



Slidell High School

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April 1, 2021

Dear Parents:

As we come to the end of the 2021 school year and graduation approaches, we wish to make you aware of important information regarding graduation and other upcoming events. All students currently ranked as seniors who have met St. Tammany Parish and the State of Louisiana requirements for graduation are eligible to participate in the graduation ceremony.

Graduation is one of the most important days in a young person's life. It is both a family celebration and a school celebration. Our Graduation Ceremony is a school tradition that spans over one-hundred years. Every effort is being made by this high school to make this a dignified formal event. The SHS graduation ceremony will be held on Monday, May 3, 2021 in the L.V. McGinty Memorial Stadium. The school administration and faculty want this graduation to be a beautiful and moving experience for the student and family. Conscientious attention to directions by the student and family combined with cooperation will be necessary for a successful and tasteful presentation.

The remainder of this letter will include suggestions and information regarding graduation and important dates to remember. Students will receive more specific information concerning the graduation ceremony. This information can be found in the Graduation direction packet which will be distributed at practice Tuesday, April 27, 2021.

SOME THINGS ABOUT GRADUATION YOU SHOULD KNOW AS A PARENT:

1. If there is one single thing that would be of utmost importance to tell a parent about graduation, it would be to **ARRIVE EARLY FOR A GOOD SEAT**. Graduation is at 7:00 p.m. There are *no* reserved seats in the L.V. McGinty Memorial Stadium. The gates will be opened at 5:30 p.m. **Do not come on the afternoon of graduation and rope off an area for your family.**
2. Admission to graduation is limited due to COVID-19 Restrictions. Each student will be given **6** tickets for guest admission. Tickets are required for entrance to the stadium. Announcements do not admit guests to stadium.
3. Special seating arrangements on the track will be available **ONLY** for the elderly, handicapped, and/or people with special medical conditions who are not able to climb the

stairs in the stadium. Special needs seating will remain on the home and visitor side of the field for those with a “Special Needs” ticket. There is also a ramp and handicapped seating in the stands available on the home side of the field. If you have a special need, you must come to the Main Office at Slidell High and pick up a “Special Needs” seating ticket for seating on the track. This is the **only way** you will be allowed to sit on the track. Special needs seating tickets will be available in the Main Office beginning Tuesday, April 27, 2021 through Thursday, April 29, 2021 from 8:15 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.. Remember that you will need a ticket to get into the stadium and a ticket to get into special seating. We will be reserving seats for the special person and two other people. Whole families will not be able to sit on the track. These guests must report to the gate by the Field House.

4. In the event of rain, graduation will be moved to the rain date TBA via Robocall, Slidell High School Website, and STPPS website.
5. Only photographers authorized by the principal will be allowed on the field. Each graduate has the option to purchase a photograph package 1) Receiving diploma and 2) Panorama of graduating class taken on April 29, 2021 at school practice. A professional photographer will take these. If you wish to order a picture package, an order form is enclosed with this letter. We must have these orders and payment in full returned to the **Main Office at Slidell High School no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 30, 2021.**
6. Caps and gowns will be distributed to the seniors at the **Mandatory** graduation practice on Tuesday, April 27, 2021. Please make sure your senior’s cap and gown balance is paid in full with Herff Jones Graduate Supply Company. Any students with an outstanding balance will not receive their cap and gown at practice and will have to pick up their cap and gown in the main office once payment is made in full.
7. Gowns (both boys’ & girls’) are worn 9 inches from the floor with shoes on. (Dress shoes are required.) Gowns that are longer should be hemmed.
8. The gown should be hung immediately, to remove wrinkles.
9. Caps are worn parallel with the floor. Caps cannot be decorated. Both boys and girls should have a supply of bobbie pins. Also, the white stole should be pinned to the gown.
10. Chewing gum and talking in the processional is not acceptable. Students carry nothing in with them - this includes cell phones. Girls should leave their purses with their parents. Jewelry and corsages are not worn on the gown. The cap and gown are not adorned in any way. Students who received special medallion style medals at Academic Awards Night will be allowed to wear these.

11. Students will march alphabetically except seniors seated in first row (Top Graduates, Speakers, and Quartet). The seniors seated in the first row will receive their diplomas last.
12. Programs begun on time are most effective. Students must be punctual so as not to disappoint their family and classmates. **WE DO NOT HOLD THE BEGINNING OF THE PROGRAM FOR ANYONE!** Allow time for transportation and parking. **Graduates who arrive after the program begins may not be seated with their class.**
13. **REQUIRED DRESS FOR GRADUATION:**
- a. **BOYS:**
- 1) Neckties required, preferably dark color. No bow ties or Bolo ties.
 - 2) Dark dress slacks required. **NO BLUE JEANS!**
 - 3) Brown or black dress shoes and socks; **NO TENNIS SHOES, flip flops or beach sandals.**
 - 4) A collared dress shirt - white. We recommend a short sleeve shirt.
 - 5) Hair must be a natural color.
 - 6) Piercings must follow school board policy.
 - 7) Wear Slidell High School provided mask.
- b. **GIRLS:**
- 1) Black shoes are required, either heels or dress sandals. **No TENNIS SHOES, barefoot sandals, beach sandals or flip flops.** (Heels should be no higher than 3".)
 - 2) Dress or black pants/romper should be simple and cool. A sundress is an excellent choice. Make sure that dresses will not be seen above the neckline of the gown or below the hemline of the gown.
 - 3) Cut-offs or shorts are inappropriate.
 - 4) Hair must be a natural color.
 - 5) Piercings must follow school board policy.
 - 6) Makeup- must be natural looking
 - 7) Wear Slidell High School provided mask.

13. As I mentioned earlier in this letter, we want graduation to be an impressive and dignified ceremony. **This includes proper etiquette on the part of the audience. Boisterous yelling and screaming of names and the use of air horns is disruptive and makes it difficult for the audience to hear the name of the next graduate. Graduation is for the entire class, not just for one student.** Therefore, we request that our audience pay attention to the entire ceremony and not move about the stadium. Talk with your relatives and friends who are coming to Graduation and **encourage them to be a part of the dignity of this event.** I know that I can count on you for your support of this request.

14. **IMPORTANT** **IMPORTANT** **IMPORTANT**

If it is detected that any graduate has used alcoholic beverages or other illegal substance before the ceremony, he/she will be removed from the processional line-up and will not be allowed to participate!

15. **ALL obligations, (Chromebooks, any books, fees or fines) MUST be cleared by Thursday, April 23, 2021 at 4:00 p. m.** Graduates will not receive diplomas on graduation night if obligations are not cleared.

16. **The Immunization record will be placed in the diploma envelopes. Please put this in a safe place as the school does not keep copies.**

17. Gently used uniform shirts in good condition can be brought to the main office.

I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know this class. I know that they will want their Graduation to be the best yet.

Sincerely,

William C. Percy
Principal