

April 2021

We are constantly monitoring the latest state and local guidance regarding COVID protocols and capacity limits. We will immediately adjust the details for this event accordingly if changes are made. Notifications will be done by email and will be posted on the 2021 Senior Information website page found under Student Life.

Dear Seniors and Parents/Guardians:

We have a great deal of information to give you regarding graduation activities, and we know you must have a dozen questions. Please read this memo, and we hope that most of your questions will be answered.

BACCALAUREATE/COMMENCEMENT

This year the Baccalaureate Mass will be held at Monmouth University, OceanFirst Bank Multipurpose Activity Center (MAC) at 9:00a.m. on May 27th, with Commencement starting after a short (15-20min) intermission to reset the stage at the conclusion of Mass.

TICKETS

Tickets *will provide access* for the entire Baccalaureate Mass and Commencement event. As of now with current capacity limits, each senior will receive *3 tickets* which will be distributed to students on May 26th at practice. *There are <u>no</u> extra tickets as we are strictly limited to COVID capacity limits*. If you would like to try and gain more tickets for your group we would suggest asking other families who do not need all of their tickets. *****Additional tickets will be granted if state event capacity limits are increased.***

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF SCHOLARSHIPS OR GRANTS, SPECIAL AWARDS

Each year for commencement we list the name of scholarship/special award recipients. This does not apply to loans. In order for the achievements to be recognized, we ask that you bring *proof of the award* to **Mrs. Hemschoot in the Guidance Office**. The staff will make a copy of the document and return the original to you. The **absolute** deadline for submitting proof is **Friday, May 7**th to allow for program printing deadlines. After May 7th any scholarship/special awards <u>will not</u> be recognized in the graduation ceremony program.

ATTENDANCE AT PRACTICE

May 26th is the only scheduled practice date for the Baccalaureate Mass and Commencement. *Practice is mandatory for all seniors, as is participation in the Baccalaureate/Commencement.* On May 26th, the students must report to Monmouth University at 11:00 am for practice. *Do not schedule any appointments, college testing, or work commitments* that would interfere with the practice on May 26th or the events on May 27th.

CAPS and GOWNS

Cap and gown distribution is scheduled for the week of May 17th. National Honor Society members will receive their honor cords from Mr. Ientile personally. *All debts must be paid before the cap and gown will be given to the senior*. The gowns will need to be ironed thoroughly. Please try the gown on the day you receive it. Also double check that you have a tassel with your cap. In case of a problem, see Mr. Bowen or Mrs. Mercer as soon as possible.

DRESS FOR BACCALAUREATE/COMMENCEMENT

*Masks must be worn by *all* participants and attendees for the duration of the event per Monmouth University police and state guidelines* - Students will be provided special Class of 2021 masks.

- **Boys:** white dress shirt; solid tie (no stripes, pattern); dark dress trousers; dark socks; well-polished dress shoes; hair well-groomed and above shirt collar; face clean-shaven; no earrings or other piercings, no gum.
- Girls: appropriate dress; light-colored heels (no flip flops): hairstyle simple because of cap; simple jewelry; no gum; no corsages or bouquets, no purses or small bags, no nose rings or other piercings other than earrings.

There will NOT be a secure location to leave personal items (cell phones, keys etc.)

DIRECTIONS / PARKING

We suggest that you check the Monmouth University website for directions if you are not sure of Monmouth University's location. Ample parking is available in front of the MAC and is easily accessible from the Larchwood Avenue entrance. Please refer to the map provided to see exact location of parking for guests.

ARRIVAL TIMES- May 27th

- Baccalaureate Mass:
 - **Graduates** \rightarrow arrive at the MAC at 8:15 a.m.
 - **Guests** \rightarrow doors open at the MAC at 8:15 a.m.
- Break: (about 15-20 min) to flip the stage
 - o Graduates→ will exit the front, walk around the side halls and line up to process in for Commencement.
 - \circ Guests \rightarrow it is suggested guests remain in their seated area to avoid congregating.
- Commencement Ceremony:
 - Commencement will begin after the short break to reset the stage between Mass & Commencement. There will be a 10 minute public address warning.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Please do not bring balloons into the MAC or noisemakers of any kind.
- Traffic along the access streets to Monmouth University can be heavy at times. Please plan accordingly.
- We ask that parents discuss with their graduate and with their guests what constitutes appropriate behavior for a Commencement exercise.

Included, is an online student contract that each senior must e-sign, parents & guardians must see before the submission deadline of Friday, May 14th, 2021.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Taking good pictures at the MAC might be very difficult. No one will be permitted to come onto the floor of the facility. All guests must remain seated in the bleachers. To help you with this important task, we have arranged for professional photographers to take a close-up picture of your graduate as he/she receives their diploma. You may also order a DVD video of the ceremonies. Information for both will be available on the Graduation Information section of the Seniors 2021 webpage.

HANDICAP/ DISABILITY ACCESS

To accommodate special needs for your guests as soon as possible, please fill out the online form located on the Graduation Information webpage. You will also find a map of the designated handicapped entry at the MAC and where the reserved seating will be to best accommodate all of your guests.



Students selected for awards will be notified in early May. Eligible senior athletes will receive their Casey blankets that evening. All graduation related information can be found on the Seniors 2021 webpage under the Student Life section of the RBC website.

Mr. Matt Bowen & Nicole Mercer Graduation Coordinators