

# HINSDALE MIDDLE / HIGH SCHOOL

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May 10, 2016

Dear Parents and Members of the Class of 2016:

On behalf of the entire staff and administration, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you and your child on his/ her impending graduation. The purpose of this letter is to alert you to the timelines and deadlines associated with graduation and senior week activities. The graduation ceremony has been set for **11:00 AM on June 4, 2016** and will be held outside at the gazebo at Heritage Park, weather permitting. This letter also serves to remind you and your child that we are not yet at graduation and our students need to remain focused upon the task at hand. We have spoken with the potential graduates several times already and made clear to them that graduation is a **formal academic recognition** of their accomplishment. The ceremonial component of graduation is about them but not necessarily for them; it is a celebration for the entire academic community. The graduation ceremony is also a recognition of parental achievement, staff and administrative achievement as well as the investment of the entire community of Hinsdale.

**Students are expected to report to the gym by 9:30 AM on Saturday morning, June 4<sup>th</sup>.** The class picture will be taken at 10:00 AM. Please be prompt. Graduates should dress neatly with appropriate shoes, open-toed sandals are acceptable but no sneakers, flip-flops or boots. Dress pants, collared shirts, and dresses are strongly recommended, and no jeans or dungarees will be allowed. No students will be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony wearing inappropriate clothing or footwear. We have reached an understanding with the graduates that they may have appropriate messages of appreciation or recognition on the flat portion of the mortar board but there will be no objects on or hanging from the mortar board. All such decorations must be approved by the administration prior to the start of the ceremony; students who are in violation of these expectations will not march.

As you would expect, in order to participate in these activities, there are academic and behavioral requirements that our students must meet. In order to participate in the class activities, students must meet the academic and behavioral criteria outlined in the handbook for participation in graduation activities, including the payment of all financial obligations at the school. If financial assistance is required, a student need only see Mrs. Freitag to make the necessary arrangements. Seniors are also required to complete the Senior Sign-Out Sheet and Senior Materials Sheet. Again, students who fail to complete these responsibilities will not march. **Students who will be academically ineligible to graduate will be told by the principal on June 2, 2016;** parents will be called at that time as well.

**Perseverance    Advocacy    Collaboration    Empathy    Responsibility    Scholarship**

Senior Class Day will be held on **Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:30 AM in the school gymnasium.** Parents, grandparents and extended family are all invited to attend. The Senior Class Day activities will begin at 8:15 AM with a Breakfast for seniors in the school cafeteria, followed by the Class Day activities. Seniors will be required to wear their caps and gowns over appropriately formal dress and footwear. There will be a simple reception on the front lawn following the Class Day activities for parents, grandparents, relatives and graduates. **If the family would like younger students who are siblings or relatives to attend the reception, we ask that you provide us with written permission for them to miss classes following the Class Day ceremonies. Please have this to us on or before June 1<sup>st</sup>.**

I know that the next several weeks or so will be a blur for most of us but I would be remiss not to take this opportunity to tell you how much we have enjoyed working with your sons and daughters and watching them mature during this school year. They have been a wonderful group of kids; offering both tremendous challenges and many rewards. All of which leads me to the closing point of this letter.

The final quarter of high school is a difficult time for staff and students alike. Most of our students have outgrown the high school setting; that is not only age-appropriate but it is also the very thing we have been striving to achieve. Most of our students are ready to move on to the next facet of their life. This independence is a double-edged sword, however. While our students may feel that they have completed the school year, such is not the case. We still have several weeks to negotiate successfully together. We need their continued effort both academically and behaviorally. I would ask that you have that discussion with your child. It might help both of us to avoid having to face a difficult situation in what should be a time for joy and happiness. It is my hope that we never have to deny a student participation in the graduation ceremony due to behavioral issues but that is exactly what we will do if it is necessary.

Shown below is the schedule for senior exams and required graduation rehearsals: Senior exams begin each day with the first exam beginning at 7:55 AM and ending at 9: 35 AM; the second exam will begin at 9: 50 AM and last until 11: 30 AM. **Seniors who do not have an exam do not need to be here for that time block but must be on time for all exam periods and for graduation rehearsals.**

Thursday, May 26

Period 1 and 2 Exams

**Graduation Rehearsal** will be held at 12:50 PM in the Gym. **This will be line-up day; everyone should bring the shoes they anticipate wearing for graduation.** Be on time.

Tuesday, May 31

Period 3 and 4 Exams

**Graduation Rehearsal** will be held at 12:50 PM in the Gym. Be on time.

Wednesday, June 1

Period 6 and 7 Exams

**Graduation Rehearsal** will be held at 12:50 PM in the Gym. Be on time.

Thursday, June 2

Period 5 Exam

**Senior Notification Day**

**Graduation Rehearsal** will be held at 9:40 AM in the Gym. Be on time.

Friday, June 3: Class Day

Senior Breakfast will be held at 8:30 AM in the cafeteria. Seniors report with their cap and gown at 8:15 AM.

Class Day will begin at 9:30 in the Gym. Parents, Grandparents and family members are invited.

Senior Reception held outside of the Gym at 11: 30 AM. Family members invited.

Saturday, June 4: Graduation Day

Seniors report to the Gym 9:30 AM **Sharp!** Seniors must be appropriately dressed and bring their cap and gown.

Class Picture at 10:00 AM in caps and gowns.

Graduation March at 10:50 AM.

The decision on whether or not the ceremony can be held outdoors will be made early on Saturday morning in order to have all in readiness for the 11:00 AM beginning of the ceremony. If it is necessary to hold the commencement exercises indoors, each student will receive a limited number of tickets for their family members to attend. Seating will be on a first come, first served basis. With the exception of staff and dignitaries, there will be no reserved seating whether the graduation is inside or outside. I look forward to an exciting and memorable graduation ceremony. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call.

Sincerely,

Ann L. Freitag

Principal