

SB Graduation Handbook



Class Of

2025

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Purpose and Participation

Congratulations on your successful completion of studies at San Benito High School! The entire faculty and staff are proud of your achievements, and we hope you are too!

We are thrilled to celebrate this momentous occasion with you and your loved ones. As you move forward into the next chapter of your life, we wish you all the happiness and success in the world.

The purpose of this handbook is to provide our parents/ guardians, and students with helpful information regarding our upcoming graduation ceremony.

The commencement ceremony is an honorary event centered upon celebrating your achievements in meeting state graduation requirements.

Please take a moment to review the graduation handbook which includes all the details about the ceremony that will take place on Friday, May 30, 2025 at Bobby Morrow Stadium. The handbook contains important information that may help answer any questions you may have.



Cordially,

Manuela Lopez
Principal

Preparing for Graduation

Each year, before the graduation ceremony, the campus principal shall meet with the senior class to review guidelines and information regarding graduation and student eligibility to participate in the rehearsal and commencement ceremony.

Additionally, graduation rehearsal will be held to review standards of conduct for rehearsal and the commencement ceremony. *If a student chooses not to attend the commencement, they must notify their counselor they will not participate in the graduation ceremony.

Graduation Rehearsal

May 28, 2025

9am

Bobby Morrow Stadium

** Seniors must attend Graduation Rehearsal if they plan to participate in the Commencement Ceremony. **

Commencement Ceremony

May 30, 2025

7:30pm

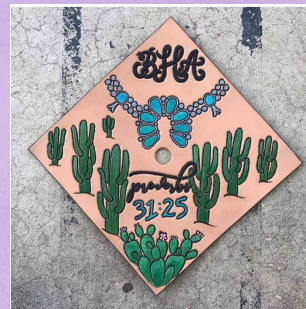
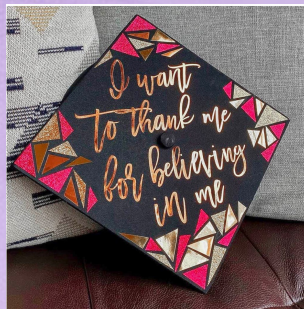
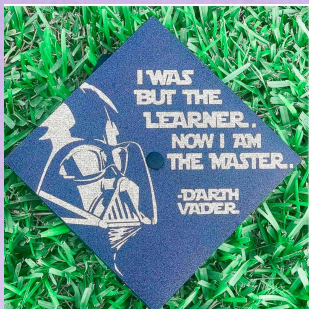
Bobby Morrow Stadium

*Senior Arrival time: 5pm (Varsity Gym)

Graduation Dress Code Caps/ Mortarboards

Allowed

- Decorations must be flat on the surface.
- Only the flat top of the cap may be decorated.
- An inspirational or religious quote.
- A message to thank family, friends, or teachers.
- Recognize the university you will attend.
- The year you are graduating.
- The branch of the military you will be joining.
- Sentimental quotes, movie quotes, or television show quotes.



Not Allowed

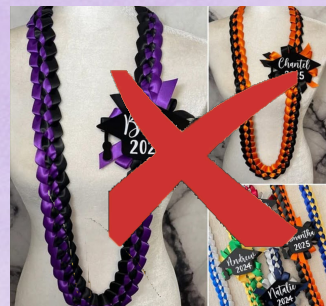
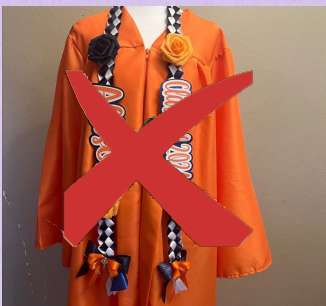
- 3-D creations are prohibited.
- There may be nothing hanging down from any of the sides of the cap.
- Do not use anything that will make noise. No bells, whistles, or noisemakers, etc.
- Do not use any flashing/ blinking lights, moving parts, or anything battery operated.
- Anything obscene, profane, vulgar, or lewd (of a sexual nature).
- Anything that threatens the safety and welfare of any person.
- Any symbols, advertisement initials, abbreviations, words, slogans, patches, or pictures that refer to drugs or controlled substances, tobacco, alcohol, or weapons.
- Anything that denotes an affiliation with gangs, or which advocates violence, illegal activity, or disruptive behavior which is detrimental to the safety and welfare of other students.



