

March 30, 2021

Dear Seniors and Families,

I cannot believe how quickly the 20-21 school year has flown by. Despite the ever-changing educational landscape, quarantines, postponed and rescheduled events, our seniors have prevailed. And they have done so with a resiliency and sense of perseverance that I admire tremendously. I have been so proud of the leadership the Class of 2021 has provided this year and I am confident that we will end the school year on a positive note, celebrating our seniors and providing them an opportunity to experience the traditional senior rites of passage.

Over the course of the next few weeks, the members of the Class of 2021 will conclude their high school careers, culminating in the commencement ceremony on Thursday, May 27, at Solon High School's Stewart Field. The purpose of this email is to share details of graduation and other upcoming events as well as to answer questions most often asked by seniors and their families.

Senior Awards Program

All of our awards programs will be held virtually this year. Details about the specific date the link will go live and the link for the event will be shared in mid-May.

Prom

Prom will be held at Signature of Solon Country Club on Saturday, May 15. Tickets for Prom will be sold online beginning April 6 through April 30. Additional information regarding Prom was sent in a separate correspondence.

Board of Education policies concerning student conduct will be enforced throughout the evening. All school rules pertinent to drugs, alcohol, smoking and proper behavior are in effect for this school-sponsored activity. Prior to entering the event, all students and guests will be subject to a breathalyzer test and must present a photo ID. Any student found to have consumed or to be in possession of alcohol or drugs will be removed from the activities and turned over to the custody of parents or police. No refunds will be given and appropriate disciplinary actions will be taken, including denial of the privilege of participating in the commencement ceremony.

Senior Project

The last day for seniors who have been approved to participate in Senior Project is Friday, April 30. These seniors must complete and turn in all required paperwork online by May 18 at 3:00 p.m. and participate in Senior Symposium on May 17 and 18. Seniors who do not complete all aspects of Senior Project will NOT participate in the commencement ceremony. For more details, please reference "Senior Project 20-21" under Quick Links on the SHS website.

Fees and Fines

All fees and fines must be paid by Friday, April 16, at 8:00 a.m. Seniors with outstanding financial obligations will not be able to pick up their cap and gown and therefore will not be able to participate in the commencement ceremony. Fees and fines must also be paid prior to purchasing a prom ticket.

Appropriate Behavior

Senior pranks can be dangerous, destructive and disruptive of the educational process, and therefore cannot be tolerated. Serious violations of the Student Code of Conduct prior to the end of the school year will result in students not being allowed to attend Prom, participate in Senior Project or participate in the commencement ceremony. Additionally, any senior observed in unacceptable behavior on the seniors' last day of school will not be permitted to attend the commencement ceremony. We have strictly enforced this policy in the past and will continue to do so. The members of the Class of 2021 have made mature and appropriate decisions throughout the year. I am confident that will continue.

Caps and Gowns

Seniors will pick-up their caps and gowns on Friday, April 16, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Senior Commons. All outstanding fees and fines must be paid before students can receive their cap and gown. Students MUST wear a cap and gown to participate in the commencement ceremony on May 27.

Commencement Speech Auditions

Seniors interested in auditioning to be a commencement speaker need to join Mrs. Langston's Google Classroom – details below. Each interested student must submit both a written speech and recording no later than 3:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 6th. Please join the GCL as soon as possible so we have an idea of who is interested in auditioning and can keep in contact with you if any changes occur or if you have any questions. Link to the 2021 Senior GCL Joining Code: tjiirmy. Speech Criteria has been sent out to all seniors via Naviance. If you have any questions, please email Mrs. Langston, Senior Class Advisor, at janelangston@solonboe.org.

Commencement Rehearsal

Commencement rehearsal will take place on Tuesday, May 25, at 9:30 a.m. at Solon High School's Stewart Field. Rain dates for rehearsal if there is inclement weather will be Wednesday, May 26, and Thursday, May 27, at 9:30 a.m. Seniors MUST be present for rehearsal to participate in the commencement ceremony. Those seniors in National Honor Society must report to the SHS Main Gym at 8:45 a.m. with their gowns so a formal picture can be taken prior to practice. More details for our NHS seniors will come from Ms. Grondolsky in the coming weeks.

Commencement

Commencement will take place at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 27, at Solon High School's Stewart Field. Rain dates will be Friday, May 28, at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, May 29, at 1:00 p.m. We will hold the ceremony in a light rain. However, if storms are present, we will utilize our rain dates. Admission is by ticket only. Each senior will receive 3 free tickets to the ceremony. ALL seats will be randomly assigned by last name. We will not be distributing tickets until the week before the ceremony, as there remains a possibility that capacity restrictions will be reduced and more tickets may be available. The ceremony will be live streamed for family members and friends to view in real time. As details about ticket distribution are determined, senior families and seniors will receive additional correspondence through email.

Parking – Families will receive information on parking based on their assigned seats in the stadium. This information will be shared when tickets are distributed.

Arrival – Students must report to the main gym staging area by 6:40 p.m. Gates to the stadium will open at 6:00 p.m. for family members.

To Enter – Every person who enters the stadium is required to have a ticket. Balloons, noise makers, signs are NOT permitted in the stadium.

Guests in Wheelchairs – These guests will be directed to our handicapped seating areas within the stadium and will be placed in an assigned location by stadium ushers

Dismissal – Graduates will exit the stadium by proceeding on the track and out the gate closest to the weight room. Family members will exit the stadium on the side their seats are assigned and will NOT be permitted on the track. Students will be instructed to proceed to their cars immediately after exiting the stadium. There can be no gathering in the parking lots.

Live Stream – The entire ceremony will be live streamed by Solon High School personnel. The ceremony will also be available on Solon Education TV after the event. Families may use personal video cameras from their seats but will not be permitted to leave their seats to record the ceremony.

Photos – A professional photographer will take a still photo of all graduates as they receive their diploma. Visit events.lifetouch.com for further information and to sign up and receive notification when your proofs are available for order.

Attire – All graduates must dress appropriately to participate in the commencement ceremony. Tennis shoes, jeans, shorts, adornments to caps and gowns are not permitted. Appropriate attire includes cap and gown, comfortable dress shoes (will need to walk some distance), dress pants and dress shirt or skirt/dress. (Jackets and ties are optional based on temperature.)

In addition: Students who have earned the **Academic Medallion (3.5 and above cumulative GPA) and/or the National Honor Society** honor cord should wear them for the ceremony.

Graduation from high school is a once-in-a-lifetime event. The commencement ceremony marks an important milestone and is conducted with dignity and decorum. Caps thrown in the air, unnecessary clapping, whistling, shouting, or any other such loud and abusive behavior is considered inappropriate at commencement, just as it would be at any other dignified ceremony. Your cooperation in maintaining the dignity and decorum of this event is appreciated.

The Class of 2021 is an outstanding group of young men and women. It is our hope that by clearly listing our expectations we can end the year on a positive note. Thank you for your continued cooperation and support. Please feel free to reach out to me directly if you have further questions or concerns at 440-349-6238 or erinshort@solonboe.org.

Sincerely,

Erin Short, SHS Principal