

CLASS OF 2020 GRADUATION CEREMONY GUIDELINES

Congratulations on your upcoming in-person graduation! We are giving you the following guidelines so that the ceremony will be a proud memory for all graduates.

GRADUATION CEREMONY PARTICIPATION

Participation in the ceremony is limited to students from the Class of 2020 that have met all their graduation requirements prior to July 18, 2020. Graduates must be in good standing with the school to participate. All debt must be paid prior to July 18, 2020.

CEREMONY

The Class of 2020 graduation ceremony will be held on **Saturday, July 18, 2020 at 8:00PM at the LOLHS John Benedetto Stadium**. Though the ceremony begins at 8:00PM, students must report to the seating area on the field by 7:45PM. Gates open at 7PM. There are no assigned seats; however, the graduate and their 2 guests will sit together. No additional guests can attend. Once the ceremony begins at 8PM, late students will only be permitted to enter the seating area from the north side of the stadium.

DRESS EXPECTATIONS

Dress Code for Graduates: Dress pants and dress shirt, a dress or skirt and blouse or pantsuit are recommended outfits. If wearing pants, wear matching/dark socks with dress shoes. No sneakers, sandals, flip flops, etc. are allowed. We recommend that students not wear high heels, as there will be a lot of walking on grass and climbing stairs. No visible "bulky" jewelry, scarves, ribbons, etc. are permitted. Face masks are required to enter the stadium and should be worn when social distancing cannot occur; however, upon seating the mask can be removed. Graduates are not required to wear a mask while walking across the stage or for pictures as social distancing will be in place.

Personal Items: Leave personal items at home; they may not be taken to the stage during the roll call. Flowers or corsages are NOT permitted on the stage.

Graduation Gowns: We will not have extra gowns on hand. Make sure that you bring yours to the ceremony. Gowns are to look like they did when received from the company and should have nothing extra added to them. Make sure to take them out of the bag prior to the event and iron it to remove wrinkles.

Graduation Cap: The mortarboard (graduation cap) is to be worn flat with the tassel over the right eye. Once the seniors are declared graduates (again), the tassel is moved to the left side in unison with the class. Mortarboards may be decorated. Nothing derogatory or inappropriate may be added. We **will not** have extra caps or tassels on hand. Make sure that you **bring yours** to the ceremony.

Failure to comply with the dress policy may result in the graduate not being permitted to participate in the ceremony. Security will do a visual search of all the graduates and guests entering the stadium.

FOOD AND DRINKS

Concessions will not be open. The graduate and their guests are encouraged to each bring a bottle of water to stay hydrated. These items are allowed within the seating for the graduates and their guests. Food should not be brought into the stadium.

BEHAVIOR

Graduation is a momentous occasion for both the seniors and their guests. 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. All participants must comply with the Pasco County Student Code of Conduct.**

Improper noises and distractions will not be permitted. This includes, but is not limited to, noisemakers such as bullhorns, air horns, whistles, cowbells, and firecrackers, 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.

Anyone perceived to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs will be escorted to appropriate law enforcement officials. The school is entirely tobacco and smoke free. Smoking and use of tobacco products are not allowed in any outdoor area, including parking lots, grounds, sidewalks, or recreational areas. This policy also includes the use of e-cigarettes.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Gigante Photography will photograph each senior individually on the stage standing behind a diploma cover and flanked by dignitaries. The graduate's guests may stand in front of the stage to also take a picture. We ask that only one device is used by the guest in the interest of time. When the graduate exits the stage, they will receive their diploma cover. The graduate and their guests will have an additional opportunity to take a picture together in front of the home stands prior to returning to their seats. This opportunity is not required, but an additional opportunity for Gigante Photography to capture the moment of the graduate's group. Please do not ask the Gigante photographer to use your device at the second site as it could create a delay to the ceremony. Purchasing of these photographs is optional. All questions regarding these pictures should go to Gigante Photography. Land O' Lakes High School does not receive any of these pictures or information following graduation.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

After reading this document, if you have any questions contact Mrs. Beerman, 12th Grade Asst. Principal, at tbeerman@pasco.k12.fl.us.