

April 11, 2019

To: Graduating Seniors  
From: Mrs. Barry  
Re: Graduation Information



Participating in the commencement ceremony is a privilege and an opportunity for you to be recognized for your achievement. It is also a time of celebration for you, your family, and friends. **If, however, you decide not to participate in the ceremony, we ask that your parent or guardian email Dr. Bailey at [abailey@fjuhsd.org](mailto:abailey@fjuhsd.org) as soon as possible to indicate that they are aware that you do not wish to participate.**

**ACADEMIC CLEARANCE** – At the beginning of May, teachers will turn in a report which shows any senior who is failing or in danger of failing a class necessary to graduate. If there is any indication you may not meet graduation requirements, you will be placed on a hold list. Please check your Aeries account often to monitor your grades.

**OUTSTANDING FINES** - You may also be placed on a fine hold list if you have any outstanding fines. Textbook fines and library fines can be paid at the Activities window. Check with Mrs. Cushing in the Library if you have any questions. Please refer to the list of outstanding books you will receive at the beginning of May in your third period class to assure that you are returning the books that are checked out to you and to avoid having a fine placed on your account. You must have your I.D. card with you to pay fines. **To be removed from the hold list, you must obtain written clearance from your counselor, the Activities Office or the Library - depending upon your hold - in order to pick up your cap and gown package.** Be sure to also check your Aeries account to review your outstanding fines, especially for fines that are not related to textbooks.

**TICKETS** - Each of you who are participating in the graduation ceremony will receive 10 tickets, which will be distributed with your cap and gown package. You do not need a ticket for yourself. A young child (under 5) who will sit on the lap of an adult does not need a ticket either. **There will be no sign ups for additional tickets and no additional tickets will be given out.** If you need more tickets, you should ask your classmates as soon as possible if they have any they are not using. That is the only way to obtain additional tickets. The number of tickets given to you is calculated based on the number of seats at the stadium and the number of students in the senior class. If you purchased a senior package at Orientation, your two additional tickets will also be included in your cap and gown package along with the 10 each cleared senior will receive.

**FIELD SEATING** - **Guests attending the ceremony will NOT be allowed on the field for any reason before, during, or after the commencement ceremony.** There will be a limited amount of field seating available at LHHS on the home side of the stadium only for those guests who have difficulty climbing stairs or are using a wheelchair. If you need field seating for your guest(s), come to the Activities window at break or lunch or email Mrs. Vorell at [www.pvorell@fjuhsd.org](mailto:www.pvorell@fjuhsd.org) and give her the names of your guest(s) who need field seating no later than May 28<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. There are no special tickets for those who need field seating, but they must be on the field seating pass list and they must have a ticket for the graduation ceremony. Guests who require field seating will be allowed to have one additional person sit with them to offer assistance if needed. Idaho will be blocked off at Whittier Blvd. and Highlander to normal traffic, but police will allow guests who are using the field seating area to be dropped off at the ticket gate. Guests sitting in the field seating area will be allowed to park on Idaho within the blocked-off area only if they have a handicapped placard on their car.

**CAP AND GOWN DISTRIBUTION** - **You must have your current I.D. card to pick up your cap and gown package.** Caps and gowns will be distributed in the Wrestling Room located off of the upper commons by the mirrors. Please refer to the timeline you received today for additional information regarding cap and gown pickup. If you should lose the timeline or bulletin, you can access it on the Sonora High School website at [www.sonorahs.org](http://www.sonorahs.org) under “Announcements.” You must pick up your own cap and gown package; no one else can do it for you.

**WHAT'S IN THE PACKAGE?** - Once you are cleared for graduation, you will receive a cap, gown, tassel(s), and tickets. If you have a (weighted) total grade point average (TGPA) of 3.5 or above through seven semesters (not including the current semester), you will also receive a gold tassel to acknowledge your achievement. Try on the cap and gown as soon as possible. Keep the following in mind:

1. The length of the gown should be about mid-calf, approximately halfway between the knee and the ankle.
2. For both men and women, the inside seam of the sleeve is what counts, not the outside. The inside seam should be at or about at your wrist with the arm at a forty five degree angle.
3. Graduation caps are made to fit straight on top of the head. The front of the cap is labeled on the inside.
4. If there is a problem with your cap or gown, check with one of the representatives from SoCalGrad or Mrs. Vorell. They will handle all cap and gown problems.
5. You may not throw your cap into the air at any time during the ceremony due to the risk of injury to another student.

**Everything in your cap and gown package is yours to keep. Do not return your cap, gown, or tassel after graduation unless you borrowed them from SoCalGrad. If you borrowed your cap, gown, and tassel, please return everything in the theater at La Habra High School immediately after the ceremony. You will not be able to pick up your diploma until you have returned the items you borrowed. ALL graduates will pick up their diploma immediately after the graduation ceremony in the theater at LHHS. If you have outstanding fines that were placed on your record after you picked up your cap and gown, your diploma will be held until you have cleared your fines.**

**CLOTHES** - Commencement is a formal occasion. Caps and gowns are symbols of this event and nothing should take away from your appearance. Anything inappropriate for the occasion is not to be worn at Graduation. Therefore, the following attire is recommended:

- **Women:** Dress shoes, skirts, dresses or nice pants. Remember, you will be walking on a grass field, so choose your shoes accordingly. **No heels will be allowed on the field.** Wedge-type shoes are okay.
- **Men:** Dress shoes, dress pants, dress shirts and regular ties.
- **Men and women** should wear caps straight on their head. Tassels are to be worn on the **right** front of the cap and will be moved during the ceremony to signify that you have graduated. Please keep in mind that you may only wear one tassel on your cap. If you have received multiple tassels (blue and gold, gold, and/or red), you should wear the one that signifies the highest achievement, although you are free to wear any of the tassels that you received. **Caps and gowns are NOT to be decorated with anything including flowers, leis (candy or flower type), scarves, or any other item that is not designated as a mark of academic achievement.**

**RAIN** - In the event of rain on graduation day, the ceremony will take place as scheduled. To avoid damage to your clothing from the rain, it is suggested you wear casual clothing underneath your gown. This is the only time you should consider an exception to the above dress recommendations.

