

## **Class of 2017 Commencement Plans Frequently Asked Questions**

**1. Why are we changing the graduation venue?**

The Georgia Dome will be demolished beginning March 2017; therefore, we need a new site to host our graduation ceremonies.

**2. How did you decide the Georgia International Convention site would be the best site?**

Team Operation Graduation conducted an extensive search inside and outside of Clayton County for a site that can hold at least 5,000 people and have a parking lot that has at least 2,000 spaces in order to accommodate the crowd that attends our commencements. After reviewing sites within the metro-Atlanta area, the Georgia International Convention Center was selected for its proximity and its capacity to meet our seating and parking requirements.

**3. Will we require students to distribute tickets for entry into the Georgia International Convention Center?**

No, based on previous commencement attendance, we need at least 4,500 seats available for our guests. We have asked the Georgia International Convention Center to make 5,500 seats available for our well-wishers and guests. Guests will not be allowed to hold seats and seats are available on first-come basis.

**4. How will the ceremonies differ since we are hosting graduations in the Georgia International Convention Center?**

There are two main differences.

- a) Parking – There were over 5,000 parking spaces with numerous entries and exits available at the Georgia Dome. The Georgia International Convention Center has 2,000 spaces and only two entries and exits. To avoid traffic jams and prevent guests from missing the processional, we have created a graduation schedule we strongly believe will support everyone's goal of having a positive and successful program.
- b) Seating Capacity and Arrangement – The Georgia Dome provided ample stadium seats for guests to view the graduation programs. Students processed to a seating area on the Dome's ground. They sat facing the stage while their backs were toward the audience.

At the Georgia International Convention Center, over 5,000 chairs will be arranged for our guests. Guests will not be allowed to hold seats. Students will process among the guests to a stage where they will sit facing the audience and stage guests.

**5. Will the district provide a shuttle service to and from the graduation site?**

Yes, Team Operation Graduation is collaborating with the district's Department of Transportation to create and implement a shuttle plan to transport our guests to and from the Georgia International Convention Center at no cost to the riders. Team Operation Graduation will also work with the Department of Communication to share the shuttle plan with our stakeholders. We anticipate that by January 31, 2017, our 2017 Graduation Shuttle service details will be posted on our website at [www.clayton.k12.ga.us](http://www.clayton.k12.ga.us).

**6. What is the graduation schedule?**

A lot of considerations and thought went into the planning and development of the schedule listed below. Guests should arrive at the Georgia International Convention Center by the posted times. Seniors and staff are asked to report to the Center at least one hour before the start of their ceremony.

Guests will not be allowed to enter the Center prior to the **seating time**. Additionally, after each graduation program, the exhibit halls must be cleared.

High School	Date	Starting Time	Seating Time	Ending Time	Parking Lot Time (Departure and Arrival)
<b>Day 1 – May 24, 2017</b>					
<b>Morrow</b>	Day 1	<b>9:00 AM</b>	8:15 AM	<b>10:30 AM</b>	110 to 120 minutes
<b>Mount Zion</b>	Day 1	<b>2:30 PM</b>	1:45 PM	<b>4:00 PM</b>	110 to 120 minutes
<b>Drew</b>	Day 1	<b>8:00 PM</b>	7:15 PM	<b>9:30 PM</b>	110 to 120 minutes
<b>Day 2 – May 25, 2017</b>					
<b>North Clayton</b>	Day 2	<b>8:00 AM</b>	7:15 AM	<b>9:30 AM</b>	110 to 120 minutes
<b>Jonesboro</b>	Day 2	<b>11:30 AM</b>	10:45 PM	<b>1:00 PM</b>	110 to 120 minutes
<b>Stilwell</b>	Day 2	<b>3:30 PM</b>	2:45 PM	<b>5:00 PM</b>	110 to 120 minutes
<b>Mundy’s Mill</b>	Day 2	<b>8:00 PM</b>	7:15 PM	<b>9:30 PM</b>	110 to 120 minutes
<b>Day 3 – May 26, 2017</b>					
<b>Forest Park</b>	Day 3	<b>9:00 AM</b>	8:15 AM	<b>10:30 AM</b>	110 to 120 minutes
<b>Riverdale</b>	Day 3	<b>2:30 PM</b>	1:45 PM	<b>4:00 PM</b>	110 to 120 minutes
<b>Lovejoy</b>	Day 3	<b>8:00 PM</b>	7:15 PM	<b>9:30 PM</b>	110 to 120 minutes

**7. Where will guests meet the graduates after graduation?**

Guests will meet all graduates near the entry door close to Exhibit Hall D. Signage and Clayton County Public Schools police officer will direct guests and graduates to the area. We encourage all guests to meet the graduates and exit the premise as soon as possible to avoid traffic jams and long traffic delays.

**8. Will the Georgia International Convention Center be the venue for future Clayton County Public Schools’ graduations?**

We do not know. Before, during, and immediately after graduation, Team Operation Graduation will evaluate the service, costs, and feasibility of hosting future graduation ceremonies at the Georgia International Convention Center. Part of the Team’s evaluation process will also include a brief survey that will ask our 2017 graduation guests their feedback and evaluation to help inform our decisions related to planning future graduation ceremonies.