June 10, 2022

Dear Class of 2022 Graduates and Families,

Are you getting excited like I am? Congratulations and commendations to each and every one of you on your approaching milestone! We have worked hard together during your four years and now you are ready and prepared to receive your Mountaineer diploma. Pandemic times have been difficult, but your resilience, courage and engagement have brought you to this day. Please take a moment to review some important information below so the end of year can go smoothly for you!

The West Orange Technology Department will conduct the Senior Chromebook Collection during the lunch block from June 13th through June 16th at the Security Window (Last names A-M) and in Room 2105 for Last Names N-Z. 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 17th in the Tarnoff gym (hours will be 7:30AM - 3:00PM). After June 17th, 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 Class of 2022 Senior Distribution & Yearbook Signing Party will be held on Friday, June 17th, 2022 on West Orange High School’s baseball/band field. Be sure to bring a towel or blanket to enjoy this picnic style celebration! The event begins at 9:40 am and concludes at 12:00 pm. Seniors will be dismissed from school on this day at 12 noon! 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 2022 well. All financial obligations must be met by the date of this event. Students should check for any school obligations on PowerSchool. As PowerSchool loads differently on different devices, we ask that you view PowerSchool from a desktop or chromebook. You should pay for any fines on eFunds. Please see Mrs. Saccente in the PVW Office for outstanding fines and obligations which must be paid prior to June 16th. Please see Mrs. Saccente in the PVW office if you have a question regarding obligations.

- Seniors receive their graduation tickets at this event. 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.
- Yearbooks will be distributed and student yearbook signing is encouraged. Each attendee will receive a complimentary Class of 2022 pen. Extra yearbooks will be available for purchase ($100) until supply is sold out. Mrs. Megan Kiczek is your yearbook contact. mkiczek@westorangeschools.org
- Extra cap, gown and tassel packages will be able for purchase ($25) for students who did not yet secure theirs. Please see Ms. Lillian Colon @ distribution day for cap, gown & tassel purchase or issue.
- Each senior will receive a graduate lawn sign compliments of the PTA Project Graduation committee.
- Complimentary lunch will be served (gourmet submarine sandwich, snack and beverage).
On Thursday, June 23rd, the Class of 2022 Graduation will be 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 6:30 pm. The graduation ceremony begins at 7:30 pm and takes about 2 hours. A mandatory graduation rehearsal will be held at the Richard J. Codey Arena from 12:00 pm - 2:00 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.

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 17th at the distribution event. 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. 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 23rd, 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 2022 with the best possible all-night 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 Sunday, June 19th [TIME?]. No one is allowed to buy a ticket at the door. The last day to purchase Project Graduation tickets will be Sunday 6/19/22. 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 10:00 pm. Seniors are transported from the high school parking lot at approximately 10:30 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 24th around 3:00 am.

Your Principal,

Hayden Moore, Principal