

White Bear Lake Area High School

Senior Newsletter

Don Bosch, Principal



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

May 15, 2019

Academics and
Co-Curricular Awards Night 6:45 pm.
Scholarship Program 8:00 pm.

May 24, 2019

Senior Day 8:00 am. Breakfast at Jimmy's Event Center
Cost for Breakfast is \$20.00
Breakfast and Valleyfair is \$52.00

May 29, 2019

Cap, Gown and Ticket Distribution
during lunches. Students will receive 5 tickets

June 4, 2019

Last Day of School
for Seniors

June 5, 2019

Seniors will visit their Elementary school for the
Senior Parade - 9:30 am Sign up in advance.

June 7, 2019

Graduation
Practice at Aldrich Arena, 10:15 am.
Commencement Ceremony will begin at 7:00 pm.
Seniors should arrive by 6:00 pm.
All Night Graduation Party
@South Campus 10:30 pm.

Dear Parents/Guardians and Graduates of the Class of 2019:

Graduation plans are well underway and we are looking forward to honoring the Class of 2019 at commencement exercises on June 7 at **7:00 pm** at [Aldrich Arena](#). This letter includes important information regarding graduation, end of the year senior activities, and expectations that will make the remainder of the year a positive and safe experience for everyone. Page two of this newsletter contains specific information.

We look forward to sharing these culminating events with you and your families.

If you have any questions regarding senior activities or graduation, please call us at 651-773-6204.

Don Bosch, Principal

Matt Danielson, Senior Class Advisor

Don't live down to expectations. Go out there and do something remarkable.

—Wendy Wasserstein

Seniors

The end of the year is fast approaching. Graduates, remember to keep focused on the task of graduation.

District 624 considers the commencement exercise a special event that is earned by meeting all graduation requirements. Do not jeopardize your participation by poor attendance or poor work habits during your final days. It is extremely stressful not to know up until the last minute whether or not you will graduate. Because seating assignments are set the week prior to graduation, students who do not meet the requirements for graduation until the last minute will be seated out of alphabetical order. Please stay on task so you can fully enjoy all the events and excitement associated with graduation. We're here to support you all the way!

Senior Dismissal and the Senior Parade - Class of 2019

The senior class will be dismissed two days earlier than the rest of the high school.

- **June 3 and 4** - Seniors will complete their finals, grades will be recorded and GPA's calculated so we can determine graduation honors.
- **June 5 - Senior Parade** - Seniors will visit their elementary school in their caps and gowns, beginning at 9:30 am on June 6 and ending at noon.
- **June 6** - There are no school activities scheduled for Seniors.

- **June 7** - Graduation practice at Aldrich Arena at 10:15 am.
 - Seniors report for the commencement ceremony at 6:00 pm. **Doors open at 6:00 pm.** The ceremony will begin at 7:00 pm.



Graduation Information

Student Speakers at Commencement

One of the unique elements of our commencement ceremony is that students are our featured speakers. Each year students are chosen through an audition process to speak at the ceremony on one of three topics:

1. Greeting - welcoming all on behalf of the senior class.
2. Reflections on the past & future - reflecting on the graduates' common experiences.
3. Farewell - final words to the Class of 2019.

A faculty committee will select the speakers based on an audition process.

Students who are interested in speaking should:

- Sign up in the main office by Thursday, April 18.
- Submit a draft of their speech by April 26 to Mrs. Ackerknecht in the Main Office.
- Auditions will be held May 7 and 8 (Students will sign up for an audition time with Mrs. Ackerknecht.)

Conduct at Commencement

The commencement exercises are regarded as a dignified event. Graduates have completed thirteen years of education and their invited guests are coming to observe them receiving their high school diploma for this achievement. Therefore, we encourage all seniors, parents, and guests to participate in these ceremonies in a dignified manner.

Students participating in the commencement ceremony are expected to dress appropriately. Male graduates should wear dress shoes, socks, shirts with ties, and pants. Female graduates should wear low heels, skirts, dresses, or slacks. Corsages and flowers may not be worn or carried. **Students are not allowed to alter (-ie- draw, paint, add messages) their cap!**

Students and families have traditionally conducted themselves very well but we offer the following reminders:

- Throwing the cap following completion of the graduation ceremony is not an acceptable practice and we solicit your cooperation in eliminating this particular display.
- Friends and parents should not bring whistles, air horns or other noisemakers to the arena because the use of these items distracts from the dignity of the ceremony.
- Any student or guest who brings these items or discredits the commencement ceremony by creating a disturbance will be removed from the arena.

