

CLASS OF 2023

HENRY FOSS HIGH SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT



A GUIDE FOR SENIORS
AND THEIR FAMILIES

Class of 2023

Congratulations! You are in the final stretch. We are so excited for you during this event-packed journey towards graduation. Please review this information thoroughly because it will help you complete the year successfully.

Please remember that participation in the graduation ceremony is a privilege. In the event disciplinary corrective actions are imposed for violations of school rules, a student may be denied participation in graduation ceremonies.

Cap & Gown

Jostens will be at Foss on March 23 to distribute purchased graduation items. They have left unclaimed items in the main office. To order graduation items, visit www.jostens.com, and shop for Foss. The minimum requirement to participate in graduation is a cap, gown, stole and tassel. If there is a need for financial assistance, please see your counselor Mrs. Heather Washington.

Graduation Awards Assembly Information – Due Friday, May 19, 2023

We want to recognize our seniors' accomplishments! Because there are college, military, or community scholarships that we may not be aware of, seniors are responsible for notifying the school of these awards. Please use the form in the Class of 2023 Schoology Group to submit information along with a picture of you in your cap and gown. ***Information received after May 19, 2023, may not be included in the Senior Awards Assembly due to planning deadlines.***

Senior Prom – Friday, May 19, 2023, from 8-11PM at West of the Waterway

Enchanted Garden, Foss's Senior Prom, is a culminating senior celebration to be enjoyed from 8:00PM to 11:00PM, however, seniors and guests must be at the door by 9:30PM to be granted entrance to the event. West of the Waterway is located at 1901 Dock Street, Tacoma, WA 98402. Students are responsible for their own transportation.

Please remember that this is an alcohol-free, drug-free, tobacco-free, and vape-free school function. This is a school event, and all school rules apply. Do not jeopardize being able to walk at graduation.

Tickets can be picked up through the ASB window in the Main Office from May 8 through May 17. You must turn in a dance contract for yourself and your guest to pick up your ticket(s). Tickets are free for Foss Seniors and their plus one.

No tickets will be available at the door. Tickets are non-refundable and non-transferable. This is a senior event, and accordingly, seniors are encouraged to attend with their senior classmates. Out-of-school guest forms are available in the Foss Main Office. Seniors cannot purchase tickets for out-of-school guests until forms have been approved by Foss administration. Seniors may only bring one guest and guests MUST arrive and depart with their Foss senior date. Everyone must show picture ID to enter the prom and no large bags or purses will be allowed in the dance. A coat check will be available.

Senior Checkout Begins – Thursday, June 1, 2023, at 10:00AM in the Main Gym

Seniors will pick up Clearance Forms after the Pride Assembly. EVERY teacher needs to sign the form. If seniors do not have a seminar class, they can pick up the clearance forms from the registrar window upon their first class. To be cleared for graduation:

- All library books, textbooks, and other school supplies must be returned.
- All credit retrievals must be completed.
- School laptop and charger must be returned.
- Seniors MUST complete the Clearance Form to graduate.
- Seniors MUST turn in their Clearance Forms to their counselors to walk at graduation.

Senior Awards Assembly – Monday, June 5, 2023, at 9:00–10:30AM Main Gym

The event is open to everyone. ALL seniors are being recognized. Please complete the survey on your Class of 2023 Groups page to ensure we have the correct information to appropriately celebrate you. If you have been “cleared” you will receive your free 8 tickets in your packet during the assembly.

Elementary Graduation Walks – June 12, 2023, 2:30PM

Grab your caps, iron/steam your gown, and stole, and do not forget your tassel! Get ready to walk the halls of your elementary school! Our TPS (Tacoma Public Schools) elementary schools would like to welcome you back to honor your accomplishments and to inspire the little ones. This is NOT a field trip. Students must provide their own transportation if they plan to participate. Please meet in the elementary school's main office in which you attended in the 5th grade, dressed in your cap, gown, and stole, just before 2:30PM.

PLEASE REMEMBER: Some schools would like you to answer a few questions for the students, so be prepared to dazzle the next generation of high school graduates!

