

NHCS is proceeding with drive-in graduation at CFCC North Campus this week according to the published schedule. If we experience inclement weather, a decision may be made to change the format to drive-through with cars being directed in small groups to pass the stage for graduates to get out and walk across the stage.

In the event of lightning, a decision may be made to pause ceremonies until inclement weather passes.

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New Hanover County Schools Class of 2020 Graduation Frequently Asked Questions

How can my family get photos of the event and of my graduating senior?

Each high school has hired a photographer to take portrait photos of seniors with their diplomas as they exit the stage area. In addition, the district has hired a photographer to take candid photos during all graduation ceremonies. Candid photos will be available after the event through each high school. A montage of photos will also air on NHCS-TV after each event.

What was the process for determining how graduations would be held this year?

NHCS formed two task force work groups to discuss and determine the best alternatives for graduation ceremonies given state attendance and social distancing restrictions and public health and safety guidance from public health officials. Task forces included senior class presidents of each high school, faculty senior class advisors, the principals from each of the high schools, the deputy superintendent, the directors of secondary education and safety for the school system, along with a public health official.

What were the task force recommendations?

The Non-Traditional High School Graduation Task Force recommended the approval of the Drive In, Drive Thru and in-person with no more than 10 people present for indoor and no more than 25 people present for outdoor graduations for the students of IBECHS, WECHS, and Career Readiness Academy at Mosley. Each school would be able to select their graduation format based on the venue and incorporate elements of each of the acceptable options while adhering to all social distancing requirements and mass gathering restrictions. Graduations would occur no later than June 19.

The Traditional High School Graduation Task Force recommended the approval of the Drive In and Drive Thru Graduations for the students of Laney, Ashley, New Hanover and Hoggard High School. Each school would be able to customize the approved graduation format for personalization while adhering to all social distancing requirements and mass gathering restrictions. Graduations would occur no later than June 19.

Why was the week of June 15 chosen?

Students from the task force expressed support for ceremonies to be held sooner rather than later. The week of June 15 was chosen to allow for planning and preparation of the graduation ceremonies. The recommendations that were approved indicated that the ceremonies would happen no later than June 19.

What is the graduation schedule?

John T. Hoggard High School

Monday, June 15

Graduates with last names beginning with A-K-4 p.m.

Graduates with last names beginning with L-Z-7 p.m.

New Hanover High School

Tuesday, June 16

Graduates with last names beginning with A-K-4 p.m.

Graduates with last names beginning with L-Z-7 p.m.

E.A. Laney High School

Wednesday, June 17

Graduates with last names beginning with A-K-4 p.m.

Graduates with last names beginning with L-Z-7 p.m.

Eugene Ashley High School

Thursday, June 18

Graduates with last names beginning with A-K-4 p.m.

Graduates with last names beginning with L-Z-7 p.m.

Career Readiness Academy at Mosley PLC

Friday, June 19

All graduates 9 a.m.

Wilmington Early College High School

Friday, June 19

All graduates 5 p.m.

Isaac Bear Early College High School

Friday, June 19

All graduates 7 p.m.

What is the venue and how was it selected?

All graduations will be held at Cape Fear Community College North Campus, 4500 Blue Clay Rd., Castle Hayne, NC 28429. The large parking lot space at the North Campus provides a safe space and ample room for traffic patterns to allow the largest NHCS graduating classes to graduate half the class at one time. In addition, the space allows for a central stage and common technology support for streaming.

What will the graduation ceremony be like for my senior?

During each ceremony, students will exit their vehicles, as directed by staff, in small groups of 10 to walk to the stage. Once on stage, all students will have their name called, walk across the stage individually to receive their diploma, turn their tassels, and pose for a photo. Due to social distancing requirements, there will be no hand shakes. Students will then exit the stage through a tent to pick up their diploma and return to their vehicles. Hand sanitizer will be available in the tent.

How can I view and follow the event if I'm unable to attend?

The general public will have the option to view a live stream of high school graduation ceremonies online at [NHCS-TV Youtube](#). Candid photos will be shared on NHCS Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter channels.

What are the event details?

Drive-in graduation ceremonies for the New Hanover County Schools Class of 2020 will be held during the week of June 15-19, 2020 at Cape Fear Community College North Campus, 4500 Blue Clay Rd., Castle Hayne, NC 28429.

The CFCC North Campus main entrance gates will open one hour prior to each graduation ceremony start time. Graduation programs and masks for graduates who do not have their own mask will be available at the gate. Cars will follow signs and the direction of law enforcement officials to parking spaces. Parking spaces allow for standard-size vehicles only; oversized vehicles will be directed to the perimeter of the parking lot.

Parking on the main lot will be provided for one car per family. Attendees with specific family requirements should contact their high school. ADA considerations for students will be accommodated with parking near the stage and schools are reaching out to families to make arrangements. Students in need of transportation should also contact their school.

Only vehicles with a graduate in the car will be allowed in the main parking lot. All other vehicles will be directed to overflow parking until all cars with graduates have been parked. At that time, vehicles from the overflow lot will be directed to parking in the main lot as space allows. Following each ceremony, law enforcement officials will direct all traffic to exit onto Sidbury Rd.

During each ceremony, students will exit their vehicles, as directed by staff, in small groups of 10 to walk to the stage. Once on stage, all students will have their name called, walk across the stage individually to receive their diploma, turn their tassels, and pose for a photo. Due to social distancing requirements, there will be no hand shakes. Students will then exit the stage through

a tent to pick up their diploma and return to their vehicles. Hand sanitizer will be available in the tent.

What public health and safety measures are being taken at each event?

To comply with state and public health guidelines, all attendees other than graduating seniors are asked to remain in their vehicle at all times. All attendees are strongly encouraged to practice the 3 Ws wash, wear, wait: wear a cloth face covering at all times, wait six feet apart and avoid close contact, and wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer. High risk persons are asked to protect their health by using remote viewing options

What happens in the event of inclement weather?

In the event of heavy rain, the movement of students to the stage could be managed by vehicles driving to the stage under the direction of law enforcement officials.

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