



WEST ORANGE HIGH SCHOOL

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April 2019

Dear Class of 2019 Graduates and Families,

Soon we will celebrate a significant milestone in the life of your son or daughter, graduation from high school! Although it hardly seems possible, four years have swiftly gone by and the next months will pass just as quickly. Therefore, it is important that you are aware of upcoming events and information, as well as other specifics regarding graduation. The information provided in this letter will assist you in planning your end of year.

All seniors should have paid senior fees, which include the cost of a yearbook and graduation cap and gown. If you have not yet done so, please pay all fees to either Ms. Connors in room 2206 or to Mrs. Green in room 2210. Fees are \$100.

June 6th - Senior Prom will be held at The Birchwood Manor in Whippany from 6:00pm to 11:00pm. Prom tickets go on sale April 22nd at the cost of \$110.00 per person. Payment must be submitted with a signed prom contract. Prom contracts are in the Conforti Office or can be picked up from your Senior Class Advisors. **Senior fees must be paid in order to purchase a prom ticket.**

June 10, 11 & 12th - Seniors must return Chromebooks. Chrome books are the property of West Orange Public Schools and must be returned. The replacement cost of a Chrome book is \$250.00. Students who do not return their Chrome books or pay the replacement fee, will have an unfulfilled commitment to the school which may result in withholding transcripts and graduation items.

June 13th, 6:30PM - Senior Awards Night will be held in the WOHS Auditorium. Invited seniors will be honored for service and academic achievement. Students receiving awards and scholarships at this event will be notified by mail and should plan to attend.

June 17th - The annual end of year senior event is held. The event includes a “CLAP OUT” at the elementary school followed by the **distribution of yearbooks, graduation caps, gowns and tickets in the Tarnoff Gym.** Further details about the clap out will be released in May. Students will be able to sign yearbooks and enjoy lunch and music as they wish with other members of the Class of 2019 well. Seniors will be dismissed at noon on this day. All financial obligations must be met before the above items are distributed. Please see Melissa Cruz in the PVW Attendance Office to pay outstanding fines and obligations prior to June 17th. Those unable to receive their items, can pick them up on Tuesday, June 18, 2019 from 7:30am until 12:30pm in the Library Media Center. All graduation items must be picked up by end of day on June 18th.

June 24th - A mandatory graduation rehearsal will be held at the Richard J. Codey Arena from 12:00pm - 2:30pm. 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.

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June 24th - The West Orange High School formal graduation ceremony will be held at Codey Arena, 560 Northfield Avenue, West Orange, NJ. You are to report to the location at the Arena where you were asked to line-up during rehearsal. All graduates must arrive at the arena by 6:30 pm. The Graduation Ceremony takes about 2 hours.

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. Tickets are distributed with caps and gowns on June 17 and June 18. Please tell your guests that the gates will be closed at 7:20 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 17th.

Graduation is a formal ceremony and the appropriate behavior and dress is expected. Male graduates should wear white shirts, ties, dark slacks and dark shoes. Female graduates are encouraged to wear dresses, no slacks, and low heels. The cap is worn flat 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 is a drug, smoke and alcohol free party for graduates following the graduation ceremony. West Orange High School administration and the PTA provides the Class of 2019 with the best possible all-night graduation party. Each senior's contribution to the party is \$25.00 (cash only) for the ticket of admission. Tickets may be purchased beginning May 1st, in the PVW office (between 10:30am and 3:00pm only), or when you pick up your cap and gown on June 17th in the Tarnoff Gym. Tickets will not be sold after the June 24th 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 9:30pm. Seniors are transported from the high school parking lot at approximately 10:30pm 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 Tuesday, June 25th around 4:30am.

Thanking you in advance,



Hayden Moore, Principal