



## WAKE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

### HOLLY SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL

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### Dear Parents of 2017 Graduating Seniors:

We are excited to prepare for another graduation; an event that serves as a symbol of the incredible work of our students, our teachers, and our families. We look forward to presenting our Golden Hawks as graduates of Holly Springs High School and Wake County Public Schools before they soar into new experiences, new endeavors, and new challenges. In an effort to make sure the graduation experience is an enjoyable experience for every family, we wanted to reach out to make sure you had all necessary information.

#### Dates and Times:

- ◆ **Senior Awards:** The ceremony will begin at 8am on Friday, May 26 in the HSHS main gym. Seniors should plan to arrive and report to the auxiliary gym no later than 7:00am. Parents are encouraged to attend this event!
- ◆ **Graduation Rehearsal Time:** Rehearsal is on Monday, June 5 from 6-8pm and graduates should arrive no later than 5:30pm. Rehearsal is at the Raleigh Convention Center. Remember to plan for approximately \$7 in parking fees. Students who do not participate in graduation rehearsal will not be able to participate in the graduation ceremony unless their absence is approved in advance by the principal.
- ◆ **Graduation:** The ceremony is on Sunday, June 11 and begins at 4pm. Graduates should arrive no later than 3pm. See details below.

#### Graduation:

- ◆ **Cheering and Noise:** We know that you are incredibly excited that this milestone in your student's life is here. During our senior assembly, we shared how excited their parents and guardians are, and that excitement culminates in a few seconds of time: the reading of each name. We know that it is tempting to cheer with praise and excitement, but we are respectfully requesting that parents, guardians, and other guests refrain from cheering until all the names have been read. We are only permitted to have a ceremony that lasts one hour, which is an extremely tight timetable with approximately 600 names to read. Regardless of noise, we will ask that our staff reading names continue to read them. To make sure every parent, guardian, family member, and friend who has invested time and energy into these young people has the opportunity to hear the moment the graduate's name is called, we ask that you hold all the applause until the end.
- ◆ **Parking:** You will want to park in the parking deck. Keep in mind that the deck will cost you \$7 cash. Please anticipate that it will take you some time to find parking given that there are other graduations happening downtown before and after ours.
- ◆ **Guests who may need assistance:** There is a designated **Drop-off Area under the "Shimmer Wall" on McDowell Street** for seniors and for those guests who have difficulty walking distances. Golf carts will be available at the drop-off area and at entrances to nearby parking decks to transport those guests to the Cabarrus Street door of the Convention Center.
- ◆ **Tickets:** Your son/daughter will receive an envelope with tickets during the mandatory graduation rehearsal. The envelope will contain 9 tickets. There are no additional tickets to request from the school.
- ◆ **Entering the Convention Center:** Each person entering the convention center must have a ticket. Please keep in mind that the tickets are based on fire code and size of the person does not matter; therefore, even young

toddlers and infants will have to have a ticket assigned to him or her. This rule has been established by the Raleigh Convention Center, not Holly Springs High School.

- ◆ **Exiting the Convention Center:** Once the students have processed out of the main area, we will have staff working quickly to hand out diplomas to the students. Once the diplomas have been handed out, the families and friends of the graduates will be permitted to move to the area where the graduates are located. Once you have located your graduate, you will want to move quickly out of the Convention Center. As we move out, another graduation will begin to organize.
- ◆ **Bringing items into the Convention Center:** The Convention Center staff will not permit anyone to bring flowers, wrapped gifts, noisemakers, food, or drinks. You will be asked to throw items away or to return them to your vehicle.
- ◆ **Seating:** Once inside the Convention Center, seating is first come first serve. The security staff will not allow a person to come in and save seats for other family and friends attending. Convention Center staff and WCPSS security staff will ask visitors to move if a single person is saving seats.
- ◆ **Wheelchair Seating:** The Convention Center staff has asked that we please inform those families bringing a person in a wheelchair to designate one family member to assist and sit with that person. All other family members must sit in chairs not reserved for wheelchair needs. Please be aware that wheelchair seating is not handicapped seating. *For safety reasons*, it is crucial that the person assisting a wheel chair guests be seated within an arms' length of the wheelchair.
- ◆ **Pictures and Video:** No one in the general seating area will be permitted to take pictures or video. The Convention Center staff has designated a photography and video area. While in that area, visitors may have a tripod; however, the tripod will not be permitted above eye level. Other guests are also trying to see, and we want to be respectful to make sure everyone attending has the opportunity to see his/her graduate cross the stage.
- ◆ **Expectations of our Graduates:** The graduation ceremony is a dignified event where our young people and their families are celebrated. Please remind your graduates that we expect them to represent their school and their families well during this event. If a graduate chooses to act in a manner that would not contribute to a dignified event, we will have security available to escort him/her out of the facility and/or their diploma will be pulled and available only after meeting with the principal at a later date.
- ◆ **Fines & Fees.** Please remember that all fines and fees must be paid prior to a student participating in the graduation program. Students will not receive their tickets to graduation at the rehearsal if they have fines and fees remaining.

Please let the Holly Springs High staff know if you have questions leading up to this event. We are excited for this event and look forward to seeing you there!

Sincerely,

Brian Pittman, Principal  
Holly Springs High School