



HILLSIDE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
"Ready, Set, Excel"

Antoine L. Gayles, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

June 12, 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian of a Senior:

CONGRATULATIONS! Graduation has been scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 21, 2017 at Woodfield Stadium. For this momentous celebration, students are allowed a maximum of 6 tickets for family and friends (2 red and 4 gray). The ceremony will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m. Stadium gates will open 5:00 p.m. Seniors are expected to arrive by 5:30 p.m. Please leave ample time for travel, to allow time for parking and seating, which is on a first come, first serve basis.

A professional photographer will photograph the graduates as they receive their diplomas. Graduation photos will be online at www.events.lifetouch.com/hillsidehillsidenj 2 weeks after the ceremony and complimentary proofs will be mailed to the graduates. There is no obligation to purchase additional photographs.

The graduation ceremony is conducted with dignity and therefore students must be dressed appropriately to participate in this formal affair. Male graduates must wear dress shoes, socks, dress pants, and a dress shirt. Female graduates must wear skirts or dresses around knee length. Graduates cannot wear sneakers, flip flops, work boots, shorts, T-shirts, blue jeans, miniskirts, etc. Girls may wear open-toed shoes and it is strongly suggested that flat shoes are worn. The caps and gowns cannot be adorned in any way. Flowers are not permitted either on the caps and gowns or on the wrist. The objective is for every graduate to dress similarly and appropriately. Those graduates not dressed appropriately **will not** be allowed to participate in the ceremony. Furthermore, only those students who follow the rules and regulations of dress, decorum, and appropriate behavior will receive their diploma that evening. Audience Guidelines are attached for your review. All graduation requirements must be met and fines must be paid before students receive their caps, gowns, and diplomas. Caps and gowns will be distributed to prospective graduates on Tuesday, June 20th during graduation practice.

Graduation practice is scheduled for Friday, June 16th and Tuesday, June 20th.

Inclement Weather

In the event of inclement weather, **only two family members (red tickets only)** will be admitted into the graduation ceremony, which will take place in the high school gymnasium. However, other ticket holders will be admitted into the auditorium where the graduation ceremony will be simulcast.

Please arrive early as all seating and parking are on a first come, first serve basis. **The doors will close promptly at 6:30 pm and no one will be allowed to enter once the ceremony has begun, even if you are in possession of a red ticket.** For everyone's enjoyment of the indoor ceremony, balloons **will not** be allowed in the gymnasium.

We look forward to honoring the Class of 2017 on their outstanding achievement.

AUDIENCE GUIDELINES

To Our Guests: Only through the cooperation of all people present can we hope to celebrate in an exemplary fashion the achievements of our students. Therefore, it is requested that all in attendance comply with the following:

- No large bags will be permitted into the arena. All other bags will be checked at the gate for security reasons.
- All aisles must be kept clear at all times. This is imperative as a safety factor. Upon arrival, please select a seat and remain in that area throughout the ceremony.
- There is a designated area for handicapped guests; however, they may be accompanied by only one guest in that area.
- Balloons impede the view of our guests. Please be mindful and considerate of other Guests. Balloons are not permitted if the ceremony is held in doors.
- When the graduates begin the processional, all audience members should stand.
- Audience members must refrain from talking, calling out, or yelling at any time during the ceremony, as it is inappropriate for a dignified commencement exercise.
- The only appropriate response is applause.
- Air horns have no place at a commencement ceremony. We ask that parents and friends refrain from bringing and using air horns and other artificial noise makers which take away from this distinguished ceremony.
- Graduates are not to be stopped during the closing recessional. Pictures may be taken outside the stadium at the conclusion of the ceremony.
- Owning a camera or camcorder does not exclude you from following the above rules. It is imperative you remain in your seat throughout the entire ceremony. It is hoped that the Hillside community will take these recommendations in the spirit in which they are given, that is, for the benefit and welfare of our students. It is only through your cooperation that we can hope to provide a dignified and safe graduation ceremony. Our students have worked very hard to fulfill all local and state requirements and they deserve no less.