

# CLASS OF 2017 GRADUATION

## GRADUATION QUESTIONS and ANSWERS

The administration, faculty, and staff are proud of the Class of 2017. Graduation is a time to honor the class as a whole and the graduate individually. The Clark County School District has developed guidelines that are to be implemented by all high schools to assure that each graduating class receives the respect and dignity due at graduation. It is expected that all guests will recognize this as a dignified and solemn ceremony and will behave in an appropriate manner. Failure to do so will result in the offender's being removed from the ceremony. **Air horns and any other noisemakers are expressly forbidden as they interfere with honoring the graduates.**

### WHEN AND WHERE IS GRADUATION?

A-TECH's graduation will be held in the ORLEANS ARENA at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, June 12, 2017. Guests must enter through the main entrance of this facility. Doors open at approximately 8:15 a.m. with seating on a first-come basis. **Seats cannot be saved.** Graduates enter at the north end of the facility and are to arrive by 8:00 a.m. Attached is a map of the Orleans and parking instructions.

### ARE A CAP AND GOWN WORN AT GRADUATION?

**Yes.** Students MUST have a cap and gown to "walk" in the commencement ceremony. Seniors qualifying for and desiring to participate in the Class of 2017 graduation ceremony will wear the class-selected black caps and gowns. **ONLY HIGH HONORS GRADUATES WILL WEAR WHITE CAPS AND GOWNS.** The A-TECH tassel for all is purple and teal.

### IS THERE A GRADUATION ORIENTATION AND/OR PRACTICE?

**Yes.** Graduating seniors must attend the mandatory graduation practice at 7:30 a.m. on June 8th, 2017 in the A-TECH gymnasium. Students must be dressed in appropriate school attire to participate. Students not participating in this practice will not be allowed to walk at graduation unless prior approval is received. Students are to report directly to the gym.

### WHEN DO SENIORS RECEIVE THEIR PRE-ORDERED CAPS AND GOWNS?

Graduating seniors must submit to their counselors a completed checkout card to obtain their graduation practice line-up cards. The graduation practice line-up cards will be turned in after rehearsal June 8, 2017 to receive a cap and gown following the mandatory graduation practice in the morning. **SENIORS WHO HAVE NOT ORDERED THEIR CAPS AND GOWNS SHOULD DO SO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!** Online: [lvgrads.com](http://lvgrads.com). Phone: 384-3300 or 233-3266.

### WHAT IS THE APPROPRIATE GRADUATION ATTIRE FOR COMMENCEMENT?

It is recommended that young men wear a light-colored shirt with a collar, dark slacks, socks, and shoes. Tie is optional. Recommended attire for young women includes a dress, which does not hang below their gowns, or a nice pant suit and appropriate shoes. No flip-flop sandals or athletic type shoes will be permitted. It is also recommended that ladies be mindful of the shoes they choose to wear; heels may be difficult when navigating the steps to the stage. Caps and gowns are not to have anything attached to or written on the outside of them. Gowns and stoles need to be ironed. Be careful on temperature as they scorch easily. ***Students not properly attired will not be permitted to participate.*** CCSD dress code will still apply.

### ARE TICKETS REQUIRED TO ATTEND GRADUATION? IF SO, HOW ARE THEY DISTRIBUTED?

**Yes.** Graduating seniors do not need a ticket to attend graduation, but **all** graduation guests, including small children, must have a ticket to attend the ceremony. Graduates will receive ten (10) tickets with their caps and gowns. If more tickets are needed, students may pick up a ticket request form from the Student Activities Office starting May 8, 2017. All tickets request forms are due back to the school by 2:05 p.m. on May 31, 2017. **Extra tickets will only be given if a request form is turned in by 2:05 p.m. on May 31, 2017.**

### WILL MY CHILD PARTICIPATE IN COMMENCEMENT?

A senior will be considered in jeopardy of not graduating if he or she is not enrolled in a course required for graduation, has earned a D or F for third quarter in a course required for graduation, has received a Senior Failure Notification letter listing areas not completed at this time, and/or has received an unsatisfactory progress report for fourth quarter in a course required for graduation. Seniors not cleared for graduation by 7:30 a.m. on June 8, 2017, will not be allowed to participate in the practice or graduation ceremony. Unused caps and gowns will be returned to Josten's. **Josten's will reimburse families directly.** (Josten's 384-3300)

### WHEN AND WHERE CAN PARENTS AND FRIENDS TAKE PICTURES OF THE GRADUATES?

Students will receive their caps and gowns following graduation practice on June 8, 2017 if they are paid in full. Families can take photos of students in caps and gowns at their convenience. For the graduation ceremony, a school contracted photographer (Lifetime) will take photos and provide families with ordering information.



