

IMPORTANT SENIOR NEWS & INFORMATION

JM Tate Graduating Senior - Congratulations! Graduation is upon us. We have thoroughly enjoyed spending the last four years with you. Take the time to familiarize yourself with the information in this document. All seniors will be held responsible for knowing and abiding by this information to participate in the commencement ceremony.

*****Graduation Requirements:** It is your responsibility to know and fulfill the graduation requirements of your graduating class. If you are unsure of your graduation status, you should meet with your counselor immediately. Mrs. Robinson-Sutton will notify seniors who do not meet graduation requirements.

*****Seniors Who Owe Fines:** It is your responsibility to know if you have a financial obligation that has not been cleared. Please check both Destiny and with the Media Center for *Overdue Fines or Materials*. Any senior who has not taken care of all their financial obligations to the school or associated vendors will not be **allowed to walk in the graduation ceremony**. Chromebooks with chargers, library books, library fines, textbooks, textbook fines, uniform fees, band dues, DCT dues, yearbook, senior portraits, announcement orders, school associated trips, athletics, etc... **Must be taken care of NO LATER THAN Wednesday, May 13, 2026 or your name will be removed from the commencement list.** For further assistance, contact Mr. Peacock, Mrs. Robinson-Sutton or Ms. Gardner in the Media Center.

*****Cap and Gown:** Cap and gowns will be distributed at the Senior Breakfast on Friday, 5/15. Gowns **WILL NOT** be available before the morning of 5/15. Seniors not attending the breakfast can pick up their cap and gown in the main office after 1pm on 5/15. Any senior who does not receive their cap and gown on this day will have to contact Mr. Peacock via email at cpeacock@ecsdf.us to schedule an appointment to pick up their gown before 5/27. All seniors are required to wear a cap and gown purchased from Herff Jones at Graduation. Try your gown on as soon as you receive it. Your gown length should be mid-calf. If your gown does not fit, please take it to the Herff Jones office on 12th Avenue and get a replacement immediately. Mortarboards (graduation caps) must be worn flat on the head. This will not accommodate some hair styles, so plan accordingly. The front of your cap should cover a portion of your forehead. Escambia County Public Schools do not allow messages or decorations on the cap. Seniors who show up to graduation with their caps decorated will be turned away and not allowed to participate in the commencement ceremony. Tassels are worn on the **RIGHT SIDE** until you are pronounced a graduate. If you are receiving an honors tassel, remove the Crimson & Gray tassel and replace it with the honors tassel you've been awarded. If you are issued an academic honor, athletic award, or ROTC medallion, cord, or stole at Senior Honors Night, you may wear it with your cap and gown. No other items can be worn. Nothing can be pinned to the cap or gown. You will want to keep your gown hung up so it does not wrinkle before the ceremony. Keep your cap and tassel in a plastic grocery bag to keep from losing them. Place the bag handles around the hook of the hanger to keep everything together.

*****Attire to Wear with Cap and Gown: THIS IS A FORMAL EVENT – NO JEANS, SHORTS, HATS, FLIP-FLOPS, TENNIS SHOES OR T-SHIRTS WILL BE WORN WITH YOUR GOWN. IF YOU ARRIVE AT THE BAY CENTER WEARING THESE ITEMS YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED INTO THE BUILDING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CEREMONY. IF YOU ARE UNCERTAIN IF YOUR ATTIRE IS APPROPRIATE FOR GRADUATION, IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO SEEK CLARIFICATION FROM MR. PEACOCK OR MRS. ROBINSON-SUTTON BEFORE 5/27.**

APPROVED ATTIRE:

Females CAN Wear: A Dress or Dress Slacks and blouse, Dress shoes (heels or flats).

Males CAN Wear: Long Sleeve Dress shirt with tie (straight or bow) with dress slacks and dress shoes.

Calendar of Important Dates:

May 15th – Senior Breakfast of What-a-burger biscuits will be served in the Tate cafeteria at **9:00 a.m.** Seniors will enjoy a biscuit and beverage, view the Senior Video and receive their cap & gown. Seniors will parade over from the Winn Dixie parking lot at 8:50 a.m. At the Breakfast, Seniors with fines will **NOT** receive their cap and gown until fines are paid in CASH or TEXTBOOKS are returned – bring cash and unreturned books/materials as staff will be at the breakfast to clear fines. Turn your Chromebook in after your last exam to avoid having to bring it to breakfast.

