



Dear Parents/Guardians of PHS '19 Seniors,

Without a doubt, it is an exciting time of the year for our seniors. Our graduation ceremony will signify the end of a high school career, recognize hard work and commitment, and help with the realization that the future is bright and that the doors of opportunity are wide open. This should be a very proud moment for not only our students, but also parents, siblings, relatives, staff, and community members.

No tickets are required of the guests: the Class of 2019 and PHS staff ask that our ceremony be conducted in a respectful fashion. Appropriate dress and behavior would be greatly appreciated, as well as refraining from using distracting items and noisemakers at any time. *Thank you!*

The rest of this letter is to inform you of some details regarding the final days of school for seniors, recognition events, and graduation ceremony requirements and directions.

Critical Final Month

Please keep in mind in order for students to participate in the graduation ceremony, they must have met the 24-credit requirement for the regular PHS diploma or met all of the criteria for an Alternative and/or GEDO 1 or 2 based diploma. The most common reasons for students not completing credit requirements include poor attendance and not completing the required assignments in courses necessary for graduation. Now would be an excellent time to have a serious talk with your senior regarding the completion of all obligations during the final month of school. It is extremely heartbreaking for our counselors to call and inform parents/guardians of a senior that their student will not be able to attend the ceremony and receive a diploma because of not meeting the 24-credit criteria. We are certain that all students have been made aware of their critical standing since last summer and throughout the year and whether they are passing or failing current courses. If you have questions regarding graduation requirements or your student's status, please do not hesitate to contact your student's counselor at 822-6725.

A separate but related responsibility is for seniors to take care of all fines, fees, detentions, etc. and to return any library books and textbooks that have been entrusted in their care. Unpaid fees can be viewed and paid online through the Skyward parent access portal.

Last Days of School for Seniors

Tues, April 23	Senior Class Meeting - Cap & Gown Distribution	Homeroom
Wed, May 22	Senior Scholarship Reception	7:00 p.m.
Thur, May 23	Regular Day - Senior Locker Check	Homeroom
Fri, May 24	Srs Last Day of School (Bring Cap, Gown & Tassel)	
	Regular Classes	Mods 1 & 2
	Last Homeroom - Words of Advice	Homeroom
	Graduates To District Schools	Mods 3-6
	Regular Classes	Mods 7-14
Mon, May 27	Memorial Day - No School	
Tue, May 28	Seniors - No School. Individual Senior Makeups or Meetings by Appointment.	



Wed, May 29

Graduation practice @ 9:30 a.m. in the Field House until it is done well enough for the ceremony. PRACTICE MANDATORY TO PARTICIPATE IN GRADUATION CEREMONY. Mortarboards required at practice for approval (see below).

Senior Picnic (lunch) at Memorial Park Following Practice.

GRADUATION CEREMONY

- Field House Doors Open for Public @ 5:45 p.m.
- Seniors Report @ 5:45 p.m. in the Auditorium for Pictures and Sr Slide Show
- Ceremony @ 7:00 p.m. in the Field House.

Parents/guests are welcome to attend the Senior Scholarship Evening on May 22 at 7:00 p.m. Local scholarships will be awarded and other scholastic awards earned by seniors will be acknowledged as well. Your senior student will be **invited** to this event if they are receiving recognition on this evening.

Graduation practice is a **requirement** for participation in the Graduation Ceremony. Students with conflicting appointments or other obligations should make other arrangements. In order for the ceremony to flow smoothly, it is necessary for every student to be aware of the expectations that will be explained at practice. All seniors are expected to be at school no later than 9:30 a.m. for practice. The Graduation Ceremony begins at 7 p.m. All seniors are to be in the auditorium by 5:45 p.m. Pictures will be taken promptly at 6:00 p.m.

