

GRADUATION NEWS FOR SENIOR PARENTS

Dear Parents/Guardians of Seniors:

We know there is a lot of excitement that comes with the end of high school as students prepare for graduation, and we hope this information will help you in your planning. We want this to be a special time for students, so if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Completion of all final exams and full attendance at school from May 17, 2018 to May 24, 2018 is MANDATORY. Seniors must attend all four (4) graduation practices and events on May 22, 23, and 24 in order to participate in graduation.

Mandatory Events for Seniors:

May 22 – 12:25 p.m. to 2:10 p.m. – Graduation Rehearsal. MTH Auditorium.

May 23 – 7:25 a.m. to 9:14 a.m. – Graduation Rehearsal. MTH Auditorium.

May 23 – 12:25 p.m. to 2:10 p.m. – Graduation Rehearsal. MTH Auditorium.

May 24 – 7:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. – Senior Awards Assembly, Class Picture, and Ticket Distribution.

If a student experiences an emergency illness on the day of a scheduled graduation practice or required senior activity, the student's parent or guardian must call the main office at (410) 313-2880 by 7:30 a.m. to explain the reason for the emergency absence.

We are providing you with a schedule of mandatory practices, exams, and activities in advance so that your student can prearrange work schedules and avoid potential conflicts. Employment is not an excused reason to miss events or practices. Seniors who decide not to participate in the graduation ceremony are still expected to attend school from 7:25 a.m. to 2:10 p.m. each day through May 24.

While this event is a celebration, we ask that both our seniors and their friends and family refrain from using noise makers, throwing beach balls, or acting in other ways that would detract from the solemnity of the event.

Prompt arrival and perfect attendance at all required events will ensure a smooth and dignified ceremony that you will be proud to attend. We need the support of all parents and students to make our 2018 graduation a memorable and pleasant experience for everyone involved. Please make sure you and your students have read the graduation instructions and calendar included in this packet. Again, call us if you have any questions regarding the exam or graduation calendar. We thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Lastly, all graduation ceremonies for the Class of 2018 will be streamed live online and available on demand within minutes of each ceremony's end. DVDs of the ceremony will be available for purchase. See hcps.org for ordering information.

Sincerely,

Joelle Miller
Principal

Lisa Vitali and Rachel Fulchino
Graduation Coordinators

GRADUATION INSTRUCTIONS

1. Participation in the graduation ceremony is not mandatory. Students who elect not to participate in the ceremony and rehearsals are still expected to attend school from 7:25 a.m. to 2:10 p.m. during each school day through May 24, 2018. All students must have an approved absence or early dismissal note for any absence from school.
2. Although participation in the graduation ceremony is voluntary, **attendance at all senior meetings is mandatory**. Students need to be on time and stay for the full event.
3. If a student experiences an emergency illness on the day of a scheduled practice, the student's parent or guardian must call the office at (410) 313-2880 by 7:30 a.m. to explain the reason for the absence.
4. Caps and gowns are required attire for the Senior Awards Assembly on May 24, 2018 and Commencement Ceremony on May 29, 2018.
5. Females should wear a dress or dress pants and dress shoes. **No sneakers, tennis shoes, boots, flip flops, or other such footwear is allowed.** Avoid large earrings and bracelets that can get caught on caps and gowns.
6. Males should wear a collared shirt with a necktie and long pants with dress shoes. **No sneakers, tennis shoes, boots, flip flops, or other such footwear is allowed.** All shirts are to be buttoned, and collars are to be worn inside the gown.
7. Students who are recognized for school-based academic accomplishments are welcome to wear that organization's cord or stole whenever caps and gowns are worn.
8. When students receive their graduation gowns, **they should hang it up!** Wrinkles can be removed by hanging the gown in the bathroom, where the steam will smooth the material.
9. **Each graduate will receive 10 graduation tickets.** If extra tickets are needed, the student must submit the **Additional Ticket Form**, which can be found on the school website under "Graduation Information" or may be picked up from 12th grade English teachers. On the form, students must designate to whom the first 10 tickets will be given and must include a justification for the number of extra tickets requested. The form must be signed by a parent or guardian and must be brought to the auditorium during ticket distribution on May 24, 2018.
10. **Questions?** Call Ms. Vitali or Ms. Fulchino at 410-313-2880 or email at lisa_vitali@hcpss.org or rachel_fulchino@hcpss.org.

SENIOR ACTIVITIES AND COMMENCEMENT

CLASS OF 2018

DATE	EVENT
Tuesday, May 15	Senior Class Night – 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. The Great Room at Savage Mill 8600 Foundry Street Savage, MD 20763
Thursday, May 17	Regular Classes for Periods 1-5 Period 6 – Exam *Students must take their scheduled AP exam and work with their teachers to make up the missed final exam.
Friday, May 18	3 Hour Early Dismissal Regular Class Schedule
Monday, May 21	Period 1 – Exam Period 2 – Class Period 3 – Class Period 4B – Class Period 5 – Exam Period 6 – Class
Tuesday, May 22	Period 1 – Class Period 2 – Exam Period 3 – Class Period 4B – Exam 12:25 p.m. – 2:10 p.m. Mandatory Graduation Rehearsal (Auditorium)
Wednesday, May 23	7:25 a.m. – 9:14 a.m. Mandatory Graduation Rehearsal (Auditorium) Period 3 – Exam Period 4A – Exam 12:25 p.m. – 2:10 p.m. Mandatory Graduation Rehearsal (Auditorium) Community Awards Ceremony – 7:00 p.m. All seniors and their parents are invited to attend (Auditorium)

DATE	EVENT
Thursday, May 24	<p>Last day for seniors</p> <p>7:30 a.m. Dress in cap and gown Line up for processional</p> <p>8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Mandatory Senior Awards Assembly (Auditorium)</p> <p>9:45 a.m. – 10:10 a.m. Class of 2018 Picture</p> <p>10:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Graduation Ticket Distribution</p> <p>11:00 a.m. – 2:10 p.m. Senior Class Picnic Meadowbrook Park 5001 Meadowbrook Lane Ellicott City, MD 21043</p> <p>*Students should submit picnic permission slips during any of the graduation rehearsals</p>
Tuesday, May 29	<p>Commencement Ceremony – 11:00 a.m. Merriweather Post Pavilion</p> <p>Seniors in your seats for attendance at 10:00 a.m.</p>

CLASS OF 2018 ADDITIONAL TICKET REQUEST

Student's Name _____ Parent Signature _____

PLEASE NOTE! You will automatically receive **10** tickets. If you require additional tickets, the first 10 people listed below **MUST** be the people who will receive the first 10 tickets. Students should bring this completed/signed form to the auditorium during ticket distribution on May 24th.

Person's name _____ Relationship _____

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Additional tickets requested

Person's name _____ Relationship _____
