

May 26, 2020

Dear Seniors and Parents/Guardians of Seniors:

Graduation is almost here, and we are all beginning to feel the excitement. This is the most important time of the year for our future graduates. We are sharing the information in this letter so that both parents/guardians and students will be aware of all the important dates and expectations for the Class of 2020 as we conclude the year. Please be sure to read and reference the many topics shared in this letter as we move toward graduation day. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions.

SENIOR DEBT/FEES:

Any senior who currently owes a debt, fine, textbook, Chromebook, charger, library book, etc. needs to clear their debts through MySchoolBucks or come to the school during Graduation Ticket pick-up to clear debt in person. Due to social distancing, we encourage all students to use MySchoolBucks whenever possible. Please make sure that you have all these taken care of to ensure that you are eligible to receive graduation tickets. **In order to receive graduation tickets, students must clear all debts, by May 28, 2020.**

OFFICIAL GRADUATION CEREMONY AT BON SECOURS

Graduation will be held at Bon Secours Arena on Thursday, June 4 at 9:00 am. Students should arrive (at check-in) no later than 7:30 am (A-M) and 8:00 am (N-Z) to get in line and to prepare for the ceremony. Students will be seated in assigned seats on the floor and in the lower bowl to allow for proper social distancing. Only graduates will be permitted to enter the lower bowl area, except guests with tickets in areas (106 - 110). A diagram will be shared in future communications so you can better understand your placement in the ceremony.

Graduate Parking: Due to the number of personnel required to monitor and carry-out graduation responsibilities, parking cannot be provided for all graduates. Parking in the VIP lot, behind the arena, will be provided to students based on a lottery. If your student's name is drawn during the parking lottery, he/she will receive a parking pass when they pick up their guest tickets for graduation. If not given a parking pass, students (and all guests) will park in city parking garages for a fee of \$6.00 - we are attempting to get this waived, but be prepared to pay for parking.

Graduate Entry: All seniors will enter the loading tunnel located on the North side of BSWA facing North Academy Street. If you don't receive a parking pass for the VIP lot, you may park in a local garage or area lot and walk to the loading dock or have someone drop you off prior to them finding their parking locations. During your check in time you will be given a ticket with your assigned seat number. Your temperature will be checked and you will be given a program and a mask. **The mask must be worn over your mouth and nose during all transitions. If your temperature registers at 100.5 or higher upon arrival, you will be denied entry and asked to leave the premises. This is for your safety and the safety of the participants.**

Once you are seated, you may pull the mask down, but it must be worn covering your mouth and nose while you walk to your seat. You are to remain seated until it is time for your section to walk to the stage. If you need assistance before the ceremony begins, raise your hand and a section leader (assigned faculty) will assist you.

When you walk across the stage, you may remove your mask for the photograph. Place the mask in the left hand. You will receive your diploma with your right hand. The mask should be placed back over your mouth and nose as you exit the stage and return to your seat.

When you return to your seat, you may pull the mask down and replace it when it is time to recess or walk out.

Ceremony: Students will be welcomed and will stand for the Pledge and the National Anthem. Males will be directed to remove caps during the Pledge and National Anthem. The caps should be placed back on your heads when you are seated. Students will get a brief overview of the ceremony and what to expect as they're making their way to the stage.

You will hear from your Senior Class President, an introduction of special guests, and speeches from the Valedictorian, Salutatorian, and Mr. Bruce.

When told to do so, rows will stand and follow section leaders (assigned faculty members) to the stage. Students should maintain appropriate social distancing at all times (6 feet) and listen carefully to the directives from the section leaders. ***When your name is called, you will enter the stage from the right. You will be handed your diploma at the top of the stairs. You will cross the stage when your name is called and you should pause to look at the camera for a photo when you reach Mr. Bruce. The floor will be marked to show you where to stop. You will not shake hands. This procedure will be demonstrated for you. Follow the students ahead of you as they follow the section leaders to return to your assigned seats.***

Exit: The Alma Mater along with other music will be played as students exit. Students are expected to follow the directives of section leaders (assigned faculty) to know when to exit. All students are expected to exit the building immediately upon recession and leave the premises. Parents and guests are to stay seated until seniors exit the arena. There will be no gatherings or opportunities for pictures on site. Spectators are also expected to leave the premises immediately when dismissed.