**Cameras are NOT allowed on the stage, in the front section, or in the lineup area.** Video cameras, as well as other types of cameras, are allowed in the regular guest seating area, but no power source is available. Tripods, which block the vision of other guests or aisle areas, are not allowed. An independent, school-sanctioned photographer will take a graduation photo of each graduate on stage. Information for ordering is sent by the photographer to the family, not from the school.

**IF A GRADUATE IS UNABLE TO ATTEND THE CEREMONY, CAN SOMEONE TAKE THE GRADUATE'S PLACE?**

No.

**IF A SENIOR OWES A FINE OR FEE, WHEN MUST THIS BE PAID?**

For students attending Grad Night, all fees, fines, and other debts owed to the school must be paid by **May 5, 2017**. For seniors not attending Grad Night, all fines, fees, and other debts owed to the school must be paid before caps and gowns are issued. Senior fine letters have been mailed home, and senior fine lists have been posted in English classes. **Final payment deadline is June 7, 2017**. However, seniors are encouraged to make payments earlier. **Senior Checkout Cards** will be distributed May 26<sup>th</sup>, during 4<sup>th</sup> PD classes and must be returned no later than June 7, 2017, to Esperansa DeSantiago in the Counseling Office.

**WHERE DO GRADUATES AND GUESTS PARK?**

Graduates and their guests may park in the ORLEANS ARENA parking garage or the parking lot east of the Arena. **DO NOT PARK IN THE FRONT CASINO PARKING AREA.** The parking garage is recommended, as it is closer. (Map attached)

**HOW ARE GRADUATES LINED UP?**

The Valedictorian, Salutatorian, student speakers, and High Honor graduates in alphabetical order enter first, followed by the remaining graduates in alphabetical order.

**WHAT TYPE OF RECOGNITION AND/OR DIPLOMAS ARE A PART OF GRADUATION?**

**VALEDICTORIAN-SALUTATORIAN**

The highest academic awards are Valedictorian and Salutatorian. Valedictorian status is awarded to the student(s) with the highest weighted GPA in the graduating class. Salutatorian status is awarded to the student(s) with the second highest weighted GPA in the graduating class. Valedictorian(s) will wear gold stoles and Salutatorian(s) will wear teal stoles.

**HIGH HONORS GRADUATION DISTINCTION**

High Honors graduates are those students who have earned a cumulative weighted grade point average of 3.8 or higher with bonus points and no grades of "F". These students will have their names listed in a separate section in the graduation program. High Honors graduates will lead the

CLASS of 2017. These students wear **gold stoles** and **white caps and gowns**.

**HONORS GRADUATION DISTINCTION**

Honors graduates are those students who have earned a cumulative weighted grade point average of 3.5 to 3.799 with bonus points and no grades of "F". These students wear **silver cords** at graduation.

**ADVANCED HONORS DIPLOMA**

The Advanced Honors Diploma requires additional rigorous coursework beyond those required for the Advanced Diploma. Students will be required to fulfill the 24.0 credit Advanced Diploma requirements (including 4-years of mathematics, 3-years of science, one Honors foreign language credit, and an additional Arts/Humanities or Career and Technical Education course) and must complete the Honors, International Baccalaureate (IB), or Advanced Placement (AP) courses required of the Honors Course Program. Students must achieve a minimum of a 3.25 unweighted grade point average and 3.85 weighted grade point average. Advanced Honors Diploma graduates will wear **black hoods** at graduation.

**ADVANCED DIPLOMA**

To earn an Advanced Diploma, students must meet the requirements of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Course of Study. This includes an additional Math credit, Science credit, and Arts/Humanities or Career and Technical Education credit. Advanced Diploma graduates will wear **teal hoods** at graduation.

**PROGRAM HONORS MEDALLION (A-TECH Medallion)**

Students who complete their required program classes with an unweighted GPA of 3.25 or above through the seventh semester are awarded the Program Honor Medallion. These students are recognized at Senior Night and in the graduation program. The Program Honor Medallion is worn at the graduation ceremony.

**WHAT TIME ARE GRADUATES TO BE IN THE LINEUP AREA?**

All graduates are to be dressed in their caps and gowns at 8:00 a.m., in the Orleans' Rotunda, ready for lineup. Guests are not allowed in the lineup area before or after commencement.

