

Application

to Audition as a SPEAKER at the PRHS Commencement Ceremonies on Saturday, May 15, 2021

Name of graduating senior: _____

Title of spring 2021 speech: _____

Word length: _____ (NOTE: to be considered, your speech should be between 2 and 3 minutes; this is typically 1.5-2 double-spaced pages)

Free periods spring semester: _____ Contact phone: _____ Contact email: _____

Eligibility:

Graduating seniors who meet the following criteria are invited to submit an application to speak for consideration by the selection committee:

- The student must be a graduating senior for the spring 2021 semester.
- The student must be in good standing with the district, having no pending disciplinary conduct issues or probations.
- The PRHS administration reserves the right to accept or deny any student speaker at its own discretion; such decisions are final.

Application Process:

This completed application form must be submitted **to the principal via email or shared doc (skoch@d155.org) no later than 3 p.m. on Wednesday, April 7th, 2021.**

- The selection committee will review all submitted speeches and select the finalists, who will be contacted to present their speeches orally before the committee later in the month.
- Once the finalists are selected, the oral presentations will proceed as follows:
 - Finalists will be contacted by Dr. Koch with the date and time of the auditions.
 - Memorizing the speech is not required; a copy of the speech may be brought to the audition (a copy will be on hand at the actual graduation ceremony).
 - All speakers selected must agree not to deviate from the speech as submitted.
 - No students or community members not participating in the audition will be allowed in the audition.
 - Judges' decisions will be final and will be made as soon as is practical after the audition process.

Speeches will be evaluated using the following criteria:

The speech should focus on issues, events, or questions that extend beyond the experience of the speaker and apply to the whole class.

- There is an appropriate theme that will engage graduates, families, and faculty.
- The speech is well-organized and easy to follow.
- The verbal delivery is effective: clear articulation, vocal variety, and enthusiasm are evident.

Some suggestions, if you're stuck:

- A graduation speech often offers congratulations. Parents, grandparents, friends, and relatives all need to be acknowledged. They are proud of you and your classmates and appreciate being associated with your success. OR...
- It reviews accomplishments. As members of the Senior Class, what obstacles did you (The Class) overcome? What special characteristics have you exhibited? What are your significant accomplishments? These should be in terms that could apply to all members of the graduating class. OR...
- It issues a challenge. The word *commencement* denotes a *beginning*. What does the future look like for the Senior Class, what are the problems that you will be called upon to address as you take your place in society? What inspirational thoughts can you share which will assure your classmates that they are ready to take up the challenge? OR...
- Anything else you think would be fun, positive, and appropriate!