May 17th – A Baccalaureate Ceremony will be hosted by Hillcrest Baptist Church (9 Mile campus) at 3:00 p.m. Seniors will wear caps and gowns with awards, cords, stoles, etc. and are encouraged to invite family and friends. This event is an excellent opportunity to take a lot of photos with friends and loved ones. Seniors will start lining up in the Hillcrest lobby at 2:50 p.m.

May 19th – Senior Honors Night will be held in the Fryman Gym at **6:00 p.m.** Parents and friends are invited to attend and this event will last approximately two hours. Those being honored will be notified in advance, please dress appropriately in formal attire & sit in the area reserved for Seniors on the gym floor.

May 20th – Graduation practice will be held at **1:00 p.m.** in the Fryman Gym. **Attendance is MANDATORY and ANY senior who does not attend cannot participate in the Graduation Ceremony** – only those seniors with **PRIOR** written administrative approval will be excused. Practice will be approximately 2 hours and we will not dismiss until we've completed a successful run through. **Request the day off – YOU CAN NOT MISS THIS PRACTICE! School attire @ practice – If you are out of dress code you will be sent home to change! PLEASE WEAR OR BRING THE SHOES YOU ARE PLANNING TO WEAR AT GRADUATION WITH YOU TO PRACTICE, IF YOU ARE CONCERNED THAT THEY MAY BE OUT OF DRESSCODE.**

May 27th – **GRADUATION 9:00 a.m** at the Pensacola Bay Center. Graduates must report in their cap and gown to their assigned advisory teacher by **8:15 a.m.** All seniors will enter the Bay Center via the back ground level entrance and doors will close and no further entry for seniors will be granted after 8:50 a.m. Enter the Bay Center with your cap on your head, gown unzipped, and medallions/cords/stoles around your neck. Keep these items around your neck while holding them with your hand extended out in front of you. Graduates will not be permitted to bring any personal items into the Bay Center, including purses and bags. All prohibited items will be confiscated by security personnel. Phones and car keys are allowed, but must remain out of sight and silent during the entirety of the event. Parents and guests must enter via the main entrance ramps and will also pass through Bay Center security screening. An elevator is available for those needing assistance. **SENIORS CANNOT BE LATE.** The Bay Center has **SEVERELY** limited parking – this may require you to park further away and pay for parking. Try to arrive before 8:15 a.m. You will be responsible for following the dress code as given. Failure to do so can result in your inability to walk in the commencement ceremony. Once through security, you will be directed by school staff to walk through the back tunnel and onto the Bay Center floor. Once on the floor, you will look for your assigned teacher's section (**LOOK FOR THE WHITE SIGN WITH YOUR TEACHER'S NAME**). Once you locate your teacher, you will be directed where to sit (**YOUR SEAT WILL BE MARKED WITH YOUR NAME CARD**). Do not move any of the chairs or name cards. Once everyone is seated in your row, the teacher assigned to your group will go over some reminders. Listen carefully! You will stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. Male graduates should remove their caps and place it over their heart. Female graduates should place their hand over their heart. You will be instructed when you need to stand and sit during the ceremony. All Escambia County Public School Graduation Ceremonies are held to a tight time schedule and Tate's Ceremony will start promptly at 9:00 a.m. If you are not seated in your assigned seat at 8:50 a.m., you will **NOT** be allowed to participate in the ceremony. Security check-in will stop admitting graduates at 8:50 a.m. and there will be **NO LATE ATTENDANCE TO THE EVENT.** If you arrive late to the ceremony, you will be directed by District Staff to the main Bay Center entrances to view the ceremony with the general audience. **DO NOT BE LATE – DO NOT PLACE YOURSELF IN A SITUATION IN WHICH A DRESS CODE VIOLATION REQUIRES A WARDROBE CHANGE THAT WILL MAKE YOU LATE.**

PLEASE REMEMBER: Graduation is a dignified event to be enjoyed by the family and guests of every graduate. Please instruct **YOUR** guests to **NOT** bring signs, noise makers, wrapped gifts or any other devices that may obstruct the view of guests or in any way distract from or disrupt the ceremony (such items will be taken at the door). Bay Center personnel and police officers will be on hand to provide a safe and respectful environment. Any damage or additional clean-up to Bay Center facilities will be charged to Tate.



*****Scan the QR Code to LIVE Stream Tate's 2026 Graduation Ceremony