**NOTHING IS TO BE CARRIED INTO THE COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY** - No sunglasses, cell phones, iPods, or any other electronic devices will be allowed at graduation. In addition, you will not be able to carry any flowers (including leis), programs, purses, etc. into the graduation ceremony. If you arrive with items to be carried, you will be asked to leave them in a box, which will be held in the theater at LHHS. You may pick them up after the ceremony. There is no secure place to store items, so we cannot guarantee their safety. Please lock your personal items in your car or give them to one of your guests to hold.

**BALLOONS** - Please inform your guests that no balloons will be allowed in the stands at graduation as they can obstruct the view of people watching the ceremony.

**READING OF NAMES** - During the commencement ceremony, the entire Class of 2019 will be asked to stand and receive recognition for their achievements with applause. Once the reading of names begins, it would be greatly appreciated if you would ask your guests to withhold applause until the entire class roll has been called; withholding applause will ensure that all names will be heard. In addition, **please advise your guests that noisemakers of any kind (air horns, cowbells, etc.) will NOT be allowed into the graduation ceremony. All noisemakers that are seen or heard will be confiscated.** If everyone observes these requests, each graduate will have his or her moment of recognition without any distractions.

**PHOTOGRAPHS** - A professional photographer will take a photo of each of you as you receive your diploma case. You may fill out the gray card you received today (optional) if you wish to receive free proofs of your picture via email. If you wish to fill out the card, please give it to Mrs. Vorell at the end of the meeting. Contact Grad Images at [www.gradimages.com](http://www.gradimages.com) for more information.

**REHEARSAL** - Graduation rehearsal will take place on Wednesday, May 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. beginning on the blacktop behind the home bleachers at LHHS. If you would like to bring water and wear sunglasses and hats to the rehearsal, you may do so. Sunscreen is recommended. **All seniors will be bussed from Sonora High School to La Habra High School and back to Sonora after the rehearsal. Seniors will be dismissed by rows to board the busses and return to Sonora. You must ride the bus to and from rehearsal! This is a mandatory rehearsal. If you choose not to come to the rehearsal and /or ride the bus both ways, you may not march!**

- **WHERE DO WE START?** Line up in the row you have been assigned according to the marching list. Signs on the blacktop will indicate the start of each row (i.e., W1, W2, E1, E2, etc.) and the seniors in that row.
- **BE IN THE RIGHT PLACE!** The marching list indicates the exact order in which the names will be read at graduation. Names are read according to the list. If you sit in the right place, your name will be read as you appear in front of the audience. If you sit in the wrong place, someone else's name will be read as you go through the line. **MAKE SURE YOU ARE IN THE RIGHT ROW AND IN THE RIGHT SEAT DURING BOTH REHEARSAL AND GRADUATION.** You will be given a copy of the marching list with any changes that have been made at the rehearsal.
- **PRONOUNCING YOUR NAME CORRECTLY!** All names will be read at the rehearsal so the readers will know how to correctly pronounce your name. When your name is read, if it is not read correctly, please tell the reader how to say it. This is a formal ceremony, and it is appropriate that your full legal name be read.

**FINAL TRANSCRIPT** - It is your responsibility to request that your final transcript be sent to the college you are planning to attend. You may request transcripts online at [www.parchment.com](http://www.parchment.com) or from Mrs. Correa in the Guidance Office. If you request your transcripts online, you will be required to pay a small fee. If you request transcripts from Mrs. Correa, there is no charge. To request transcripts in the office, you will need to provide a stamped envelope with the name and address of the college you want the transcript to be sent to and a completed "Sonora High School Request for Transcript" form. Forms may be obtained from Mrs. Correa in the Guidance Office. Final transcripts will be mailed out one week after graduation as soon as grades are posted.

**STAYING ON THE FIELD AFTER COMMENCEMENT** - **Family, friends, and guests will NOT be allowed on the field for any reason before, during, or after the ceremony.** This is because of the artificial turf. They may meet you in the quad area by the theater after the ceremony has concluded. Make sure you pick up your diploma after the graduation ceremony in the theater at LHHS.

GRADUATION - Graduation will be on Thursday, May 30<sup>th</sup> at the stadium at LHHS. You must be at the staging area behind the home bleachers at 5:30 p.m. prior to the ceremony. **The graduation processional will begin at precisely 6:30 p.m.** Please be on time so can make sure you are present and in the appropriate line. Bring your cap and gown (don't wear it) to graduation; you will put it on after you have been searched and admitted to the staging area.

Graduation is a special occasion where each one of you will be recognized in front of your family, friends, teachers, and peers and in the spotlight for a very brief time. Nothing should take away from this recognition or the reputation of Sonora High School. Therefore, it is important to have an environment that is dignified, free of distractions or disturbances, and respectful of you, your accomplishments, and our school. If, for any reason, a participant causes a disruption to the ceremony, they may be removed from graduation and not allowed to participate further.

**IN CONCLUSION: BE IN CLASS! KEEP YOUR GRADES UP! PAY YOUR FINES! STAY OFF THE HOLD LISTS!**

**THIS IS A GREAT CLASS! LET'S MAKE THIS A GREAT GRADUATION! Thank you for your cooperation!**