Questions about Graduation Caps? Contact Ms. Ilsa Ochoa,
Senior Class Assistant Principal

Graduation Dress Code Gowns & Attire

- All graduates are required to wear their cap, gown, and tassel. We recommend that graduates bring only their caps, gowns, and essential personal items that they can keep with them during the ceremony.
- **Females:** Wear gold victory collar. Wear dresses that do not show below the gown - NO SHORTS and NO MINI-SKIRTS. Wear appropriate footwear; e.g. no loose sandals, house shoes, Crocs, or shoes that make noise. No stilettos or pointed high heels are allowed on the track/ turf field at Bobby Morrow Stadium. A wedge or flat heel is acceptable. This is to ensure student safety, as students have been injured when this policy has not been followed.
- **Males:** Wear gold victory collar. Wear a dress shirt and dark tie. Wear dark dress slacks (nice dark jeans or khakis are acceptable). NO RIPPED JEANS. Wear appropriate footwear.
- The tassel should hang over the right temple.
- All regalia (cords, stoles, etc.) will be academic, military, or club honor only.
- "Fashion" stoles, leis, and cords are not permitted.
- Graduates will not be permitted to carry bags or purses.
- Helium balloons, noisemakers, signs, and other distracting items such as confetti, beach balls, silly string, etc. are NOT allowed and will be collected by campus administration and staff before entry.
- Anyone who does not follow these guidelines will not be permitted to participate in the commencement ceremony. The campus principal has ultimate discretion in approving student attire, including decorations on the mortarboard of caps, stoles, etc.



Student Expectations

Check-In

- Graduates should arrive at the Varsity Gym in advance at 5:30pm to get organized and ready.
- Graduates that drive may park in the student parking lot located across the Sports Complex.
- **Female students:** will report to the Varsity Gym (Main Entrance/ Left Side) for security search to ensure all guidelines are met. Once cleared, you will be allowed to enter the gym to meet with your sponsor for line up.
- **Male students:** will report to the Varsity Gym (Main Entrance/ Right Side) for security search to ensure all guidelines are met. Once cleared, you will be allowed to enter the gym to meet with your sponsor for line up.
- **IMPORTANT NOTE-** Prohibited items violating the "Drug Free and Safe School Zone" policy will be handled accordingly and will forfeit your participation in the Commencement Ceremony. Violators will be arrested.
- Seniors in the Top 10, Hi-5 Honorees, NHS 1/2, Mu Alpha Theta, and Military Honors will report to their sponsor to line up for the A-Side (Home side).
- Seniors in NHS 1/2, NTHS, Rho Kappa, NHS Science, NHS Spanish, and Perfect Attendance will report to their sponsor to line up for the B-Side (Visitor side).

SAFE SCHOOL CAMPUS

NO TOBACCO, ALCOHOL OR OTHER DRUGS
NO HARASSMENT, BULLYING OR OTHER VIOLENCE
NO GUNS OR OTHER WEAPONS

Federal Law - Public Law 103-382, Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act, Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended Title IV

State Law-Texas Education Code Section 38.006

Processional

- There will be no restroom breaks during the ceremony unless it is an emergency.
- Graduates are requested to conduct themselves in a manner appropriate to the occasion. Any graduate who is disruptive will be removed from the ceremony. The campus leaders and students will be lined up exactly 15 minutes before the start of the ceremony, where they will meet up with board members and district leadership.
- Processional music will be played to begin the program. Graduates will stand during the processional.
- The principal will lead the procession of students into the graduation venue and will lead the recession after the ceremony.
- Senior Sponsors will direct graduates to their seating area. Stage participants will walk to the stage instead of entering their assigned row.

Commencement Ceremony Protocols



- Out of consideration to other graduates on this special occasion, please refrain from cell phone use during the ceremony.
- Graduates should remain quiet during the ceremony unless called upon to speak.
- Senior Sponsors will assist as ushers and will ensure correct spacing as graduates enter the venue.
- Graduates will remain standing until directed by the campus principal. They should watch carefully for signals for standing and sitting.