Caps and Gowns

Every student must wear a cap and gown to participate in the ceremony. Caps and gowns will be distributed during lunches on **Wednesday, May 29** to students who are on the graduation list and have completed their Senior Exit Survey on Naviance. **Graduates will keep their cap, gown and tassel.**

Graduation Photographs

Lifetouch® will be photographing all graduates at the graduation ceremony. Everyone will be photographed and photos will be available online at events.lifetouch.com ten days after the ceremony.

Graduation Rehearsal and Ceremony

All seniors who plan to participate in the commencement ceremony must report to [Aldrich Arena](#) by **10:15 am**, Friday, June 7. The graduation rehearsal will begin promptly at 10:30 am. It is very important that everyone be on time.

The ceremony will be held on Friday, June 7, at [Aldrich Arena](#), 1850 White Bear Avenue. The ceremony will begin at **7:00 pm**. Seniors must report to the ramp area at the west end of the arena by 6:00 pm.

If students elects not to participate in the ceremony, they must contact Ms. Ackerknecht in the Main Office by Thursday, May 30th.

Seating and Tickets

You will need to arrive early to avoid traffic and parking problems. We expect a full house of approximately 3,000 guests at this program. Admission is by ticket only.

- **Five tickets:** Due to the large number of graduates, we are able to only give five (5) tickets to each graduate. These tickets will be handed to seniors when they pick up their cap and gown on Wednesday, May 29 during lunch. Be sure to hang on to these tickets.
- **Need additional tickets?** Have your graduate ask their friends first. You may also call the main office (651-773-6200) the **end of May** to be put on a waiting list, if any additional tickets become available.
- **Don't need all your tickets?** Turn them into the main office to be distributed to those who need additional tickets.

Diplomas

Students will receive an empty diploma cover at the ceremony on June 7. Diplomas will be available for **pickup at South Campus in the main office** starting June 10. Summer Office hours are 7:00 - 12:00 and 1:00 - 3:00 pm. **Diplomas will not be mailed.** Non-participants at Commencement Ceremony may also pick up their diploma in the main office beginning June 10th.

Final report cards for both seniors and juniors will be available in Skyward after June 14.

Final Transcripts

Each student is required to complete a Senior Exit Survey, which will ask them about future plans, including to which college(s) they would like their final transcript sent. These transcripts will be sent electronically by the end of June.

End of Year Senior Activities

Participation Scholarship Funds

We do not want any senior to miss the opportunity to participate in Senior Day, or the Senior Party due to financial hardship. Any student who wishes to participate, but cannot afford to, should **contact their counselor** for funds. All requests are confidential.

Senior Day

Senior Day will be held Friday, May 24, 2019. The day begins with a catered breakfast at [Jimmy's Event Center](#) (3565 Labore Rd, Vadnais Heights, MN 55110) with a nationally known guest speaker - Tim Gabrielson. Students may choose to extend the day with a trip to Valleyfair. The day is as follows (times are approximations and may change due to traffic, service time for food, speaker length...etc.)

8:00 am	Doors Open at Jimmy's Event Center
8:15 am	Breakfast is served (Egg bake, hash browns, bacon, sausage, pancakes, fruit, coffee, juices)

9:15 am	Guest Speaker - Tim Gabrielson, nationally known comedian/magician
10:15 am	Announcements
10:30 am	Dismissed (Senior Wills and Summaries Available)
10:45 am	Busses leave for Valleyfair
11:30 am	Arrive at Valleyfair
4:45 pm	Be at front gates of Valleyfair to meet bus chaperone for departure
5:30 pm	Leave Valleyfair
6:30 pm	Arrive back at Jimmy's Event Center

Costs: Breakfast/Speaker/Senior Wills ONLY: \$20.00
 Breakfast/Speaker/Senior Wills and Bus/Valleyfair: \$52.00

Tickets will be available for purchase through [FeePay](#) from April 29 until May 19. No tickets can be sold after May 19 because the catering center must be given a final count to order food. Students MUST pick-up their ticket at the Student Activities Office between May 21 and May 23.