MANDATORY GRADUATE DRESS:

The dress code for graduation will be **strictly enforced**. This will be a dignified ceremony, and all students are expected to comply. The following guidelines must be followed:

- **Females** - Dress that is shorter than the length of your Graduation Gown. Please do not wear a dress that exceeds the length of the gown. **No tennis shoes, boots, Crocs, or flip flops.** Flats or sandals are recommended. Ladies are advised to refrain from high heels. Students will be walking a significant distance to get to the stage.
- **Males** - Dark Dress Slacks or khakis, White Dress Shirt & Tie, dark dress shoes. **No tennis shoes, boots, Crocs, or flip flops.**
- **Cap & Gown** - Students may not alter their caps and/or gowns in any way. Painting, monogramming and/or altering graduation attire is strictly prohibited. Please take your cap and gown out of the package now, and hang it up to allow wrinkles to fall out.
- **Regalia(cords, stoles, medals)** – Only regalia given to you by TRHS or the Career Centers may be worn. Students are not allowed to wear medals, cords, or stoles issued by organizations not associated with TRHS. Seniors were given their regalia during the Senior Pick up/Drop off. Any that were not picked up, will be available during Graduation Ticket Pick up times.

- **What Not to Wear** - flip flops, tennis shoes, athletic shoes, cowboy/cowgirl boots, boots, crocs, shorts/t-shirts, jeans, denim material, pajamas, sunglasses.
- Failure to comply with these dress restrictions will result in your senior not being able to participate in the ceremony.
- **Graduates, please DO NOT bring personal items such as purses, backpacks, cell phones, etc.** in the arena. There will not be a safe place to keep these items during the ceremony. TRHS will not be held responsible for any lost items that you choose to bring in.

GRADUATION TICKETS:

Students will receive two tickets only. There will be no additional tickets and all seats are assigned. No one will be permitted on Bon Secours' property without a ticket. **EACH TICKET HAS AN ASSIGNED SEAT. Those without a ticket will be able to view the ceremony through live stream on Greenville County Schools website.**

Tickets will be distributed at Travelers Rest High on Wednesday, May 27 and Thursday, May 28 from 8 am-11:30 am and 1 pm-5 pm.

Parking at Graduation:

There will be no parking available on site. Parents and students will access parking in surrounding garages and other area lots. Please allow time for locating an appropriate spot. Private parking will be available at a fee if you choose to bring cash to pay for closer parking. Parking for individuals with disabilities is available in surrounding garages. Individuals may also be dropped off in designated areas at Bon Secours Wellness Arena.

MISCELLANEOUS:

In the event your student does not meet all requirements for graduation, we will attempt to notify you as soon as possible but no later than the evening of May 26th.

- No student will be permitted to participate unless he or she meets all graduation requirements.
- All outstanding fees and indebtedness to the school must be paid in order to receive graduation tickets.

PLEASE NOTE: Guests will not be allowed entry without a facial mask/ covering. These coverings must be worn during all movement. GCS will NOT provide masks to ticketed guests.

Graduation is a happy time, yet it is a formal occasion when we honor students for reaching this milestone in their lives. To preserve the dignity of this ceremony and to prevent delays to the program, we ask that you refrain from outbursts, undignified gestures, and celebrations. We also request that all applause be held until the last senior has received his or her diploma. We will take a few minutes at the conclusion of the ceremony to celebrate the occasion together.

It is our hope that this information will help enable us to have a smooth graduation program. Your cooperation and assistance is appreciated. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

W. Daniel Bruce, Principal

GRADUATION 2020

Important Senior Dates

May 27-28	Graduation Tickets (8-11:30 & 1-5:00)	TRHS	Return Materials and Clear Debt
May 27	Rain Date for Parade 7:30-9:00	TRHS	Senior Parade through Lot
June 4	Arrive by 7:30AM (A-M)	Bon Secours	Graduation
June 4	Arrive by 8:00AM (N-Z)	Bon Secours	Graduation

*****Reminder – All debts, fees, and fines must be cleared by Thursday, May 28th ****