

April 5, 2019

Dear Parents of a Cocoa High School Senior:

We are rapidly approaching the end of what has been a busy yet successful school year. Cocoa High's graduation is upon us. We are extremely proud of the many successes of our students, especially the Class of 2019. They have continued to be student leaders at Cocoa High carrying on the traditions set by the previous classes. Thank you for selecting Cocoa High and allowing us to educate these fine young people. As graduation time draws near, I want to share some important information for you and your families so you may prepare for this memorable event.

1. Graduation will be on Friday, May 24 at the Richard "Dick" Blake Stadium. It will begin at 7:00 p.m. and should last approximately 1½ hours. We are planning for a meaningful ceremony for family and graduates, one that you will be proud of for Cocoa High's Class of 2019. Seniors are to report to the Cocoa High Auditorium no later than 6:00 pm. If there is inclement weather we will wait to see if the weather subsides. If it does not the ceremony will be postponed until Saturday (May 25) at 8:30 a.m.
2. Dress for seniors should include the following:
 - a. Ladies: a dress of appropriate length as compared to the graduation gown, cap with tassel, graduation gown, and dress shoes (not too high-heeled as we march through the grass).
 - b. Men: dark slacks, dress shirt and tie, cap with tassel, graduation gown, dress shoes (no sneakers) and dress socks.
 - c. Students that are not appropriately dressed WILL NOT be allowed to participate.
3. Admission to graduation will be by ticket only through invitation of the graduates and their families. Because of fire code rules; everyone, including babies and children, whether or not they sit separately in a seat or are held by parents, must have a ticket. Each graduate will receive a maximum of 12 tickets. There are no reserved seats; open seating only. Seniors are encouraged to check with other classmates for additional tickets as many families will not need all 12. Tickets will be given to seniors or their parents on May 23. Students must be cleared for academics, attendance, and for financial obligations to receive tickets. Each senior, or his or her parent, will have to sign for the tickets. Friends may not pick up tickets for each other.
4. During the graduation ceremony, Grad Images Photographers (www.gradimages.com) will be taking a close-up photo of the graduate receiving his or her diploma cover from the principal. They also are planning to take a snapshot of the graduate in cap and gown immediately after he or she receives the diploma and before he or she returns to their seat. This will help parents, as it is very difficult in the stadium to get a close snap shot of the event. There is no obligation by parents or students to purchase these photos; it is strictly done for the convenience of the parents. The photographer will be working directly with parents on any products offered.
5. Graduation practice will be held at the Richard "Dick" Blake Stadium for seniors on Friday, May 24, beginning at 8:00 am. All students are to report to the Auditorium. Practice is mandatory for all seniors. The practice will last about two hours. Seniors are expected to leave campus immediately after practice.
6. All Senior exams will be on May 20, 21, and 22 during the regular school day, ahead of the exam schedule for grades 7-11 as graduates do not return to school after May 22. Regular attendance is required for all classes on the senior exam days. The senior exam schedule is as follows:

Rachad T. Wilson, Principal
Mark W. Mullins, Ed.D., Superintendent
Phone: (321) 632-5300 • FAX: (321) 636-1218

- Monday, May 20: 3, 5, 7
- Tuesday, May 21: 1, 6
- Wednesday, May 22: 2, 4

7. All seniors must report to be academically cleared on Thursday, May 23 for graduation. Students may not attend rehearsal without receiving academic clearance. Students without any obligations will receive their tickets. I will begin seeing seniors at 8:00 am and will end at 12:00 pm. There are no classes for seniors on this day.

8. It is imperative that all fines and financial obligations that a student may have incurred this year or other years are resolved prior to May 23. This includes books from Eastern Florida State College. Tickets will be held for any student that still has a financial obligation to the school. As done in all schools, students will only receive a diploma cover on stage during the graduation ceremony. Diplomas will be handed out after the ceremony in the auditorium provided:

- a. Students have paid all school fines, library fines, fees, or other financial obligations;
- b. Students have returned all library books, textbooks, DE textbooks and other required materials;
- c. Students have completed the graduation ceremony in an appropriate manner exhibiting dignity, respect, and proper behavior.

9. Students are not permitted to participate in graduation if all Brevard County Graduation Requirements have not been met prior to graduation. These include attendance requirements for credit.

10. Prom will be held on Saturday, May 4 from 7:00 pm until 11:00 pm at the Cocoa Civic Center. Tickets are \$25 cash and will be on sale from April 22 through May 3. Students on the monies owed list will not be allowed to purchase a ticket for prom until the debt is resolved. If you would like more information, or would like to chaperone, please contact Mrs. Karrie Hieber at Hieber.Karrie@brevardschools.org.

11. It is critically important that all students finish the year strong. Students who are facing serious discipline consequences or who have excessive absences will not be allowed to participate in graduation.

12. All students should currently have their cap and gown. If you have not yet ordered one, please contact Jostens immediately at (321) 242-2055. Cap and gowns are approximately \$50. Students are welcome to utilize the cap and gown of a former CHS student. Those without any options should contact Mrs. Stockton immediately. We have some available to loan students – students with loaners will need to buy a tassel for \$7 during senior check out day.

Thank you for your continued support of Cocoa High School. The Class of 2019 is very special to me, as they are to all the faculty and staff at Cocoa High. We want to make this a very meaningful event for our graduates as well as their families.

Sincerely,



Mr. Rachad T. Wilson