Students going to Valleyfair MUST ride the school bus to and from Valleyfair. Parking is somewhat limited at [Jimmy's Event Center](#) so **it is recommended that students carpool to the breakfast** and park in the back lot. If needed, there will be limited seating on a shuttle bus leaving South Campus at 7:55 AM to give students a ride to [Jimmy's Event Center](#). **Students intending to take the morning shuttle bus to [Jimmy's Event Center](#) should Sign up at Student Services.** There will also be a return bus to South Campus that will leave [Jimmy's Event Center](#) around 10:45 AM.

2019 PROM - "Golden Garden"

Prom will be held on Saturday, May 4th at the RiverCentre located in St. Paul from 8:00 - 11:00 pm. The [RiverCentre's](#) address and phone number is 175 W. Kellogg Blvd, (651) 265-4800.

- Tickets are now available for purchase on [FeePay](#) at the low cost of \$35 for an individual ticket and \$70 per couple until midnight on April 28th. A receipt of purchase will be required to pick up tickets and students must have all fines paid in full.
- From April 29th through May 3rd tickets are only available for purchase in the cafeteria during lunches. The cost during this final week is \$50 per person cash or check.

Tickets purchased through FeePay can be picked up during lunch beginning May 1 if all outstanding Media Fees and other fines are paid.

NOTE: Students may only bring one guest.

Bringing a guest who doesn't attend an ISD 624 school? A [Dance Guest Contract](#) Form needs to be completed:

- If your guest is from another high school, the [Dance Guest Contract](#) Form needs to be completed and signed by their high school and approved by our Administration.
- **If you would like to bring a guest who is 19 - 20 years old**, or does not attend high school, you must provide an email address and a phone number for your guest by **April 30** to Cathy Ackerknecht. A background check will need to be conducted before your guest can attend prom. **There is a \$15 charge for the background check.**
- **If your guest is 21 years old** or older, you must get approval from Principal Bosch, complete a [Dance Guest Contract](#), and provide email and phone information for your guest by April 30. A background check will need to be conducted. **The cost for the background check is \$15.**

All guests will need to present a picture ID at the door.

As with all school dances, attendees will be screened using an Alcoblow prior to admission.

REMINDER: All outstanding Media fees and other fines need to be paid before you can pick up your tickets. Student ID or other form of identification must also be presented.

Care Center Information:

Prom attendees are encouraged to participate in a longstanding service tradition of visiting one of three care centers at 3:00 pm, prior to Grand March. The residents enjoy seeing the students dressed up. Students may sign up for a care center visit beginning at 7:30 am on Wednesday, May 1st in the cafeteria and in the office the rest of the day until full.

Grand March

The Grand March will take place at South Campus on May 4 beginning at 4:30 pm in the gymnasium. Doors will open at 4:00 pm. After the Grand March, students will have time for dinner before the dance begins at the RiverCentre at 8:00 pm.

There will be a charge of \$1.00 for anyone 12 years of age or older who wishes to attend the Grand March.

Paying For Senior Activities

As noted in this newsletter, there are several activities that seniors may pay for at the end of the year. These activities can be paid online through [FeePay](#). You can also access [FeePay](#) through our district website on the main page or through the activities page.

Graduation - there is no fee for the commencement ceremony. All expenses are paid for by ISD 624.

Senior Day - Breakfast and Valleyfair – The cost of a ticket is \$20.00 for breakfast and Valleyfair. Breakfast only tickets are \$52.00. Tickets are purchased through [FeePay](#) from April 29 until May 19.

1. Purchased tickets may be picked up at Student Services from May 21 and May 23. You must have a Senior Day ticket (not just the receipt) in order to attend the Senior Day Breakfast & Valleyfair.

Prom Tickets - can be purchased online through [FeePay](#) April 1st through April 28th for \$35 per person. From April 28th through May 3rd, tickets will ONLY be on sale during lunches in the cafeteria at the higher cost of \$50 per person.

Purchased tickets will be available for pickup during lunches May 1-3. Student ID must be presented.

Reminder: **All outstanding Media fees and other fines need to be paid before you can pick up your ticket(s).**

Senior Prank

Students and parents should be aware that participation in any “senior prank” that causes damage to property or disruption of our school day will result in suspension from school and exclusion from the commencement ceremony. Years ago we had an “innocent senior prank” result in significant damage to property and criminal charges being pressed against a group of seniors. Let’s end the school year on a positive note!