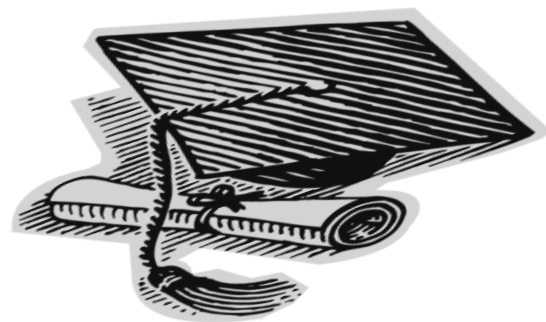


GRADUATION HANDBOOK



Fuquay-Varina High School

Class of 2023

A Letter from the Principal:

Dear Seniors:

It has been my privilege to have been your principal for your senior year. As I reflect about your high school career the word that comes to my mind is “change.” You all have been through lots of changes in the four years of your high school career. You’ve overcome so much change and you’ve learned to change with the times as “change” demanded. The last hurdle for you is your commencement ceremony - graduation!

As we approach your commencement on June 14th, we will have several events planned to honor you - the graduates. I encourage you to take time to be part of these events as they can be lasting memories of your time at Fuquay-Varina High School and possibly the last time you may see many of your peers.

This handbook contains essential information regarding upcoming events, activities, and details for your graduation ceremony. Please read and share this information with your parents. You are responsible for understanding and complying with all of the guidelines established for this special ceremony. It is my expectation that you will cooperate fully to make each activity and the graduation ceremony a success. We will not compromise the dignity of the occasion and the recognition that each one of you deserves. Through your work and participation, I am confident that every senior event will be a success.

I wish each of you the successes that life brings - enjoy every day to the fullest. I will always remember you, this graduating class!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike James".

Robert M. “Mike” James
Principal



Contents:

- Calendar of Events
- Senior Speaker Information
- Rehearsal
- Tickets
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- Graduation Attire and Conduct
- Student Services Updates and Deadlines

Revised April 10, 2023

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Senior Recognition Night

Who: *All Seniors are invited*
Date: Thursday, June 1, 2023
Place: FVHS Gym
Dress Code: Gown (no cap)
Graduate Arrival: 5:45 PM
Start Time: 6:30 - 8:00 PM

Senior Day

Date: Friday, June 2, 2023
Place: FVHS campus
Dress Code: Cap and Gown Required for Senior Picture
Time:
7:35 AM- Arrive to Campus/Bengal Stadium
7:45 AM- Group Picture w/Cap and Gown (Stadium)
8:00 AM- Breakfast (Cafeteria)
8:40 AM- Dismiss to Auditorium for Senior Slideshow
9:15 AM- Review Graduation Ceremony procedures
9:20 AM- Release to Gym (by alpha) to find section/row/seat
9:35 AM- Begin Graduation Rehearsal
11:25 AM- Release to Picnic

Graduation Ticket Distribution

Date/Time: June 12th (9:00 - 11:00 and 12:00 - 2:00)
Date/Time: June 13th (9:00 - 12:00 Main Office)
Place: main lobby

- Seniors must pick up their own tickets with a picture ID
- Parents may not pick up tickets for their Senior
- Each student will receive 8 tickets to graduation
- Only ticketed guests will be allowed admission to Graduation

Graduation Ceremony

Date: Wednesday, June 14, 2022
Place: Raleigh Convention Center
Dress Code: See Graduation Attire, Cap and Gown
Arrival Time: 11:00 AM
Ceremony Start Time: 12:00 PM

THE PROCESSIONAL WILL BEGIN AT 12:00PM. IF YOU ARE LATE, YOU MAY NOT BE ALLOWED TO JOIN THE PROCESSIONAL.



Lifetouch (Prestige) will be at graduation taking official photos of each senior as they receive their diploma on stage from the principal. More information will be coming soon regarding how to order your graduation photo directly through Lifetouch.

Senior Speaker

Any Senior interested in delivering the address at graduation can apply.

Applications are due to Dr. Newton by email no later than **11:59 pm, April 24, 2023.**

