



UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL
GRADUATION 2020



1. COMMENCEMENT SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- Thursday, May 28 Balfour email sent to all graduates at stu.k12.wv.us accounts. This email had instructions to submit a photo in cap & gown and other details. Please complete this for Balfour as soon as possible.
- Thursday, June 11 Commencement tickets mailed to each senior participating in our ceremony. Tickets will be required for admission to the ceremony.
- Wednesday, June 24 **MANDATORY GRADUATION PRACTICE** – 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at **UHS Stadium** (no cap/gown needed) **Any requests for exemptions to this mandatory practice must be made in writing to Mrs. Greene through email at kgreene@k12.wv.us by June 23rd at noon.**
- Thursday, June 25 **GRADUATION** – 6:00 p.m. You must report to the field **no later** than 5:30 p.m. Remember to bring your cap with tassel and gown. Tell parents and guests that the stadium will open at 4:30 p.m. There will be plenty of seating available for those with tickets (2 per senior). All social distancing guidelines must be followed and masks are strongly recommended. Appropriate seating areas will be marked on the bleachers for guests.

2. PARTICIPATION IN THE CEREMONY

Participating in the Commencement Ceremony is a privilege given to students who meet all academic requirements for a high school diploma, who attend the required graduation practice for the ceremony, who dress in accordance with the ceremony requirements (cap, gown, etc.) and who follow behavioral standards for participation. It is important to note that your graduation ceremony is a dignified event where behavior should not be similar to behaviors at athletic events. The behaviors of all participants should reflect pride in your accomplishments and maturity in your actions. Please respect your classmates' rights to hear and experience all aspects of the ceremony. It is important for each graduate and their guests to hear the graduate's name called and to observe, uninterrupted, as the graduate crosses the stage to receive his/her diploma. Each student deserves to have their "moment" being the center of attention. Please allow this for each graduate. It is clear that the Class of 2020 has a high level of maturity and respect for their classmates so this should not be a challenge for you. Those candidates for graduation who disrupt the ceremony in any way may lose the privilege of participating in the entire ceremony. Please share with your guests that horns, noisemakers, large packages, balloons, etc. are inappropriate inside the stadium during this formal ceremony. Only graduates, UHS staff, and students involved with the ceremony will be permitted on the field. Also, please share with your guests that UHS campus is a tobacco free campus. For guests with ADA placards, ADA parking is available near the Stadium Entrance. Refreshments will not be sold so please let your guests know they are welcome to bring cold water with them to the ceremony.



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3. PROPER ATTIRE/ DRESS PROCEDURES

A. Attire

1. In the days prior to graduation, hanging your gown above a tub of steaming water or placing it in the dryer for 10 minutes on low will help remove wrinkles.
2. Be sure that when you leave for the ceremony, that you bring your cap, gown, and tassel as we do not have extras.
3. Seniors will put their gowns on after they arrive for the Commencement.
4. Secure your tassel to your cap so that you do not lose it. We do NOT have replacements.
5. Other adornments should not be added to the cap, gown, or tassel worn at the ceremony. Graduates should leave their purses, jackets, cell phones, etc. with their parents during the ceremony. Students may NOT carry a purse during commencement. Gentlemen are to wear light or white shirts, dark trousers, ties, socks and shoes. Ladies are to wear pastel or white dresses or neat pants suits. **For your safety and protection of the football field, no heels may be worn.** Wedges will be permitted.

B. Honor/Recognitions Sashes, Cords, and Medallions

1. Cords, sashes, and medallions recognized and approved through University High School are the only items that may be added to the graduation apparel. No other adornments from outside organizations may be worn during the ceremony.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

1. On Wednesday, June 24, seniors will practice for graduation at 12:00 p.m. at the stadium. When you enter the stadium for practice, you will report to the field. Seats will be labeled with your name. You will need to find your seat on the field and sit down. Seniors ***MUST*** attend practice in order to participate in the commencement ceremony. Seniors must follow the CDC guidance of 6' spacing during practice and masks are strongly recommended. Please be prompt, but drive carefully to and from practice sessions; we want every student to arrive safely. The length of rehearsal will depend upon the cooperation of all students.
2. You will accept your diploma from Mrs. Greene but this year you will not be able to shake hands as you accept it. Look at the camera when receiving your diploma. Mortar boards are to be worn parallel with the top of your head - not tilted backward or forward. You should not attach anything to or decorate your mortar board or gown. Tassels go on the right side. Please understand that if you throw your cap at the end of the ceremony, social distancing may prevent you from retrieving it.
3. After the graduation ceremony, graduates and families should meet at their vehicles. We will have several photo opportunities located around our campus to assist you in getting those memorable photos while social distancing. For our ticket holding guests, when entering the stadium, please immediately find a seat. Ushers will be available to assist with seating and dismiss guests by section to ensure social distancing at the end of the ceremony.