

# ***Oak Park and River Forest High School--District 200***

201 North Scoville Avenue · Oak Park, IL 60302-2296

Dear Member of the Class of 2021 and Parents/Guardians:

Oak Park and River Forest High School will hold its **Commencement for the Class of 2021 at 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 29, 2021**. Enclosed is important information that will address everything you need to know in order to prepare for the end of the school year and commencement. Please read this packet its entirety as it contains information on the Senior Celebration at Great America, gown distribution, attire, tickets, photographs, student expectations, and special needs seating. In the event that there is inclement weather on Saturday, May 29th, we will move the ceremonies to Sunday, May 30th. The times of the ceremonies would not change.

This year, we will be holding 2 commencement ceremonies, one at 3:00 PM and the other at 6:00 PM. Each ceremony will be about an hour long. In keeping with our tradition to allow counselors to distribute diplomas to their students, we have split the ceremonies by counselor as well. Please look for your counselor below to know which ceremony you are assigned to. The arrangements were made to ensure our ceremonies were split as evenly as possible. Some Athletes may have games or meets that day. Most of them are scheduled for the morning and will not impact the commencement schedule. We are working with our Athletic Director to develop a plan for the students that might have a conflict.

3:00 p.m. Ceremony	6:00 p.m. Ceremony
FUENTES	AMBROSE
HANSON	CAHILL
HOBSON	HERBST
JOHNSON	LYNCH
MEDINA	NIXEN
OJIKUTU	RADZISZEWSKI
SHERMAN	WHITE
SPONSLER	

**Several important forms need to be filled out by the due dates below. EVERY GRADUATING SENIOR MUST FILL OUT ALL 3 FORMS!**

- 1) **Graduation Information Form: filled out by Thursday, May 13, 2021.** This is where you will indicate if you are participating in the ceremony, if you need special needs tickets, how to pronounce your name, and other important details needed for this year. You can access the form by clicking [HERE](#). Every Senior needs to fill out this form.
- 2) **Naviance Graduation Survey: fill out by Friday, May 21, 2021.** If you have not already completed it, seniors need to log into their Naviance account and access your Naviance Graduation Survey. **EVERY GRADUATING SENIOR MUST FILL OUT THIS SURVEY!** It is only three questions long and will take a few minutes to complete. Click [HERE](#) for instructions on how to fill out the Naviance Graduation Survey.
- 3) **Class of 2021 Senior Capstone Survey: fill out by Friday, May 21, 2021.** Beginning today, you can access the Class of 2021 Senior Capstone Evaluation. Student Services is very interested in what you have to say and use the information we gather from the evaluation to drive our programming. As with the Naviance Graduation Survey, **EVERY GRADUATING SENIOR MUST FILL OUT THIS SURVEY!** Click [HERE](#) for instructions on how to fill out the Senior Capstone Survey. <https://tinyurl.com/2021OPRFECAPSTONE>
- 4) If you would like the merit scholarship awarded to you by your attending college/university, or any other merit scholarship that you have received, listed in the Commencement Program as well as the Wednesday Journal, you must scan a legible copy (no pictures please) of the documentation that verifies the name of the scholarship and the amount awarded, and email this documentation to **Mrs. Asbury** at [kasbury@oprfs.org](mailto:kasbury@oprfs.org) by **Monday, May 3, 2021**. For full details, please see Mrs. Asbury's email to you dated March 12, 2021.

<b>IMPORTANT EVENTS</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>Senior Celebration at Great America</b>	Sat 5/8	9 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.	More information on how to register for this event and other details is available below. This is open to all members of the Class of 2021 only and is free for all..
<b>Senior Bag Distribution</b>	Tues 5/25 & Wed 5/26	TBA	Students will be coming to pick up their graduation gowns, senior mask, and graduation instructions during these times. If you are a Scholarship Cup Recipient, you will also receive your cup and medal at this time. More details below.
<b>Graduation Rehearsal</b>	N/A	N/A	We will not be holding a Graduation Rehearsal this year. It is important that you read through the information included in your senior bag to know what to do on the day of Graduation. This information will also be emailed to graduates and their parents.
<b>Graduates Arrive at OPRF</b>	Sat 5/29	2 p.m. & 5 p.m.	Graduates will need to arrive at OPRF 1 hour before their ceremony. The Graduation information included in your senior bag will also include the location you will need to report to.
<b>Commencement Ceremony</b>	Sun 6/2	3 p.m. & 6 p.m.	Students will be given 2 guest tickets each. Stadium gates open 1 hour before each ceremony.

**Graduation Live Stream:** We understand that families may have more than 2 people that wish to attend or have family out of town that want to see the ceremony. For those that are not able to be in person for the ceremony, we will also have a Live Stream available for viewing on the day of the ceremony only. To watch the 2021 Graduation Ceremony go to <https://youtu.be/1h3lOWdze6w>. Live streaming will begin at 3pm on Saturday May 29, 2021.

