

Graduation Rehearsal and Graduation Ceremony Information

May 15 - Rehearsal - 7:15-7:30 am arrival at VRHS gymnasium and be ready

- **Meet in the Gymnasium to start**
- Students form 2 lines
- Students will walk in pairs, processing in from either side of the arena.
- Students will remain standing for the playing of the National Anthem.
- Students singing or playing, you will have to listen to go. Talk to your instructors.
- For the presentation of diplomas, students will rise together in rows, proceed to the stage to receive their diploma covers, return to their seats, and remain standing until all students in their row are present.
- Proceeding out - After the turning of the tassel and students are released, students will all stand and turn to the audience. The back rows will start the procession out in one line. On the day of graduation, you will walk out through a teacher tunnel and proceed to the concourse (don't worry - you will be directed) to retrieve your diplomas. We will practice this in VR and at the arena.

Please be patient.

Senior Breakfast - after rehearsal - free to all seniors - Seniors only.

Senior Walk at VR - after breakfast - You can bring your cap/gowns - not mandatory for the VR walk.

Senior Walk at Zone Schools - around 9:15 am - load buses. Cap/Gowns are mandatory if you are going on the walk.

NEED your Senior Walk permission forms if you signed up for the walk. Try to hand those in previous to the last day.

Graduation Ceremony:

Graduates need to report to the World Arena by 3:00 pm on Saturday, May 23rd, 2026. Parents can enter starting at 4:00 pm. The ceremony begins at 5:00 pm.

Where to Report

Check in Gate A

Before entering - check in, go through security - Please plan on this and get here a little early. We will practice at 3:00 in the arena.

Lower Level Service Area - someone will be there, and there will be signs.

Enter Gate A, proceed to the stairs (follow the VR signs) through the Arena tunnels, and continue to the arena floor.

Upon arrival, find your seat on the arena floor.

We will practice a quick walk-through at World Arena.

Waiting in the tunnels: You will be in the tunnels until the ceremony starts at 5:00.

Please stay in the tunnel you are walking out of.

There will be bathrooms and water available.

The arena doesn't allow outside drinks/food to come into the building.

****Eat something before coming to the arena.**

****DO NOT** bring water bottles, purses, bags, etc. There is NO WHERE TO PUT IT! If you want to wear a flat purse under your gown for car keys, etc., that is fine - nothing bulky. Just be aware - everyone and bags will be subject to a search.

Attire:

Graduates: Please no jeans, tennis shoes, or flip-flops. Nice attire. Shirts with collars are preferred. BE aware that there are lots of stairs; wear comfortable shoes.

- Steam gowns before wearing- DO NOT IRON DIRECTLY!!!
- Gowns must be zipped before walking across the stage.

Expectation During the Ceremony:

- No gum chewing!
- No outside food or beverage
- No helium balloons, beach balls, silly string, confetti, horns, cowbells, sirens or any other noise maker, water guns, firecrackers, firearms, knives, mace, etc...

Graduation Ceremony:

Procession

- Students will remain standing for the playing of the National Anthem.

Before walking on stage / accepting diploma order:

- Each graduate will be directed on where to go to stand in line for the ceremony.
- LifeTouch will take pictures before walking up the stairs to the stage.
- Receiving the Diploma Cover
- Returning to seats
- The ceremony concludes with the moving of the tassel
- Graduates will leave through the teacher tunnel to the concourse to receive an actual diploma. The last rows will begin the procession.

Post-Graduation

Students proceed to Gate C-East Concourse to pick up diplomas (upstairs).

No parent(s)/guardian(s) are allowed on the concourse. They will meet outside Gate C.

As always - questions - please reach out to Michelle Fenicle - michelle.fenicle@d49.org or 719-484-8319