



GRADUATION NEWSLETTER

CLASS OF 2026

DEAR PARENTS/GUARDIANS OF THE CLASS OF 2026:



51
Days
to
Graduation

Graduation is quickly approaching. The following information outlines everything students need to know about the event. Please take the time to read through this information with your son or daughter so that you are aware of the timeline for all senior activities and deadlines. Mid-year graduates must fulfill all checkout and graduation practice requirements as well.

Graduation is an especially poignant time for our students and their parents because it signifies the end of their public educational process, the commencement of adult responsibilities, and the excitement of future educational endeavors. It is also a time for our students to reflect upon how their family, friends, and teachers have contributed so much to make this day possible. Students should behave with dignity and respect.

We are committed to having a dignified commencement exercise, and we know that with your help, it will be memorable for our students and their families. This year graduation will be held at ASU's Desert Financial Arena. ASU will be live streaming the event and a link will be shared via Parent Square the week of graduation.

Casteel's administration, faculty, and staff are extremely proud of Dr. Camille Casteel High School's Class of 2026. These students have achieved remarkable goals and set a high standard for future Colts through their example of our 3 C's: courage, character, and commitment.



UPCOMING SENIOR EVENTS:

April 1, 2026: Announcements and Cap & Gowns available for pick up in the library.

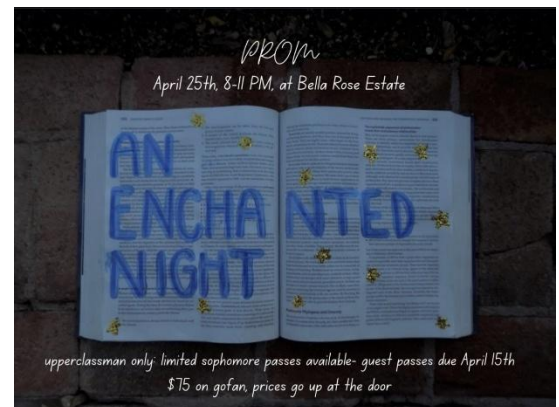
- CAP AND GOWN—Must be purchased before March 27, 2026, to receive your cap & gown on April 1, 2026.
- If you did not purchase your cap and gown before the December 1, 2025, due date, Jostens had allowed one more chance to purchase them before March 27, 2026 at www.jostens.com or by calling: 1-800-JOSTENS.
- For additional information on cords & stoles see pages 3-4.

April 15, 2026: Senior Awards Ceremony

- 7:00 PM
- Performing Arts Center **Invitations have been sent. The deadline for responses was March 6.*

April 25, 2026: Prom: “An Enchanted Evening”

- 8:00-11:00 PM
- Bella Rose Estate (1380 S. Price Road, Chandler, AZ 85286)
- Tickets purchased through GoFan \$75.
- Limited number of guest passes available in the bookstore.



May 8, 2026: Senior Sunset

- 6:00 PM
- Joel Wirth Stadium

May 14/15, 2026: Senior Finals

- Seniors must attend all of their classes.
- **NOTE: Zero-hour Seniors need to check with their instructors for the Zero period exam schedule.**

May 15, 2026: Senior Check Out Completed in Bookstore

- Senior check-out sheets will be handed out during English class on April 29th and April 30th. All textbooks must be returned by May 15th prior to completing your check- out in the bookstore on May 15th.
- Seniors may check-out earlier than May 15th provided all textbooks, uniforms, and Chromebooks are returned and outstanding debts are paid. Be sure to bring your completed check-out form with you to the bookstore. Mid-year graduates are required to check out in the bookstore prior to May 15th.
- **NOTE: You WILL NOT be able to purchase Prom tickets, allowed to walk during the commencement, and transcripts will not be sent if textbooks, uniforms, and Chromebooks are not returned, and any debts are left unpaid.**



Final Transcripts

- Will be sent via Parchment. To receive transcripts, seniors will need to set up an account online by going to www.cusd80.com/cchs and clicking on "Menu", "Academics", "Departments", "College and Career Center", "College and Career Specialist", "Senior Year", then " Order Official Transcripts through Parchment".

NOTE: Transcripts will not be sent if textbooks, uniforms, and Chromebooks are not returned, or debts are left unpaid.

