

TO: Senior Class Members
FROM: Mrs. Keener, Senior Advisors
RE: Senior Activities/Expectations/Graduation Reminders

1. **Expectations:** All graduates are encouraged to participate in graduation (June 11, 7:30 p.m.). Exceptions to this policy must be arranged with Mrs. Keener prior to June 4th.
2. **Obligations:** All financial obligations (i.e. books returned, fees paid, uniforms returned, etc.) must be cleared up before the Special Events Center practice on June 9th. You must also turn in school-issued laptops and devices by June 4th. You will not receive tickets until you do so.
3. **Dress for Graduation:**

Graduates: Males will wear a solid color dress shirt, dress pants, standard tie, dress shoes and socks. Females should also wear dress clothes. Skirts and dresses should not hang below the length of the robe. No sandals, flip flops, or jeans will be permitted. **Dress will be checked. Students dressed inappropriately will not be allowed in line for the graduation ceremony. If you still need a cap and gown, call 336-228-7770 or see Ms. Alker.**

Caps: (A) Wear your cap with the short point forward, almost between your eyebrows. The tassel will fall over the right eye.
(B) All males will remove caps simultaneously for the presentations of the colors, playing of the national anthem, and pledge of allegiance. Replace caps after pledge.
(C) Females do not remove their caps at any time during the ceremony.
(D) You are not allowed to wear decorated caps to the ceremony.
(E) Only approved cords may be worn (National Honor Society, Service Learning, American Red Cross, those earning an industry credential)

Gowns: Hang your gown on a hanger to allow wrinkles to fall out. A steamy bathroom should help get the wrinkles out of the gown. DO NOT iron gowns.

Honors tassels: Graduates with a 3.5 or higher weighted G.P.A. may trade in their white tassel for a gold tassel or purchase one for \$15. Swap your tassel or bring exact change to Graduation. There will be a table in the area where you line up.

Guests: As this is a formal occasion, "Sunday best" would be appropriate. Be sure your guests are informed.
4. **Coliseum Practice.** 12:45 p.m., Monday, June 9th. Meet in the lobby of the Special Events Center. Provide your own transportation to the practice. If you need transportation to these events, please see Mrs. Hinson in the Front Office by Wednesday, June 4th. A chart will be provided that day to assist you in locating your assigned seat. Be in your assigned seat PROMPTLY at 12:45. Graduation practice is REQUIRED and lasts until 2:15. If you have an exam on that day, you will be allowed to leave early to come to practice. Do NOT bring your cap and gown to practice.
5. **Graduation Day:** Please meet in the practice area at 6:15 p.m. (You will see this at practice.) **This area is open only to seniors and those teachers assisting in the line. Say your goodbyes to family and friends before entering this room.** A teacher will be there to let you in. You must have ALL your necessary stuff with you then; you will not be permitted to leave once you are inside, be sure you are dressed appropriately (see #3). Turn off your cell phone! NO gum; NO purses! There will be a security check when you enter.
6. **Tickets for Graduation:** Each senior is guaranteed 8 tickets. All guests, INCLUDING CHILDREN, will need tickets. You will **receive your tickets at practice on June 9th if you have met all obligations**. Make sure that your invited guests have their tickets BEFORE the night of graduation. They must show their tickets at the gate to the parking lot to avoid paying for parking. **PLEASE be very careful with your tickets. If you lose them, we cannot replace them. There are no extra tickets available.**

7. **Live Streaming:** There will be a live stream of the graduation ceremony available from GCS, you can find the link on our Ragsdale website. This will go live at the beginning of the ceremony and be recorded to be played back.
8. **Pictures:** A professional photographer will take a picture of each senior as he/she receives the diploma. Each graduate will receive a 5x7 print of their stage photo. These photos will be mailed home so please make sure that your address is up-to-date in PowerSchool.
Any parent may videotape or make photographs from their seats. Standing in the aisles or setting up video cameras in the aisles is not permitted as this seriously interferes with others being able to see. Please share this information with your family and guests.
9. **Parking.** Parking is FREE at the coliseum provided you show your tickets to graduation (guest) or your cap/gown (seniors). There may be another event requiring paid parking, so show your proof that you are there to attend graduation.
10. **Driving:** Please be careful driving to and from graduation. Be sure to wear your seatbelt and make sure all your passengers wear seatbelts. *No texting while driving!* Give yourself plenty of time and be extra attentive please. Remember that on the way to graduation even a small accident, traffic ticket, or traffic jam can delay you past the time for the ceremony.
11. **Guest Seating at Graduation:** Guest will enter main level of Special Events Center. Doors open at 6:45 p.m. All guests should be seated by 7:15 p.m. Doors will lock while seniors march in and won't reopen until after the start of the ceremony. Remind guests that they should remain at their seat until the last senior has exited the room at the end. It is not appropriate to leave a formal ceremony before it is concluded.
12. **Message from the Principal:** We hope your graduation ceremony is a memorable, distinguished event. We need your cooperation in making sure any distraction to the honor and dignity of the ceremony does not occur. Please explain to your guests, friends, and families that **any applause for a graduate must be done quickly and respectfully so that it does not interfere with the next graduate's name being called.** After the ceremony, you will exit in the direction instructed (at practice) to go to the diploma room. You will pick up your diploma from the tables as you exit. The caps and gowns should be worn as originally designed with no extras. Your demeanor as you cross the stage when you receive your diploma and as you return to your seat reflects not only on you and your family, but also on Ragsdale High School. Please honor yourself, your family, and school by dignified behavior. I want to thank you for your hard work this year. You are an outstanding class and I wish you the best of luck in all that you do!

Noel Keener, Principal