

April 17, 2024

Dear Senior and Parents of a Graduating Senior,

On behalf of the administrators and faculty of Winter Park High School, we congratulate the Class of 2024 on the occasion of your graduation from Winter Park High School! We are proud of your accomplishments and expect the 2024 graduation events to be very memorable.

The purpose of this letter is to answer general questions concerning Graduation, Graduation Rehearsal and The Final Roar. Please carefully read the following and if you need additional information, do not hesitate to contact us at school (margaret.pietkiewicz@ocps.net).

### Graduation Ceremony

- Graduation Date: Friday, May 24, 2024
- Time: 8:30 am
- Tickets: Tickets are required for family and guests.
- Student Arrival Time: Students should arrive at 7:30 am for check in.
- Doors Open: 8:00 am
- Parking: Parking at the Geico Parking Garage is free (courtesy of SGA).
- Check-In: Check in with your guidance counselor on the lower level of the garage to receive your name card. Students **MUST** have their name card and wristband to enter the Kia Center.
- Student Entrance: Loading dock entrance located across from the Geico Garage on South Street. Look to enter near loading dock one.
- Attendee Entrance: Main entrance on Church Street or the pedestrian bridge from the Geico Garage (accessible only from the 5th level of the garage in the Northwest corner).
- Close of Ceremony: The graduates will exit through tunnel 108. At this time, parents may meet their graduates outside at Church Street and N. Division Street.
- Dress Code: If your senior chooses to wear pants, they must be a dark dress pants, socks, and a traditional shirt and tie. If your senior chooses to wear a dress/skirt, the hem length cannot be longer than the gown length. Dress shoes are required for all participating seniors. Tennis shoes, flip-flops and jeans are inappropriate attire. **Seniors are not allowed to decorate their cap.** If the cap is decorated, it will be replaced with one that is not. Students that are not appropriately dressed will **NOT** be permitted to walk until they have changed. Please keep your gown zipped at all times. **No purses or cell phones are allowed.** Official school recognized honor cords or stoles are the only acceptable displayed additions to the traditional cap and gown ensemble.

- Security: All graduates and attendees will go through metal detectors upon entering the Kia Center. Graduates do not bring bags or cell phones as you will be asked to return your phone or bag to your car.
- Seating: Seating is on a first come, first serve basis at the Kia Center. The Kia staff will fill the lower bowl seats first. Once the lower bowl has been filled they will open sections of the Upper bowl as needed. Wheelchair seating is located at the top of Sections 104 - 107 and 113 - 116.
- Kia Rules: Go to this link for Kia Rules:  
<https://www.kiacenter.com/arena-info/a-z-guide>

### Graduation Rehearsal (mandatory)

- Rehearsal Date: TBA (May 14th, 15th, 20th, or 23rd)
- Time: TBA
- Parking: Park at the Geico Garage. Parking is free.
- Check-In: Check in with your guidance counselor on the lower level of the garage to receive your name card.
- Student Entrance: Loading dock entrance located across from the Geico Garage on South Street. Look to enter near loading dock one.
- Other items: Do not wear your cap and gown to rehearsal. Rehearsal will last approximately 2 hours.

### The Final Roar (Senior Drive-Thru and PTSA Reception)

- Date: Tuesday, May 14, 2024
- Place: Begins at Summerfield Entrance and ends at The East Cafeteria
- Time: Drive-Thru: 5:30 pm - 6:00 pm PTSA Reception: 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm
- Rules and Tips: Students are encouraged to wear their cap and gown and sit in the front passenger seat of their vehicle. Please have someone else drive who can focus on the road, drive under 5 MPH, and stay an appropriate distance from the vehicle directly ahead. We want our seniors to be able to enjoy the experience.

Flatbeds or trucks with multiple graduates in the back will not be allowed.

Students and other passengers in the car must stay in the vehicle at all times.

### Graduation Tickets (no charge)

- The graduation tickets will be picked up on Wednesday, May 15th, in the 100 Hallway behind the media center from 8:00 am until 2:00 pm.
- In order to pick up tickets, all obligations must be paid and laptops turned in.
- Please check your students' email for an obligation notice.
- Students will also receive a wristband which must be worn at graduation.
- Each student will receive up to 10 tickets on the first day of distribution, if there are extra tickets, we will distribute them on Thursday, May 16th, in room 810.

**Class of 2024 Final Transcripts** - All seniors must order a final transcript on the WPHS website ([www.winterparkhs.ocps.net](http://www.winterparkhs.ocps.net)) under "Student Services" then "Transcripts" after May 1, 2024 to be sent to the college they plan to attend. Transcripts to all Florida public colleges and universities will be sent electronically. Hard copy transcripts to all other schools will be available for pick-up starting Thursday, June 20, 2024, on the main campus in Student Services between the hours of 8:00 am – Noon. **Seniors will be responsible for picking up and mailing their final hard copy transcripts to any private or out of state colleges.** WPHS will not mail final transcripts to colleges. Hard copies of official transcripts must not be opened by the student. They must remain sealed when delivered to the institution. Additionally, it is recommended that students order a physical hard copy to pick up at school for their own records. Despite final transcripts being free of charge, seniors must place an order to receive a copy.

**WPHS Diploma Pick Up** - We encourage Seniors to pick up their diploma immediately following the graduation ceremony in the Geico Garage (where they checked in). If the student does not pick up their diploma, it will be available for pick up starting Thursday, June 20, 2024, on the main campus in Student Services between the hours of 8:00 am - Noon. Keep in mind WPHS will be closed on Fridays throughout the summer. You must bring a photo ID.

Graduation is an important event for family and friends of each senior. We would appreciate your cooperation in allowing each senior's name to be heard as it is announced during the ceremony. Participating graduates shall refrain from disrupting the ceremony or calling attention to themselves. Audience members who call attention to themselves also diminish the dignity of the ceremony. Every senior is important to Winter Park High School, and all graduates deserve respect as each makes their way across the stage.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Meg Pietkiewicz at [margaret.pietkiewicz@ocps.net](mailto:margaret.pietkiewicz@ocps.net), Lindsay Diener at [lindsay.diener@ocps.net](mailto:lindsay.diener@ocps.net), or Matt Arnold at [matthew.arnold@ocps.net](mailto:matthew.arnold@ocps.net).

Sincerely,

*Meg Pietkiewicz*  
Graduation Coordinator

*Lindsay Diener*  
Senior Class Sponsor

*Matthew Arnold*  
Principal