

IMPORTANT DATES AND INFORMATION FOR THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2026



We are very happy to begin planning our graduation ceremony for the Class of 2026. This year's ceremony will be held at Tinley Park Convention Center on Sunday, May 24, 2026 at 11:00am.

COMMENCEMENT: The commencement ceremony is **Sunday, May 24, at 11:00am** at the Tinley Park Convention Center. Graduates must be dressed and ready by 10:00 a.m. Specific directives will be given during the graduation rehearsal on Wednesday, May 20th.

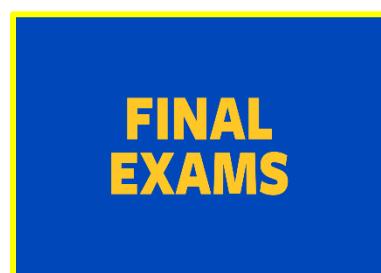
ALL graduation requirements, as set by State law and Board policy and as outlined in the student handbook must be met in order for seniors to qualify to graduate. Additionally, any negative or inappropriate behavior in the weeks leading up to the ceremony, during the rehearsal, or during the ceremony itself, may jeopardize a student's privilege of walking across the stage to receive his/her diploma. Any students on social privilege freeze must fulfill the requirements to be removed from the freeze in order to be eligible to participate in the ceremony. 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 20th. Caps and gowns will be given to students who have returned their all of their district materials (books, uniforms, etc.) 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 outstanding materials.

END OF SCHOOL: The last day of regular attendance for seniors is Tuesday, May 12th.

SENIOR EXAMS: **May 7, 8 and 11** (regular day schedule)

SCHOOL OBLIGATIONS: ALL obligations, including financial, must be cleared in order for seniors to participate in the graduation exercises and receive their diploma. The deadline for payment of any outstanding financial obligations is Wednesday, May 13th. 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 12th.



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

SENIOR ITEMS RETURN: Part of the seniors’ obligation is to return any district-owned property such as textbooks, library books, band instruments, NJROTC uniforms, etc. Senior clearance will take place on Monday, May 11th and Tuesday, May 12th. Students should have all of their district-owned items with them on those days and be prepared to clean out their lockers. 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 20th at 10:00am 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 FAMILY MEETING: Each graduate MUST have a parent or guardian attend a mandatory graduation meeting at Bloom Trail on either Thursday, May 14th at 6:30 p.m., or Friday, May 15th, at 9:00 a.m. in the Bloom Trail Auditorium. At this family meeting, the administration will go over the specific details of this event—ceremony date/times, where to park, what doors to enter, what time to arrive, etc. Tickets to the ceremony (SIX 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-approved graduation items may be worn. Graduates are expected to leave ALL personal belongings at home or with their family.

TICKETS FOR COMMENCEMENT: In order to provide a safe and healthy experience for everyone, the family of each graduate will receive SIX tickets 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 venue.

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. Any students who have outstanding financial obligations after May 13th will not receive their diploma until their fees are paid.

SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT DATES

March 26 Senior Interviews during the school day



May 4-15 AP Exams for those students who are taking AP classes

May 7 Senior Final Exam for periods 1& 2
Senior Awards Night

May 8 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 12 Make-up exams (if needed); Senior clearance periods 1, 2, 3, & 9;
Any credits that are needed for participation in graduation must be completed; last day for night school

May 13 Last Day of Senior Attendance, Senior Celebration- Early Dismissal at 12:00pm- no transportation home will be provided
Last day to meet financial obligations

May 14 Parent/Guardian Graduation Meeting at 6:30pm in the auditorium

May 15 Parent/Guardian Graduation Meeting at 9:00am for those unable to attend on the 14th

May 20 Mandatory Graduation Rehearsal for students at 10:00am- students will have to provide their own transportation to and from school- meet in the field house

May 24 **Commencement** at Tinley Park Convention Center at 11:00am.
Graduates must be in place and ready by 10:00am.