



DEER VALLEY
Unified School District

**Mountain Ridge
High School**
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Dear Parents and Class of 2026 Graduates:

Mountain Ridge High School will be holding our graduation ceremony at the **State Farm Stadium on May 14, 2026, 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 to ensure a smooth and dignified graduation. We ask that you review these guidelines, as we must adhere to them for the ceremony to meet stadium and state requirements.

Please keep this list for reference:

- A graduation rehearsal meeting will be held on April 28th for graduates with last names A-L and on April 30th for graduates with last names M-Z during AcaPrep in the MRHS auditorium. Graduates do not go to the stadium to rehearse. 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 our website for review.
- All graduates will be required to go through senior checkout on May 12th from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. 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 8th as this will expedite checkout. At checkout, graduates will return their Chromebook/charger. 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 Renaissance cords. *If a graduate does not attend graduation, they may pick up a diploma **cover** after May 14th.
- Graduation will be at the State Farm Stadium on **May 14, 2026, at 4:30 p.m.** Graduates should be at the Stadium by **3:45 p.m.**
- It is suggested that parents plan to drive to the stadium with the graduate. We have been assigned the **WEST** parking lot, and our entrance for parents and graduates will be **GATE 1. A parking map with directions for both general and accessible parking** will be posted on our website and the DVUSD website. Graduates will also receive a copy at senior checkout. Doors will open at 3:45 p.m. **PLEASE DO NOT COME EARLIER** than 3:45 p.m.

******Graduates and their supporters will be subject to security screening and an inspection of all bags prior to entering State Farm Stadium. Magnetometers will be used to screen for dense metals for all those entering stadium Access Control Points. If a guest does not feel comfortable with the metal detector screening due to medical reasons, a physical pat-down will be conducted instead.***

GRADUATE PROCESS

- Graduates should **WEAR their cap** and **must carry their gowns into the Stadium. After being checked in, they can put on their gown. COME ceremony ready.**
- Both guests and graduates enter GATE 1; students will have a separate entrance to check in with their school officials.
- Once inside, graduates will proceed down the designated stairs to the stadium floor.
- The show floor will have a mirrored set of chairs as the waiting area.
- The graduates will go to their assigned seats.
- Once the graduation begins, the students will walk along the stadium's east or west walls as they proceed to the north side of the floor to be seated.
- Upon the conclusion of graduation, students will be instructed to exit the same stairwell they entered.
- Students and guests will meet outside of GATE 1 after the ceremony.

ATTENDEE PROCESS

- Guests will enter GATE 1 after going through the magnetometers.
- Guests may choose their seats anywhere between Sections 113-125.
- ADA seating is available. Wheelchairs can be checked out **INSIDE** the stadium.
- Once the graduation has ended, the guests will be instructed to exit at the same gate they entered.
- Graduates and guests will meet outside of GATE 1 after the ceremony.

GRADUATE STAGING, VIDEO AND PHOTOGRAPHY

- Graduates will be seated on the main floor of the stadium in alphabetical order A-Z alternating sides of the middle aisle. Names will be read alternating left side, right side. ****GRADUATE NAMES will be read according to their diploma name. If a graduate wants to shorten their name or eliminate their middle name, 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 parent approval given to administration.** Please email paul.strauss@dvusd.org.
- **Guests will be seated in the north end zone section. No guests will be allowed on the stadium floor.**
- The audience will stand as the graduates enter and remain standing through the presentation of colors, the national anthem, and the Pledge of Allegiance.
- An official photographer will be taking pictures of all graduates receiving their diplomas. Picture ordering: Grads Photography needs you to register your graduate in order to receive graduation photographs to proof and purchase. This is of course optional. You may click on this link <https://regis.viewyour.photos/direct/40186/27329571>
- or go to MRHS graduation information/graduation photography. **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, and 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 when choosing shoes. Floor-length dresses are discouraged.
- Purses should not be carried by graduates during the ceremony. They will not be allowed into the stadium.
- All graduates need to remember that graduation is a dignified, formal occasion. Appropriate, dignified behavior is expected.
- **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, boutonnières, flower leis/money leis etc.** may not be worn on top of gowns.
 - School administration may approve graduates to wear additional regalia that meet the following criteria:
 - Awarded by an organization with an academic association affiliated with a DVUSD high school
 - Awarded by an organization associated with a national honor society that 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 the 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 to be admitted 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 stadium will strictly enforce checking for these prohibited items.

Following the closing, graduates and guests will exit **GATE 1**. All participants and spectators must vacate the facility immediately, as per our contract.

We hope everyone will help make this ceremony special for our Class of 2026. 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.