GRADUATION DAY ATTIRE:

- Students should arrive at ASU Desert Financial Arena on May 20th by 6:45 pm, CARRYING their gown.
- Students should not put their gown on until AFTER they have been checked in at their line-up location.
- Students will NOT be allowed to carry any items with them (including food, drink or flowers) into the arena.
- Please leave all items with a family member before entering the arena. Staff members will be taking unauthorized items. Confiscated items will be available at CCHS the following day.
- **MALES** should wear dress slacks, a collared shirt (tie not required) comfortable dress shoes. No tennis shoes, flip flops or shorts will be allowed.
- **FEMALES** should wear a dress, or pants/skirt and blouse and comfortable dress shoes. No tennis shoes, flip flops or shorts will be allowed. Due to the amount of standing time, low heels or flats are highly recommended!!
- **Mortarboards** (caps) should not be altered in any way, nor should anything (other than the appropriate tassel) be attached to or written on it. Only CCHS provided graduation apparel may be worn; no pins, flowers, etc. allowed.
- Any student who appears to be under the influence of a controlled substance will not be allowed to participate in the ceremony and will fall under the jurisdiction of Tempe Police.

CCHS Regalia

- Seniors who earned a stole or cords will receive an email the week of April 13, 2026, confirming what they are eligible to wear.
- This regalia will be available for purchase and pick up in the Bookstore between April 20 – May 1, 2026.



Cum Laude Recognition

- o Senior Scholars that will be graduating with Honors will be recognized by wearing stoles. A letter will be emailed home notifying the senior of their honor the week of April 13, 2026.
- o If the senior is attending Senior Awards, they will receive their stole at the ceremony, and the fee will be applied to their account.
- o If not attending Senior Awards, the senior will be able to pick up the stole in the Bookstore between April 20 – May 1, 2026.

Cords

- o Seniors who earned cord(s) will receive an email the week of April 13, 2026, confirming what they are eligible to wear.
- o This regalia will be available for purchase and pick up in the Bookstore between April 20 – May 1, 2026
- o For a full list of cords, please visit our website: <https://cchs.cusd80.com/parents-students/graduation>

ATTENTION CASTEEL GRADUATES

ONLY school approved stoles & cords from CCHS can be worn at graduation.

Personal regalia or cap decorations are not permitted.

See Mrs. French in the front office for approval.

NOT APPROVED:

- Decorated Caps
- Non CCHS Stoles/Cords
- Corsages
- Flowers
- Money/Candy necklaces
- Have your family give them to you after graduation!



APPROVED:

- CCHS approved Stoles/Cords
- Native American Regalia
- Must be pre-approved through Mrs. French's Office
- Any Questions, visit Mrs. French in the Front Office!

Diploma Photography

- o A professional photographer from Grads will take a photo of you receiving your diploma. A photo proof will be sent to you via email or US Mail (yours to keep). If you like the proof, you may order the photo. (Parents/friends will not be allowed at the podium for photos.)



Row Assignments

- Row assignments will be finalized mid-May, once seating chart is complete it will be released to students via the Google Classroom ‘Class of 2026’ and posted in the library hallway on the Front Office wall. Graduates must know their row assignment before their arrival on graduation day. Please continue to check the Google Classroom moving forward for weekly updates.

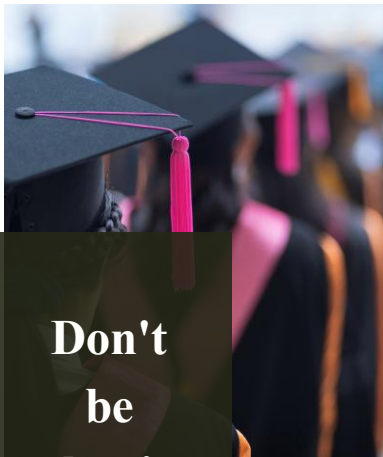
Name Pronunciation

- There will not be a formal graduation practice this year. Seniors who want to go over the pronunciation and announcement of their name with the graduation name reader will have the opportunity in May. Please check the Google Classroom for an announcement on when and where.

GRADUATION DAY:

May 20, 2026 -6:45 PM: Graduation Senior Line-up

- The Graduation Ceremony will be **Wednesday, May 20 @ 7:30PM at Desert Financial Arena @ASU.**
- Students are to report to the South-east entrance of the **football stadium concourse.**
- **Students not present by 6:55 PM will not be able to participate.**
- **No parents, siblings, or visitors allowed at check-in area or on the gym floor at ASU.**
- **Following the graduation ceremony, all graduates will exit the arena and continue to the south lawn.**



**Don't
be
late!**

****If you choose not to participate in the graduation ceremony, please notify Mrs. Brown, as soon as possible but no later than May 5, 2026. She will make arrangements to pick up your diploma after May 20th. She can be contacted by email at brown.mickey@cusd80.com or at 480-424-8266.***



May 20, 2026 – 7:30 PM: Graduation Begins

- o ASU Desert Arena doors will open at 6:30 p.m.