<b>2021 Commencement Tickets</b>		
<b>Stadium Tickets</b>	<b>Five (2)</b>	Commencement will be held in the stadium on Saturday, May 29, weather permitting. In the event of inclement weather, we will move the ceremony to Sunday, May 30.
<b>Accommodated Seating</b>	<b>Must have been requested, supplies limited</b>	You may request to exchange your stadium tickets for our Accommodated seating section on the field while supplies last <u>when you complete the Google Form above.</u> <b>Keep in mind, this will exchange your 2 standard guest tickets for 2 seats on the field.</b>

**How will you know if the ceremony is on Saturday or Sunday?** The decision will be made no later than 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 29. NO CHANGES will be made after that time. If the ceremony is moved to Sunday, or if weather conditions give rise to any question at all, you will receive an email and robo-call. You can also check the website ([oprfs.org](http://oprfs.org)).

**Saliva Testing:** All students participating in Graduation will need to submit a saliva test no later than 1 p.m. on May 25, 2021. Students with last names **M-Z should submit on Wednesday 5/19 and Thursday 5/20** and students with last names **A-L should submit on Monday 5/24 or Tuesday 5/25**. For those that have not submitted Saliva prior to this, you will need to pick up saliva kits (including instructions) on Monday-Friday from 7:30-3:30 p.m. in the Student Center. Prior to picking up a kit, the first parent/guardian in each student's Skyward account will need to consent to saliva testing. [Click here](#) for instructions on how to consent to testing. **Students that do not submit a saliva test will not be allowed to attend the ceremony.**

#### **Textbook Returns:**

Graduating seniors must return all textbooks to the bookstore by **Friday, May 21, 2021** or unreturned textbooks will be billed. No official transcripts will be issued until all obligations are paid. More details on how students will return their textbooks will be available shortly.

**Obligations:**

Graduating seniors must **clear all obligations by 3:30 p.m. on Friday, May 21, 2021**. An obligation includes, but is not limited to, loaned books, installment-plan payments, library fines, athletic equipment or uniform, a loaner PE uniform, or borrowed books. All items must be returned to the appropriate department for the obligation to be cleared. Any billed monetary obligation should be either paid online or in the Bookstore. Questions regarding obligations should be directed to the appropriate department.

**Food Service Accounts:**

Please check your food service account to see if you still have funds in it. If you do, you can either request a refund or have it rolled over into a siblings account. Please remember to turn off Auto-Replenish. Requests for refunds and rollovers can be emailed to [mpiekarski@oprfs.org](mailto:mpiekarski@oprfs.org) or mailed to Oak Park & River Forest High School, % Food Service, 201 N. Scoville Ave, Oak Park, IL 60302. Requests cannot be taken over the phone.

- **To request a rollover to a sibling's account**, send the student's name and ID number for the account you are closing and specify the name and student ID number for the account you want the money transferred to.
- **For Refunds**, Send the student's name and ID number of the account you are closing. If the amount is over \$25, please include the name and address of the check recipient. If the amount is less than \$25, we ask that you pick the refund up in person no later than May 28, 2021.

We look forward to sharing this commencement with our Class of 2021 and their families, an observance that will reflect the significance of our students' accomplishment and the pride we all feel on their behalf.

Sincerely,

Susan Johnson  
Director of Student Activities

**TEL: (708) 383-0700**

**WEB: [www.oprfhs.org](http://www.oprfhs.org)**

**TTY/TDD: (708) 524-5500**

**FAX: (708) 434-3910**

## **The Senior Celebration at Great America**

**We want to take ALL of you to Six Flag Great America this year!** We're going on **Saturday, May 8th from 9 a.m. until about 9:30 p.m.** to have one last big celebration together! All Members of the Class of 2021 are invited to attend **free** of charge. Students will be transported there and back in buses with no more than 30 students per bus. Students will also be given a meal that they will eat together in a private picnic grove at 1:30 p.m. that day. Below are the details. Make sure to read and follow ALL directions!

