



RENTON HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION GUIDE

CLASS OF 2026

A GRADUATION GUIDE
FOR RENTON HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

The 115th Commencement Ceremony

ShoWare Center

Wednesday, June 10, 2026

12:00 PM

INTRODUCTION

Congratulations! It is with honor and pride that we offer our most sincere recognition and appreciation for your efforts and accomplishments as soon-to-be graduates of The Renton High School. You will soon join a distinguished corps of Renton High School Alumni whose Pride, Tradition, and Excellence are unmatched in the educational establishment. The following information about our prestigious commencement exercises and the many related activities and responsibilities have been prepared for your understanding and ease of access. The final days of your secondary education will be exciting, memorable, busy, and important. You will be completing class work, submitting final projects and preparing for final exams, as well as finalizing a number of details connected with the conclusion of your high school career. The importance of all of this requires a need for summarizing vital responsibilities and activities. This graduation guide is intended to serve that purpose. To be clear is to be kind, and it is with a spirit of kindness that we offer clarity to our expectations.

Mr. O'Connell, RHS principal, and Mr. Powell, RHS assistant principal and senior class administrator, will serve as your graduation advisors regarding all matters about graduation and its details.

Josh Willecke is your senior class advisor and will serve in their capacity to support preparation and activities related to graduation and end of year celebrations.

The administration, faculty, and staff have given this event considerable thought and planning. Our wish for your final appearance as a student at The Renton High School is that the occasion will be reverent and respectful and one in which you, your family, your loved ones, your friends and your community will be proud.

Your cooperation in celebrating the Class of 2026 and in making this year's graduation ceremony memorable and successful is expected and appreciated.

Sincerely,

Drew O'Connell

Proud Principal

Rashaad Powell

Proud Assistant Principal

Aleta Konkol

Proud Assistant Principal

COMMENCEMENT REQUIREMENTS

To participate in the graduation ceremony, a student must have 26 credits or more and have met all course requirements for graduation including:

- Met SBA Reading/Writing requirement (For alternative test options, students should see their counselor.)
- Met SBA Math (For alternative options, students should see their counselor.)
- Met the High School and Beyond Plan via SchoolLinks
- Completed the Senior Survey
- Completion of 20 Hours of Community Service is required to graduate.
 - Renton High will continue to participate in the Superintendent's Awards: Bronze Level: 80-99 hours, Silver Level: 100-119 hours, and the Gold Level: 120+ hours. All community service hours must be submitted no later than Wednesday, April 1st in the Counseling Office if students wish to receive recognition for these levels of Community Service.
- All online RHS credit-retrieval classes must be completed, and grades turned in by Friday, May 29th, to participate in the commencement ceremony.

Attendance Requirements

To participate in the graduation ceremony, all graduating seniors **MUST** attend the rehearsal.

Students aiming to graduate from Renton High School must have attended RHS at least 1 tri during their senior year and be in active enrollment status as noted in Skyward and per the records kept by our registrar, Ms. Cathcart

Additional Requirements

Each participating graduate must:

- attend and participate in the graduation rehearsal on Tuesday, June 9th (details below).
- purchase and properly wear the cap, gown, stole, and tassel as designated by the school administration and class advisors
- cooperate with the administrators and the class advisors by participating in all parts of the graduation ceremony

Caps and Gowns

All graduation attire (caps, gowns, stole, tassel, etc.) are purchased through National Achievers. Renton High School staff do not purchase graduation attire. This must be done by the student/family directly through National Achievers. This should be done as soon as possible to guarantee arrival in time.

Please Note: Failure to comply with any of the above requirements will automatically forfeit a student's privilege of participation in the graduation ceremony.

PAYING FINES AND RETURNING RHS PROPERTY

Please check at home and return all books, supplies, technology, sports equipment, etc. that are the property of the school district. **Each student is responsible for making sure fines are cleared.** Fines are posted on [InTouch](#), but you can also call/visit Ms. Carlson during business hours (7:30 am to 3:00 pm) for assistance: 425.204.3421.

