

IMPORTANT DATES AND INFORMATION FOR THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2023



We are very happy to begin planning our graduation ceremony for the Class of 2023. This year's ceremony will be held on Sarff Field on Sunday, May 28, 2023 at 11:00am.

COMMENCEMENT: The commencement ceremony is **Sunday, May 28, at 11:00am** at **Sarff Field**, across the street from Bloom High School. Graduates must be dressed and ready in M'Cann Gym at Bloom High School by **10:30am**. Specific directives will be given during the graduation rehearsal on Wednesday, May 24th.

In the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will be moved indoors to the McGee Field House at Bloom Trail. 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 at the graduation rehearsal on Wednesday, May 24th. Caps and gowns will be given to students who have returned their Chromebook and other district materials and paid their cap and gown fee as indicated on the Power School fee statements. Any questions should be directed to Mrs. Watson or Mrs. Kapaldo. No cap, gown, or graduation tickets will be given to any senior who has an outstanding Chromebook, materials, or cap and gown fee.

END OF SCHOOL: The last day of regular attendance for seniors is Monday, May 15.

SENIOR EXAMS: May 9, 10 and 11 (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 12. 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 8.

SENIOR “DITCH” DAY: Any event of this nature is NOT sanctioned by the school and will be considered to be an unexcused absence.

SENIOR CHROMEBOOK/STUDENT ITEMS RETURN: Part of the seniors’ obligation is to return their district-issued Chromebook with charger and any other district-owned property such as textbooks, band instruments, NJROTC uniforms, etc. Senior clearance will take place on Thursday, May 11th and Friday, May 12th. Students should have all of their district-owned items with them on those days and be prepared to clean out their lockers. NOTE- Graduates will NOT receive their tickets to the graduation ceremony unless they return their Chromebook and charger. Seniors and their families will receive more instructions for returning these items in the graduation meetings and through other communication.

MANDATORY GRADUATION REHEARSAL/CAP, GOWN, & TICKET DISTRIBUTION: To be certain that graduation ceremony procedures, seating arrangement, and the diploma awarding ceremony are clearly understood and orderly, a MANDATORY rehearsal for students will take place on Wednesday, May 24th at 12:00pm in the Bloom Trail Field House. Students will enter via the athletic entrance on Cottage Grove Ave. This meeting is for the Students Only. All graduates are expected to be attentive and cooperative during this activity to ensure a successful graduation ceremony. Caps, gowns, alumni medals, and other regalia that students may have earned will be distributed at the end of the rehearsal along with the tickets to the ceremony.

MANDATORY PARENT MEETING: Each graduate MUST have a parent or guardian attend a mandatory graduation meeting at Bloom Trail on either Thursday, May 18, at 6:30 p.m., or Friday, May 19, at 9:00 a.m. in the Bloom Trail Auditorium. 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 (FOUR 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. Only district-issued graduation items may be worn, no corsages, additional stoles, etc. will be permitted. Students may NOT decorate their graduation caps. Graduates are expected to leave ALL personal belongings at home or with their family. 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 FOUR tickets, two white and two gold, after completing senior clearance. Students must be responsible for their tickets. Bloom Trail will NOT be responsible for lost or misplaced tickets. No non-ticket holding

spectators will be allowed in the stadium, outside the fence, or in the parking lots. In the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will be held in the McGee Field House at Bloom Trail. Due to limited seating capacity, only TWO guests per graduate, those holding GOLD tickets, will be allowed to attend the ceremony in the field house.

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 8** 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 9.
- May 9** Senior Final Exam for periods 1 & 2
- May 10** Senior Final Exam for period 3 & 4/5/6
- May 11** Senior Final Exams for periods 6/7/8 & 9, Senior clearance periods 1-3
- May 11** Senior Awards Night
- May 12** Make-up exams (if needed); Senior clearance periods 1, 2, 3, & 9; Last day to meet financial obligations
- May 15** Last Day of Senior Attendance, Senior Celebration- Early Dismissal at 12:00pm- no transportation home will be provided
- May 18** Parent/Guardian Graduation Meeting at 6:30pm
- May 19** Parent/Guardian Graduation Meeting at 9:00am for those unable to attend on the 18th
- May 24** Mandatory Graduation Rehearsal for students at 12:00pm- students will have to provide their own transportation to and from school- meet in the field house
- May 28** **Commencement** at Sarff Field across from Bloom High School at 11:00am. Graduates must be in place and ready in M'Cann gym at Bloom High School by 10:30am.