



WEST ORANGE HIGH SCHOOL

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OSCAR GUERRERO, PRINCIPAL

LESLEY CHUNG, ED. D., ASST. PRINCIPAL

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Dear Class of 2023 Graduates and Families,

Soon we will celebrate significant milestones in the life of your son or daughter, including graduation from high school! It is important that you are aware of upcoming events and information. The information provided in this letter will assist you in planning for the end of the year. Please be advised that the administration is consulting with local health officials and the district physician in an effort to remain COVID conscious and uphold health and safety.

On Wednesday, May 24th, the Class of 2023 Senior Prom will be held at The Birchwood Manor in Whippany from 6:00 pm to 11:00 pm. Prom tickets go on sale on April 17th at the cost of \$100.00* per person. The prom contract outlines all specific behavior policies. Prom tickets can be purchased through our e-funds system. All students attending prom must submit a signed prom contract and printed payment receipt. All documents and instructions can be found on the high school's student website at the [Class of 2023 Student Information](#).

On Thursday, June 1st, at 6:00 pm, the Senior Awards Night Ceremony will be held in the auditorium. Select seniors will be honored for service and academic achievement. Award and scholarship recipients, recognized at this event, will receive correspondence via email/mail.

The Class of 2023 Clap Out & Senior Distribution & Yearbook Signing Party will be held on **Friday, June 16th, 2023** on West Orange High School's baseball/band field. The morning Clap Out is optional for seniors to visit their elementary schools. The distribution and yearbook event begins at 10:00 am and concludes at 12:00 pm. Below are highlights of the event. Students will be able to sign yearbooks and enjoy lunch and music as they wish with other members of the Class of 2023. All financial obligations must be met by the date of this event. Please see Mrs. Saccente in the PVW Attendance Office to pay outstanding fines and obligations prior to June 16th.

- Yearbooks will be distributed and student yearbook signing is encouraged. Extra yearbooks will be available for purchase (\$100) until supply is sold out.
- Extra cap, gown, and tassel packages will be available for purchase for students who did not yet secure theirs.
- Complimentary lunch will be served (individually wrapped gourmet submarine sandwich, cookie, beverage, and water).
- Seniors will receive their graduation tickets.

The West Orange Technology Department will conduct **Senior Chromebook Collection** during the **lunch block and between 2:00 PM and 3:15 PM from June 13th through June 14th and from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm on the 16th at the Security Window** near the Tarnoff Cafeteria. As soon as you have completed your academic requirements for the year, you must return your school Chromebook with its charger at that location. The final day to return chromebooks and chargers (as well as hotspots, if any were issued), will be **Friday June 16th in the Tarnoff gym (hours will be 7:30AM - 2:00PM)**. After June 16th, if your chromebook has not been turned in, you will be billed via PowerSchool for \$200.00 (\$40.00 if you only owe for the charger). Any unfulfilled commitments to the school can result in your diploma being held until all obligations are paid. Any monies owed to the school must be paid via **e-Funds**. The school does not accept cash.

We are excited to announce that on **Thursday, June 22nd, the Class of 2023 will graduate at Essex County Codey Arena at 560 Northfield Avenue in West Orange**. We look forward to your cooperation in celebrating this significant milestone! All graduates must arrive at the arena by 4:00 pm. The graduation ceremony begins at 5:00 pm and takes about

2 hours. A **mandatory graduation rehearsal** will be held at the Richard J. Codey Arena from 11:30 am - 1:30 pm. Graduates are **required** to attend graduation rehearsal in order to participate in graduation. You are expected to arrive at the Arena ON TIME. There will be a poster with a seat number next to your name; please sit in the chair marked with your seat number. Masks are optional at these events.

Over the years, we have been proud of our commencement ceremony. With each coming year, we attempt to make it even more special for our graduates and their families. Although many individuals have commented on the ceremony in positive ways, others have asked that we take additional steps to respect all members of the audience. We expect to conduct a dignified ceremony and ask that you review proper decorum with your child. Please also be advised that any forms of balls and bullhorns are banned from the ceremony.

GUEST ADMISSION TO THE ARENA WILL BE BY TICKET ONLY! Every graduate receives 4 tickets. The school will not issue more than four tickets. If a student needs more, they may ask their fellow graduates if they are possibly not using all 4 of their tickets. The ceremony will also be Live Streamed on the District's YouTube channel during the event and be viewable anytime afterwards. Tickets will be distributed on June 16th at the distribution event.. Please tell your guests that the gates will be closed at 4:50 pm and no one will be admitted during the processional. If handicapped accessible seating is required, please contact Ms. Colon at 973.669.5301 ext. 31537 prior to June 16th.

Graduation is a formal ceremony and the appropriate behavior and dress is expected. Graduates should wear business casual wear. The graduate cap is worn on the head with the tassel on the right front side of the cap at the graduate's right temple. All caps and gowns are dark blue. Should students choose to decorate the cap, it must be done tastefully and deemed appropriate by the administration.

Professional graduation photographers will be present at graduation. Each graduate will be photographed as they receive their diploma from a board member on the stage. A portrait type photo will also be taken in front of a backdrop as each student exits off the stage and before they return to their seat. Candid photos will be taken of the graduates with family and friends after the ceremony. Photos will also be available to you for purchase. A complimentary color 5x7 overview of the ceremony will be mailed to you. All orders carry a full money back guarantee. Photo packages are optional. West Orange High School is not responsible for placing orders or mailing photos. Please direct all inquiries to Island Photography at 800-869-0908 or visit www.islandphoto.com

Project Graduation, scheduled for **Thursday, June 22nd**, is a drug, smoke and alcohol free party for graduates following the graduation ceremony. West Orange High School Administration and Project Graduation provide the Class of 2023 with the best possible graduation party. Each senior's contribution to the party is \$20.00 for the ticket of admission. Tickets may be purchased through E-Funds beginning May 1st. Tickets will not be sold after the June 22nd rehearsal. No one is allowed to buy a ticket at the door. Students should wear casual clothing, pack a bathing suit, towels, sneakers, and extra casual clothing. Do not bring cash or valuables to this event. The evening includes all beverages and food. Project Graduation check-in begins at 8:30 pm. Seniors are transported from the high school parking lot at approximately 9:30 pm to the FunPlex by school bus. All graduates must ride the bus to FunPlex. No senior is allowed to drive to Project Graduation. Each graduate's bag will be checked before boarding the bus. Buses will arrive back at West Orange High School on Friday, June 23rd around 2:30 am.

Your Principal,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'O. Guerreiro', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Oscar Guerreiro, Principal