

CLASS OF 2018!

GRADUATION PRACTICE: Thursday, May 23.

Required Attendance at: LMC

TIME: 3:30 PM Arrive by 3:10 PM

Regular school dress code applies.

GRADUATION CEREMONY: Saturday, May 26.

TIME: 9:00 am Arrive by 7:45 am

CAPS AND GOWNS: Delivery date: Monday, May 2, during all lunches.

- Gown must be pressed before graduation ceremony.
- Cap is worn flat, parallel to the floor. Decorations on cap are not allowed. Tassel is placed on the left side.

➤ **FEMALES:**

Wear clothes and shoes that complement the gown. Do not wear bright clothing. Hosiery must be of neutral shade. Do not wear corsages, jewelry, etc. Do not bring purses; there is no place to put them. Bring a large safety pin to pin keys to gown or dress.

➤ **MALES:**

Wear white or pastel shirt with tie (no bow ties), dress, pants, dark socks, and dress shoes. Any facial hair must be clean and well-groomed and not distracting or conspicuous.

- **Do not bring cameras, pagers, cell phones, laser pointers, etc. They will be picked up.**
- **No tennis shoes, flip-flops, or combat boots permitted**
- **No Chewing Gum No Denim Blue Jeans No Extra Items**
- ***If a student violates discipline guidelines, or dress code guidelines, the student will not be allowed to participate in the ceremony***

HONOR CORDS AND MEDALLIONS

Honor Cords

- Honor cords will be given to students on Monday, May 17, during all lunch periods. Graduates with a GPA of 4.00 & above will receive a gold cord to wear at the graduation ceremony. Graduates with a GPA of 3.500 through 3.9999 will receive a silver cord to wear.

MVP Cord

- This cord is awarded to the students who have participated in the volunteer service program. These cords will be distributed with the Honor Cords May 20th.
- Honor Society Collars are worn by members of NHS and are given to the student by the NHS sponsors. The collar must be returned to the Registrar's Office when picking up your diploma.

Other Approved Cords will be distributed by the club sponsor

GRADUATION PICTURES

- Marc Nathan Photographers will take a picture of each senior as the diploma is given. Mr. Nathan will mail you a "proof" in June to your home address. If you do not get one, e-mail or call him, marc@mnathanphoto.com or 281-549-2367
- If you have an "N" or "O" Information Code—fill out form, sign & return.
- The graduation videotaping will be done by Coastal Productions. Order forms and information will be provided.

The Day of Graduation May 26, 2018

- Students will arrive at the Merrell Center no later than 8:00 **A.M.**
- Please park at Rhodes Stadium.
- The bus will drop you off at the **North** doors. You will be directed to the check-in point. **Do Not Wear Your Gown**; carry it over your arm for the check-in process. (no hangers) At the check in-point, all students will be checked for attire, grooming and contra band or prohibited items. After, you go through the check-in point, proceed to the designated area for your line up position. **Remember if you are on the East side or the West side line up.** Make sure that the teacher in charge of your line knows that you are present. When we call for everyone to line up, please do so quickly and quietly. The roll will be checked again by the teachers. After roll is checked, remain in that same order for the processional. If you are not in the correct position, **your name will not be called correctly** for the ceremony.
- Use the restroom facilities before the final lineup is called.
- **DON'T BE LATE! We will walk into the arena exactly at 9:00 am**
If you arrive after 9:00 am, there will be a staff member to help you.
Enter the arena; go quietly and directly to your seat.
- Your assigned seat remains your seat, whether the person assigned to the seat next to you is present or not.

DO NOT SIT IN ABSENT PERSON'S SEAT.

- Graduates will exit through the doors on the **north side** of the building after the ceremony.
 - It is a good idea to have a predetermined spot to meet your parents and friends after the ceremony.
 - Or, to get back to your car, the busses will be ready to transport you.

SPECTATOR GUIDELINES

Guests will be allowed to enter the Merrell Center 90 minutes prior to the start of the ceremony. AT THE REQUEST OF THE FIRE MARSHALL AND THE MERRELL CENTER OFFICIALS, THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES MUST BE STRICTLY FOLLOWED BY THE SPECTATORS. CITATIONS WILL BE ISSUED.

