

Dear Parents/Guardians of Wheeling High School Seniors:

Below is important information regarding your senior's upcoming graduation from Wheeling High School and other important dates. Please read all of the information provided carefully, as it answers many questions about graduation and other senior activities.

### **Schedule of Senior Events:**

- ★ Saturday, May 3rd - Prom at Lincolnshire Marriott 7:00-11:30 pm
- ★ Wednesday, May 14th - Senior Final Exams - Blocks 5, 6, 7, 8
  - Cap/Gown Distribution during lunch hours and after school - Main Hallway
- ★ Thursday, May 15th - Senior Final Exams - Blocks 1, 2, 3, 4
  - All Edgenuity classes completed by 8:00 am
  - Cap/Gown Distribution during lunch hours and after school - Main Hallway
- ★ Friday, May 16th - Non-attendance day for seniors
- ★ Monday, May 19th - Non-attendance day for seniors
- ★ Tuesday, May 20th - Non-attendance day for seniors
- ★ Schedule for **Wednesday, May 21st** - Graduation Day
  - 7:45 AM - Distribution of Cords in the Cafeteria
  - 8:00 AM - Senior Breakfast in the Cafeteria
  - 9:00 AM - Senior Awards Assembly in the Main Gym (Seniors - wear your caps and gowns)
    - Livestream Link: <http://links.d214.org/whsseniorewards>
  - 10:30 AM - Graduation practice in the stadium
  - Graduation Tickets distributed to students in the stadium after practice
  - 5:45 PM - Seniors arrive at WHS Stadium for graduation
  - 7:00 PM - Commencement ceremony begins\*
    - Livestream Link: <http://links.d214.org/whsgrad>

\*In the event of inclement weather, graduation scheduled for Wednesday, May 21st will be moved to Thursday, May 22nd. This announcement would be made and announced by the administration.

### **Awards Assembly/Graduation Practice - Wednesday, May 21st at 9 a.m. in the Main Gym**

Senior Awards Assembly at 9:00 AM in the main gym with Graduation Practice to follow in the stadium

- Student attendance is mandatory at this event.
- Graduation tickets will be distributed at the end of practice. Students must be present in order to pick-up their tickets. Guests need these tickets to attend the graduation ceremony.

### **Graduation\* - Wednesday, May 21st at 7 p.m. in the WHS Stadium**

\*Rain date - Thursday, May 22nd at 7 p.m. in the WHS Stadium

- In the case of inclement weather, the graduation ceremony will be postponed until Thursday, May 22nd.
- Each student will receive 10 tickets for the outdoor ceremony.
  - **There are NO extra tickets.** Only guests with tickets will be permitted in the stadium. Guests who need accessible seating or hearing impaired interpreting services must still have a ticket (see below for additional information).
- Seniors should arrive at school by 5:45 pm.
- Guests will be allowed to enter the stadium at 6:15 pm.
- The graduation ceremony will last approximately 90 minutes.

- Graduation is the most attended event during the school year; please car-pool if possible due to insufficient parking for every vehicle. Consider dropping your graduating senior off rather than have them park an additional car in the lot.
- We will have the Commencement Group selling a variety of arrangements and individual roses at the entrance to the ceremony. Pre-orders for items can be placed here: <https://www.thecommcementgroup.com/wheeling/>
- Graduation is a formal, solemn ceremony. We expect that graduates (and guests) will behave in an appropriate manner for this setting.
  - Clothing: Business casual
  - Shoes: Please do not wear regular heels – the heels will penetrate the artificial turf. Block heels are okay.
  - Graduates - please do not bring purses, flowers, gifts, etc. to the ceremony. You will not be able to carry anything during the ceremony.
  - Only school issued stoles, tassels, etc. are permitted to be worn during the ceremony.
  - Shorts, t-shirts, flip-flops, gym-shoes are not acceptable.

### **During the Graduation Ceremony:**

- The commencement ceremony is a formal, dignified event, signifying student achievement.
- Information about auditions to be a speaker at the graduation ceremony will be shared with students in April through email and the Class of 2025 Schoology page.
- A professional photographer will take photos of each graduate. In addition, the entire ceremony will be livestreamed. We feel these services will enable parents to obtain a picture of their graduate without disturbing the ceremony with traffic to and from the stage area.
- **Only the professional photographer will be permitted to take pictures in the stage area.**
- Please have a pre-arranged location to meet your graduate after the ceremony.

### **Distribution of Diplomas:**

- Diplomas will be handed out during the ceremony.
- Do not throw away the envelope containing the diploma for it also contains your photo order forms.
- Diplomas not picked up at graduation will be available at the Registrar's office the day after graduation.
- The caps and gowns are yours to keep.

### **Accessible Seating During Graduation:**

If you have a guest who uses a wheelchair and needs accessible seating, please contact Megan Baker (megan.baker@d214.org) by Monday, May 5th. Due to limited seating, limit your seating request to the guest who needs accessible seating and one additional person.

- There are no special tickets for accessible seating. Names of people needing accessible seating will be on a list held by workers who will assist people requesting special seating. However, each person requesting accessible seating will need to present a ticket when entering the stadium.

### **Hearing Impaired Interpreting Services During Graduation:**

If you have a guest needing hearing impaired interpreting services, please contact Megan Baker (megan.baker@d214.org) by Monday, April 28th. Due to limited seating, limit your seating request to the guests with the hearing impairment and one additional person.

- Each person requesting hearing and interpreting services will need to present a ticket when entering the stadium.

If you have questions, email Megan Baker at [megan.baker@d214.org](mailto:megan.baker@d214.org) or leave a voicemail at 847-718-7311.