Monday, June 8th is the designated Senior Checkout Day, where all RSD items (such as textbooks, uniforms, Chromebook) can be returned and all fines paid at our ASB window. However, students are encouraged to accomplish these tasks before June 9th

In Touch: <https://wa-renton.intouchrecepting.com>

Login using Student ID # & Last Name

Your Username is: Student's Lunch #

(Example: 123456)

Your Password: Student's Last Name – ALL CAPS

(Example: LASTNAME)

Possible fines can include:

- **Athletic/ASB fines**
- **Library and General Fines** -books must be returned to the library.

Fines may be paid during lunches or after school. **All fines must be paid in full before a senior may purchase tickets.** Fines may be paid in cash, Apple Pay, or debit/credit cards (payments can be made online at InTouch). **No checks will be accepted after Friday, May 8th.**

GRADUATION WITH HONORS

Honor Cords

- Seniors with a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 wear **gold honor cords**.
- Seniors who are at the top 7% of their class will wear **red and white honor cords**.

Cords will be issued to qualifying students after graduation rehearsal On June 9th. Final GPA calculations for honor cords are based on cumulative GPA up through Trimester 2 grades and class standing. See your counselor if you have any questions regarding honor cords.

Community Service Honors

Completion of 20 Hours of Community Service is required this year. In addition, Renton High School will continue to participate in the Superintendent's Awards as follows:

- Bronze Level: 80-99 hours,
- Silver Level: 100-119 hours, and
- Gold Level: 120+ hours.

All community service hours must be submitted via SchoolLinks no later than March 2, 2026 if students wish to receive recognition for these levels of Community Service.

SCHOLARSHIP RECOGNITION

Students need to fill out and return the Senior Survey to Ms. Cindy Martinez in the Career Center by Friday, May 1st @ 11:59 p.m. The Senior Survey is open now. Accurate scholarship names must have been provided by this date for inclusion in the commencement program. **Scholarship information submitted after this date may not be included in the commencement program.** Information will be used for awards and graduation programs. Students can also access this information via the RHS Career Center Website. Please be advised that **this is a requirement.**

You must complete the senior survey in order to receive commencement admission tickets.

COMMENCEMENT TICKETS

The Renton High School commencement exercises will be held at the ShoWare Center in Kent, WA. This is a ticketed event, and only those with 2026 RHS Graduation tickets will be allowed entry.

- Commencement tickets will be distributed beginning **Wednesday, June 3rd** during lunch and after school only.
- Commencement tickets will only be issued to graduates with proper picture ID.
- Each graduation will be issued six (6) tickets.
- Tickets will be available during lunches and after school starting Wednesday, June 3rd until Tuesday, June 9th.
- No tickets will be available on Wednesday, June 10th.

Reminder: To receive your tickets, **all fines and detention hours must be cleared, and Senior Survey completed.**

Please Note:

Teachers will report to Counselors any student in danger of failing classes. Graduation tickets will be put on “hold” for students who are failing classes, and/or have yet to meet other graduation requirements.

If you are planning on not attending the ceremony, please let Ms. Trezza know in the Main Office. If you do not pick up your tickets, we will assume you do not want them.

Detention make-up deadline – Friday, May 22nd.

You must complete all detention hours to receive graduation tickets.

Additional Tickets

Seniors requesting more than six (6) tickets may purchase additional tickets for \$5.00/each, beginning **Wednesday June 3rd** and while the supplies last.

Tickets must be purchased from Ms. Carlson in the ASB ticket window or with Ms. Trezza in the main office with proper picture ID.

There is no limit on how many you can purchase.

All fines and detention hours must be cleared, and the Senior Survey must be completed.

There will be no refunds on tickets bought.

Admission to Commencement will be by a 2026 Renton High School commencement ticket only. Doors will open at **11:00 a.m.** at the ShoWare Center for parents and friends with tickets. Everyone must have a ticket, and each person should be holding their own ticket. Infants bundled in a front carrier (e.g., baby Bjorn or baby sling) are exempted. **No car seats are allowed.** Strollers must be placed in a holding area until after the ceremony. It is important that you **write your name in ink on your tickets** at the earliest possible opportunity. **Lost, stolen, or damaged tickets will not be replaced.** We regret that no one except the members of the graduating class can be admitted without a ticket.

