

April 15, 2016
Seniors Planning for 2016 Graduation

Dear Parents of the Class of 2016,

Can you believe your child will be graduating at the very beginning of June! This letter details the plans for graduation and year-end senior celebrations. Please mark your calendars and pay close attention to the important information shared here.

We are pleased to confirm that our commencement ceremony will be held on Wednesday, June 1st at 4:00 pm. The last day of exams for RHHS seniors is Thursday, May 26th. Additionally, RHHS has scheduled many events that will lead up to graduation; attendance is required at any **mandatory events as scheduled in the chart on the last page.**

- Times listed indicate what time the event begins. Regular bell schedules will be in place. **Please have students arrive 10-15 minutes before** the time listed so they are ready to begin rehearsals and special events on time.

Other common questions about graduation are addressed below:

Request for Additional Tickets- All seniors are provided eight (8) tickets to the graduation ceremony. Seniors may request up to six (6) additional tickets (form enclosed). **All requests are due no later than Friday, May 6th to Mrs. McQueeney.** General admission and additional tickets will be distributed on Wednesday, May 25 during the mandatory rehearsal. Tickets will **not** be distributed to students with outstanding obligations. Please refer to line item number four (4) below for more details on obligations.

Please ensure your senior and guests are aware of the following guidelines for a successful commencement:

- 1) **Seniors are expected to change work schedules and other obligations to attend the mandatory practices and events.** We believe that high-school graduation deserves the highest priority.
- 2) **Attendance** at the activities listed is **REQUIRED** for seniors planning to participate in the graduation ceremony: all graduation rehearsals, the Senior Awards Program and the Senior Farewell Assembly.
- 3) The May 26th **Senior Farewell Assembly** is designed to bid a Hawk farewell to our seniors and to invite our juniors to move up. We will present a few awards from the faculty; parents of those recipients will be invited to attend. Unfortunately, we will not have space in the auditorium for additional guests.

- 4) Please monitor your senior’s **attendance, grades and obligations** from now until the end of the school year. Seniors must complete all required courses in order to qualify for a diploma.
 - a. Note the revised grading calendar provides a limited number of days of instruction in the final marking period for seniors. Therefore, this final marking period may have extreme implications for any student earning an “E” or “D” in a course required for graduation. A student with an “E” in the 3rd and 4th quarter in any course automatically fails that course (even if he/she had “A’s” for the first two quarters).

Do not allow your child to disappoint you by not satisfying all course requirements for graduation; in other words, students who fail required courses or are denied credit in a class for excessive absence or lateness are in jeopardy of not graduating. Seniors participate in the graduation ceremony ONLY if they have completed ALL requirements for graduation.
 - b. Please contact Mrs. Allen in the front office to determine if your student has any outstanding obligations at Dietra_Allen@hcpss.org.
- 5) Seniors are reminded that **all school rules and HCPSS policies** are in effect at all senior events, both at school and at school-sponsored events. In the past, we have experienced some students making serious errors in judgment relating to “senior pranks” which have led to suspension and exclusion from graduation ceremonies. I would ask all parents to caution their students in this regard.
- 6) Please be aware that **air horns are not permitted, and guests bringing balloons must sit in the back rows** to avoid obstructing the view of others. We want to set a dignified tone at the graduation ceremony and hope to avoid "cheering sections."
- 7) **Graduation Attire:** All graduation gowns are dark blue. Students who have earned academic honors (i.e. honor societies) may wear graduation stoles. Graduates should wear solid colors since the robes are somewhat transparent and prints may show through the robe. Our seniors are asked not to wear sneakers, tennis shoes, flip-flops, deck shoes, or other similar types of casual footwear. The young ladies, especially, will want to consider low-heeled shoes due to the distance they process and the steps they navigate.

Ladies:

Solid colors
Dress, skirt, or dress pants
Low-heel shoes

No Jeans

Gentlemen:

Collared dress shirts w/ties
Dress slacks
Hard-soled shoes

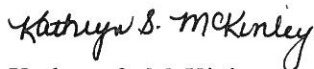
No Jeans

- 8) **Diplomas** are not awarded on stage. Diplomas/certificates and final report cards will be distributed immediately following the ceremony. Students who do not pick up these items will have the opportunity to collect them from **Mrs. St. George the next school day** in the Guidance Office.

- 9) Special access for **handicapped guests** is available at Merriweather Post Pavilion. Wheelchairs are NOT provided by RHHS or Merriweather Post Pavilion. One additional group member may sit with the guest requiring accommodations. The remainder of the family's party should plan to take general seating. To make arrangements for handicapped accommodations, please contact **Mrs. McQueeney at 410-313-7120 by Friday, May 6**, to reserve a space on first-come, first-served basis.
- 10) **Interpreters** for guests and graduates are available. Please contact **Mrs. Coe, Assistant Principal** at 410-313-7120 **by Friday, May 6**.
- 11) **Lost & Found** items will be collected and brought back to RHHS. Feel free to call or stop by the main office to pick up any items you may have left behind.
- 12) Commencement ceremonies are public events and may be photographed or videotaped. Lifetouch is the official event photographer. The company will send proofs of the diploma photos to families electronically and in the mail. Families may wish to preregister using the website below, but preregistration is not required in order to receive the proofs. The website will also allow families to view and purchase candid shots. More information will follow regarding the broadcasting, streaming, and purchasing of graduation DVDs. <http://events.lifetouch.com>

If you have any questions, please feel free to call. We look forward to sharing this special time with all seniors and their families. If you are able to volunteer to assist with the Senior Breakfast or the Senior Picnic, please contact the Senior Class Sponsor Sybil Modispacher at sybil_modispacher@hcpss.org.

Sincerely,



Kathryn S. McKinley
Principal

KSM/jmm
Enclosures

Date	Time	Event	Location	Additional Information
Thursday, May 19	Exams Periods 5 & 6	Senior Exams	Assigned Classes	50-minute Exam periods
Friday, May 20	7:30- 10:30 PM	Prom	M&T Stadium	Ticket sales May 2-17 P3 at AMC Theatres
Monday, May 23	Exams Periods 3 & 4B	Senior Exams	Assigned Classes	50-minute Exam periods
	Periods 5 & 6	Mandatory Rehearsal	Auditorium	
Tuesday, May 24	Exams Periods 2 & 4A	Senior Exams	Assigned Classes	50-minute Exam periods
	Period 3	Senior Breakfast	Aux Gym	All students to be present.
	Periods 5 & 6	Mandatory Rehearsal	Auditorium	
	7:00- 9:00 pm	Mandatory Senior Awards Ceremony	Auditorium	Seniors report at 6:00 pm
Wednesday May 25	Exam Period 1	Senior Exams	Assigned Class	50-minute Exam periods
	8:15 am	Mandatory Rehearsal	Auditorium	Name Rehearsal & Ticket Distribution
Thursday May 26	7:30- 8:15 am	Mandatory Rehearsal	Main Gym	
	8:15- 9:45 am	Mandatory Senior Farewell Assembly	Auditorium	Obligations – (financial, books, etc.)
	10:00- 10:30am	Mandatory Senior Picture	Stadium	School day for Seniors dismisses at 10:30 am
	11:00 am- 2:00 pm	Senior Picnic	Cedar Lane (West Pavilion)	<i>All students welcome!</i> Time to Make up Exams
Tuesday May 31	6:00- 9:00 pm	Class Night	Ten Oaks	<i>Price TBA (DJ & Food)</i>
Wednesday June 1	4:00 pm	Graduation	Merriweather Post	Seniors report at 3:00 pm

