

2020 Virtual Graduation and Senior Celebration: Parent/Guardian Communication

Purpose

Fort Worth ISD will honor all graduating Seniors with a Virtual Commencement ceremony due to the COVID-19 restrictions currently in place prohibiting large gatherings and the continued closure of schools across Texas. Our virtual graduation allows certification of graduating seniors without further delay, valedictorians and salutatorians to deliver their speeches, and an opportunity to honor all Seniors for their accomplishments.

In addition, the district will host an outdoor, in-person Senior Celebration for graduating Seniors. Senior Celebrations will provide an opportunity for parents to see their child recognized in person while abiding by state and federal health guidelines. The celebrations will follow the most recently released TEA guidelines for such ceremonies.

Fort Worth ISD remains committed to honoring our Seniors in a manner that does not minimize their achievement, and at this time, the Virtual Graduation and Senior Celebration accommodates all Seniors.

CDC Recommendations for the Senior Celebration

- Follow the CDC guidelines and recommendations during the Senior Celebration
- Everyone is required to follow CDC guidelines for safety. Which states in part:
 - Clean your hands often
 - Maintain social distance between yourself and other people
 - Avoid close contact with people who are sick
 - Cover coughs and sneezes
 - Stay home if you are sick

Virtual Graduation Overview and Schedule

Virtual Graduation is an online streaming event that highlights each individual graduate. Technology will allow students to share photos of themselves in their cap and gown, and a personalized video message as they “move the tassel” to indicate their status as newly-minted graduates. A link to a special online platform will enable an unlimited number of family and friends to participate from any location. This process provides each new graduate their individual #MoveTheTassel moment with a personalized video file to share with loved ones on social media. Please refer to the following link for your school’s Virtual Graduation time: [2020 Virtual Graduation Schedule by School](#).

What Happens the Day of the Virtual Graduation

Students and their loved ones will go to a website hosted by StageClip, which allows them to experience a shared moment while they watch the ceremony. Students and their families can view their personal slides and clips, and hear their names announced either as part of the video presentation, or individually by searching the slides (after the live version has aired).

Senior Celebration Schedule

Seniors participate in in-person graduation celebrations. The outdoor events are voluntary and will have limited audience members. The outdoor celebration is also contingent on weather and public health conditions and will take place at either Farrington Field or Clark Stadium (the District’s two largest outdoor athletic venues) from June 19th-26th. The District will follow CDC guidelines for social distancing. To adhere to CDC guidelines, each student is allowed to bring four guests. Please refer to the following link for your school’s Senior Celebration time and location: [Senior Celebration Schedule](#).

What Happens the Day of the Senior Celebration

Each graduating Senior will participate in the voluntary, outdoor, in-person celebration and can bring **four guests only** to the event. Students will participate in a ceremony opening, recognition of honors, a formal presentation of the Graduating Class of 2020 (“walk-the-stage” moment to receive their diploma), conferment of the 2020 Graduates, and a final exit march.

Individual Student Videos for the Virtual Graduation

Similar to traditional commencement exercises, students are required to submit a photo in their cap and gown. Students who **do not submit** a picture are announced by name with their graduating class and included in the

program. All students will have the opportunity to personalize a short message on their graduate slide. Students may complete their video at home or have an opportunity to film at their campus **May 26-27th**. **All students participating in video graduation must submit a signed media release from the students/parents who submit the pictures and videos for the virtual graduation.** You may download, print, and sign the linked document ([Media Release English](#) [Media Release Spanish](#)) and submit to your school **May 26th-May 27th**, or you can obtain the form from your campus **May 26th-May 27th**. StageClip Virtual Commencement products allow graduates to express their thanks for friends and family in their own words, as well as express their emotions during an important moment of their life. Although we encourage graduates to express themselves freely, commencement is a formal affair. To that end, we have a set of content guidelines. Any content flagged as inappropriate will be removed from both the Virtual Graduation and the StageClip associated with the student.

Video Production Instructions

Students received an email from graduation@marchingorder.com on their FWISD email with directions to upload videos (this a no-reply email), The uploads are due **Wednesday, May 27th**. Students will receive an email confirmation once uploads are complete. Students should receive this email within the next few days.

Cap and Gown Requirements for Virtual Graduation and the Senior Celebration

The Virtual Graduation and Senior Celebration are formal events; therefore, cap and gowns are required to participate in both events. If you need to order a gown, please contact your school's graduation service provider.

Herff Jones: Students who did not pick up their cap and gown at their scheduled campus pick up, or have not ordered, can go to the Herff Jones office at 3300 Joyce Drive, Fort Worth, Texas 76116 from 10 am to 2 pm Monday - Friday. There is a sign on the door with a number to text your name and school. Please state if you are picking up or need to place an order. Online ordering is currently disabled.