Graduation announcements are **NOT** tickets to the Commencement exercises. They are a means of announcing your graduation from high school. Be sure the recipients understand these are **NOT** tickets to Commencement. Generally, the practice is to mail announcements two weeks prior to graduation

Important Notes:

- All graduation requirements must be met, and fines/detention must be cleared at the time of ticket purchase.
- Running Start students will be able to walk without final grades posted, so long as all other graduation requirements are met.
- Students in Running Start **MUST** be present at graduation rehearsal on June 9 in order to participate in the graduation exercises.
- Walking in the ceremony does not guarantee a student will receive their diploma. Please speak with your counselor if you have any questions.

Teachers will report to Counselors any students in danger of failing classes on Friday, May 15th.

Graduation tickets will be put on “hold” for students who are failing classes, and/or have yet to meet State testing requirements. If you do not sign up for your tickets, we will assume you do not want them.

COMMENCEMENT GUIDE

Participation:

If you are not planning to participate in the commencement exercises, please notify Ms. Trezza in the main office immediately. If your plans change for any reason, communicate with Ms. Trezza immediately.

No refunds on caps/gowns will be granted after Tuesday, April 28, and everything goes through National Achievers. RHS does not facilitate any communication between students/families and National Achievers. You must go through National Achievers directly.

Senior Checkout/Last Day of Classes for Seniors – Monday, June 8, 2026

- All seniors must attend in person.
- All seniors will receive their check out sheet, and teachers will sign the sheet throughout the day as students attend classes.
- Teachers will sign checkout sheets with a PASS or NO CREDIT grade unless their grades are completed and final. In that case the teacher will assign the appropriate letter grade: A, B, C, D, or F.
- After attending all 5 classes during the day, students will report to their grade level advisory and be called down to the commons to get additional signatures, submit their laptops and clearance from different stations (ASB, Senior survey, library, etc.).
- Completed check out forms will ultimately be provided to the alpha counselor in the commons at the end of the day for final clearance.

Elementary School Visits – Tuesday, June 9, 2026

- Following rehearsal, from 10:30 – 11:30 AM, seniors will visit feeder elementary schools to walk the halls in their cap and gown.
- Graduates who didn't attend an RSD elementary school will be able to choose a school to visit.

Graduation Rehearsal – Tuesday, June 9, 2026

- Graduation rehearsal is MANDATORY.
 - Students will not be allowed to participate in the graduation exercises on June 10 if they miss the rehearsal.
- Graduation rehearsal will be held in the RHS main gym.
 - Doors open at 7:00 AM
 - Rehearsal begins at 8:00 AM
- We will rehearse the following until Mr. O'Connell feels you are ready:
 - Procession
 - Recession
 - Sitting/Standing in unison
 - Approaching the stage/Name cards
 - Receiving the diploma cover & shaking hands
 - Leaving the stage

If you are absent from rehearsal without prior approval from Mr. O'Connell, you will not be permitted to participate in the ceremony.

Commencement Exercises
Wednesday, June 10, 2026 @ 12:00 PM
ShoWare Center – Kent, Washington

12:00 Graduation Line up Info:

11:00 AM	Report to dressing rooms. You must be on time. Doors open to family and friends with RHS tickets.
11:15 AM	Check in at line-up area
11:40 AM	Form processional lines in staging areas
11:50 AM	Move the processional line to entrance of arena
12:00 PM	Commencement ceremony starts w/procession

GRADUATION ATTIRE

All RHS gowns are red. All stoles are white.

Before Graduation:

- Place the gown on a hanger and allow it to hang. (DO NOT leave it in the bag until graduation)
- Press with a WARM iron. DO NOT use the hot setting.
- Caps and gowns are NOT to be altered, marked or decorated in any way.
- DO NOT wear the cap and gown to graduation. Carry it with you. You'll be able to get dressed at ShoWare.