Senior Breakfast, Slideshow, Walk, Graduation Rehearsal – Wednesday, June 14, 2023, at 9:00AM at Foss High School

Senior Breakfast – Wednesday, June 14, 2023, at 9:00AM Foss High School

Beginning at 9:00AM, seniors will meet in the backside of the cafeteria for a senior breakfast, yearbook signing, and last gathering for the senior class before graduation. This is also a time for last-minute check-outs with your counselor, Mrs. Washington. Remember, you must have all teachers sign off for your grades, return all your textbooks, return all your library books, return all athletic and AFJROTC uniforms, and return your laptop to Mrs. Matkin.

Graduation Rehearsal / Senior Slideshow – Wednesday, June 14, 2023, at 9:30AM

Per Tacoma Public School Regulation 2410R, *all students must participate in rehearsal to be included in the graduation ceremony*. Graduation Rehearsal is Wednesday, June 14 at 9:30AM at Foss High School. Graduates are responsible for their own transportation.

ATTENTION: At graduation, graduates will enter the seating area in groups of four (4). Graduates will need to contact Ms. Bales in the main office to identify their group of four (4) – all four (4)

students must be present to schedule them to sit together. If graduates do not have a group of four, Foss staff will create groups of four (4) at rehearsal. All groups will have four graduates.

GRADUATION 2023

Graduation Ceremony – Thursday, June 15, 2023, at 1:00PM at the Tacoma Dome

- **Graduates must be at Lower NW Gate by 12:15PM**
- Doors open at 12:15PM
- Visit [Graduation - Foss High School \(tacomaschools.org\)](https://www.tacomaschools.org/graduation) for even more information.

Graduates will stop by the tables to pick up their name card, which they must have before the ceremony begins. Graduates will give the name card to one of the name readers just before they cross the stage. Please do not make any last-minute changes to the card. If a name has difficult pronunciation, please speak with Mr. Fullerton or Mr. Spray, this year's readers for graduation, prior to the ceremony.

- **Important:** The use of drugs, alcohol, tobacco or vapes is forbidden at any school district event. Students under the influence/in possession of the above will not be allowed to participate in graduation.
- **Dome Security:** No purses, backpacks, balloons, air horns, liquid string, weapons, etc. are permitted in the Tacoma Dome and will be confiscated at the door. **Only clear plastic bags will be allowed.**
- **Valuables:** Leave all items with family members – especially the graduation tickets. Do not leave valuables in vehicles. Foss and the Tacoma Dome are not responsible for any lost items.
- **Attire:** Graduates will wear green caps and gowns with gold stoles for the graduation ceremony, along with approved honor cords and medallions earned from Foss/CSF/TRiO.
 - Per Tacoma Public School Regulation 2410R, **no additional adornments will be allowed.** Attire beneath the gown should be appropriate for Tacoma Public Schools. Graduates will be walking the length of a football field – twice – and up and down stairs, so appropriate shoes are necessary.
 - Consistent with RCW (Revised Code of Washington) 28A.600.500, students who are members of a federally recognized tribe may wear traditional tribal regalia or objects of Native American cultural significance along with or attached to a gown at graduation ceremonies or related school events.
 - **No additional adornments other than those authorized by the district may be worn during the ceremony.**
 - Each graduate is responsible for bringing their cap and gown to the graduation ceremony. **DO NOT FORGET THE TASSEL – keep it in hand.**
 - The graduation cap is worn flat on the head, parallel to the floor.
 - Tassels will start on the right side.
 - Make sure to iron with low heat or steam the gown and stole.
- **Graduation Tickets:** Entrance will be by ticket only and it is general admission. **There are no reserved seats for graduation.** Tickets are \$5.00 each and may be purchased before school, after school and during lunch at the Foss Main Office. Each graduate will receive eight (8) free tickets during Senior Checkout if all fees and fines are paid – this includes turning in the laptop and charging cord. Additional tickets may also be purchased at Senior Checkout. Tickets may be purchased at the Tacoma Dome on Graduation Day and will also be \$5.00 (cash sales only).

