

**Wheeler High School
Graduation 2018
Student Parent Information Packets**

- **Final Exams:**

- **Senior Final Exams** will be given according to the schedule below this spring:
 - **May 14 – B day finals**
 - **May 15 – 3rd and 4th block finals**
 - **May 16 – 1st and 2nd block finals**
 - ****A day finals will be taken during your normal 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th block class**
- May 17 can be used for makeup finals if any are necessary. This schedule is pushed a few days earlier than past years so that we can make sure all senior grades are finalized in plenty of time for us to evaluate seniors for graduation. The first graduation practice will be on Monday, May 21.

- **Graduation Rehearsals:**

- Rehearsal Dates:
 - Monday, May 21 - 8:30 am - 11:30 am - Wheeler Arena
 - Tuesday, May 22 - 8:30 am - 11:30 am - Wheeler Arena
- Rules for Rehearsals:
 - Any inappropriate behavior during rehearsals could result in the school holding your diploma until community service has been served.
 - If you are tardy, miss a rehearsal, or leave early without prior permission from Dr. Giles, it will result in the loss of any extra tickets above the number guaranteed to each graduate.
 - We would like to leave rehearsals at 2 days only, but if behavior becomes an issue, we will have to add a third day of rehearsal to ensure the ceremony runs smoothly.
 - Caps and gowns are not required for rehearsal but we highly suggest that you wear the shoes you will be wearing during the ceremony to practice getting on and off the stage comfortably.

- **Ceremony Information:**

- Times: Wednesday, May 23, 2018, 6:30 pm in the Wheeler Arena
 - Students need to arrive to school and meet in Wheeler Cafeteria at 4:30 pm sharp. We will be taking a graduation group photo. If you are late, you will miss your opportunity to be included in the photo.
- Parent and Guest Expectations:
 - Commencement is an exciting occasion for the graduates, their families and guests. Please follow these guidelines and be considerate of other guests so that everyone may have a memorable experience:
 - Plan to arrive on time. Late arrivals are disruptive to other guests and the graduates.
 - There will be a high volume of traffic entering and leaving campus in addition to normal traffic which varies by the time of day. Please plan to arrive early to allow plenty of time to find a parking spot, walk to the Arena and locate a seat.
 - Saving seats in the Arena is not permitted. Seats are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

- There is no provision at the ceremony for storing personal items such as purses, briefcases, backpacks, etc.
- Balloons and signs are not permitted within the venue.
- Strollers are not permitted in the arena. Strollers brought into the venue must be left along a wall in the lobby. Wheeler High School is not responsible for strollers left in the lobby.
- The use of tripods, monopods, selfie-sticks and other camera stabilizing devices is not permitted.
- All aisles, stairwells and doorways must remain clear at all times.
- Guests are not permitted on the arena floor. This area is reserved for graduates and processing faculty only.
- Guests are not permitted in the graduate line-up area.
- Guests are not permitted to stand in aisles.
- Please silence all cell phones prior to the start of the ceremony.
- Parents, family members and other guests are encouraged to meet their graduate on the Wheeler Football Field following the ceremony.
- Parking is available on the Wheeler High School campus and East Cobb Middle School campus. Carpooling is strongly recommended as parking will be limited.

Parking Locations

Graduates	St. Catherine's Church on Holt Road.
Guests with Disabilities or Requiring Special Assistance	East Cobb Middle School Parking Lot -- Assistance to and from the Wheeler Arena will be available for guests.
All Other Guests	Wheeler Bus Port -or- Wheeler Parking Lot -or- East Cobb Middle School Parking Lot

- **Graduation Tickets:**

- **Tickets** are required for **ALL** persons entering. This includes babies, children, and individuals in wheelchairs. Please note that this requirement is due to the fact that tickets are based on overall capacity, not just number of seats. Tickets are distributed on the last day of Graduation Practice. Guest entry is through the Arena Doors on Holt Road **only**. The doors will open 45 minutes prior to the start of each ceremony. Wheeler's process for distributing graduation tickets is as follows:
 - Each student will receive an automatic 2 tickets for graduation. Students are able to request additional tickets from October 1, 2017 through April 1, 2018. **We cannot guarantee that students will receive the full number of tickets requested**, but we will do our best to get each student as close to their requested number as possible.
 - Ticket numbers will be made available to students in homeroom after spring break. Please note that all tickets will be distributed on the last day of graduation practice.

- Additionally, per Wheeler policy, students will not receive more than 4 tickets if they fall in any one of the following three categories:
 1. Students who have received any OSS during the 2017-2018 school year.
 2. Students who have more than 15 unexcused tardies during the 2017-2018 school year.
 3. Students who have any outstanding fines, including media center fines, book fines, and parking fines

- **Photograph Orders:**

- **DVD Orders:**

- Not available for Wheeler (we do not do DVD recordings of graduation)

- **Appropriate Dress for Graduation:**

- All students are expected to dress in business attire.
 - For gentlemen, this includes dark colored dress pants and a light colored long sleeve button down shirt.
 - Ties and bowties are preferred but optional.
 - Dark dress shoes are preferred.
 - No sandals may be worn.
 - For ladies, this includes dresses (that are at least mid thigh length) or dark dress pants with a light colored blouse.
 - Ladies should wear footwear that they can walk comfortably in (sandals are allowed but not flip flops).
 - All clothing should be modest and follow school dress code.
 - No costumes are allowed under the graduation gown.
 - Graduation gown, stoles, cords, caps, and tassels will be worn throughout the entire ceremony.
 - Graduation gowns need to be fully zipped throughout the entire ceremony.

- **Graduation Ceremony Behavior and Expectations:**

- Student Expectations:
 - Commencement is a privilege and we want everyone to enjoy the ceremony. Please follow these guidelines and be considerate of the other graduates:
 - Students are not allowed to decorate their caps.
 - Please remain seated during the entire ceremony except for when you are walking to the stage to receive your diploma.
 - No streamers, balloons, beach balls, horns, etc. are allowed during the ceremony. If you are disruptive to the ceremony, you will be removed from the ceremony.
- Parent and Guest Expectations:
 - Commencement is an exciting occasion for the graduates, their families and guests. Please follow these guidelines and be considerate of other guests so that everyone may have a memorable experience:
 - Plan to arrive on time. Late arrivals are disruptive to other guests and the graduates.

- There will be a high volume of traffic entering and leaving campus in addition to normal traffic which varies by the time of day. Please plan to arrive early to allow plenty of time to find a parking spot, walk to the Arena and locate a seat.
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 - Guests are not permitted to stand in aisles.
 - Please silence all cell phones prior to the start of the ceremony.
 - Parents, family members and other guests are encouraged to meet their graduate on the Wheeler Football Field following the ceremony.
- **Diploma and Report Card Distribution:**
 - Diplomas will be available for pickup after Graduation on the Football Field. The cafeteria will be used in case of rain. In order to receive their diplomas, students must turn in their graduation gown. They keep their hats and tassels. Additionally, students will be required to complete community service hours on Wheeler's campus prior to receiving their diploma if they fall in one of the following categories:
 1. Students who miss any practice, are late to any practice, or leave early from any graduation practice.
 2. Students who conduct themselves in any way during the Graduation Ceremony that is not consistent with the distinguished nature of the program.