

From Mrs. Gonzalez, Principal

Class of 2023 – Graduation Ceremony

Dear Terrier Graduate and Family,

It's time to celebrate our Graduates! The 2023 Graduation Ceremony will take place on Thursday, May 25, 2023 at 7:00 pm at Al Werneke Field. This letter outlines the logistics for our commencement ceremony. Please read all information outlined in this letter and plan accordingly as our top priority is to ensure students, staff, families, and guests are as safe as possible as we celebrate the Class of 2023.

Diploma and Regalia Pickup

On Wednesday May 24th, all Graduates will be invited to attend the traditional senior breakfast followed by the senior walk, senior video, and finally, the graduation rehearsal. Students will receive a "reader card" at the senior breakfast. At the conclusion of graduation rehearsal, students will turn in their reader card in order to receive a bag that contains their 10 tickets, cords and other regalia, and 4 ceremony programs. Programs will not be distributed at the ceremony; however, there will be a QR code available to download additional programs. Please remember seniors must take care of any obligations to the school before they will receive their tickets and regalia. Diplomas may be picked up by the graduates in the auditorium lobby immediately after the graduation ceremony.

Graduation Ceremony

The Graduation Ceremony will be held at 7:00 pm on Thursday, May 25th at Al Werneke Field. Students must arrive ready for the ceremony-- wearing their cap and gown. Graduates will line up in the gym at **5:30 pm**. Upon completion of the event, families will be permitted to enter the field for pictures.

Dress Code

Graduation is a formal ceremony. **Caps may NOT be decorated!** Graduates should dress appropriately for the event, but keep in mind it will be very hot. Students must keep their gowns zipped up for the entire ceremony. A dress of appropriate length as compared to the graduation gown or slacks or dress shorts and a light-colored dress shirt (short sleeves fine) are recommended. Please wear nice shoes (no flip flops, Crocs, slides, slippers, etc.). Graduates, remember, you will be walking on grass. Only cords and regalia approved by the THS Graduation Committee which are given to students in their graduation bags or by their approved sponsors may be worn during the ceremony. No outside awards or other regalia will be permitted. **Any student who is not in dress code, will NOT participate in the ceremony.**

Parking

All parking will be in the front of the school. Students and parents are encouraged to carpool as parking will be limited. Graduates should enter through the Attendance Gate. All other guests



should enter through the gates near the auditorium. The North gate will be closed in order to streamline traffic entering and exiting the parking lot.

Tickets and Seating

Admission to graduation will be by ticket only through invitation of the graduates. Everyone, including infants and children, whether they sit separately or are held by a parent, must have a ticket. Each graduate will receive **10 tickets**. There are no reserved seats-- open seating only. There are wheelchair ramps and platforms at the south end of each set of bleachers. This area is available for special needs guests only. All families will be seated in the bleachers—no family member is permitted on the field during the ceremony. Please present your ticket to the staff member(s) and/or law enforcement officer at the entrance. Guests may begin entering the stadium at 5:30pm.

Pictures

Students will be given their diploma cover on the stage. Graduates will have their pictures taken with the principal on stage and then again with their diploma covers after they exit the stage. Please know there is no obligation by parents/guardians to purchase photos. Dean Stewart Photography will work directly with parents on any products offered.

Rain Plan

If we are experiencing heavy rains/thunderstorm activity, but it appears the storm may pass through, we will postpone the ceremony as long as possible. If it appears the storm may not pass with sufficient time the evening of the ceremony, a call will be made no later than 9:00pm to determine if the ceremony will continue the next day at 7:00pm or be moved into the school auditorium. If the ceremony is moved into the auditorium, students will have 2 rain tickets to give to whomever they choose. Only those 2 individuals will be permitted into the theatre for the ceremony.

Odds and Ends

At the conclusion of the ceremony, students should go to the theatre to pick up their diplomas. Please remember the ceremony will be recorded and any family or friends who could not attend the ceremony will be able to watch it on YouTube.

Please remember that the ceremony is a formal affair and should be treated as such. In celebrating your Graduate's achievement, please be sure that we do not take away from the joy of anyone else's moment. I respectfully request that graduation guests refrain from the use of noisemakers, horns or signs that could take away from another guest being able to enjoy hearing their Graduate's name being announced or enjoy being able to see their Graduate walk across the stage.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Gonzalez, Principal

