

GRADUATION EVENTS AND PROCEDURES

Announcements

Announcements are not invitations to the ceremony but a means of announcing your graduation to friends and relatives. It is recommended invitations be sent out either **two weeks in advance** or **after** the ceremony. Each announcement contains slots for insertion of your name card, and you may want to include a graduation picture.

Senior Banquet and Baccalaureate

The Senior Banquet is the first official celebration for the graduating class. All high school seniors, as well as their families and friends, and staff are invited to honor the accomplishments of the senior class and remember their year as a senior.

The Baccalaureate, which is often held in a church, is a nondenominational celebration for graduates and their families and friends. Although not a school-sponsored event, this ceremony is a very personal part of commencement. A musical program, presentations, and inspirational speakers will kick off official graduation festivities.

Appropriate dress for these occasions is dressy: skirts, dresses or nice pants for girls, pants and nice shirt for boys. Jeans, shorts, run-down tennis shoes, or other items that are strictly for casual use should not be worn.

Graduation

Graduation is an exercise that serves several purposes. It is a time for you, as well as your friends and family, to honor the successful completion of thirteen years of schooling. Commencement is also a final occasion for the graduating class to be together.

Rehearsal

- All seniors participating in the commencement **must** attend practice.
- Practice will focus on seating arrangements, the procession, and the graduation ceremony.
- Arrive promptly. If you arrive late, you will not be able to select your seat or whom you will walk with during the ceremony.

Behind the Scenes on Graduation Night

- Each row will be assigned a post at the east end of the coliseum.
- Bring your cap and ironed gown to the coliseum to be put on prior to marching.
- There will be an emergency room that will have safety pins, bobby pins, hair spray, steamer, etc.
- You will line up according to the row in which you chose to sit.
- Leave **all** valuables at home, with your parents, or locked in the car.

The Graduation Ceremony - Commencement

- Each participating student must have the appropriate cap and gown and attend rehearsal. Note: Take your gown out of the package ASAP; iron it and hang it up before the ceremony. NO alterations of caps and gowns permitted.
- Caps and gowns will be worn in the proper manner, as designated by the school administration and class advisor. No additions, deletions, or alterations of the cap and gown will be allowed without written approval from the principal.
- Students who participate will follow the dress code.
- Students who participate will be expected to cooperate with the class advisor and graduation coordinator and to participate in all parts of the graduation ceremony.
- Proper attire is required. **(A check for proper attire will be made prior to marching.)**
 - * If you do not wear acceptable attire, you will be pulled from the line to borrow whatever is missing from your wardrobe. Dress comfortably but with class.
- Any student who fails to comply with these requirements will automatically forfeit the privilege of participation in the graduation ceremony. Students who fail to comply with school rules, expectations, and staff during the final weeks of school could also forfeit the right to participate in the graduation ceremony.
- In accordance with the Basic Education Act and the Attorney General's office, graduating seniors may graduate five school days before the school year ends.
- The speakers work hard to have something meaningful to say on this once-in-a-lifetime occasion. Please do not spoil the event for others by causing disruption of any kind during the ceremony.
- Please note: It is not permissible for the audience to save seats, and people are invited to arrive for the ceremony at a designated time. Please check with school officials for specifics.

Commencement is a very special event to each student and their families. The staff at your school and Kennewick School District wishes you a happy, carefree graduation day and a lifetime of success and happiness!