- ONE PERSON WILL BE ALLOWED TO SAVE ONLY ONE SEAT.
If you are planning to have a family group meet you at the arena, please have enough people there to save only one seat per person present.
- DO NOT BLOCK OR STAND IN THE AISLES TO TAKE PICTURES.
CITATIONS WILL BE ISSUED.
- NO SIGNS OF ANY KIND CAN BE ATTACHED TO THE RAILINGS OR CONCRETE WALLS.
- NO AIR HORNS OR OTHER NOISE MAKERS WILL BE ALLOWED.
- NO LASER POINTERS ARE ALLOWED.
- NO BALLONS, HELIUM OR OTHERWISE.
- NO SPECTATORS WILL BE ALLOWED IN THE AREA WHERE THE GRADUATES ARE LINED UP FOR PROCESSIONAL.

Spectators, the doors at the Merrell Center open at 7:30 am.

There is limited parking so please come to the ceremony in as few cars as possible. If everyone will cooperate, parking will not be a hardship for anyone. Please see the attached maps.

There will be many officers to guide you to the next available parking. Please follow their directions.

We are all excited and want to have a successful celebration.

All spectators with Merrell Center Tickets will enter the arena through the south entrance.

Spectators are not allowed in the lineup area.

Handicap seating is available.

These spaces are on the second floor.

There is an elevator available for this purpose.

There are a few overflow handicap spaces on the ground floor.

Please ask one of the ushers for assistance.

Tickets

All spectators will be required to have a ticket to enter the graduation ceremony.

There is no charge for tickets.

Each graduate was given the opportunity to have eight (8) tickets.

There are enough seats in The Merrell Center to accommodate eight seats for each student's group.

Everyone over the age of two years is required to have their own ticket.

Spectators will only be admitted to The Merrell Center if their ticket is marked for The Merrell Center.

If there are more spectators than seats in The Merrell Center, spectators will be given ticket in the over flow areas.

If a ticket is marked for an overflow area, the spectator will be admitted **only** to that specific area.

For example: tickets for seats in ESC Training Room or Board Room will be marked for that overflow area.

Spectators may only attend the graduation ceremony according to the area designated on the ticket they are holding.

Please do not leave your tickets at home.

If that happens, you will be given tickets for the next available overflow area.

Anyone who comes to the graduation ceremony without a ticket will be directed to the ticket windows at the south entrance (will call).

They will be given tickets to the next available area.

Graduates may pick up their tickets on **May 8** during all lunches.

ID required!

After this date, graduates will need to pick up tickets from the SENIOR Principal's Office.

TRANSCRIPTS

- All colleges require final official transcripts. Be sure you turn in the final Transcript Request Card to the Registrar before May 25, 2018. We will send one requested transcript at no-charge. All other requests for final transcripts must have the usual signed request form, stamped envelope and the \$1.00 fee.
- If you do not turn in a request for a final transcript, the registrars will not automatically send a transcript to your college/university.
 - **No request, no final official transcript.**
- If you are planning to attend college this summer or fall and you have not made an application, it should be done now. If you have been accepted to one or more colleges, you should let the college know of your decision as soon as possible. Check all requirements and schedules to be sure you have taken the required entrance tests.
- If you are planning to attend HCC, you must make application before we mail a transcript. HCC only, you may hand carry one official transcript to apply in person.
- For your THEA status and for other reasons, it is always good to have a **personal copy of your final transcript in your family records.** To obtain this personal final transcript, turn in a self-addressed, stamped envelope and \$1.00 to the Registrar's Office. We will mail you the requested copy in June.

What is your THEA status?

All Texas Universities and Colleges require the THEA test or verification of exemption status before you can enroll in any college courses, including college summer school. Have a copy of your THEA scores or your high school transcript as proof of your status when registering for college courses. To be exempt from the THEA you must have a TAKS score of 2200 minimum in English and Math and a writing score of 3, 4, or 5. This information was sent home. Please find it and keep it in a safe place. This is one proof of being exempt for the THEA test. An SAT score of 1070 with a minimum of 500 on each of the Math and Verbal scores is another reason to be exempt from the THEA.

DIPLOMAS

You may pick up your diploma June 5, between 7:00 and 11:00 am or 1:30 and 3:00 pm.

Remember, if you have an Honor Society Collar, *you must return the collar* before your diploma can be released to you.

Only the student or their parent may pick up a student's diploma.

Your health record will be included in the envelope with your diploma.

These are "one of a kind" documents and cannot be replaced.

Please keep them in a safe place.