

## IMPORTANT DATES AND INFORMATION FOR THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2021



We are very happy to host an in-person commencement for the Class of 2021. The road they have traveled has had many unexpected twists and turns, and it is important to join together to celebrate their accomplishments. In order to maintain health and safety protocols, we have made many adjustments to our end-of-year procedures and graduation ceremony. We have moved this year's ceremony to Sarff Field, split the class into two groups, and the ceremony itself has been altered to maintain social distancing. Please note that all participants in commencement- students, families, and staff- must properly wear a mask at all times.

**COMMENCEMENT:** The commencement ceremonies are **Saturday, May 22, at 11:00am (A-K) and 3:00pm (L-Z) at Sarff Field**, across the street from Bloom High School. Graduates must be dressed and ready by **10:30am (A-K) or 2:30pm (L-Z)**. Specific directives will be given during a virtual rehearsal on May 18.

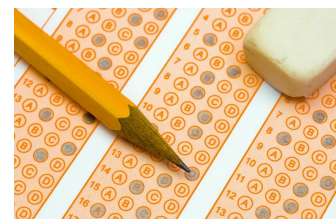
In the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will be moved indoors. Communication regarding this would be communicated through our automated systems via phone, email, and text.

ALL graduation requirements, as set by State law and Board policy and as outlined in the student handbook, must be met in order for seniors to qualify to graduate. Additionally, any negative or inappropriate behavior in the weeks leading up to the ceremony, during the rehearsal, or during the ceremony itself, may jeopardize a student's privilege of walking across the stage to receive his/her diploma. Bloom Trail seniors are role models for our learning community and are expected to behave like responsible young adults. Any student who behaves inappropriately during the actual ceremony will have his/her diploma withheld—the student will be required to complete community service before receiving his/her diploma.

**CAPS and GOWNS:** Caps and gowns will be distributed during the senior celebration on Tuesday, May 18. Caps and gowns will be given to students who have paid their cap and gown fee as indicated on the Power School fee statements. Any students who have not yet taken care of this must contact Mrs. Watson or Mrs. Kapaldo as soon as possible. No cap and gown will be given to any senior who has an outstanding cap and gown fee.

**END OF SCHOOL:** The last day of attendance for seniors is Monday, May 17.

**SENIOR EXAMS:** May 11, 13 and 14 (regular day schedule)



**SCHOOL OBLIGATIONS:** Board of Education policy requires that ALL academic and financial obligations be cleared in order for seniors to participate in the graduation exercises. The deadline for payment of any outstanding financial obligations is Friday, May 14. It is preferred that all payments be made online through our webstore. However, we will accept cash (exact amount preferred), money order, or certified checks. In-person payments can be made at the building Monday-Friday between 8:30am and 2:30pm. Correspondence and/or credit recovery course credits are due May 10.

**SENIOR CHROMEBOOK/STUDENT ITEMS RETURN:** Part of the seniors' obligation is to return their district-issued Chromebook with charger and wireless hotspot (if applicable) and any other district-owed property such as textbooks, band instruments, NJROTC uniforms, etc. Material returns will take place on Wednesday, May 12 and will be arranged through the appropriate teacher. Chromebook return will begin after senior exams. NOTE- Graduates will NOT receive their tickets to the graduation ceremony unless they return their Chromebook, hotspot (if applicable), and charger(s). Chromebook return will happen on the following dates:

- Tuesday, May 18- 12:30pm-4:30pm
- Wednesday, May 19- 8:00am-3:00pm
- Thursday, May 20- 9:00am-3:00pm

Seniors and their families will receive more instructions for returning these items in the graduation meetings and through other communication.

**SENIOR CELEBRATION/CAP & GOWN DISTRIBUTION:** The senior celebration will take place on Tuesday, May 18. For health and safety purposes, the senior class will be broken down into the three groups. The seniors will be emailed a Google health certification form that they must complete prior to arriving at the school. The students will park in the student parking area located on the Sauk Trail side of the building. The seniors will walk over to the Cottage Grove side of the building to the parking lot near the Fieldhouse. Here they will get a temperature check and then proceed to the senior festivities. We will have a DJ, carnival-like games (socially distanced and with sanitizer at each game), a photo backdrop, and a barbeque to-go bag. This celebration will provide an opportunity for seniors to see each other and say goodbye to some of their teachers. At the end of the celebration, the students will pick up their cap, gown, tassel, alumni medal, and any other memorabilia that they have earned. The students must wear a mask at ALL times at the celebration. The students must leave the area at their designated time to allow for the other group to enter.