- **Parking:** The Tacoma Dome charges \$15.00 for parking all vehicles, so carpooling is recommended. Graduates and attendees may park in Lots A, F, G, C, and LeMay. Accessible parking is available in Lots D, E and K. For people sitting on the main floor needing ADA accessibility, parking is in Lot K.
- **Guest Entry and Accessibility:** Families and guests will enter through Upper SW Gate. ADA-accessible seating is available on the main floor. Visibility is not optimal but is easily accessible for people with wheelchairs, heart conditions, limited vision, etc. Up to three people may accompany each needing ADA accommodation via Lower NW Gate. There will be a roped off hearing-impaired section in the upper seating area.
- **Photos:** Lifetouch Photography will be taking photos of each graduate as they receive their diploma cover on stage – smile! These pictures will be available to order at Lifetouch Photography’s website. We encourage families to take personal photos from their seats during the ceremony and before and after the event, as we cannot allow families on the floor during the ceremony. **Foss Ordering Code: 71276GY23**
- **Livestreaming:** TPS’ Public Information Office will broadcast graduation on Facebook and via the TV Tacoma channel that can be accessed through the TPS website and on most local cable lineups.
- **After Graduation:** Graduates will exit the Dome first. Guests will follow. Please meet outside and exit promptly after reuniting and taking photos.

Picking up Diplomas – starting Monday, July 17, 2023, in the Foss Main Office

Diplomas and immunization records may be picked up (with ID) in the Guidance Office in July. Please clear all fines prior to picking up your diploma. Senior final grades will not be mailed. An alert will also be posted on the Foss High School website reminding families that diplomas are available for pickup.

Transcript Requests – Parchment

To request transcripts, Seniors must use Parchment at www.parchment.com. As of August 1, there will be a fee for each official transcript ordered. Seniors MUST update their email in Parchment prior to July 1 to retain access to their Parchment account. Seniors can request official transcripts now but MUST change the indicator from “Send Now” to “Hold for Grades.” Otherwise, requests will be processed without final grades.

Important Dates for the Class of 2023

MARCH

- March 23 Cap & Gown Distributed at Lunch (hang them up to get the wrinkles out)
March 28 Senior Class Meeting
March 31 Sign-Up for Graduation Speech with Ms. Becca

APRIL

- April 14 Submit Graduation Speech to Ms. Becca (in Career Center)
April 26 Graduation Speech Auditions in the Little Theater

MAY

- May 8 Prom tickets available for pick up – Foss Main Office
May 17 LAST DAY to get PROM tickets
May 19 Awards Assembly Information DUE to Ms. Becca
May 19 8-11PM Prom (Must arrive by 9:30PM with ticket & ID)
May 26 No School
May 29 Memorial Day - No School

JUNE

- June 1 Senior Check Out, 10:00AM, Main Gym
 - Pick up Clearance Forms in your seminar class.
 - You must begin to get ALL teachers to sign off that you will pass their class.

June 5 Senior Awards, 9:15AM Foss Main Gym (Parents are invited!)
June 9 Green and Gold Spirit Day – Wear Foss green and gold for the last time
June 12 2:30PM Graduation Walks at TPS Elementary Schools (Optional)
June 14 Seniors' Last Day - **MUST ATTEND** – Start Time 9AM
 - Senior Breakfast, 9:00AM
 - Graduation Rehearsal, 9:30AM - REQUIRED
 - Senior Slide Show, 10:30AM
 - Senior Walk, 11:00AM
 - Foss Family Picnic, 11:30AM
 - Must be present (and on time) to participate in the ceremony!

June 15 Graduation Ceremony, 1:00PM, Tacoma Dome
 - **Graduates must be at Lower NW Gate by 12:15PM**

JULY

- July 17 M-Th 8AM – 3PM Diplomas available for pick-up at the main office – bring your photo ID
July 31 LAST DAY to get your transcripts sent for **FREE** – order from www.parchment.com

AUGUST

- August 1 Transcripts will cost money to send. You can still order from www.parchment.com