Seniors will receive their caps and gowns at school on Tuesday, April 23. Please be sure you have paid the full balance due to Herff Jones before this date or your senior will not receive his/her order. You may call Herff Jones customer service at 800-837-4235 if you have a question about your account. It is also important that the gown be taken out of its package and hung. This will eliminate the wrinkles and look presentable for the ceremony. If your student does not receive a cap and/or gown on Tuesday, April 23, please call Gina Siolka (822-6725) at PHS as soon as possible.

Graduation Ceremony - Wednesday, May 29, 2019

Report Time: Commencement will begin at 7 p.m. Doors open for guests at 5:45 p.m. Seniors should report to the high school no later than 5:45 p.m. and proceed directly to the auditorium.

Parking: Seniors & Staff (West Parking Lot or Staff Parking Lot- please enter door #2).
Guests (East Parking Lot or Student Parking Lot- please use commons entrance).

Tickets: No admission tickets are needed for the Class of 2019 Graduation Ceremony.

Seating: There will be general seating in the gymnasium. Additionally, there will be an overflow area in the auditorium utilizing closed circuit television. Reserved elderly and handicapped seating will be available in the auditorium and gymnasium. Handicapped seating is limited to 4 seats per family. Please call Rose Judkins (822-6715) at PHS to reserve elderly and handicapped seating by Friday, May 24.

Sr Slide Show: The slide show will be viewed by the seniors in the auditorium prior to the ceremony as requested by the 2019 Class Officers. The slide show will be looped in the gym when the doors open until the start of the ceremony.

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- Dress:** It is appropriate for men to wear dress slacks and shirt w/collar (optional tie) under their gowns and women to wear a medium length skirt, dress, or pantsuit. Informal wear (flip-flops, tennis shoes, boys' sandals, t-shirts, shorts, jeans, etc.) would be inappropriate for our ceremony. Women's dress sandals are not considered informal wear for this occasion.
- Mortarboards:** May be decorated with the following guidelines set forth by the Senior Class Officers:
- No inappropriate language, suggestive remarks, or inappropriate connotations.
 - No gang or racial symbols.
 - No drug or alcohol references.
 - Only decorate the top of the hat.
 - No other hanging items besides the tassel.
 - All decorated mortarboards must be approved at the graduation practice.
 - Failure to follow student created rules will result in mortarboard not being allowed.
- Tassel:** The tassel starts on the right side of the mortarboard and is moved to the left side when directed by the Principal after the presentation of the diplomas
- Cords:** Only school issued, earned cords (Global Achievement, NHS, and Mu Alpha Theta) may be worn during the ceremony.
- Photography:** There will be two marching lines, a diploma table, and designated photography area on both sides of the podium. Please ask your graduate after practice which side of the gym he/she will be on so you can plan accordingly. We ask that family photographers come to the photo area only when your graduate is to receive a diploma so that the area will not be crowded for others.
- If interested in professional photos of your graduate receiving their diploma, Countryside Photographers will be taking pictures as the graduates receive their diploma, along with a head and shoulder portrait prior to the ceremony. Once graduation night is **complete**, Countryside will notify you when the images are posted on their website www.countrysidephoto.com.
- Decorum:** Please hold your applause until all graduates have received their diploma. This will help avoid delays and minimize interference with graduates that follow. The Class of 2018 and PHS staff request that members of the audience dress appropriately and observe all rules of courtesy. Smoking is not allowed on the Pulaski Community School grounds in accordance with State law. **Air horns and other noisemakers are prohibited on the premises. Objects of any sort are not to be thrown during the ceremony. Purposeful, distracting behavior of any sort is not appropriate.**
- Participation:** In order for students to participate in the graduation ceremony, they must have met the 24-credit requirement for the regular PHS diploma or met all the criteria for an Alternative and/or GEDO 1 or 2 based diploma.
- Diplomas:** Only the jacket/covers to the diplomas will be handed out during the graduation ceremony. **Immediately after the ceremony, students should report to the auditorium to pick up their diploma.** PHS staff will be distributing diplomas following the ceremony.