



Derry Area School District

Derry Area High School
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April 19, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians:

We are rapidly approaching the end of what has proven to be a busy and successful school year. We wish to thank you and your son or daughter for your efforts and contributions. In order to have a smooth close to the school year, we have enclosed a "Schedule for seniors – Closing Activities." It informs you of the responsibilities of seniors relative to commencement and other end of school activities. We request that your son or daughter be made aware that no commitments, including work, should be made which would interfere with the commencement rehearsal schedule. Please be aware that receipt of this letter is not a guarantee that your son or daughter will graduate. Satisfactory grades, completion of a graduation project (including community service), and behavior must be maintained. It is a long standing policy of the Derry Area Board of Education that seniors must meet the minimum graduation requirements (25.5 credits) to participate in the ceremony.

Commencement is Friday, June 1, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. in the stadium (weather permitting). Gates to the stadium will open at 5:45 p.m. Conducting commencement outdoors permits each graduate to have an unlimited number of family and friends view his or her graduation. In case of inclement weather, commencement will be held in the Middle School Auditorium. Each graduate will be limited to three (3) admission tickets which will be required to enter the Middle School Auditorium. The ceremony will be broadcasted via closed circuit TV to the High School Gym which is designated for additional family and friends and does not require a ticket for admission.

Our annual Baccalaureate Service for graduating seniors and their parents will be Wednesday evening, May 30, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. in the Middle School Auditorium. Baccalaureate is a religious service organized and conducted by local religious leaders and participation is voluntary.

High School Commencement is a ceremony which comes only once in a person's lifetime. Every effort is made to create a memorable experience both for the graduates of Derry Area High School and their families. We ask for your help in impressing upon your senior the dignity and honor of this special occasion. His or her behavior must be in accordance with the very highest that we all expect. Please note that noise makers of any sort are prohibited.

Thank you for your support and efforts over the years. We are looking forward to preparing our seniors for graduation.

Sincerely,

Gregory A. Ferencak
Gregory A. Ferencak
Principal

Casey Long
Casey Long
Associate Principal



DERRY AREA HIGH SCHOOL

SENIOR PRACTICE SCHEDULE – CLOSING ACTIVITIES 2018



Tuesday, May 29

Last day of instruction for seniors
Yearbook distributions in Homeroom @ 8:05 a.m.
Distribution of Caps & Gowns to CTC, Allied Health & Early Work Release Students
9:00 a.m. – Library
All Other seniors – 7th & 8th Periods - Library

Wednesday, May 30

Commencement/Baccalaureate Practice – (USE BACK PARKING LOT/AUDITORIUM DOOR ENTRANCE)
M.S. Auditorium

Seniors must be present to participate in the Commencement Ceremony

8:30 a.m. – Report to the MS Auditorium for Attendance & Announcements
8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. - Practice for Baccalaureate/Indoor Practice
10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. - Break
10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. - Outdoor Commencement Practice – Stadium
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. - Senior Cookout/Picnic
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. – Senior Clap Out
2:00 p.m. – 2:53 p.m. – Either leave or stay to play games
This is optional:
6:30 p.m. – Seniors participating in Baccalaureate report to the M.S. Large Group Room
7:00 p.m. – Baccalaureate Ceremony – M.S. Auditorium

Thursday, May 31



8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. - Free Senior Breakfast – H.S. Cafeteria/Slideshow
9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. - Indoor Commencement Practice – M.S. Auditorium
10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. - Break
10:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Outdoor Commencement Practice – Stadium

Friday, June 1

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. - Outdoor Commencement Practice
(If necessary – due to weather conditions on Thursday)
6:00 p.m. - Seniors report for line-up – M.S. Auditorium
7:00 p.m. - COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

(Immediately following the Ceremony, Graduates pick up diplomas in the H.S. F-Hallway if outdoors and in the M.S. Gym if indoors)

(At this time, faculty participating in the Ceremony will be asked to be available for photos with graduates near the H.S. Cafeteria if outdoors and in the M.S. Gym if indoors)

NOTE 1 PLEASE REMEMBER THIS IS A SERIOUS AND SOLEMN OCCASION, AND YOUR COOPERATION IS GREATLY APPRECIATED. PLEASE REFRAIN FROM NOISE MAKERS, i.e., COWBELLS, AIR HORNS, WHISTLES, ETC.

NOTE 2 DURING THE CEREMONY, NO PICTURE TAKING IS PERMITTED ON THE FIELD. PICTURES MAY BE TAKEN FROM THE STANDS AND PROFESSIONALLY.

NOTE 3 PLEASE REMEMBER TO TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES. THANK YOU!

DERRY AREA HIGH SCHOOL

SENIOR SUGGESTIONS

We hope the following DO's and DON'Ts will help guide you through the closing days of your senior year.

1. **You must be present for practices to participate in the Commencement Ceremony. Out of fairness to other seniors, everyone must be present to avoid confusion.**
2. Return all books. Your school debts must be paid in full in order to walk in Commencement.
3. Caps and gowns will be distributed in the Main Lobby or Library on Tuesday, May 29th, during Periods 7 & 8. EWCTC, Work Release and Allied Health students will get theirs at 9:00 a.m. Caps and gowns must be worn during the entire Baccalaureate and Commencement Ceremonies.
4. Be sure to order final transcripts, if necessary.
5. Wear lightweight clothing under your gown. Both girls and boys should wear dress shoes with caps and gowns. Boys should wear a shirt and tie (**no blue jeans, t-shirts, shorts, sneakers or flip-flops**). Girls should be dressed up (dress slacks or a light colored dress).
6. Corsages should **NOT** be worn on graduation gowns.
7. Your cap should be worn flat on your head, not tipped to the side or back.
8. Wear your tassel over your RIGHT eye; change to the LEFT after you receive your diploma.
9. The boys should simultaneously remove their caps for National Anthem and Alma Mater. Girls wear their caps during the entire ceremony.
10. During the ceremony, chewing gum, earbuds/headphones and wearing sunglasses are inappropriate.
11. Be in line for Baccalaureate at 6:30 p.m. in the Middle School Large Group Room and for Commencement at 6:00 p.m. at the Middle School Auditorium. Roll will be taken, adjustments will be made because of absent students, and the ceremonies will start on time.
12. During the Commencement Ceremony, students will be presented empty diploma covers. Immediately following the Ceremony, Graduates pick up diplomas in the H.S. F Hallway if outdoors and the M.S. Office Hallway if indoors.
13. Appropriate behavior is expected during Baccalaureate and Commencement. Any misbehavior during these ceremonies will result in the diploma being withheld pending appropriate disciplinary action. In addition, disorderly conduct charges may be filed with the Magisterial Judge.
14. Honor stoles are worn by students who rank in the top ten percent of the class scholastically. Honor ropes, cords, or stoles are also worn by FFA, FBLA, WLHS, Mu Alpha Theta and the vocational technical honor society students. This rank is determined at the mid-term of the fourth nine weeks grading period.
15. Picture taking is **only** permitted from the stands during graduation.
16. Report cards will be mailed the week of June 11, 2018.
17. Enjoy your senior activities and congratulations to all graduates.
18. Students have 15 minutes after the completion of the ceremony to pick up their diploma. If diplomas are left behind, they can be picked up in the H.S. Office Monday thru Friday from 7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