- 1) **Please register for Six flags by completing [THIS form by Friday, April 30th.](#)** It is important that you do this on time as we need to be able to let the park know how many are coming so they can prepare food. This form includes parent permission, so fill out the form with your parents.
- 2) **Sign up for a bus at Signup Genius by clicking [HERE](#) and use the access code: OPRF2021.** You and your friends can work together to ensure you are riding the same buses. As more students sign up, we may open up more buses. Those that do not sign up for a bus by **Friday, April 30th** will be assigned one. You will also get an email directly from Signup Genius with a link to sign up. You will need to use your student email to sign up for the bus.
- 3) **Saliva Testing:** All students attending the trip will need to submit a saliva test no later than 1 p.m. on Wednesday, May 5, 2021. Students with last names A-L should submit on Monday (5/3) or Tuesday (5/4) and students with last names M-Z should submit on Wednesday (5/5). For those that have not submitted Saliva prior to this, you will need to pick up saliva kits (including instructions) on Monday-Friday from 7:30-3:30 p.m. in the Student Center. Prior to picking up a kit, the first parent/guardian in each student's Skyward account will need to consent to saliva testing. [Click here](#) for instructions on how to consent to testing. **Students that do not submit a saliva test will not be allowed to attend the trip.**
- 4) In addition, students attending the trip will need to have their parent/guardian complete their student's health certification on May 8th, 2021 prior to arriving at the school. The first parent/guardian in the student's Skyward account will receive an email at 4 a.m. with instructions on how to complete the screener. You must receive a green check mark in order to attend the trip that day. **Students will need to show their green check mark upon arrival.**
- 5) Arrive at OPRF at your scheduled arrival time. It is likely that we will stagger arrival times by bus. More information on what time to arrive will be emailed the week of the trip.
- 6) **Students may not drive themselves** to or from the park.
- 7) Your ticket and meal will be covered. Students can bring extra spending money if they wish to purchase additional food or items while at the park.
- 8) Some **Athletes** have games that morning and some seniors will be taking the **SAT** as well that morning. We will arrange for a bus to leave by 1:30 p.m. for those that this affects. Please indicate that you will need to ride that bus on the form above. You will **not** need to sign up for your bus on Signup Genius.
- 9) If you hold a Six Flags Great America Membership and want to use the benefits of it that day please indicate that on the form above. You would then swipe your pass when entering the park that morning.
- 10) You can find Great America's safety protocols by clicking [here](#). **Please review them prior to going on the trip.**

If you have questions about the Senior Celebration, please contact Students Activities ([asakellaris@oprfs.org](mailto:asakellaris@oprfs.org) or [sjohnson@oprfs.org](mailto:sjohnson@oprfs.org)) or Prom Sponsor, Neal Weisman ([nweisman@oprfs.org](mailto:nweisman@oprfs.org)) or by calling 708-434-3774.

## Commencement Guidelines

### Commencement Eligibility:

Students must meet the following criteria in order to be eligible to participate in the commencement ceremony:

1. Successfully complete academic and attendance requirements from Oak Park and River Forest High School during the first and/or second semester of the 2020-2021 school year.
2. **Clear all financial obligations by 3:30 p.m. on Friday, May 21, 2021.** *(Any obligations not cleared will result in the withholding of your transcripts until they are met).*
3. **Please note:** receiving commencement materials or senior yard signs does not guarantee graduation. Students must meet all academic and attendance requirements in order to graduate.

### Responsibilities of Graduates:

1. Check with your counselor to ensure that your attendance and academic status will allow you to graduate.
2. Complete the graduation google doc "<https://forms.gle/cY436z38JXJck5eK8>" by Thursday, May 13th. Be sure to also complete the Naviance Survey and Senior Capstone Survey by **Friday, May 21, 2021**.
3. Pick up your Senior Bag of graduation materials on **Tuesday, May 25th (for those in the 3 p.m. ceremony)** and **Wednesday, May 26th (for those in the 6 p.m. ceremony)**. We will share a time for this as it gets closer. Bags will be distributed to students as they drive down Scoville Ave and stop at Door 3. **This is where you will get your Cap and Gown and Graduation Tickets.**
4. Turn in a Saliva Test! Students with last names **M-Z should submit on Wednesday 5/19 and Thursday 5/20** and students with last names **A-L should submit on Monday 5/24 or Tuesday 5/25.**
5. Obey all attire guidelines (see below) and OPRF Code of Conduct rules at Great America and commencement.
6. Graduates may choose to receive their diplomas privately. If you choose this option, please email Student Activities at [asakellaris@oprfs.org](mailto:asakellaris@oprfs.org) or [sjohnson@oprfs.org](mailto:sjohnson@oprfs.org) to make these arrangements.
7. **All graduates and guests will be required to wear a mask and maintain social distancing all times while on campus for graduation.** More details on safety precautions will be included in the Graduation Information that will be sent out closer to graduation.
8. **Please do not bring purses, phones, sunglasses, or anything you'd have to carry.** You will not be entering the building.
9. **Students may be excluded from the commencement ceremony if they break the Student Code of Conduct throughout the year.**
10. **Students may be removed from the commencement ceremony if they engage in inappropriate behavior during the ceremony.**
  - a. Maintain the dignity of the commencement ceremony.
  - b. Inflatable objects and other items that may disrupt the ceremony are prohibited.
  - c. Remain quiet and attentive during the commencement ceremony so that parents, friends and guests have the opportunity to hear all of the graduates' names being announced.
  - d. **This is a smoke-free environment. Cigars and cigarettes are prohibited on school grounds before, during and after the ceremony.**
11. If there is an error on your diploma, corrections can be made at a later time. Even if you are handed the wrong diploma, exchange it after the ceremony.
12. Save cheering for after the ceremony.