- **Group 1 - Alpha Slice A-F** - Students with the last names A-F will report to Bloom Trail at 12:00 pm. They will be dismissed at 1:00 pm.
- **Group 2 - Alpha Slice G-M** - Students with the last names G-M will report to Bloom Trail at 1:30pm. They will be dismissed at 2:30pm.
- **Group 3 - Alpha Slice N-Z** - Students with the last names N-Z will report to Bloom Trail at 3:00pm. They will be dismissed at 4:00pm.

**MANDATORY VIRTUAL GRADUATION REHEARSAL:** To be certain that graduation ceremony procedures, seating arrangement, and the diploma awarding ceremony are clearly understood and orderly, a MANDATORY virtual rehearsal for students will take place on Tuesday, May 18 before the senior celebration. These meetings are for the Students Only. All seniors are expected to be attentive and cooperative during this activity to ensure a successful graduation ceremony. The details are as follows.

- Date- Tuesday, May 18
- Times- 9:00am for students last name A-K; 10:00am for students last name L-Z
- Location- These meetings will be virtual. Students will receive an email with the details and the link to their meeting.

**MANDATORY PARENT MEETING:** Each graduate MUST have a parent or guardian attend a mandatory virtual graduation meeting on Tuesday, May 18. The live stream will begin at 6:00pm. The meeting will be posted to our website and YouTube channel afterwards. At this parent meeting, the administration will go over the specific details of this event—ceremony date/times, health and safety guidelines, where to park, what gate to enter, what time to arrive, etc. Tickets to the ceremony (TWO per graduate) will be issued to the graduates when they return their district-issued devices.

**APPROPRIATE CEREMONY ATTIRE:** All students are advised to dress professionally for this important occasion. Graduates must properly wear their Class of 2021 mask during the entire ceremony. Corsages are NOT permitted. Graduates are expected to leave ALL personal belongings at home or with their parents. Gym shoes and flip flops are not acceptable. Girls are advised to wear flat shoes or wedges as opposed to high heels—the turf is not smooth and there is a long procession as well as stairs to and from the stage.

**TICKETS FOR COMMENCEMENT:** In order to provide a safe and healthy experience for everyone, the family of each graduate will receive TWO tickets after returning their Chromebooks. The tickets will be given to the students on the day they return their Chromebook. Students must be responsible for their tickets. Bloom Trail will NOT be responsible for lost or misplaced tickets. Please note that due to covid procedures, all attendees, including any young children MUST have a ticket. No non-ticketholding spectators will be allowed in the stadium, outside the fence, or in the parking lots. All attendees must properly wear a mask throughout the ceremony.

**DIPLOMA DISTRIBUTION:** Students will receive an empty diploma cover when they walk across the stage. Diplomas will be distributed immediately following the ceremony. Students who are disruptive or inappropriate during the graduation ceremony, WILL NOT be given their diploma until the matter has been resolved with the administration at a later time. This resolution will most likely include them completing community service hours.

## SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT DATES



- May 10** Credit recovery closes for seniors and does not re-open until summer school begins. Any credits that are needed for participation in graduation should be completed by May 10.
- May 11** Senior Final Exam for periods 1& 2
- May 12** Return school materials- textbooks, band instruments, NJROTC uniforms, etc. (if applicable)
- May 13** Senior Final Exams for periods 3 & 4/5/6
- May 13** Senior Awards- Virtual Presentation - Details will be emailed
- May 14** Senior Final Exams for periods 6/7/8 & 9
- May 17** Seniors' last day of school
- May 18-20** Chromebook, hotspot (if applicable), & charger(s) return
- May 18** Mandatory Virtual Graduation Rehearsal for students
- May 18** Senior Celebration/ Cap and Gown Distribution
- May 18** 6:00 p.m. Mandatory Virtual meeting for parents/guardians
- May 22** **Commencement** at Sarff Field across from Bloom High School.  
11:00am- A-K  
3:00pm- L-Z