

GENERAL INFORMATION

Seniors and their parents should read all information in this packet carefully. Seniors are responsible for knowing and following all directions and schedules in this packet.

Commencement is an optional, dignified, formal ceremony for graduating seniors and their families and guests. Possession of any disruptive objects or disruptive behavior may lead to immediate removal from the ceremony. We ask that everyone in attendance cooperate to make the commencement ceremony the dignified event it is meant to be. Please avoid making any distracting noises that would detract from the decorum of the ceremony. The ceremony is an official function of Rockmart High School; therefore, all Polk County School District and Rockmart High School policies and rules must be followed.

Commencement - Friday, May 26th, 8:00 p.m. Rockmart High School Stadium

Senior Arrival - Graduates should park in the front of the school (**if you drive alone**) on the evening of graduation. If you are riding with a family member, please park in the parking lot. Graduates will report to the gym by **7:00 p.m.** to prepare for the ceremony. Please lock all personal items (purses, cell phones, etc.) in your car.

Commencement Parking - Guest parking is available on either side of the campus. A handicap parking area will be available in the senior parking lot and the marked spots in front of the stadium. Spaces are limited so we encourage those who need handicap parking to arrive early.

Ceremony Admission - Stadium gates will open at 6:30 p.m. for family and friends; at this time there are no limitations but there may be limited attendance due to COVID-19 guidelines/procedures. More information will be provided closer to graduation. Note: gates will be temporarily closed during the processional of the graduates.

Financial Obligations - Students must meet all financial obligations, including payment for lost textbooks, parking fines, etc., and be "**cleared**" by the bookkeeper before final grades can be given and before the senior will be allowed to participate in commencement practices. Students must be "**cleared**" by 4:00 pm on Monday, May 22nd.

Commencement Caps and Gowns – Will be delivered on April 12th from 11am-1pm.

Report Cards, Diplomas and Transcripts - Final report cards and transcripts will be mailed out during post planning. It is the student's responsibility to request his/her final transcript be mailed to the school he/she plans to attend. You will have an opportunity to complete a request form during the first graduation rehearsal. Transcripts are **NOT** mailed automatically.

Graduation Cap/Gown/Invitation Dates

Cap and Gown Delivery – April 12th from 11 am-1 pm in the RHS Media Center

END OF THE YEAR SCHEDULE

Final Exam Schedule – Seniors will take their final exams in late May 2023. Final exams will count as 20% of their grade. Students need to do well on these tests to be certain of graduation.*

*Note: the program for graduation will be sent to the printer at noon on Monday May 22nd. Only students passing at that time will be included in the program.

Graduation Practices – Thursday, May 25th (8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.) and Friday, May 26th (8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m). Note: both practices are mandatory and failure to come can result in a student not being able to participate in graduation. Exemptions will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Graduation – Graduation is Friday, May 26th at 8:00 p.m. at the Rockmart High School football field. Seniors should arrive before 7:00 p.m., park in the front of the school, and report to your chair in the gym. Dress code for graduation will be discussed below; if dress code is not followed, the student may not be allowed to participate in graduation..

*Other events may take place based on COVID-19 guidelines and processes. More information will be provided through Senior Remind.

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

Commencement Practice Expectations

1. Students are expected to follow directions explained during practices or they will be excluded from the ceremony.
2. Polk County School District policies and Rockmart High School policies, rules and expectations are in effect at all commencement practices.
3. Dress code is in effect for practice; however, gym shorts are allowed.
4. Students should park in the Senior parking lot on both days.
5. Any discipline issues/disrespect will result in being sent home and not being allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony.

Ceremony Behavior

1. All policies, rules and expectations of the school and the Polk County School System will be enforced. Students must remain properly dressed throughout the ceremony.
2. Possession of any disruptive objects may lead to immediate removal from the ceremony.
3. Students must arrive on time, follow directions and cooperate fully during the ceremony.
4. Disruptive students will be removed and not allowed to participate in the ceremony.
5. If any of the above issues occur, diplomas will be held.

DRESS CODE

These are our requirements*:

Ladies

Acceptable – Any color dress or skirt that **does not show below the graduation gown or at the neckline** OR dress pants with appropriate shirt, dress shoes (dress flats) or dress sandals; **Note: high heels are strongly discouraged.

Not Acceptable - Jeans, boots, flip flops, toms, sunglasses, and tennis shoes

Tassels - Place on the **RIGHT** side of the mortarboard during the ceremony.

Gentlemen

Acceptable – Dress pants, collared, button down shirt (tie recommended), dress shoes.

Not Acceptable - T-shirts, jeans, boots, hats, sunglasses, and tennis shoes (Vans)

Tassels - Place on the **RIGHT** side of the mortarboard during the ceremony.

*Please communicate if assistance is needed.

Commencement Practices

Thursday, May 25th, 8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. – RHS Gym/RHS Stadium

Thursday will begin by making sure everyone has handled their financial obligations. If you have not, you will be asked to handle it before you are allowed to participate in commencement practice. We will also take care of transcript information during this time. Then practice will move outside to the football stadium. At practice you will learn where to sit, how to proceed onto the stage and back to your seat, when to stand up, and other logistics. **All practices are mandatory!**

Friday, May 26th, 8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. – RHS Stadium.

Friday we will meet in the gym and then walk into the stadium. We will then do several run-throughs of the Commencement program. We will do everything from walking across the stage, shaking the hand of the person who hands you the diploma; speakers will read a small portion of their speeches, and processing into the stadium and processing out for the “cap flip”. **So again, both practices are MANDATORY!** We want the ceremony to run as smoothly as possible!

Senior Class Remind:

Please sign up by sending a text to 81010 and the following code, based on student last name: last name A-J...use @rockco231, last name K-S...use @rockco232, & last name T-Z...use @rockco233.