



Graduation 2021 Information and Procedures

Students and Families: Please read this document carefully to ensure a smooth and beautiful a graduation day!

Things to Know Before CHS Graduation Day 2021:

- For graduates, **no individual variations or decorations of the cap and gown are allowed.** Graduates who do so will not be permitted to participate in the ceremony. Some schools allow variations, some do not. Why doesn't City Honors allow them? Imagine the most tasteful decoration and causes you hold closest to your heart being displayed on graduation outfits. Now imagine the exact opposite. Yes, we would have to allow all those things you would not appreciate as a part of graduation day too. There are some extreme variations that could be deemed inappropriate for an educational setting and the school could restrict them, but would lead to confrontations on graduation day. Like many schools, we choose to make graduation about the accomplishment of our entire graduating class and focus on keeping this a special day for all in attendance. Graduation exercises are considered a school extracurricular activity and the courts have upheld the right of schools to determine academic costume, including a local court ruling in a suburban district just a few years ago.
- Student dress: All students should dress appropriately for this formal ceremony. We encourage young men to wear a tie under their graduation robes as well as a collared shirt and dress pants. Additionally, students should select clothing and shoes customarily worn at formal occasions. Clothing appropriate to an educational setting is required at the graduation ceremony. Shorts are not acceptable. Proper footwear should also be worn. Dress shoes or casual shoes are appropriate, sneakers or flip-flops are not. Students should not wear high heels as they will be walking up and down stairs, on sports turf and a rubber track. Remember, this event is being videotaped and will be shared with the school community afterward. Please wear sensible footwear in the stadium to avoid any possible tumbles in front of the cameras.
- Families may not bring any noisemaking devices to graduation.
- Only two guests per graduate are being allowed by the Buffalo Public Schools and each guest must have a ticket to enter. These tickets were beautifully printed to be keepsakes for our families. We will mark the back of the tickets, but you may retain them as you enter the stadium.

Contained in Each Graduate's "Senior Day" Bag:

- A package with a cap, gown, and tassel.
- **Take the gown out and hang it immediately after getting home-** the gown will be wrinkled otherwise. Tip: hanging the gown in your bathroom and turning on the shower works well as the steam from showers takes most wrinkles out. Do not iron any part of the graduation costume.
- Do not lose your tassel when taking everything out of the bag!
- A white stole (Diploma course candidates) or silver (Diploma candidates) stole.
- Two tickets to either the first graduation ceremony at 3:30 pm (cardinal red tickets) or the second graduation ceremony at 5:30 pm (silver tickets).

- Three Covid-19 screeners to be filled out ahead of time and submitted for the two guests and the graduate when arriving at All High. **Please be sure to complete and bring these COVID screeners with you as this will reduce wait times at the entry gate!**
- A special City Honors Class of 2021 face mask. **Graduates and guests are NOT required to wear masks, but if a graduate wishes to do so, they are required wear this mask to complement their graduation attire.** These custom masks are gifts from the City Honors/Fosdick-Masten Park Foundation.
- Graduation programs will be distributed at graduation. Each graduate will receive a program on their seat and each family will receive a packet of four graduation programs to share with family and friends who were unable to attend.

Things to Know When Arriving for Graduation at All-High Stadium:

- Parking for the ceremony is behind Bennett High School and All-High Stadium. It is accessed on Hill Street (located between Mercer and Manhattan Avenues). There will be signs and/or staff to direct cars that arrive from Mercer Ave.
- Admission for graduates and their two guests will begin at 3:00 pm for the 3:30 pm ceremony and 5:00 pm for the 5:30 pm ceremony.
- Each guest and the graduate should fill out the Covid-19 screening forms before arriving at All-High and bring them to the entry gate (to expedite admission).
- Each guest needs a ticket to be admitted. Tickets will be marked on their backs and then returned to the guest as a memento of the day.
- Each guest and graduate will have their temperature scanned when entering All-High.
- All personal belongings of the graduates should be given to family members before entering the stadium area. Graduates should not have bags, purses, cell phones, cameras, water bottles, etc. with them.
- No guests are allowed on the second floor of the building.
- Once the foyer has been entered, graduates will be admitted and directed to the left of where guests for the ceremony enter.

Things for Graduates to Know for the Ceremony:

- Each of you will be handed a 4x6 card with your name on it for the ceremony. **Do not lose this card** as it has your name (and pronunciation, if applicable) on it. It is the only thing you will be walking in with when the ceremony begins. You will take it with you as you walk up the stage and hand it to either Ms. McDow (earlier ceremony) or Mr. Howson (later ceremony) so that your name can be read.
- Due to lack of a formal rehearsal, you will not be lined up in alphabetical order.
- Programs will be sitting on your seats.
- Do not sit down when you enter the stadium. Stay standing as the Pledge will follow almost immediately.
- When it is time for your row to go up to receive diplomas, Mrs. Banas will give you the cue to stand (try to keep an eye on her so your row can stand up at the same time).
- Dr. Kresse will be handing you a diploma cover, but district guidelines will not allow him to shake hands. A professional photographer will be taking your picture as he hands you the diploma cover so pause for a moment when he hands you the diploma.
- After you receive your diploma cover, you will go back to your seat. Do not sit down until Mrs. Banas directs you to do so (you will wait until everyone in your row is back in place).
- At the end of the ceremony, all graduates will leave All-High by walking around the track and exiting near the score board. That is where your graduation envelopes will be distributed. They contain your actual diploma, award certificates and scholarship checks (if applicable), a CHS Alumni car sticker from the CHS Foundation and a memento from Brendan Cody's family.
- Please keep the proper physical distance between yourself and others.

Things for Guests to Know for the Ceremony:

- Families are also asked to please remain at their seats out of consideration for other guests. We have secured a photographer to take a photo of each graduate as they receive their diploma. There is a website and access code published in the graduation program that can be used to order your child's photo. To keep pricing as low as possible for families, the school chooses not to profit from these sales.
- After the ceremony ends and the graduates have all left the seating area, guests will be directed to leave All-High by also exiting via the track and exit near the scoreboard.
- Guests are reminded to do their best to stay physically distanced from other families when entering and exiting.

Miscellaneous Items of Note:

- **Please note that only Diploma covers are handed out to the graduates during the ceremony.** The actual diplomas will be distributed where the graduates and families will exit All High Stadium. **All policies relating to student conduct during the regular school year remain in force during graduation.** Misconduct, distractions, defiance of procedures and/or lack of compliance with dress code requirements may result in a graduate's diploma being retained by the school until resolution of disciplinary issues. That student and his/her parents will need to make an appointment to meet with administrators to attend to these matters in the days after graduation. This event is about our graduates, but it is also about our families that have supported them in arriving at a CHS diploma. Students should conduct themselves in a way that allows this to be a special event for all who have come to see it in person or will see it on video at a later date.
Let's have a positive and beautiful celebration on Tuesday!
- Students must return all school owned materials and satisfy debts with the school prior to graduation.
- Every senior was provided their IB PIN information in February 2021. Using any browser but Safari, grades can be checked starting the afternoon of Friday, July 6, 2018. Seniors will not know their scores without this information sheet.
- Colleges will be mailed transcripts by mid-July. All colleges and universities know that New York State public schools send them later due to school ending at the end of June.
- IB transcripts will be sent to the college/university indicated on the senior exit survey in July.