



West York Area High School

TO: Class of 2021 – Students and Parents
FROM: Mrs. Jones, Principal
DATE: April 11, 2021
RE: Graduation Information

CONGRATULATIONS! You have reached an important step in your journey through life. Graduation is a most important ceremony that marks your passage from student at West York Area High School to an adult in a world full of exciting opportunities. Your graduation ceremony is designed to honor and recognize this educational milestone.

Every attempt will be made to make your graduation ceremony a special one marked with pride and dignity. To accomplish this goal, we will need the cooperation of every member of the Class of 2021, as well as all audience members. We will need to work together to conduct the type of graduation ceremony of which we can all be proud.

Each graduate must fulfill the following responsibilities in order to enable the class to have a successful graduation ceremony:

- All seniors must attend all scheduled graduation practices. These days will be counted as regular days of school.
- All seniors must bring their cap, gown, and tassel to practice on Wednesday, June 2nd for the class picture. Students in all rows must wear appropriate graduation attire, including appropriate shoes.
- All seniors must arrive for the graduation ceremony on Friday, June 4th no later than 5:45 PM and report to the auditorium for final instructions.
- All seniors must adhere to the guidelines for proper attire for the graduation ceremony.
- Appropriate behavior for a dignified graduation ceremony must be displayed.

Included in this informational packet you will find the senior schedule of activities requiring your attendance. Additional information about the graduation ceremony and obtaining photographs of the event are provided. Please read this information carefully and keep it on hand for future reference. **This will be the only notification of these activities that you will receive.**

SENIOR FINAL EXAMS

Final exams for seniors will be conducted in the cafeteria according to the following schedule:

Tuesday, May 25	<i>English</i>	8:15 - 10:00 AM
	<i>Math</i>	1:00 - 2:55 PM
	<i>Independent Living</i>	8:15 AM or 1:00 PM
Thursday, May 27	<i>Social Studies</i>	8:15 - 10:00 AM
	<i>Science</i>	1:00 - 2:55 PM
	<i>Independent Living</i>	8:15 AM or 1:00 PM

During finals, seniors are required to be in school only when scheduled to take final exams. Seniors are expected to provide their own transportation. Any senior without transportation will be assigned to a specific location in the high school. No senior is to be on school property if not taking an exam or assigned to a specific location. **All finals must be taken on the appropriate dates at the appropriate times.**

All final exams for seniors in classes other than those listed above will be given during the regularly scheduled class periods prior to Tuesday, May 25th; this is up to teacher discretion and final exam information will be provided by the teacher.

Seniors are expected to report promptly to the designated areas at the proper time and are expected to come with all necessary materials. Specific areas in the cafeteria will be designated as pick up and return areas for the tests and the answer sheets. All scrap paper must be discarded before leaving the test site. Books, notes, and other materials should only be brought to the test site if the teacher has previously directed this to be done. The proctoring teachers will determine seating arrangements in the cafeteria. For special accommodations, please see Mrs. Yutzy (English teacher).

Upon completion of exams, seniors will be allowed to leave. It is expected that seniors will leave the school building and that there will be no loitering in the lobby or hall areas. All regular school rules apply during the final exam schedule, such as only appropriate clothing is permitted.

We are offering this special schedule because we feel, as seniors, you have the maturity to handle it. Please comply by giving us 100% attendance and 100% cooperation.

CAP AND GOWN DISTRIBUTION and PHOTOGRAPH INFORMATION

Cap and gown distribution will take place on **Tuesday, June 1st**, following the practice and picnic that day. The class picture, with students dressed in cap and gown, will be taken on **Wednesday, June 2nd, at 8:45 AM.**

JK Images will be taking pictures of our commencement exercises. They will be taking an entire class photo and individual pictures as each graduate receives a diploma. Included with this memo are an information sheet and an ordering envelope. If you want to purchase pictures, please fill out the order form and place it in the white envelope with **your name on the outside of the envelope**. JK Images will contact you by phone when your order is ready for pick-up at their studio at 2096 Roosevelt Ave., York. If you are unable to pick up your order, you have the option of having your order mailed to you.

All envelopes for **ordering the photos** are to be returned to the main office by **Wednesday, June 2nd. CHANGE WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE AT THE SCHOOL OFFICE.** Please have the correct amount of money or a check made payable to JK Images in the white envelope.

