



MALDEN CATHOLIC

Dear Senior Parents,

We look forward to the Class of 2023 Commencement Ceremony which will be held on Saturday, May 20, at 10:00 a.m. One important part of graduation for our Seniors - is what they must wear to the ceremony. We wanted to communicate with you our requirements for attire for the Class of 2023.

It has come to our attention that there have been some social media posts regarding this subject. While we appreciate the enthusiasm of our Senior parents, many of those posts made assumptions that were not accurate or true. Our student council had been asked to meet with the Senior class to understand their preferences for graduation attire. This was based on previous student input/feedback from last year and this year. We believe the contents of these conversations were shared through "unofficial" MC channels and then evolved into misinformation.

There has not been one fixed tradition. Malden Catholic Seniors over the years have worn different graduation attire. For the majority of past years, MC graduates wore the traditional cap and gown. For a few years in the 1970s, graduates wore tuxedos. These tuxedos were brought back in 2015 and have been the tradition for the last eight years. Last year, our inaugural codivisional graduation featured the boys in tuxedos and the girls in formal dresses. We thought it was a wonderful way to celebrate our first codivisional graduation.

The tuxedo/dress combination for graduation was a short-term plan - based upon the rising costs and difficulty of obtaining tuxedos and in some cases, dresses, due to a limited supply chain. In fact, some Seniors received their graduation attire shortly before the ceremony due to these challenges. We were recently informed that costs have continued to rise, especially for the tuxedos.

In an effort to make sure we understood the desires of our Senior class regarding graduation attire, we surveyed our Senior class and asked student council members to meet with Seniors as well. As you can imagine, there are many different opinions and preferences were split. We did not find a consensus in our codivisional school. Yet, we are **one** school, and our student council embraced this, recommending we move to caps and gowns. Many students in the survey supported this recommendation.

This recommendation was shared with our Board Chair and the Executive Director of the Xaverian Brothers Sponsored Schools. Both parties have endorsed and supported Malden Catholic moving forward with caps and gowns for our 2023 graduating Seniors.

This has not been an easy decision to make. We believe that the proper academic regalia for our commencement ceremony is a cap and gown, and we ask our Senior parents to support our process and final decision. Please keep in mind, our Seniors will be asked to wear formal attire (suits and dresses) at several events this spring including Senior Prom, Boys Division and Girls Division Awards Ceremonies and our Baccalaureate Mass. In addition, please refer to "official" MC channels including Malden Catholic social media and the MC Parent Facebook Page only for accurate information regarding our school.

Thank you,

John Thornburg
President

Jeff Smith
Principal