So that we present a uniform appearance, please adhere to the following guidelines:

- All gowns must be zipped to the top throughout the ceremony.
- No flowers, jewelry, or unapproved sashes, stoles will be allowed. You will be asked to remove them.
- Native American/Indigenous regalia is allowed. Please view OSPI's guidance AND check with Mr. O'Connell for confirmation of what is allowed.
- Kente and Sarape stoles may be worn. However, these stoles are worn in conjunction with our RHS class of 2026 stoles. RHS Class of 2026 stoles shall be worn on top of other stoles.
- **SPECIAL REQUESTS:** If you or your family have a specific question about what can or cannot be worn, please **email our office manager, Ms. Trezza at carmen.trezza@rentonschools.us before June 1, 2026. Please send pictures and a description of the item requested.** This will help us get back to you as soon as possible.
- Students should wear their choice of:
 - Shirt with a tie and slacks.
 - Dress or skirt with a shirt/blouse
- For those wearing a dress:
 - Be sure the dress doesn't show at the gown's neckline or below the hem of the gown.
- DO NOT wear high heels or stilettos. The stairs are grated and your heel could get caught.
- Please DO NOT wear any of the following:
 - Shorts, miniskirts, Crocs, slippers, Uggs

Additional pre-graduation guidance:

- Cell phones are not allowed to be on your person during the ceremony.
 - Please eat something before you arrive as no food is allowed, and you do not want to get lightheaded.
 - Please leave purses/valuables with someone other than a senior participant or RHS staff member. You will NOT be able to re-enter the ShoWare after the graduation ceremony.
 - Caps must be undecorated and worn straight on the head. This means the cap must be level, the points of the cap in the front, and the tassel starts on the left.
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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

ShoWare Center – Kent, WA

- The graduation ceremony is a school sponsored activity. Therefore, all District and Renton High rules/regulations apply.
- Transportation to the off-campus site (ShoWare Center) is the student's responsibility.
- The ShoWare Center has parking. Please inform your guests to allow plenty of time to find parking. It gets very busy prior to the ceremony, and guests from the graduation before ours will be leaving as we are arriving. Additional parking is available at the park and ride diagonally across from the ShoWare Center.
- Doors will open for family and guests at 11:00 AM. The ceremony will start promptly at 12:00 PM.
- If **wheelchair seating** for guests is needed, the ShoWare Center staff will be seating persons on a first come, first served basis. Plan to arrive early!!!! Per ShoWare Center rules, ADA seats are not reserved. Guests with ADA seating requirements should proceed to the Guest Services table just inside the main doors. If guests are unsure about where the table is, ask any ShoWare staff for assistance. Staff will then escort the ADA guest to the ADA seating areas. ADA Drop Off Parking will be on both the East and West sides of the building. Both sides will have an optional drop off lane. However, families can only park there to drop off and pick up. There will be no parking in the ADA lanes area during the graduation ceremony. Entrance for family and friends and disabled guest will only be through the front door. Everyone will be required to go through the metal detectors.
- If you require a **sign language interpreter**, please see Ms. Trezza in the Main Office as soon as possible but no later than Friday, May 8th at 2:30 PM.
- A photographer will take a picture of each graduate as they receive their diploma. Proofs are available at www.gradimages.com within a few days after graduation. Customer service can be reached at 800.261.2576. **Parents and guests will not be permitted to approach the stage for photographs during the ceremony.**

- **NO BALLOONS will be allowed** into the ShoWare Center. Large balloon bouquets will be held at the door so as not to impair the view for other guests.
 - **The ShoWare specifically forbids:**
 - bullhorns, silly string, and confetti.
 - Food or beverages inside the arena.
 - Please remember: We are fortunate to be using the ShoWare Center facilities. Let's make sure that we are exemplary guests and demonstrate respect for the facility.
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SHOWARE CENTER SECURITY MEASURES

The ShoWare Center has released the info below regarding security measures that will affect entrance at ShoWare for graduation. ANYONE entering through the rear loading dock (students, faculty, staff, etc.) will go through the secure entry process. The Sho Ware Center has asked us to make you aware of the following:

The safety of every guest attending an event at the ShoWare Center is always our highest priority. To continue to maintain our commitment to guest safety, additional security measures are being implemented for all public events. Enhanced security measures include the following:

- Metal detectors and/or metal detecting wands will be used at all points of entry.
- Backpacks are prohibited from entering the arena.
- All bags, regardless of sizes, are subject to a pre-entry search

The ShoWare Center **Clear Bag Policy:**

- All guests are subject to a bag search and security check without exception. Security checks can include wand, metal detectors, and pat downs.
- Clear bags no larger than 12" x 12" x 6" are allowed. One-gallon clear plastic Ziploc bags are also allowed.
- Small clutches no larger than 4.5" x 6.5" are allowed.
- Exceptions will be made for medically necessary items or single compartment diaper bags (a child must be present).

[Clear Bag Detail Page Available Here](#)

Prohibited Items:

- Cans, Bottles, Glass or Other Beverage Containers (plastic water bottles are allowed)
- Helium Balloons
- Laptops, Tablets, or portable video game consoles
- Noisemaking Devices (i.e., whistles, air horns, cymbals, bugles, drums, and horns)
- Outside Food and Beverage

- Professional Photography Equipment
- Stickers
- Umbrellas that are too large to fit in your clear bag

For a complete list of prohibited items, visit the [accesso ShoWare A-Z guide](#).

If a guest is unable to be scanned with metal detector or wands, security staff will conduct a pat-down search. For a full list of prohibited items and to view the [SHOWARE CODE OF CONDUCT](#) policy.

DIRECTIONS TO THE SHOWARE CENTER

From Renton, go south on 167. Take the Willis Street exit. Turn left onto Willis St, then left onto 4th avenue. From 4th Ave, turn left on W. James St. and ShoWare Center is on your right.

From Seattle, take I-5 south. Take exit 149 (S. Kent/Des Moines Road). Follow Kent/Des Moines Road as it becomes W. Willis St. Turn left onto 4th Ave and follow, then make a left turn onto W. James St and the ShoWare Center is on your right.

DIPLOMA DISTRIBUTION

Diplomas for students who have met all graduation requirements will be distributed on June 15, 16 and 17 from 2:30 – 4:00 PM in the Commons at Renton High School. Students MAY NOT pick up the diploma before these dates/times. After June 17, there will be no diploma distributed until the end of August 2026, as the school will be closed for summer break.

To receive your diploma, all graduation requirements and obligations must be met, and all fines must be cleared.

Diplomas will only be released to the graduate, and a picture ID is required. Neither family members nor friends are allowed to pick up diplomas.

We DO NOT mail diplomas.

TRANSCRIPTS

No later than June 8, students who need a transcript, official or unofficial, need to fill out the form with Ms. Magda.

All transcript requests must go through Ms. Magda in the counseling office.

SENIOR COUNTDOWN

By January 30	Seniors letters were mailed home to communicate individual graduation progress and official name to be included on the diploma.
Monday, March 2	<u>Community Service hours due</u> in Counseling Office for those who wish to receive Superintendent's Recognition.
Wednesday, April 1	<u>The High School and Beyond Plan (SchoolLinks) is DUE.</u>
Tuesday, April 28	<u>Pay Fines and Obligations</u> – Fines must be cleared before you can pick up Commencement tickets and receive your diploma. Payments are to be made in the Main Office or ASB Office. <u>ASB/Athletic and Library/General Fines</u> - pay at the ASB window or Main Office by cash/money order, debit/credit card, or online through InTouch. (see pg. 4) However, all library books must be returned to the library.
Friday, May 1	<u>Senior Surveys are due</u> to Ms. Martinez in the Career Center. Accurate scholarship names must have been provided by this date for inclusion in the graduation program.
Thursday, May 7	<u>Cap and Gown</u> pick up during lunch from National Achievers
Friday, May 8	<u>Last day to accept personal checks for fines, etc.</u> Last day to request a <u>sign language interpreter</u> . Please see Ms. Trezza in the Main Office as soon as possible but no later than 2:30 PM.
Friday, May 15	Teachers inform Counselors of seniors failing classes who will not be able to walk in the ceremony.
Friday, May 22	<u>Detention Make-Up Deadline</u> – All detention hours must be served to receive graduation tickets. <u>Deadline to sign Elective Waivers</u> - These must be signed before the end of the day. Sign the Google form sent to your school Outlook email and/or your parents' email. This must be signed by the end of the day Friday, May 22, 2026.