ASU CLEAR BAG POLICY

- o <https://sundevils.com/fans-community/game-day/clear-bag-policy>

ASU Bag Policy

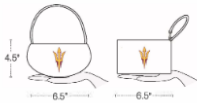
Approved Bags



Clear Bag
No larger than 12" x 6" x 12"



Plastic Storage Bag
1-Gallon resealable, clear

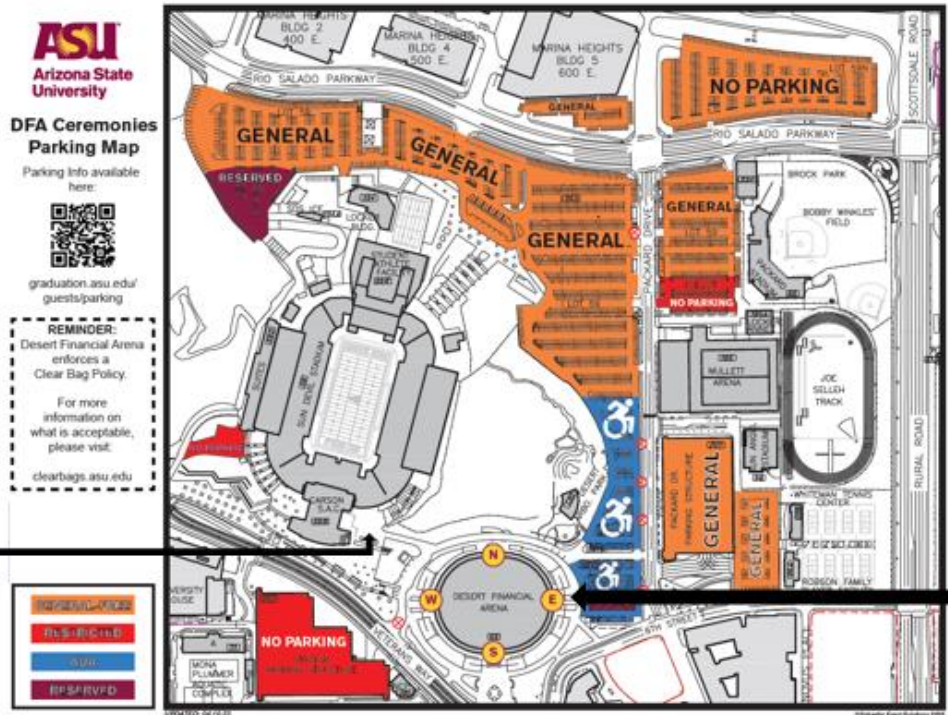


Small Clutch Bag
No larger than 4.5" x 6.5"



Seat Cushion and Seat Cushion with Back
No pockets or zippers 18" or less in width

ASU PARKING





COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES:

Processional - led in alphabetical order, played by CCHS Band & Orchestra.

- Seniors remain standing and quiet please.

Presentation of Colors - AFJROTC

National Anthem - performed by CCHS Choir

Welcome and Introductions by Senior Class Officers – you may be seated

Speeches and music - remain seated

Presentation of Class - Mr. Schnittger will ask the class to please rise to be presented to the CUSD Board Members. After the presentation, the class will sit to await the awarding of diplomas.

Awarding of Diplomas

- Each row will stand in unison one row at a time. Do not crowd!
- Only ONE senior at a time will go to the podium.
- Do not go to the podium until your name is called.
- The Board member will hand you the diploma. Receive it with your left hand and then shake hands with your right hand.
- After you receive your diploma, DO NOT do anything to draw attention away from the student in line behind you receiving a diploma. Please walk calmly to your seat.

*Remind your family and friends not to bring foghorns or balloon bouquets.

After the last diploma is awarded, your Senior Class President will congratulate the Class of 2026 ask you all to stand and instruct you to move your tassels from right to the left.

- Remain standing for the closing remarks.
- After the closing remarks, stand to sing the Fight Song.

***Following the graduation ceremony, all graduates will exit the arena and continue to the south lawn.**

NOTE: If you receive the wrong diploma, please hold it until after the ceremony. Return it to Mrs. Brown and she will make the correct exchange.

REMEMBER if behavior is inappropriate, commencement exercises may be stopped, and diplomas will be issued through the registrar's office on June 1st.



Casteel High School



GRADUATION
Ceremony

Class
of
2026

May 20, 2026, 7:30 PM
ASU Desert Financial Arena
Doors open at 6:30 PM

When Attending Please Remember:

- ASU enforces a clear bag policy
- No ticket purchase is necessary
- No noisemakers or balloons
- No tripods or selfie sticks
- No glass or metal containers
- No outside food or drinks

Handicapped Parking & Seating is first come first served