- When it is time, each row of graduates will line up to receive their diploma jacket. Name cards will be given to you before proceeding to line up. These will be used to call graduate's names.
- A stage manager will direct the graduates to the stage. Students should wait until given a signal to walk down the stage. Graduates will pick up a diploma jacket and then proceed to walk up the ramp and give the card with their name to the person reading the names. Students will hear their names called as they cross the stage.
- Diplomas will be given alphabetically, two rows at time.
- All diploma jackets will be empty (diplomas are disseminated by SBHS at a later date).
- Upon receiving their diploma jacket, students will continue to cross the stage and walk to the designated area to be photographed. There will be designated spots marked with an "X" on the stage to have your picture taken with a school board member.
- District leaders, such as the superintendent, the principal, and board members may shake students' hands.
- Once the picture is taken, the graduate will walk down the ramp and will return to their row and seat. Remain quiet during the remainder of the ceremony.
- Graduates are to remain seated and will be unable to leave until the ceremony is complete.
- Graduates will leave the stadium as follows:
 - A-Side students will exit via the back gate behind the home side.
 - B-Side students will exit via the visitor's side back gate.

Audience Expectations

Guest Arrival & Seating:

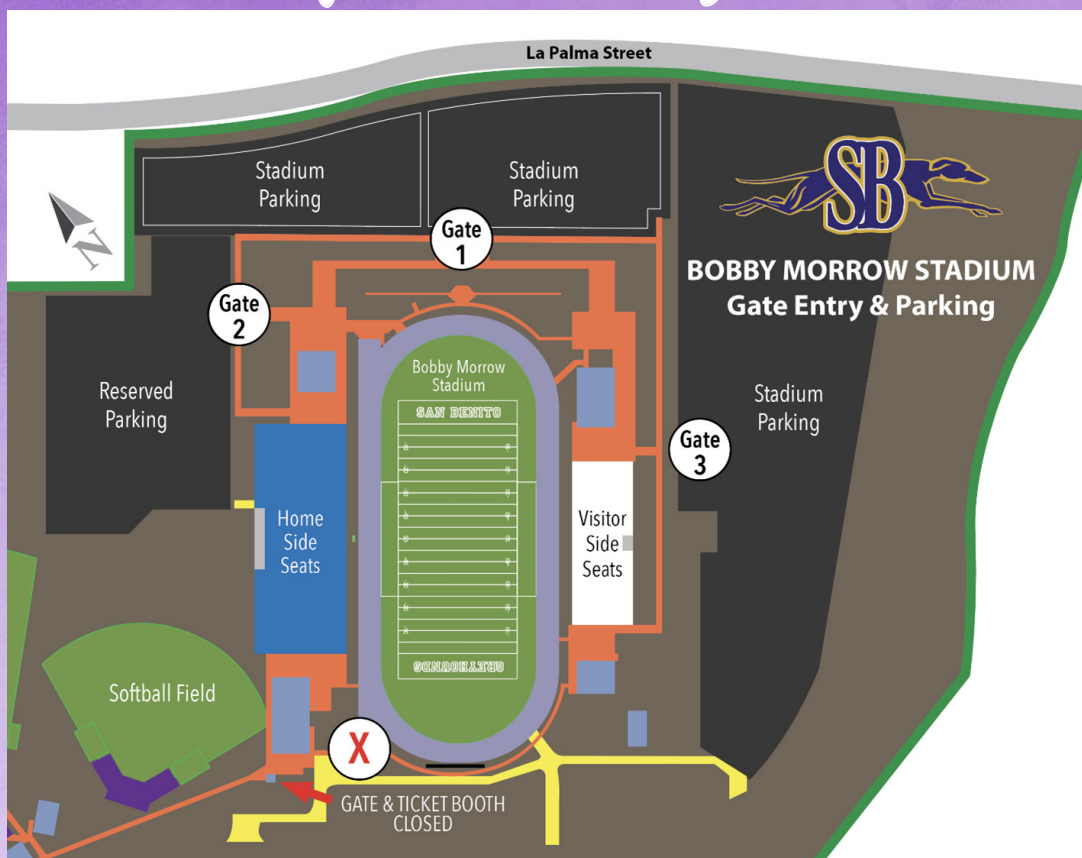
We welcome all graduates to invite their family and friends to their celebration. There will be free seating for members of the audience. There is NO limit to seating and tickets are not required. However, please note - holding or reserving seats will not be permitted. Please note the following:

- The "Top 10" parents will sit on the sideline in designated chairs. A pass will be issued to the parents, along with, a VIP parking pass.
- All audience participants will follow the SBCISD Clear Bag Policy. No backpacks, large bags, or folding chairs will be permitted. Clear bags, diaper bags, and seat cushions are allowed.
- Balloons, confetti, streamers, powder, and noisemakers of any kind are NOT permitted.
- One personal hand-held sign that is school appropriate and does not distract or obstruct the view of other guests is allowed.
- Tailgating is NOT allowed on venue premises.
- Smoking is not allowed in or around the venue.
- Umbrellas cannot be used in the seating area.
- Only graduates, stage guests, and staff members are allowed on the track/ field.
- Accessibility & Special Accommodations: The entrance to Bobby Morrow Stadium is handicapped accessible, with no steps or stairs required to enter. Wheelchair accessible seating, as well as, companion seats are located at the bottom of all "Reserved" and "General Admission" bleacher seats.
- Parents will NOT be allowed on the field after graduation.
- Guests will exit the stadium via the three front gates. Please exit via the gate closest to your seat.

Commencement Ceremony:

- We want all families to hear the name of their graduating scholar; therefore, during the commencement ceremony, the audience should refrain from cheering, clapping, yelling, or displaying loud outbursts of noise while student names are being called.
- Once the graduate's name is called, cheering is encouraged. Once the student begins to exit the stage, please stop cheering so that the next family can hear their graduate's name.
- Graduates will be encouraged to meet their family and friends in the designated parking lot at Bobby Morrow Stadium once the commencement ceremony has ended.

Parking and Guest Information



- Family and friends of graduates are encouraged to arrive early. Parking is available in various parking lots and distances at Bobby Morrow Stadium. There is no parking fee.
- Handicapped parking is available for those who may need closer parking proximity due to health or disability.
- Guests with students A-L, will be on the A- Home Side of the stadium and will park on the home parking lot section.
- Guests with students M-Z, will be on the B- Visitors Side of the stadium and will park on the visitors parking lot section.

Graduation Venue Security

- Allow time for parking and bag search.
- The doors of Bobby Morrow Stadium will open for seating one hour before the scheduled graduation start time.
- Holding or reserving seats is not permitted.
- Parents may use handheld video cameras or phones only - tripods and camera cases are not allowed.
- No one should approach the railing as it poses a safety risk and blocks other seated guests from viewing the ceremony.
- Helium balloons, noisemakers, and other distracting items such as: confetti, beach balls, silly string, etc. are not allowed and will be collected by district personnel before entry.

Photography

At graduation, your graduate's memories will be captured by Valley Photo. Order forms will be made available, and with an easy process, you will be able to order official photos taken of your graduate.

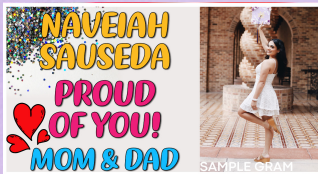
- Package A (1 - 8x10; 2 5x7) \$25.00
- Package B (1 - 8x10) \$15.00

Graduate picture envelopes from Valley Photo will be picked up at the entrance gates at Bobby Morrow Stadium.

Please contact Valley Photo at 956-230-1772 for further information.



SBHS Class of 2025 Grad Grams



Billboard "Grad Grams" are available to purchase through KSBG for Graduation Night and will be displayed on the big screen at Bobby Morrow Stadium prior to graduation festivities.

Just scan the QR Code and select "Grad Grams" to purchase for a small fee of \$12. Must be purchased before May 16, 2025 at 4pm.



Dispersement of Diplomas

June 2nd - 4th, 2025

8:30am - 2:30pm

San Benito High School

*Must have a valid ID to pick up.



Class of
2025

Class Colors: Purple, Gold, & White

Class Flower: White Rose

Class Motto: "We'll Never Be Those Kids Again."

Class Song: "28" by Zack Bryan

