

Dear Parents and Class of 2025 Graduates:



Mountain Ridge
High School
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Mountain Ridge High School will be holding our graduation ceremony at the **DESERT DIAMOND ARENA on May 16, 2025 AT 4:30 p.m.** No tickets will be required and graduates may invite as many guests as they would like. We are providing the following rules and suggestions in order to conduct a smooth and dignified graduation. We ask that you review these guidelines as we must adhere to them in order for the ceremony to meet Arena and state requirements.

Please keep this list for reference:

- A graduation rehearsal meeting will be held on April 29th (9:20 am) for graduates with last names A-L and on May 1st (8:20 am) for graduates with last names M-Z during AcaPrep in the MRHS auditorium. Graduates do not go to the arena to rehearse. For any off-campus graduates, please plan to attend one of these meetings. Check in at the front desk to receive a pass to the auditorium. If any graduate is absent from the meeting, a summary sheet will be available for pick up from the bookstore and the presentation will be posted on the MRHS website.
- All graduates will be required to go through senior checkout on May 13th from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. in the auditorium. Prior to checkout, **seniors must have cleared any debts in the bookstore, media center, cafeteria and returned any books. This should all be done by May 9th as this will expedite checkout. At checkout, graduates will return their Chromebook. If any monies are still owed, they must be paid in cash at that time.** Upon clearance from the bookstore, graduates will receive their **DIPLOMA**, a parking map, immunization record, and any earned *Academic Cords of Excellence*. *If a graduate does not attend graduation, they may come to school to pick up a diploma **cover** after May 16th.
- Graduation will be at DESERT DIAMOND ARENA, 9400 West Maryland Ave. on **May 16, 2025 at 4:30 p.m.** Graduates should be at the Stadium by **3:15 p.m.** Doors will open at 3:30 p.m. **PLEASE DO NOT COME** early as the doors will not be open.
- It is suggested that parents plan to drive to the stadium with the graduate. **CARPOOLING IS RECOMMENDED.** Parking will be assigned closer to the event and a parking map with directions will be posted on our website, the district website and a copy given to graduates at senior checkout. **THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR PARKING. There is ADA parking available and drop off areas. Please visit Desertdiamond.com (plan your visit) for complete Arena information.**

All guests entering Desert Diamond Arena will be searched and have their belongings scanned. Desert Diamond Arena reserves the right to confiscate items which may cause danger or disruption to the event or other guests, or which are in breach of building policies and/or prohibited items. All guests entering the arena are subject to a metal-detector screening, visual inspection and bag inspection conducted by Desert Diamond Arena Security personnel.

BAG POLICY WILL BE IN EFFECT. NO BAGS LARGER THAN 4.5" X 6.5"

GRADUATE PROCESS

- Graduates enter at **GATE 7** and proceed downstairs to the arena floor staging area. ***Restrooms for graduates are located at their entrance and must be used prior to coming downstairs. COME CEREMONY READY!** Graduates will not be allowed to come back upstairs to use restrooms.
- The graduates will go to their assigned seat.
- Once the graduation begins, the students will walk along the stadium east or west walls as they proceed to the north side of the floor to be seated.
- Upon the conclusion of graduation, students will exit through GATE 5 and meet their guests there.
- Students and guests will be asked to refrain from congregating outside the arena.

ATTENDEE PROCESS

- Guests will be asked to park in designated parking and enter the **ARENA at GATE 4.**
- There is open seating on the east & west sides & north end of arena
- If ADA seating is required, an arena representative can assist.
- Once the graduation has ended, the guests will be instructed to exit at the same gate they entered.
- Graduates and guests will be asked to refrain from congregating outside the arena.

GRADUATE STAGING, VIDEO AND PHOTOGRAPHY

- Graduates will be seated on the main floor of the stadium in alphabetical order A-K ON LEFT SIDE AS YOU FACE THE STAGE AND L-Z ON THE RIGHT SIDE AS YOU FACE THE STAGE. (Alpha sort subject to change.) Names will be read alternating left side/right side. ***Graduate names will be read according to their PowerSchool name. IF a graduate wants to shorten their name or eliminate their middle name etc., that is fine. They will tell the name reader when they go on stage. BUT, IF A GRADUATE wants a different name read, they must have parental approval given to administration.** Please email Paul.strauss@dvusd.org
- The audience will stand as the graduates enter and remain standing through the presentation of colors, national anthem, and the Pledge of Allegiance.
- An official photographer will be taking pictures of all graduates receiving their diplomas. Picture ordering: Grad's Photography needs you to register your graduate in order for them to send you the graduation photographs to proof and purchase. This is of course optional. To register, you can [click here](#) or go to the MRHS website under For Students/Graduation/Graduation Ceremony Picture Signup. **We also ask that you not leave your seat to take pictures.** This policy is a courtesy to the other spectators and will be enforced by stadium security.
- The stadium will video/stream the ceremony. (Streaming information will be posted on our website closer to the event.) **Handheld video cameras will be allowed; BUT the stadium does not allow video camera stands.**

GRADUATE & AUDIENCE DRESS AND DECORUM

- Male graduates should wear dress slacks, socks and shoes, a dress shirt with a collar. Ties are preferred.
- Female graduates should wear dresses, skirts or dress slacks with a dress shirt/blouse. Please be cautious in choice of shoes. Floor length dresses are discouraged.
- Purses/Cell phones should not be carried by graduates during the ceremony. Please leave them with family or friends.
- **GRADUATES SHOULD WEAR THEIR CAP AND CARRY THEIR GOWN INTO THE STADIUM.**
- **Caps and Gowns may not be decorated.** Tassels will be worn on the right side of the cap.
- **See below for approved regalia.**
 - Graduates will wear school approved cap, tassel, medallion and gown without alterations or additional decoration. **Corsages, wrist corsages, boutonnieres or leis/money leis may not be worn on top of gowns. Any non-approved items will be taken and returned at the end of the ceremony.** A suggestion is for family to hold items and present it after the ceremony.
 - School administration may approve graduates to wear additional regalia that meet the following criteria:
 - Awarded by an organization with academic association affiliated with a DVUSD high school
 - Awarded by an organization associated with a national honor society which has a minimum GPA requirement or some other academic criteria
 - Stole provided by the school for the senior officers of the student government body of the school designating their position of office
 - Medallion provided by the school for the students in top 1% of the graduating class
 - Provided by a United States military branch
 - **No other regalia may be worn over the graduation gowns.**
- Spectators must be appropriately dressed for admission to the graduation. This is a special event.
- There are certain expectations for audience behavior. **The stadium and Deer Valley Unified School District will not allow items such as noise makers, air horns, beach balls, helium balloons, posters, aerosol cans, beverage containers, glass containers or vases, coolers, laser pointers, smokeless cigarettes, drones, selfie sticks or any other items that will be a disruption to the ceremony in the facility. This applies to graduates, parents, and guests.** A complete list is posted on both the MRHS website and the district website. The arena will strictly enforce checking for these prohibited items.
- Following the closing, graduates will exit **GATE 5** and guests will exit **GATE 4**. All participants and spectators must vacate the facility immediately as our contract dictates. **PLEASE** do not congregate in front of GATE 4 & 5.

We are hoping that everyone will help make this ceremony special for our Class of 2025. Graduation is a momentous occasion, and we want the decorum to make it memorable for years to come. Thank you for your continued and phenomenal support of Mountain Ridge High School.

Sincerely,

David Vines, Principal
Mountain Ridge High School

Graduating lifelong learners who will successfully lead, compete, and positively impact the world.