

## Reminders and Required Graduate/Guest Behavior

Graduation from high school is an important event in the lives of students, parents and families. It is an opportunity to celebrate the educational accomplishments of students. The graduation ceremony is designed to provide memories and impressions that will last a lifetime. We need your assistance to ensure your student's graduation ceremony is conducted in a dignified manner.

The faculty and staff of your child's school have spent significant time planning and organizing the graduation ceremony. It is very important that all graduation participants and attendees conduct themselves in a polite and courteous fashion. The graduation ceremony is a special event and requires all attendees to be on their best behavior. To ensure our school's graduation is conducted in a dignified fashion, we expect students and parents to adhere to the following:

### Parents and Guests

- Appropriate dress is recommended.
- Parking for guests is located in the parking lots off Charles Blvd.
- Arena doors will open 1 hour and 30 minutes prior to each ceremony. Parents and guests may enter through Gates 1, 2, or 3. Families with Handicap or elderly guests may enter through Gates 1, 2, or 3 and have access to the elevator. Only one family member may accompany them in the elevator. Pitt County Schools does not provide wheelchairs.
- All parents and guests will be expected to pass through metal detectors before entering the facility. Bags/purses can be no larger than 10 x 10 x 10 inches. It is also recommended parents and guests leave cell phones in the car to increase the speed at which they get through the metal detectors. No strollers are allowed.
- Graduation ceremonies start promptly at the designated time. All parents and guests should arrive at the graduation venue prior to the start of the graduation ceremony. To lessen the distraction, a special section will be designated for late arrivals. Please recognize there are thousands of guests attending graduation ceremonies. Any guests requiring special assistance or accommodations are encouraged to arrive early (recommend at least 45 minutes prior) to make sure there is enough time to get seated before graduation. **ALL GATES WILL CLOSE PROMPTLY AT THE START OF THE CEREMONY.** Late arrivals should report to Gate 1, which will remain open until 25 minutes after the start of the ceremony.
- Personal use of cameras without flash and hand held video cameras are permitted as long as one remains in their seat and respects the viewing rights of graduation attendees. Flash photography and standup videotaping are not permitted during the graduation ceremony. The use of tripods is also prohibited.
- Noisemakers (including air horns, cow bells, or whistles) and signs (including posters and banners), are not permitted in the graduation venue and their use is strictly prohibited. The throwing and/or the possession of beach balls, balloons, confetti or other related items at the graduation ceremony are strictly prohibited.

- Follow the school principal's instructions for applause and recognition during the ceremony. Unsolicited shouting, whistling, and applauding will not be tolerated.
- At the conclusion of the graduation ceremony, in an effort to ensure the safety of all attendees, the audience will remain seated until all the graduates have exited the auditorium/arena.
- All graduations will air live on Cable Access Channel 13 and replay throughout the summer.

### **Students**

- All participating students (Graduates, Band/Orchestra/JROTC/Marshals/Chorus) **MUST** enter through the designated gate for students. Participating students **will not be allowed to enter with a cell phone** or any other prohibited item.
- Students are reminded that their conduct at graduation ceremonies and rehearsals is governed by the Pitt County Schools Student Code of Conduct.
- Students will follow the protocol procedures and schedule of events as established and reviewed in the graduation rehearsal.
- Students need to recognize the importance of the graduation ceremony and dress appropriately.
- Noisemakers (including air horns or whistles) and signs (including posters and banners), are not permitted in the graduation venue and their use is strictly prohibited. The throwing and/or the possession of beach balls, balloons, confetti or other related items at the graduation ceremony are strictly prohibited.
- When crossing the stage, students will shake the hands of the stage guests, receive their diploma, and immediately return to their seats.
- The graduation program will designate those students who are authorized to address the graduates and class. No student may speak to the audience without the specific permission and authorization of the school principal.

**We request that all students, parents, and guests conduct themselves in a respectful manner. Students and attendees may be removed from the graduation ceremony if their behavior or conduct is inappropriate and disruptive.**

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