Financial Obligations

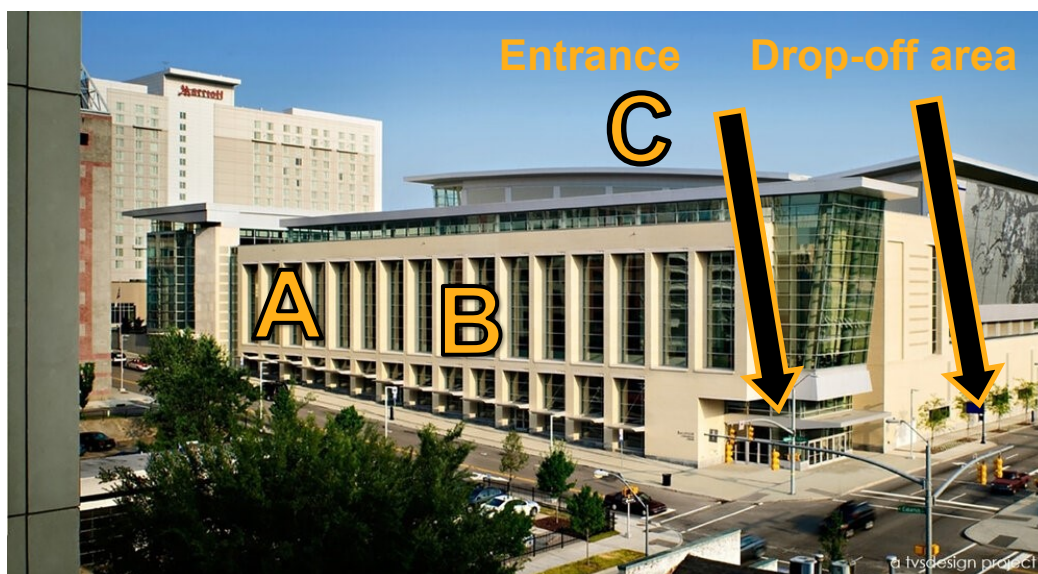
Seniors must pay all FVHS financial obligations in order to receive graduation tickets. This includes any remaining dues, fees, fines, assessments for missing textbooks/uniforms/equipment/etc.

Seniors *will not* receive Graduation tickets and *cannot* participate in the Graduation Ceremony until all financial obligations are met.

ALL FEES, FINES, ETC. MUST BE PAID IN FULL BY:

3 pm Friday, June 2nd 2023

Raleigh Convention Center (RCC)



RCC REMINDERS

The parking garage fee is \$10 per car for rehearsal and graduation.

The Raleigh Convention Center will not allow anyone to enter the facility with flowers in glass vases, signs, balloons, noise makers, food, drinks, or wrapped packages. Unruly or intoxicated guests will also be prevented from entering.

Handicap guests are encouraged to park in parking area under the Marriott Hotel and enter the RCC from the underground parking. Only 1 person will be allowed to accompany wheelchair guests in the reserved wheelchair section of the ceremony.

Due to fire code, strollers & tripods cannot block aisles and will have to be stored at the entrance.

During the ceremony, individuals should remain seated and should not be out of seats to take pictures or move closer to the stage. Camera tripods cannot block aisles. Guests may videotape from their seat, but tripods may not be set higher than eye level or block the view of other guests.

Everyone will need to exit the Convention Center immediately after the ceremony.

COMMENCEMENT

Date: Wednesday, June 14

Time: 12:00 pm

Place: Raleigh Convention Center

Arrival: 11:00 am

- * Be on time. Plan for traffic, parking, and other delays.
- * There is a drop-off area under the "Shimmer Wall" on McDowell Street for seniors and those guests who have difficulty walking distances.
- * Enter the RCC through entrance **C**. This will be reviewed at rehearsal.
- * Check in with the FVHS staff member who is assigned to your row.
- * Parents and guests will be admitted at **11:15 am** through all entrances. Seating is first come, first served and guests may not reserve or hold seats.
- * Wear your graduation cap and gown to graduation.
- * Be careful NOT to lose your tassel; it falls off easily and cannot be replaced.
- * Write your full name inside your cap. You will need to show your cap to receive your diploma.
- * **THE PROCESSIONAL LINE UP WILL BEGIN AT APPROXIMATELY 11:50 AM; LATE STUDENTS MAY NOT BE ALLOWED TO JOIN THE PROCESSIONAL.**

Seniors graduate in alphabetical order. Upon hearing their name called, each senior will walk across the stage and receive his/her diploma cover from the principal. A name is called approximately every 3-4 seconds and the audience will be asked to refrain from applause or noise for the next senior's name to be heard. Times for applause will be built into the program at various points.



DIRECTIONS TO THE RALEIGH CONVENTION CENTER

Raleigh Convention Center, 500 South Salisbury Street, Raleigh, NC 27601

From Points West: I-40 east to exit 298B South Saunders Street.

From Points East: 64/264 to I-440 east; merge onto I-40 west and exit at 298B South Saunders Street.

From Points South: US-1 north to I-40 east; exit at 298B South Saunders Street.

From Points North: US-1 South into the city - left on Lenoir Street.

The convention center website is: <http://www.raleighconvention.com>. The site contains additional information about parking, directions, and a detailed downtown city map.

