

# CLASS OF 2018 YEAR-END SENIOR EVENTS & GRADUATION GUIDELINES

Congratulations on your upcoming graduation! We are giving you the following guidelines so that graduation will be a proud memory for all graduates. While we hope it does not become necessary, diplomas may be pulled for any student not following the guidelines set forth at any point through the graduation ceremony.

## ONLINE CLASSES COMPLETION

Students who are taking online classes must have assignments and DBAs completed no later than **Friday, April 27, 2018 at 11:59PM** and exams completed no later than **Friday, May 4, 2018 at 11:59PM** if they intend to participate in the May 24<sup>th</sup> graduation ceremony.

## SENIOR FIELD DAY

All seniors are invited to attend the Senior Field Day that will be held on **Thursday, May 23, 2018 following graduation practice.**

## GRADUATION PRACTICE & SENIOR CHECKOUT

Graduation Practice will be held on **Tuesday, May 22, 2018 and Wednesday, May 23, 2018 at 8:00 am in the ZHS Activity Center. Attendance on both days is MANDATORY** for participation in graduation. **Students should arrive by 7:40 and not plan on leaving before 11 am.**

**All textbooks must be returned and fees must be paid prior to Graduation Practice.** Only students who attend graduation practice will be able to participate in the graduation ceremony or receive diplomas. The administrator in charge of graduation MUST review and approve any extenuating circumstances. *Students must be dressed according to the Pasco County School District Dress Code. Students will be sent home to change if they are out of dress code and this may jeopardize their participation in graduation.*

## CEREMONY

The graduation ceremony will be held on **Thursday, May 24<sup>th</sup> at 8:00PM.** It will begin promptly at 8:00PM. Seniors are to report at **7:00PM** to the University of South Florida Sun Dome in Tampa in order to line up for the ceremony. Please follow the signs upon entering the Sun Dome, as they will direct students and guests to the correct areas. **Students should enter at the Corral, which is to the left of Gate A.**

## DRESS EXPECTATIONS

**Dress Code for Graduates:** Dress pants and dress shirt with tie, a dress or skirt and blouse or pantsuit are recommended outfits. If wearing pants, wear matching/dark socks with dress shoes. **No sneakers, sandals, flip flops, etc. are allowed.** We recommend that students not wear high heels, as there will be a lot of walking and stair climbing. No visible "bulky" jewelry, scarves, ribbons, etc. are permitted. Please see Ms. Vaughan in room 309 if you need assistance with appropriate clothing for graduation.

**Personal Items:** Leave purses, cameras, and personal items with a parent or friend in the audience; they may not be taken in during the processional. Flowers or corsages are NOT permitted.

**Graduation Gowns:** Please carry your cap and gown into the University of South Florida Sun Dome. We will not have extra gowns on hand. Make sure that you bring yours to the ceremony. Gowns are to look like they did when received from the company. Nothing extra may be added to them.

**Graduation Cap:** The mortarboard (graduation cap) is to be worn flat with the tassel over the right eye. Once the seniors are declared graduates, the tassel is moved to the left side in unison with the class. We will not have extra caps or tassels on hand. Make sure that you bring yours to the ceremony. Any decorations or designs added to the mortarboard must be school appropriate. Any designs deemed inappropriate may jeopardize the student's participation in the graduation ceremony.

*Failure to comply with the dress policy may result in the student not being permitted to participate in the ceremony. Security will do a visual search and wand of all of the graduates and any guests to the University of South Florida Sun Dome.*

## **BEHAVIOR**

Graduation is a momentous occasion not only for the seniors, but also for their parents, families, and friends. For that reason, the ceremony is to be held with dignity and courtesy to others. **All participants are expected to conduct themselves in a manner appropriate for the occasion, which includes walking across the stage. All participants must comply with the Pasco County Student Code of Conduct. Inappropriate behavior will result in both students and parents/guardians having to meet with the school administration prior to receiving a diploma.**

Improper noises and distractions will not be permitted. This includes, but is not limited to, noisemakers such as bullhorns, air horns, whistles, cowbells, and firecrackers, etc. Do NOT bring in beach balls, silly string, or any item that would be deemed inappropriate. We ask that you request family and friends to remain seated throughout the ceremony, except when it is appropriate to stand (during the Pledge of Allegiance, for example), as a courtesy to other graduates and their families and friends. No one, other than graduates and designated guests, is permitted in the seating area for graduates.

Anyone under the influence of alcohol or drugs will not receive his/her diploma and/or will be turned over to appropriate law enforcement officials. As this is a School District of Pasco County event, alcohol will not be permitted inside of any of the areas in the University of South Florida Sun Dome dedicated to the graduation ceremony.

## **TRAFFIC TO AND PARKING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA SUN DOME**

Please be advised that the area surrounding the University of South Florida Sun Dome is a high-traffic area. Please plan appropriately, and give yourself more than enough time to arrive without incident. Once students and staff have begun the processional, students will not be permitted to enter into the seating area for graduates. This is University of South Florida Sun Dome's security policy will be strictly enforced. **There is a \$5.00 charge for parking.** Disabled parking is located at Gate A and Gate D, Parking Lot Area 22F.

## **SEATING & TICKETS**

Seating is unlimited in the University of South Florida Sun Dome. Guests do not need tickets to attend the graduation ceremony. **No one, other than graduates and designated guests, is permitted on the floor partitioned off on the University of South Florida Sun Dome.** Floor seating is only permitted for invited dignitaries, graduating seniors, band members, faculty and staff, and other invited guests. All of these people will have tickets in order to go to the floor and will be listed on pre-approved lists provided to the University of South Florida Sun Dome. No one else is permitted on the floor of the University of South Florida Sun Dome. **Those who need handicapped seating would be advised to enter in at Gate A, where there are elevators available.** There is handicapped seating available throughout the Sun Dome. There is also reserved seating for the hearing impaired. Upon entering the Sun Dome, all people in attendance will be searched by security per Sun Dome policy.

## **PHOTOGRAPHY**

Each senior will be photographed individually upon receiving his/her diploma and congratulations from the principal, as well as with his/her diplomas upon exiting the stage. Purchase of these photographs is optional. Seniors will be notified by mail when the pictures are ready and all questions regarding these pictures should go to Leonard's Photography. Please make sure that your address is correct with Zephyrhills High School, as that is the address that we will provide to Leonard's Photography. Zephyrhills High School does not receive any of these pictures or information following graduation.

## **DIPLOMA DISTRIBUTION**

Diplomas will be distributed in the Corral following the ceremony. **Only students who have officially checked out and paid all fees will be able to receive their diplomas and participate in graduation. Only students meeting the behavioral requirements at graduation will receive a diploma.**

After receiving your diploma, please exit the University of South Florida Sun Dome. We recommend having a pre-arranged meeting place set with your family.