

CLASS OF 2018 YEAR-END SENIOR EVENTS & GRADUATION GUIDELINES

Congratulations on your upcoming graduation! We are giving you the following guidelines so that the end of the school year and graduation will be a proud memory for all graduates. While we hope it does not become necessary, diplomas may be pulled for any student not following the guidelines set forth at any point through the graduation ceremony.

SENIOR EXAMS & LAST DAY FOR SENIORS

Senior Final Exams will be held from **May 7, 2018 until May 9, 2018** in all classes with makeup exams being held **May 10th and 11th**. The last official day for seniors is **Friday May 25th, 2018**.

ONLINE CLASSES COMPLETION

Students who are taking online classes must have them completed no later than **Friday, April 27, 2018 at 11:59PM** if they intend to participate in the May 25th graduation ceremony. LOLHS is not responsible for students who fail to meet this deadline and are not permitted to participate in graduation.

GRADUATION PRACTICE & SENIOR CHECKOUT

Graduation Practice and final Senior Checkout will be held on **Wednesday May 23, 2018 from 9:00am-11:30 am** at Land O' Lakes High School. Your official last day of school is Friday May 25th. Attendance at Graduation rehearsal is **MANDATORY** for participation in graduation. Seniors are expected to arrive by between 8:00 and 8:30am. The school will be providing a senior breakfast in front of the gym that morning. Final senior checkout must be complete prior to this day. **Students should not plan on leaving until 11:30 AM. Students will not be allowed to leave any earlier than 11:30 AM.** Only students who properly checkout and attend graduation practice will be able to participate in the Graduation Ceremony or receive diplomas. The Assistant Principal in charge of graduation (Mr. Batchelor) **MUST** review and approve any extenuating circumstances. *Students must be dressed according to the Pasco County School District Dress Code. Students will be sent home to change if they are out of dress code and this may jeopardize their participation in graduation.* Caps & Gowns are distributed during Graduation Practice. There is no exception to this policy.

CEREMONY

The graduation ceremony will be held Friday, **May 25th, from 4:00PM – 5:30PM**. It will begin promptly at 4:00PM. Seniors are to report at **3:00PM** to the University of South Florida Sun Dome in Tampa in order to line up for the ceremony. Please follow the signs upon entering the University of South Florida Sun Dome, as they will direct students and guests to the areas in which they should go. Students should enter at the Corral, which is to the left of Gate A.

DRESS

Males: Dress pants, dress shirt with tie, socks and dress shoes, specifically closed shoes (no sneakers, sandals, flip flops, etc).

Females: Dress or 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).

Both: No visible "bulky" jewelry, scarves, ribbons, etc. are permitted. Leave purses, cameras, and personal items with a parent or friend in the audience; they may not be taken in during the processional. Flowers or corsages are NOT permitted.

Graduation Gowns: ~~Students should bring their own gowns to the ceremony.~~ Please do not order a second cap and gown from Herff Jones. Please carry your cap and gown into the University of South Florida Sun Dome. 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. Nothing extra may be added to them.

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. 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 student not being permitted to participate in the ceremony. Security will do a visual search of all of the graduates.

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**

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, 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 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 School District 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. There are parking areas throughout the areas around the University of South Florida Sun Dome.* Disabled parking is located at Gate A and Gate D, Parking Lot Area 6.

SEATING & TICKETS

Seating for graduate guests is unlimited at the University of South Florida Sun Dome. Tickets will not be necessary as a result. These guests are not permitted in the floor seating section as it is designated for dignitaries, graduating seniors, band members, faculty and staff, and others who have tickets. Those with tickets will be on pre-approved lists provided to the University of South Florida Sun Dome staff. Those who need handicapped seating would be advised to enter in at Gate A, where there are elevators available.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Leonards Photography (1-800-215-4852) will photograph each senior individually upon receiving his/her diploma and congratulations from the principal. Purchase of these photographs is optional. Leonards Photography will notify seniors via mail when the pictures are ready and all questions regarding these pictures should go to Leonards Photography. Please make sure that your address is correct with Land O' Lakes High School, as that is the address that we will provide to Leonards Photography. Land O' Lakes High School does not receive any of these pictures or information following graduation. The email address for the contact, customerservice@leonards.com and all inquiries should go to them.

DIPLOMA DISTRIBUTION

Diplomas will be distributed by alphabet order in the same way that students lined up behind the seating for guests. ***Students who have officially checked out will be able to receive their diplomas and participate in graduation. Only students meeting the behavioral requirements at graduation will receive a diploma.***

After receiving your diploma, please exit the University of South Florida Sun Dome. We recommend having a pre-arranged meeting place set with your family.