Graduation Etiquette

Caps and Gowns

- Graduation is a dignified event and both caps and gowns should always be worn in a dignified manner.
- Gowns should not be wrinkled. Let the gown hang for several weeks. May use a COOL iron or garment steamer if needed. DO NOT HOT IRON, WASH OR DRY CLEAN THE GOWNS.
- All students always wear caps STRAIGHT on the head, parallel to the floor. Teacher line supervisors will help adjust the cap for you if you are not wearing the cap correctly.
- Tassels are worn on the right side of the cap until the changing of the tassel near the conclusion of the ceremony. As a group, you will be instructed to move the tassels to the left side to signify your graduation.
- Graduates are expected to hold their caps at the end of the ceremony.
- Graduates will show his/her name written inside of his/her cap to the staff member distributing diplomas after the end of the ceremony.

No one is allowed to alter attire or add decorations to their cap or gown.

Honor cords are only to be worn by members in good standing of approved organizations with National Charters at FVHS.

Ceremony Conduct

- Students are expected to walk in the procession and across the stage to receive their diploma without gestures or vulgarity and any other displays that distract from the dignity of the ceremony
- Cat-calling, yelling, and pranks during graduation by seniors and guests will distract from the ceremony. If necessary, the diploma will be withheld from any student if he/she or his/her guests disrupt the ceremony.
- No gum and no smoking once you enter the grounds of the Convention Center.



Appropriate Dress

- Collared dress shirt and necktie or bowtie
- Dress pants/khakis and dark socks (no jeans)
- Light weight dress under the graduation robe (not longer than the gown) or dress pants with collared dress shirt
- Minimal jewelry
- Shoes- Dress shoes, flats or pumps with heel strap (no boat shoes, athletic shoes, boots, sandals, flip flops)
- NO cell phones, purses, handbags, cameras, or other electronic devices. Nothing is to be carried into the ceremony

PARTICIPATION IN THE GRADUATION CEREMONY IS NOT A GUARANTEED RIGHT, IT IS A PRIVILEGE. THE PRINCIPAL RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REFUSE STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN ANY GRADUATION EVENT IF CONDUCT AT SCHOOL IS NOT MAINTAINED AT A HIGH LEVEL OF EXCELLENCE.

Graduates who do not wear appropriate attire or violate any WCPSS or FVHS standards of conduct, including guidelines in this handbook, may be removed from the line and may not be allowed to participate in commencement activities.

Final Transcripts

Students are responsible to request their final transcripts be sent to colleges/schools beginning June 24th by following the instructions below:

If you are attending an **IN STATE** NC college/school, you will need to send your final transcript through your **CFNC.org** account.

If you are attending an **OUT-OF-STATE** college/school or for the **NCAA Eligibility Center** (if you are planning to participate in college sports), you will need to request your final transcript be sent through www.wcpss.net/transcripts.

Senior Survey

All Seniors are required to complete the Senior Survey in order for us to process your graduation status in PowerSchool. This information will also be used to generate Future Plans for Senior Recognition Night.

Complete the survey by **May 5th** using this link: [Senior Survey](#) or QR Code



A Message from the Dean of Students:

Dear Graduating Seniors,

Congratulations to each and every one of you! I hope you all have had an amazing journey through high school. Take away all the valuable lessons learned, the trusted relationships made, and the confidence in knowing you can achieve whatever goals you may set for yourself. As you leave Fuquay-varina High School to pursue new challenges and opportunities, I know you will find that the education you received at our school has prepared you for the future. It is now up to you what you do with it. Go forth and do good things!

This is an exciting time for you and your family as you prepare for graduation! Treasure the moments and enjoy the many special activities in your honor! We want to make your graduation one of the happiest memories in your life. Family members, friends, teachers, counselors, and administrators have helped you reach this momentous occasion. Let us all work together to ensure your graduation is a dignified occasion where your achievements are recognized and acknowledged.

Best wishes for much continued success in all your future endeavors. Most of all ... enjoy your journey!

Kindest regards,

Mrs. Patricia Moore
Dean of Students



Senior Scholarships/Awards for Senior Recognition Night

Seniors must complete the [2023 Senior Scholarship Award Form](#) if you have received a Scholarship or an Award from a college/university or a private organization, even if you are not planning to attend that specific college/university. If you have received multiple Scholarships/Awards, please submit a "new response" for each award you have received. This form must be completed by **MAY 19th, 2023**. If you are notified of a Scholarship/Award after May 16th, please email Ms. Kamal (lkamal@wcpss.net).

Senior Honors Review

The following designations will be used in determining Senior Honors recognition:

- Students with a 3.75 - 3.99 weighted GPA receive the distinction of cum laude
- Students with a 4.0 - 4.249 weighted GPA receive the distinction of magna cum laude
- Students with a 4.25 or higher weighted GPA receive the distinction of summa cum laude

Senior Honors is based on the cumulative GPA at the end of the 1st semester of the graduating year. If any student believes that their spring semester courses will impact their honor status, they can request a review by completing this [Senior Honors Review](#) form by **April 30th**. A revised cumulative GPA will be calculated using Quarter 3 grades as projected final grades for spring classes.