

SENIOR INFORMATION SHEET: February 20, 2009
DO NOT MISPLACE THESE SHEETS (3)

Please read all the information contained herein. Put any questions/concerns you have after February 20, 2009, in writing and submit them to Ms. Ellis, Director of Student Activities. She will direct your concern to the appropriate decision-maker.

To those of you who will meet all requirements for graduation, congratulations on your accomplishment. Whether you are finishing first or last in your class, you will take your place among a diverse class. Whatever the differences are among you, you will share this milestone in your lives.

The meaning of a graduation ceremony is found in history and tradition. It is a formal recognition of your academic accomplishment and a sober event in which peers, teachers, administrators, and family can applaud you and wish you well. The ceremony adheres to traditional guidelines in an effort to symbolize your move from childhood to adulthood. Consequently, the appropriate atmosphere for the event is one of quiet, reflective celebration.

Ridge View High School is proud of you and offers a ceremony that will honor the occasion. In order to establish the best possible environment so that the majority of the graduates can remember their graduation as an event worthy of their twelve years of work and determination, we ask that you adhere to the following guidelines.

I hope to see you all - in line - on June 5. Thank you.

L. Ellis, Director
Student Activities

MAILING ANNOUNCEMENTS

- you may mail as many announcements as you choose to order; **be certain to let those who are to attend the ceremony know to pick up a ticket from you.**
- a ticket is required for anyone attending the ceremony (children and babies also); graduates in Richland School District Two are guaranteed 15 tickets for the ceremony if they request them by the deadline; a form is included to be used for this purpose
- mail announcements two weeks prior to graduation

CEREMONY

- **June 5 8:30 AM Carolina Coliseum**
- The Coliseum is located on Assembly Street next to the Koger Center; lot parking (Park Street behind Coliseum) and meter parking are available (bring quarters for meters)
- **Graduating seniors should arrive by 7:30 AM** (for parking) and report to the Elephant Room entrance. Please allow enough time to fight traffic and parking. **BE ON TIME.**
- Only graduating seniors and junior marshals will be allowed in the holding area. **DO NOT FORGET YOUR CAP AND GOWN.**

- This will be a formal ceremony. Please become familiar with the appropriate behavior for a formal event. Share these expectations with the people whom you invite. Several major points to remember and share include the following:

1. Be on time.
2. Keep movement to a minimum. Your full attention should be on the ceremony unfolding on the stage - it is for you. Do not try to communicate through words or gestures with people in the audience or on the stage.
3. This is not a pep rally. When audience members yell, scream, applaud too loudly or too long for their graduate, often the name of the next person cannot be heard.

THIS IS NOT FAIR - THIS IS NOT APPROPRIATE - THIS IS NOT APPRECIATED

4. Candidates for graduation should set the tone. Cooperate with the junior marshal assigned to your line. This person will not be as nervous as you are and will have practiced more to know what to do.
5. Candidates for graduation should be on time and in line on time. Name cards for the seniors will be pulled out of the stack for those people who are not in line on time. These people run the risk of missing the ceremony.
6. Candidates for graduation should enter the auditorium quietly and should remain quiet throughout the ceremony. If you do not wish to be a part of a formal, dignified ceremony, please consider not participating. Discuss your feelings with parents, teachers, and friends and inform (in writing) the Student Activities Director of your decision not to participate by May 1.
7. Only diploma covers will be presented during the ceremony. Students who disregard the guidelines for appropriate behavior* before, during and immediately after the ceremony run the risk of not receiving the diploma in the mail. Depending on the infraction, a student may be able to serve hours or meet with Dr. Martin after June 5 in order to receive the diploma. All others will receive their diplomas in the mail (this includes mini diplomas ordered through Herff-Jones).

*graduates bear some responsibility for the behavior of their guests as well

8. Examples of inappropriate behavior include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - talking in line, during the processional, during the ceremony, during the recessional
 - calling out
 - cheering
 - throwing caps in the air
 - loud, inappropriate noises
 - being out of place in the line
 - disrupting the line in any physical way
 - disrupting the solemnity of the occasion (on the floor, crossing the stage, entering or exiting)

Large bags
are not
allowed in
Coliseum

All individuals
entering the
building are
subject to
search

DRESS*

Females should wear the following:

1. a dress; a solid color is preferable but not required (dress pants should be solid color - black is preferred)
2. dress shoes: be sure you have practiced walking in them - new shoes are probably not a good idea (do not wear "slide-in" shoes; they make it harder to walk up and down the ramps)
3. plan a hairstyle that will allow you to wear your cap correctly; when worn, the flat "board" should be parallel with the floor

Males should wear the following:

1. a shirt with a collar; white is preferred; otherwise a light color (because your gown is dark)
2. a tie
3. long, dress pants (black, navy blue, khaki preferred)
4. dress shoes with socks (no athletic shoes)

All seniors note the following:

1. no jewelry on or outside your graduation gown (earrings are permissible but use good judgement)
2. leave the jeans, canvas shoes, athletic shoes, casual sandals, boots of any kind at home
3. you should carry nothing with you (e.g.: purse, stuffed animal, signs, food, drink)
4. your cap and gown should be free of all ornament, signs, etc.
5. honor cords and official regalia presented by the school and validated by the Graduation Committee may be worn
6. NO GUM NO GUM NO GUM Should you chew gum? NO. NO. NO. NO.
7. **Graduation officials reserve the right to pull from the line any seniors dressed, equipped, or behaving inappropriately**

**if you have problems acquiring the appropriate dress items, please see your counselor*

GOOD ADVICE

It is the responsibility of graduating seniors to remain current with all information concerning the graduation ceremony.

Remember that graduation is not a practice. You do not get to do it over. If you regret your behavior or your inattention, you will not get to try again. Please remember that this is an important event to most, if not all, of your classmates. The best way to insure that every graduate can remember his/her special day with pride is to produce a traditional, formal ceremony that honors the students, their parents and the work that has earned the seniors their diplomas. We believe that the guidelines offered here will accomplish that goal.

Enjoy this special time. Celebrate with your friends, thank your parents and graduate with dignity.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Senior items pick-up:	April 15	Before school and lunch only in the band room; these are the items you ordered directly from Herff Jones and balances must be paid at this time
Cap and Gown pick-up:	April 15	Before school and lunch only in the band room. <u>All debts must be cleared before you can receive your cap and gown.</u>
	April 16- May 30	appointment only; sign up in Main Office
Auditions	April 22	See Ms. Ellis for Graduation Speaker, Graduation Soloist or Senior Assembly auditions
Ticket request form:	May 1	Due in Main Office
Name Pronunciation:	By May 15	See Mr. Upchurch for correct pronunciation of your name
Senior Week:	May 11-15	See Class Officers and listen to news show for more information
Senior Assembly:	May 15	Dress code for this event is the same as graduation. Arrive by 7:45; you will be seated alphabetically as practice for graduation; Parents may attend; sit in bleachers nearest the boys' locker room entrance; sign in at the attendance desk

HAVE YOU?

- passed all 24 credits required for a SC diploma?
- paid all school debts (Mrs. Branham)?
- returned all scholarship information to College to Career Lab (Mrs. Golod)?
- checked the spelling of your name in guidance for the graduation program?
- seen Mr. Upchurch regarding the pronunciation of name?
- picked up cap and gown?
- received tickets?
- mailed announcements?
- turned in diploma/final transcript request sheet to guidance?