:** There is a limited amount of guest seats available. No wheelchairs will be provided. Guests will have to provide their own. Only 1 family member can accompany the disabled guest on the Expo Hall floor. All others will have to sit in the general admission section.
- 6) **Fines/Debt** -You must be cleared of all fines prior to receiving your diploma. Final transcripts will not be sent until the fine has been cleared. Please tend to this issue NOW (media center, cafeteria, textbooks, uniforms, etc.) Please see Ms. Marshall in the Main Office by May 13 to clear any school debt.
- 7) **Cap, Gown, and Dress Code-** Be sure to try your cap and gown on as soon as possible to ensure that the fit is correct. **You MUST come dressed in your cap and gown to the Fairgrounds.** If, for any reason, you need to exchange the gown, please contact Herff Jones (727) 381-7714 Ext. 203 or email jhn_mclay@yahoo.com. Your dress code is included with this document. Be sure to read it carefully. Not adhering to the graduation dress code can result in you NOT participating in graduation. (The dress code document also details how to get the wrinkles out of your gown.)
- 8) **Tassels and other Specialty Items-** A tassel is easily lost. Be careful with it! As you secure it to your cap, you should wear it on the RIGHT side. Also, remember to bring any stoles, honor cords, etc. We are NOT allowed to distribute them at the site. We will NOT have any extras.
- 9) **Pictures-** **Guests will be directed straight to their seats.** Cady Studios will take your picture as you cross the stage. You will receive proofs via email with an opportunity to purchase these pictures.
- 10) **Behavior-**Please understand that several people have worked very hard to make your graduation ceremony the best and most memorable that it can possibly be. Please respect the efforts of the individuals who have worked hard for you by acting in a manner that is appropriate for a ceremony as formal and memorable as graduation. There will be plenty of time for hat throwing, beach balls, balloons, and confetti after you **leave** the Fairgrounds!

Graduation Dress Code:

*Be sure that you try on your cap and gown as soon as you get it. If there is a fitting problem, you need to contact Herff Jones (727) 381-7714 ext. 203 or email jhn_mclay@yahoo.com AS SOON AS POSSIBLE to correct the issue. It is much more difficult to exchange the cap or gown on the day of graduation.

After you have verified that your cap and gown fits properly, you need to store them in a safe, dry location until a few days before graduation. A few days before graduation, you will need to take your gown out of its package and hang it on a hanger to let the wrinkles fall out of it. If the wrinkles are still visible the day before graduation, hang the gown on a hanger and hang it in a bathroom. Fill the tub full of steaming hot water, and let the steam fill the bathroom. Leave the gown in the bathroom for at least an hour to help the wrinkles fall out. **DO NOT DIRECTLY IRON THE GOWN UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES! It will ruin the fabric. If you MUST iron it, place a towel between the gown and the iron to protect the fabric.

***Caps, gowns, and tassels are worn at graduation, but not at rehearsal. **Rehearsal is casual dress.**

*****Tassels are worn on the **RIGHT side** of the cap during the beginning of the ceremony. During the ceremony, you will be instructed by a School Board member to turn your tassel to the left. This is a graduation tradition and must be done as a group. Please be respectful of the tradition by ensuring that your tassel is on the right side.

Ladies: *Please remember this is graduation, so dress appropriately!*

Dresses-We suggest you wear a dark dress under your graduation robe due to the transparent nature of the gown. If you choose to wear hosiery under your dress, please be sure to wear hose that compliment your skin tone. No hosiery that is distracting will be permitted (pink, green, purple, patterns, etc.).

Shoes- We expect a dress shoe. The shoe must be secured to the back of your foot or heel by a strap. **No extremely high heels, flip flops, or tennis shoes.** (You will have to go up and across the stage, as well as lots of standing and walking!)

Gentlemen: *Please remember this is graduation, so dress appropriately!*

You must wear a **dress shirt, tie, dress pants, and dress shoes**. Jeans, polo shirts, tennis shoes, sandals, hiking shoes, flip flops, etc. are not permitted.

Ties are a requirement for graduation. There is no exception to this requirement!

All Graduates:

Jewelry should be minimal. No pins or jewelry on gowns, please!

Your **CAP** should be worn so that it sits flat on the top of your head, not on the back of your head. Decorations and/or writing on caps is not permitted.

DO NOT bring any purses, cell phones, keys, cameras, video recorders, etc. because there will be no one to hold those items for you. You cannot leave them in the lineup area of the Fairgrounds because you are not able to return to get those items. Plan to leave them with someone who can return them to you after the ceremony.

NO GUM!

Note that appropriate dress is required to participate in the graduation ceremony. Since graduation is not mandatory, we expect you to dress and behave in the appropriate manner, or you may be removed from the ceremony. Many people have worked hard to make this event a dignified and memorable experience to celebrate your accomplishments. Please do not diminish anyone's efforts by not dressing and behaving in an appropriate manner. Thank you and congratulations!

Driving Directions to the Fairgrounds

U.S. Hwy. 301 Entrance Gate: Travel on I-275 North toward I-4/Orlando and merge onto I-4 East via Exit 45B. Take Exit#7 (U.S. Hwy. 301 South) and stay in the right lane heading south for ¼ mile. Turn right into the Fairgrounds entrance. DO NOT go past the light at MLK, Jr. Blvd.

