

ZHS GRADUATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR JUNE 5TH

DRESS CODE EXPECTATIONS

Dress Code for Graduates: Wear nice dress clothes only. Dress pants and dress shirt (preferably with a tie); a dress or a skirt and blouse are recommended outfits. No jeans, sweatpants, yoga pants, tshirts, or any other casual wear. For footwear, dress shoes only! No sneakers, flip flops, casual shoes are allowed. We recommend that students not wear high heels, as there will be A LOT of walking, standing, and stair climbing. See Mrs. Williams in room 1-726 if you need help with getting an outfit for Graduation.

Personal Items: Remember that purses/bags, professional cameras, and personal items cannot be taken with you in the procession so leave them with a parent or friend in the audience. Also, no outside food or beverages, and no backpacks or other large bags. **DO NOT BRING ANY UNAUTHORIZED OR ILLEGAL ITEMS TO THE CEREMONY OR YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE** (and legal consequences). Specifically, no weapons of any kind, no lighters or vapes, no drugs, etc. Remember that USF security will do a search and wand all the graduates before entry into the USF Yuengling Center.

Graduation Gowns: Please carry your cap and gown and ZHS medallion with you into the University of South Florida Yuengling Center through Entrance Gate A. Be sure that you **bring your cap and gown and ZHS medallion** to the ceremony as there will not be any extras if you forget yours.

Graduation Cap: The 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. Make sure that you bring your cap and tassel to the ceremony. You may decorate the cap however you wish as long as it is tasteful and appropriate. Inappropriate caps will be confiscated and not returned.

NOTE: Failure to comply with these policies may result in not being permitted to participate in the ceremony.

PARKING AT USF

When arriving at the University of South Florida, make sure to enter the campus at Fowler Avenue and Bull Run entrance. There will be signs throughout the area with directions.

Parking lots around the University of South Florida charge \$10.00 electronically (via debit/credit card ONLY) for parking per vehicle. Cash will NOT be accepted! There is no pre-sale parking and no reserved parking except for handicapped/disabled parking which fills up quickly, so plan accordingly.

Graduates should enter the building by **Gate Entrance A** (near the USF Store) and go immediately to the entry marked for graduates called **“the Corral.”**

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

Graduation is a momentous occasion not only for the seniors, but also for their parents, families, and friends. 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 may result in dismissal from the ceremony and/or withholding of the diploma until amends have been made.

Improper noises and distractions will not be permitted. NO distraction items are allowed such as balloons, beach balls, silly string, confetti, laser pointers, or noisemakers of any kind (including, but not limited to, bull horns, cowbells, whistles and air horns). These items or anything similarly inappropriate will NOT be allowed in the building and may be confiscated without return. Remember that USF security will do a search and wand all the graduates before entry into the USF Yuengling Center.

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 Yuengling Center dedicated to the high school graduation ceremony.

LINING UP IN THE “CORRAL” and ENTERING THE CEREMONY

Arrive at USF by 7:30am on Graduation Day. It will take some time to walk to the Yuengling Center and get through security. Graduates should be in the Corral NO LATER THAN 8:00am. Once you enter the Corral, you must sign in and pick up your individualized Index Card with a number on it. There are tables with signs indicating last names for signing in.

ZHS staff members will check all graduates for appropriate dress, including wearing caps and gowns correctly. They will also check all decorations on caps for appropriateness.

At 8:30am, students will line up into two lines in the Corral in numerical order.

By 8:45, each line will walk from the Corral to the designated entry gate at the arena floor in numerical order. Don't get out of order! There will be various staff and dignitaries leading each group into the arena floor of the ceremony.

At 9:00am sharp, the processional music will begin and each line of graduates will enter the floor at the same time from each of the lines (see below). They will meet up in the center and then two by two, graduates will walk towards their seats on the floor. Once they reach their seats, they will split off into the left and right hand seats, 14 per row on each side.

The Ceremony will officially begin once all the graduates are at their seats on the arena floor.

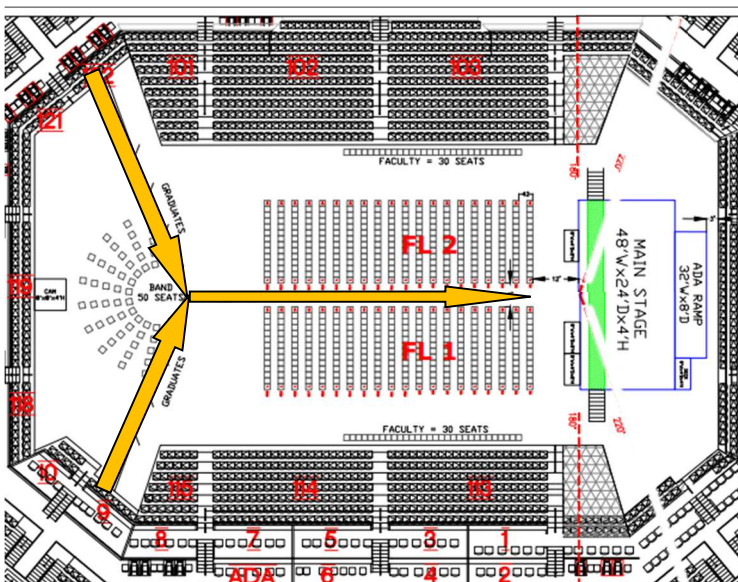
DURING AND AFTER THE CEREMONY

During the Ceremony, remember that 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.

When walking across the stage, remember to wait until your name is called, then walk to the middle where the principal, Mrs. McCoy is standing. She will hand you the diploma cover and pause for a picture. Then you will walk across the rest of the stage holding the diploma cover and go down the steps and in order back to your seats. This process takes quite some time but please be patient and respectful as all the names are read during the ceremony.

At the end of the Ceremony, during the Recessional music, the graduates will leave their seats and rows in an orderly fashion in OPPOSITE ORDER. The graduates at the end of the lines will lead the lines back into the hallways and back into the Corral in order to pick up the actual Diplomas at the same tables that had the index cards. After the Diplomas are picked up, all graduates may meet up with their families and leave the USF Yuengling Center.

ENTERING THE CEREMONY



LEAVING THE CEREMONY

