

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Class of 2014 proudly announces its graduation. The graduation ceremony will be held on **Friday, May 30, 2014 at 4:00 PM at the University of South Florida Sun Dome**. Though the ceremony begins at 4:00PM, students will report to the USF Sun Dome by 3:00PM. In order to uphold the dignity of our graduation ceremony and to meet increased security requirements, USF and the District School Board of Pasco County will adhere to the following:

Information for the Remainder of the Year

- Online Class coursework must be completed by **May 9th** if you want to participate in graduation.
- See your teachers for final exam information and make-up opportunities if absent.
- The last academic day for seniors is **May 20th**. Senior Check-Out forms need to be completed, and turned in to Mrs. Karpay in the guidance office, by 2:30PM on **May 20th**. Only students that have completed his/her checkout form by 2:30PM on **May 20th** will be allowed to participate in the field day activities.
- The field day activities are planned for **May 21st**.
8AM – 9AM Yearbook Signing and Senior Class Social: Stadium
9:30AM – 11:30AM Activities: Stadium
12:00PM – 1:00PM Lunch: Stadium
Seniors that are participating in these activities must remain in the stadium and are not permitted in the main school building.
- Participation in the Graduation Practice is mandatory. Any student who does not attend rehearsal may not be allowed to participate in the ceremony. Students will receive their cap and gowns after graduation practice. Practice will be held in the LOLHS gymnasium on **Wednesday, May 28th from 9:30AM – 11:30AM**. Students should arrive at the school by 9:15AM and be ready to practice on time.
- During Graduation Practice, students will receive a final notice of debts. It is the student's responsibility to fulfill all debts to the school bookkeeper prior to 12PM on Thursday, **May 29th**. We only accept **CASH** to pay for any debts.
- For Graduation Practice and other senior activities, **students must be dressed according to the District School Board of Pasco County Dress Code. Students will be sent home to change if they are out of dress code and this may jeopardize their participation in graduation.**

Information for the Graduation Ceremony

- The University of South Florida Sun Dome charges \$5.00 for parking.
- Tickets are not required for entry into the commencement exercises. Reserved seating is not available.
- All bags brought in by guests will be searched. No backpacks will be permitted in the University of South Florida Sun Dome. Cameras and binoculars will only be permitted if they are out of their cases (the cases should be left in the car).
- Balloons, flowers, signs, noisemakers of any kind (including, but not limited to, bull horns, cowbells, whistles and air horns), or laser pointers will NOT be allowed in the University of South Florida Sun Dome.
- Concessions at the University of South Florida Sun Dome will be open before the ceremony begins. People attending the ceremony can purchase food and drink.
- Hearing-impaired services are available. Please contact Mrs. Hohenthanner, Assistant Principal, if you need this service.
- We recommend having a pre-arranged meeting place set with your graduate and family following the ceremony. Graduates will pick-up their diplomas immediately following the ceremony in the area designated. Once released, they will be able to join their guests.

DRESS

****Failure to comply with the dress policy may result in the student not being permitted to participate in the ceremony.**

- **Males:** Dress pants, dress shirt with tie, socks and dress shoes, specifically closed shoes (no sneakers, sandals, flip flops, etc.).
- **Females:** Dress, long skirt and blouse, or pant suit. We recommend that students **not wear high heels**, as there will be a lot of walking and stair climbing. Dress shoes are required, no sneakers, sandals, flip flops, etc.).
- **Graduation Gowns:** Please carry your cap and gown into the Sun Dome. Security will do a visual search of all of the graduates. Gowns should not be altered, but should be pressed ahead of time so that they look nice.

Graduation Cap: The mortarboard (graduation cap) is to be worn flat with the tassel over the right eye. Once the seniors are declared graduates, the tassel is moved to the left side in unison with the class. Mortarboards are to look like they did when received from the company. Nothing extra may be added to them. If you throw the cap up at the end of the ceremony, it is your responsibility to find it.

BEHAVIOR

- Graduation is a momentous occasion not only for the seniors, but also for their parents, families, and friends. For that reason, the ceremony is to be held with dignity and courtesy to others. All participants are expected to conduct themselves in a manner appropriate for the occasion, which includes walking across the stage. All participants must comply with the District School Board of Pasco County Student Code of Conduct. Inappropriate behavior will result in both students and parents/guardians having to meet with the school administration prior to receiving a diploma.
- Improper noises and distractions will not be permitted. This includes, but is not limited to, noisemakers such as bullhorns, air horns, whistles, cowbells, etc. Do NOT bring in beach balls, silly string, or any item that would be deemed inappropriate. We ask that you request family and friends to remain seated throughout the ceremony, except when it is appropriate to stand (during the Pledge of Allegiance, for example), as a courtesy to other graduates and their families and friends. No one, other than graduates and designated guests, is permitted in the seating area for graduates.
- Anyone under the influence of alcohol or drugs will not receive his/her diploma and/or will be turned over to appropriate law enforcement officials. As this is a District School Board of Pasco County event, alcohol will not be permitted inside of any of the areas in the University of South Florida Sun Dome dedicated to the graduation ceremony.

TRAFFIC TO AND PARKING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA SUN DOME

- Please be advised that the time of arrival for the graduation ceremony for students (3:00PM) will coincide with early afternoon/evening traffic that is very heavy based on the location of the University of South Florida Sun Dome. Please plan appropriately when leaving your homes and give yourself more than enough time to arrive without incident. Once students and staff have left for the beginning of the ceremony, the students will not be permitted to enter into the seating area for graduates. This is University of South Florida Sun Dome's security policy and will be strictly enforced. There is a \$5.00 charge for parking. Disabled parking is located at Gate D, Parking Lot Area 6.

If a student is not eligible to graduate per the requirements set by the State of Florida and the District School Board of Pasco County, then he/she will not be able to participate in the commencement ceremony on **May 30th**. A guidance counselor will inform students, on **Tuesday, May 27th**, if they are ineligible to graduate. We thank you in advance for your cooperation in making our graduation ceremony a memorable event for our graduates and their guests. If you have any questions or concerns regarding graduation, please contact Mrs. Shawn Hohenthauer, Assistant Principal, at e-mail shohenth@pasco.k12.fl.us or phone at (813) 794-9400.

With best wishes,

Shawn Hohenthauer