



Gates County High School

Home of the *Red Barons*

“Soaring on the Wings of Success”

Candidates for 2022 Graduation and their Parents:

Congratulations on your upcoming graduation! We are very excited for you and wish you the best as you begin your life after high school. The following letter details specific things you need to do in order to be ready to bring high school to an official close. The school looks forward to providing a formal ceremony to recognize this momentous occasion with you, along with family and friends. Please realize that it is an opportunity for us all to celebrate not only *your* achievements, but also those of every single member of your class. It is very important that you and your family are aware of the expectations and requirements for participation in the graduation ceremony. **Retain this letter for important dates and times. You can also find important dates on the school’s website, <https://coserver.gates.k12.nc.us/domain/860>.**

In order to make sure that this ceremony is dignified, your adherence to a few guidelines is important. These guidelines have evolved over many years in an effort to ensure everything goes well. Your individual cooperation with these guidelines will help make everyone’s graduation night memorable. Anyone who fails to follow instructions concerning graduation could jeopardize his or her opportunity to participate in the ceremony. Our graduation ceremonies at Gates County High have always been nice and we do not anticipate that this year will be any different.

You must return the attached signed form in order to participate in graduation or fill out the online form shared at the Google Meet on 4/26.

The following items require your attention:

- Check with Mrs. Daughtery to see if you owe fees, books, or any other item to the school. Please clear any outstanding fees or items with Mrs. Daughtery before **May 13th**.
- Be sure to have the appropriate attire for the occasion:
 - Ladies should wear knee-length dresses of any color OR black **dress** pants (business attire - not stretchy fabric) and BLACK **dress** shoes. Shoes may be heeled or flat. However, flat shoes with straps are considered sandals and are NOT acceptable.
 - Gentlemen wear white collared button-up shirts with a tie of any color, black or khaki pants, and black or brown DRESS shoes. Polo shirts are not acceptable. Cropped pants are not allowed.
 - No alterations or decoration of the cap and gown are allowed.
 - Only approved cords and stoles for FFA, HOSA and Beta Club are allowed.
 - Flip-flops or other casual footwear are *not* acceptable for ladies or gentlemen.
 - If you are uncertain that your planned attire is acceptable, please contact Mrs. Matthews, Mrs. Simons or your homeroom teacher. You can even email a picture just to be safe.
 - The Senior Walk is scheduled for May 19th. Bring your cap and gown. You may wish to wear what you plan to wear graduation night so it can be checked for compliance. The tentative time for this meeting is 9:30. Watch the website and email for updates.

- Plan who will receive tickets to your graduation. Each member of the class will be given **SIX** tickets for guests. Please understand that fire code and security dictate a limited number of guests. Ask your classmates who may not need six for any extras.
- EACH guest **MUST** have a ticket. Explain this to your guests in advance so that no one is embarrassed at the gate. Only children **FIVE** and older will be admitted and must have a ticket. The only people admitted without a ticket are employees of the school system and those on a list of special guests. Gates County school employees must present their most **CURRENT IDENTIFICATION**. This ID admits only the employee, **NO** guest.
- Inform your guests that they will be allowed to enter at **6:30**. Doors will be locked until that time, no exceptions.
- Inform your guests that there will be plenty of time for photographs on and around the stage **AFTER** the ceremony. Security will not allow anyone to stand in front of others to take pictures before or during the ceremony. Professional photos of seniors receiving their diplomas will be available for sale.
- Please advise your guests that this is a formal ceremony and their dress and behavior should reflect the occasion. Prolonged cheers are discouraged. Balloons, banners, and noisemakers such as cow bells, whistles, or megaphones will not be allowed inside the gym.
- Tickets will be distributed at graduation practice at 10:00 a.m., **June 10th**. You may not participate in the ceremony if you do not show up for practice. Be punctual so that we can be done as soon as possible. Lunch will be provided for the Class of 2022 after practice. Please plan to join your class for this last opportunity to spend time together.
- Commencement exercises begin on Friday evening at **7:30**. **ALL SENIORS** must be present in the designated area in the Performing Arts Center at **6:45 p.m.** Your dress will be checked at the door. Cell phones and any other items you are carrying will be taken at the door. If you do not want to have your phone taken, leave it with your guests. All phones will be returned after the ceremony in the PAC.
- Get a parent signature on the attached paper to indicate that you and your family are aware of your responsibilities for graduation and return to Mrs. Matthews or Mrs. Simons no later than May 13th. ***You must return the signed form on paper or online in order to participate in graduation exercises.***

Congratulations again and thank you for taking care of the above guidelines in preparation for the Commencement exercises on June 10th. We all want the last days of your high school career to end on a positive note. Your agreement to abide by the guidelines and procedures set for graduation is very important to the success of the event. We are looking forward to celebrating this important milestone in your life.

Jonathan Hayes

Susan Casper

Lovie Roscoe

Principal

Assistant Principal

Assistant Principal

Retain the letter for important dates and times. Turn in ONLY this signature page with the graduation survey on the back also completed.

I have read the letter concerning the 2022 Commencement Exercises. I understand the requirements for participating in the graduation ceremony and will do my part to abide by all procedures outlined in the letter. This signed form should be returned to Mrs. Simons or Mrs. Matthews as soon as possible and no later than May 13th.

Parent name (print)

Parent signature Date

Student name (print)

Student signature Date