Friday, May 29 th	<u>Last day to turn in any missing/makeup assignments.</u> Last day to complete online credit retrieval classes to participate in the commencement ceremony.
Tuesday, June 2 – 9	Six Commencement tickets will be distributed if all requirements are met. Additional tickets may be purchased for \$5.00/ticket, while supplies last.
Thursday, June 4	Senior Final Exams
Friday, June 5	Senior Final Exams & Moving Up/Awards Assembly
Monday, June 8	<u>Senior Checkout Day</u> – ALL SENIORS ARE EXPECTED TO CHECK OUT IN PERSON. Seniors must have their checkout sheet signed by all of their teachers by the end of the day. At the end of the day, Seniors will be dismissed to the Commons to get any final signatures they need from the different stations. Once everything has been signed, they will turn in their papers to their Counselors in the Commons. All RHS textbooks, supplies, and equipment must be returned no later than 2:30 p.m. All fines must be paid. Chromebook, charger, and hotspots must be returned. Senior Survey MUST BE COMPLETED. Any Senior not on track to graduate for academic reasons will have been communicated with by their counselor by this point. If you have any questions, contact your counselor. <u>The above items may be completed before June 8th, but this is the hard deadline to complete all tasks to be eligible for participation in Commencement.</u> Last day to request transcripts from Ms. Magda in the counseling office.
Tuesday, June 9	<u>Commencement Rehearsal</u> will be in the Renton High School Gym until Mr. O'Connell is satisfied. Final instructions relative to the Commencement exercise will be issued. <u>Seniors planning to participate in Graduation MUST be present and participate in the rehearsal.</u> Gym doors will open at 7:00 AM and rehearsal will begin at 8:00 AM.

Elementary School Visits – Graduates will return to our main feeder elementary schools to walk the halls in their cap/gown.

Honor cords will be handed out after rehearsal in the gym.

- Last day to request a refund for cap and gown. A letter must accompany the request from the student and parent. This assures National Achievers that the student will not walk.
- **LAST DAY TO RECEIVE GRADUATION TICKETS.**

ALL REQUIREMENTS for walking in the commencement ceremony must be met before any tickets are distributed.

Wednesday, June 10

Commencement Exercises

Arrive at ShoWare by 10:30 am. **All seniors are to be dressed and ready for final instructions by 11:15 am.**

The Commencement exercises will begin at 12:00 p.m. with the processional of the graduating seniors. Because of new security measures, ticket holders are urged to arrive at 11:00 am. Please urge guests to remain in the event center until after the recessional when ALL seniors have left the arena. Once you exit ShoWare after the ceremony, you will not be able to re-enter.

11:00 AM	Report to dressing rooms. You must be on time. Doors open for family and friends with RHS ticket
11:15 AM	Check in at line-up area
11:40 AM	Form processional lines in staging areas
11:50 AM	Move the processional line to entrance of arena
12:00 PM	Commencement ceremony starts w/processional

June 15, 16 & 17

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To receive your diploma, all graduation requirements and obligations must be met, and all fines must be cleared.

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We DO NOT mail diplomas.

Unanticipated Changes

One thing we all learned over the past few years is the unpredictability of events. Please note that dates and times may be subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. We recommend that you continue to:

- Check the Renton High School Website under **Students** and the drop down for **Class of 2026** for any updates, reminders or changes.
- Check the Class of 2026 Instagram for updates, reminders, and changes.
- Check @therealrentonhs and/or @rentonspiritsquad Instagram for updates, reminders and changes.
- Check your school Outlook and Gmail accounts daily for updates, reminders and changes.