### Responsibilities of Parents/Guardians:

1. We want everyone to hear each graduate's name announced. This can be accomplished only if guests remain quiet during the ceremony. **Please hold your applause until all names have been announced.**
2. **No large bouquets or latex or Mylar balloons, please.**
3. Arrive prior to the ceremony start time to avoid disrupting others when getting seated.
4. Each ceremony will take about 1 hour to complete.
5. **All graduates and guests will be required to wear a mask and maintain social distancing all times while on campus for graduation.**

### Parking and Drop-Off for Accommodated Seating:

Individuals and their companions should be dropped off at the designated location at the southwest corner of the Stadium near Linden Avenue. All Accommodated Seating ticket holders must enter at this designated gate.

**Volunteers will be present at the ceremony to assist individuals with special needs.**

## **2021 Graduation Attire Information**

**All graduates will need to pick up their blue cap and gown at Senior Bag Distribution.** This will be on **Tuesday, May 25th (for those in the 3 p.m. ceremony)** and **Wednesday, May 26th (for those in the 6 p.m. ceremony)**. You will drive up along Scoville Ave and stop outside of the Driver's Ed entrance (Door 3) where a volunteer will pass you your bag. If you need to walk up, instead of drive, you may do that as well. Students should come on the day associated with their assigned graduation ceremony time, but we are aware that some may have scheduling conflicts. For those that cannot make it during these times, we will have a makeup option to pick them up from the Student Activity Center on Thursday, May 27th from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. from Ms. Angie Sakellaris.

**Students are required to report to OPRFHS 1 hour prior to their graduation ceremony.**

- Students will be notified at a later time the exact location on campus to go to when they arrive.
- As in previous years, all attire will be checked upon entry.
- Also as in previous years, students will be able to choose either a boutonniere or a bouquet of flowers upon arrival.

**Students must wear both their cap and gown in order to participate in the ceremony. Graduates will need to adhere to the following guidelines for their attire under their cap and gown:**

- **Graduation is a professional and timeless event.** We expect students to dress in a way that respects the specialness of the occasion.
- **Students may wear casual attire under their gown.** However, sweatpants, pajama pants, and ripped or torn clothing will not be permitted.
- **Spiked heels and flip flops are prohibited,** for safety reasons due to the surface and temperature of the field.
- **Hats (other than the graduation cap) and props are prohibited.**
- **Students should not have any phones, cameras, purses, etc., on their body.**

**Graduation Cap Decorating Guidelines:** The purpose of decorating your graduation cap is to enhance and personalize your graduation celebration. Examples of approved decorations include thanking a parent, grandparent, teacher, or friend; recognizing the university you will be attending; your graduation year; or the branch of the military you will be joining. Tassels should be worn on the right side at the start of the ceremony.

**Please take into consideration the following rules when decorating your graduation cap.** Failure to follow these rules will result in the removal of the cap at the ceremony. Students WILL NOT be allowed to participate in the ceremony without a cap and gown. Caps may NOT:

- Contain any advertisement, symbols, abbreviations, initials, words, slogans, patches, or pictures that refer to drugs or controlled substances, tobacco, alcohol, weapons, political in nature, or be of a sexual nature.
- Denote an affiliation with gangs or which advocate drug use, violence, illegal activity, or disruptive behavior which is detrimental to the safety and welfare of other students.
- Be obscene, profane, vulgar, or lewd.
- Include numbers other than the graduation year.
- Threaten the safety and welfare of any person.

Only the flat, top area of the mortar board may be decorated. There may be nothing hanging down from any of the sides of the cap other than the tassel that came with it. Decorations must be flat on the surface of the cap. 3-D creations are prohibited. Your cap CANNOT make noise. No bells, horns, or anything that makes noise.

**Graduation caps will be reviewed and approved in advance of the ceremony.** Note: This is not an exhaustive list and any adornment or message deemed inappropriate or determined to pose a safety risk, will not be permitted.

*Note: A student arriving in unapproved attire will be asked to change into OPRF-provided attire or NOT march in the procession.*

**Still have questions about attire for graduation?** Feel free to contact Student Activities!

Angie Sakellaris at 708-434-3774 or [asakellaris@oprfrhs.org](mailto:asakellaris@oprfrhs.org)

Susan Johnson at 708-434-3174 or [sjohnson@oprfrhs.org](mailto:sjohnson@oprfrhs.org)