**IS THERE A PLACE TO KEEP PURSES OR PERSONAL BELONGINGS IN THE LINEUP AREA?**

**No.** Graduates should have nothing, including flowers and cell phones, on their wrists, or pinned to their gowns. Confiscated items will be available for pick up at A-TECH from June 13<sup>th</sup> – June 28<sup>th</sup> during summer office hours.

**MAY A GRADUATE WEAR A SPECIAL PERSONAL SASH ON TOP OF THE GOWN?**

**No.** Only school sanctioned stoles, hoods, cords, and medallions may be worn during the ceremony.

**MAY PARENTS GIVE A GRADUATE FLOWERS OR GIFTS AS THE GRADUATE RECEIVES HIS/HER DIPLOMA?**

**No.** No one but graduates and assigned personnel are allowed on the stage area.

**WILL THE CEREMONY BE TAPED OR RECORDED?**

**Yes.** The Orleans will be selling DVDs. Ordering information will be provided.

**ARE GRADUATES ALLOWED TO THROW THE MORTARBOARD (CAP)?**

**No.** Due to the possibility of injury, the throwing of mortarboards (as well as other objects) prior to, during, or following the graduation exercise is **prohibited**.

**WHEN ARE THE DIPLOMAS AND DIPLOMA COVERS PRESENTED TO THE GRADUATES?**

During the ceremony, a school board member or CCSD area administrator will present the diploma covers. The actual diploma will be given to the graduate following the graduation ceremony in the diploma distribution area. To receive the diploma at that time, a graduate must present his/her cap with his/her name printed inside the cap. Names **MUST** match diplomas.

**WHAT HAPPENS IF A GRADUATE IS DISRUPTIVE DURING THE CEREMONY?**

***The graduation ceremony is a privilege, not a requirement.*** Students who do not behave properly and negatively affect the ability of others to enjoy the ceremony will be removed from the graduation area. Should a student be found to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol at the ceremony, he/she will be denied the opportunity to participate. Diplomas will not be issued to these students at that time but will be issued to the parents at a conference with the school principal or designee in August.

**GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

Students must meet all graduation requirements, including passing all required courses, meeting minimum credit requirements, and passing required exams. Any student who fails to meet the requirements will not be considered a graduate and will not be permitted to participate in the ceremony. Students receiving an adjusted diploma as prescribed by IEP requirements may also participate in graduation ceremonies.

**WHAT HAPPENS IF A GUEST IS DISRUPTIVE DURING THE CEREMONY?**

CCSD Police or Orleans Security will remove individuals who are disruptive and reduce the opportunity for other guests to see and/or hear the ceremony. **Noisemakers and air horns are inappropriate and prohibited.** These items will be confiscated.

**WHEN DO GRADUATES RETURN THE SPECIAL DESIGNATION ITEMS?**

All gold and teal stoles and black and teal hoods are returned to A-TECH personnel immediately after the graduation ceremony in the diploma distribution area. Upon the presentation of the graduate's cap and the return of any required items, the graduate receives his/her diploma. The graduate will then leave the diploma distribution area to meet with friends and family.

**ARE PARENTS ALLOWED IN THE DIPLOMA DISTRIBUTION AREA AFTER GRADUATION?**

**No.** Graduates should arrange to meet parents and guests in the parking lot. All students will exit at the south end of the Orleans Arena.

**WILL A SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER BE AVAILABLE?**

If an individual student or guest requires a sign language interpreter, he/she must contact Ms. Littmann or Ms. Kelly at 799-7870 ext. 4500 by **May 20, 2017**. Listening devices will be available from the Orleans; a driver's license is required. Closed captioning will be provided at the ceremony.

**STROLLER & HANDICAPPED ENTRANCE/HANDICAPPED SEATING**

Handicapped guests and guests with strollers should enter through the Ticket Entrance. All strollers will be checked at the door and can be picked up at stroller services upon exit. Handicapped seating is located within the arena, around the perimeter. Guests may enter the arena at 8:15 a.m. using the elevator at the main entrance. Only one person may accompany, for assistance only.

**ARE HELIUM BALLOONS ALLOWED?**

**No.** Due to sensors in the Orleans Arena, balloons are strictly prohibited. All helium balloons will be checked in at stroller services by Orleans personnel.

**IMPORTANT:**

If your student is borrowing a cap and gown, it must be a Jostens gown that matches the other gowns exactly and they will need to purchase a tassel from Jostens. They are expected to have a tassel, and we do not have extras.

**OTHER QUESTIONS???**

Please call Ms. Littmann or Ms. Kelly in Student Services, at 799-7870, ext. 4500.