



# Morris Hills High School



520 West Main Street · Rockaway, NJ 07866-3799  
Todd M. Toriello, Ed.D. • Principal • 973-664-2301

May 2026

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

Although it may seem difficult to believe, the high school journey for our seniors is rapidly drawing to a close. For parents/guardians, this is always a special moment. Please allow me to share some specifics with you for your planning purposes.

I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to you on the occasion of the graduation of your child from Morris Hills High School. Commencement will be held on Tuesday, June 16, 2026, at 10:00AM on Gifford Field located behind Morris Hills High School. In the event we experience inclement weather on the morning of Tuesday, June 16, 2026, we will postpone the ceremony until a later time on the same day. We are willing to postpone the start time of the graduation ceremony to as late as early evening. The announcement of this postponement could happen any time during the days leading up to or on the morning of Tuesday, June 16, 2026. In the event of a complete washout, the ceremony will be held in the main gymnasium with additional seating in the auditorium. Morris Hills High School will be live streaming the graduation ceremony. The link to view the live stream will be located on the Morris Hills High School website under the "Headlines" section. Two commencement tickets will be distributed to each of the graduates in the event of an indoor ceremony, with additional ticket requests honored only if we have unused or returned tickets available. Tickets are not needed for the outside graduation ceremony and there are no limits on the number of guests that can attend.

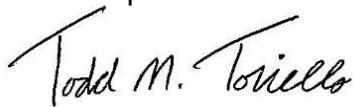
All seating is on a first come first served basis. We will also have a tent on the field reserved for senior citizens or individuals with disabilities only. Other family members will be expected to sit in the bleachers. Graduates may sign up for handicapped parking permits and additional graduation tickets for an indoor ceremony only in the Principal's Office beginning on Wednesday, May 27, 2026. Handicap parking will be available behind Gifford Field and can be accessed from West Longview Road.

Graduation rehearsals will be held on Friday, June 12, 2026 and Monday, June 15, 2026 at 9:15AM. Attendance at both rehearsals is mandatory. Caps and gowns will be distributed to senior students on June 12, 2026 following graduation rehearsal. Any senior still owing an obligation will not receive his or her cap and gown at that time.

Graduation from high school is an event that comes once in a student's lifetime. The administration and faculty make every effort to provide a ceremony steeped in tradition, one that brings meaning to all graduates and their families and loved ones. This is not an athletic event but rather an academic proceeding to honor a journey fulfilled, one students and parents have envisioned for a long time. Our goal as a professional staff at Morris Hills High School is to provide a ceremony defined by both dignity and decorum. Students and parents deserve nothing less and we make every effort in our planning to execute a memorable event, start to finish. To ensure that goal, I have reviewed with the seniors a number of expectations. I share them with you here on the reverse side of this letter. We ask that you read them carefully and underscore them with your graduate as well.

The Morris Hills High School community of administrators and faculty salute you on your graduate's successful completion of high school. We all look forward to a commencement ceremony of the highest order on June 16, 2026.

In the Spirit of Partnership,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd M. Toriello". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial 'T'.

Todd M. Toriello, Ed.D.  
Principal

TT/lp

## **GRADUATION CEREMONY GUIDELINES AND EXPECTATIONS**

In an attempt to provide a dignified graduation ceremony, we request that the graduates dress appropriately for the occasion. Appropriate attire is the following: shirt, tie, dress pants, dress, or dress slacks. **Students are prohibited from wearing shorts, sneakers, flip-flops or high heels. Flats and wedges are allowed. Any student who is inappropriately dressed will not be permitted to participate in the ceremony. Caps are not permitted to be decorated.**

Seniors are expected to participate in both graduation practices. Any excusals will be handled by the Principal on an individual basis. **Only emergency situations will be considered.** Failure to comply with this may result in exclusion from participation in the graduation ceremony.

**This letter is by no means a “guarantee” of graduation. Grades and attendance requirements must be met. If credit and attendance requirements are not met, seniors cannot participate in the commencement ceremony.**

Proper behavior is expected of all graduates throughout the commencement ceremony. Failure to comply will result in removal from the commencement ceremony. Students may not carry cell phones or cameras during the ceremony. All students will be searched prior to the ceremony. Any inappropriate items - balloons, bubbles, messages on graduation hats, flags to make political statements, etc. - will be confiscated and may be cause for removal from the commencement ceremony. If inappropriate behavior is evident at the commencement ceremony, students will be escorted off the field and diplomas will not be issued until a successful parental conference is held.

Seniors having elderly family members attending the commencement ceremony are requested to arrive early since there will be no reserved seating.

### **SCHEDULE FOR SENIORS - CLOSING ACTIVITIES**

June	12	Commencement rehearsal #1 beginning in the Main Gym at 9:15AM until completion.
June	12	Announcements & fine collection at the conclusion of commencement rehearsal # 1.
June	12	Caps & gowns distributed from the cafeteria and the gymnasium at the conclusion of commencement rehearsal # 1 – Seniors owing obligations will not be given their caps & gowns at this time. Extra graduation tickets and handicap placards distributed in the Gym Foyer.
June	15	Commencement rehearsal #2 beginning in the Main Gym at 9:15AM until completion.
June	16	Senior Breakfast in the Cafeteria at 8:00AM
June	16	Graduation line-up beginning in Main Gym at 9:00AM.
June	16	COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY - 10:00AM at Gifford Field. Graduates must report by 9:00AM sharp.