THE GRADUATION CEREMONY

The 2021 Commencement will be held on Friday, June 4th at 7:00 PM in the high school athletic stadium. **Tickets will be necessary for the ceremony. Each graduate will receive six (6) tickets.** Tickets will be distributed to seniors beginning on Monday, May 24th.

Doors open at 6:00 PM (both gates will be open) and seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. Both sets of bleachers will be open for seating, therefore, parking will be available at both the middle school and the high school.

Please call the high school office at 845-6634, ext. 2006, if assistance and special seating is needed for any member of your family. **Handicapped seating** will be at designated areas on the stadium track. Wheelchairs will be available only as a means of assistance in getting to the seats on the track. Designated handicapped parking will be available at the Middle School parking lot.

ATTIRE FOR THE GRADUATION CEREMONY

- Please dress appropriately; keep in mind that this is a dignified ceremony and will take place outside.
- Masks should be worn (above your nose) at all times. You will be permitted to remove your mask for your walk across the stage and your picture.
- Here are a few guidelines:
 - Dress pants in good condition (no jeans are permitted)
 - Skirts and dresses are permissible
 - Dress shoes
 - No tennis shoes/sneakers
 - Stilettos are strongly discouraged (due to walking on the grass field)
 - Flats and wedges are encouraged

BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS FOR THE GRADUATION CEREMONY

During the ceremony, it is very important that all graduates remain attentive to the speakers and to all parts of the program. We wish to keep and maintain the tradition of a dignified graduation ceremony followed by a class celebration. During the highlight of the ceremony, which is the individual presentation of the diplomas, it is very important that every class member be given the opportunity to receive his/her diploma without distracting or embarrassing chants and cheers. The audience and the class members will be asked to hold all applause until all diplomas have been presented. Your cooperation with this request will greatly enhance the dignity of your ceremony.

Following the ceremony, all graduates are asked to report directly to the auxiliary gym where you will pick up your diploma.

[2021 GRADUATION CALENDAR](#) (click for a printable calendar)

The calendar outlined below is designed to provide you with the important events that will be taking place with regard to graduation. Please review the calendar and keep it on hand for reference.

Monday, May 24th

Last full academic day of classes for seniors. The following will occur: review for finals, class wrap-up, academic textbook return, and locker clean out. All outstanding obligations must be returned to Ms. Drawbaugh by the end of the day.

Tuesday, May 25th and Thursday, May 27th (no school for all students on May 26th)

Senior final exams (see above).

Friday, May 28th

Seniors will not report to school this day.

Tuesday, June 1st

Seniors will report to the auditorium at 9:00 am for the first practice. Seniors will participate in an outdoor practice session followed by a senior class picnic at the high school stadium (rain date, Wednesday, June 2nd). Cap and gown distribution will take place at the conclusion of the picnic, and dismissal will immediately follow. Plan to be at school until approximately 1:30 pm on this day. More information will be shared regarding the senior picnic!

Wednesday, June 2, 2021

Report to the auditorium promptly at 8:30 AM. All seniors are expected to **report on time**. Bring your cap, gown and tassel for the class picture which will be taken at 8:45 AM. Attendance will be taken. Deadline for photograph money to be turned in is Wednesday, June 2nd. At the conclusion of the class photo, seniors will participate in graduation practice.

Thursday, June 3rd

We will hold a practice if needed. Details will be announced on June 2nd if practice is necessary.

Friday, June 4th – GRADUATION DAY!

Graduates must report to the auditorium by 5:45 PM. Attendance will be taken and final instructions will be given. Following the graduation ceremony, all seniors will report to the auxiliary gym to pick up their diploma.

Final Important Reminders:

- All senior obligations must be resolved before a senior may participate in the graduation ceremony.
- All seniors are required to attend all practice sessions from beginning to end.
- Deadline for picture money is Wednesday, June 2, 2021.

If you have any questions about the above calendar, please contact Mrs. Jones.

The many successes and accomplishments of the Class of 2021 were achieved through cooperation and effort. We are proud of all of you. Each year, we've asked the graduating class to dignify graduation as a ceremony followed by celebration, and each year parents and community members remark how beautiful the graduation ceremony is at West York Area High School. For that, we all can be extremely proud. It has been our privilege to work with you and we look forward to a beautiful graduation ceremony for the Class of 2021.

CONGRATULATIONS WEST YORK AREA HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2021!

Cc: High School Faculty