



WEST JORDAN HIGH SCHOOL

'It's a great day to be a Jaguar!'

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May 11, 2021

TO ALL GRADUATING SENIORS AND THEIR PARENTS -- PLEASE TAKE TIME TO READ THE FOLLOWING

The following information is being provided to answer frequently asked questions about graduation.

GRADUATION PHILOSOPHY

It is the philosophy of West Jordan High School that high school graduation ceremonies are designed to honor graduates with commencement activities that are **dignified, with a high level of decorum**. We respectfully ask spectators and graduates to act accordingly. **Therefore, yelling, screaming, throwing things, blowing horns or similarly disruptive conduct is not appropriate graduation behavior.** The following information details the rules and procedures for graduation.

LOCATION AND TIME

- West Jordan High Stadium.
- Free parking is available anywhere on campus.
- Ceremonies begin promptly at 9 am on Thursday, June 3rd, 2021
- Graduates must arrive by 8 am. Guest Seating will also begin at 8 am.

TICKETS

- **Due to current limits associated with school functions, each graduate will have 6 free tickets for parents and family.**
- **The free tickets will be available on the school website at the following address:**
 - <https://westjordanhighathletics.com/event-tickets>

DRESS FOR GRADUATION PRACTICES AND GRADUATION CEREMONY

- School dress standards will be required at all graduation practices.
- For the graduation ceremony, young men should wear dark dress slacks, dress shirt, and necktie; young women should wear dresses or dressy pant outfits. Levis, khakis, or other informal pants are discouraged. Shorts, cropped pants, or capris of any kind should **NOT** be worn.
- Both young men and women should wear dress shoes. (No sport shoes, sport sandals, or beach flip flops)
- **Jordan School District Policy AA419 effective Graduation 2003: "...students participating in the commencement ceremony are to wear the prescribed cap and gown without additional ornamentation or decorations unless issued by the school..." In compliance with this policy, students should not wear corsages, leis (flower, candy, money), large beads or necklaces to the commencement.** Family members may present their student with flowers and leis **after** the ceremony for pictures.
- **Because participation is not required, it must be understood that students who choose to participate must adhere to these standards. Those who do not comply may be removed from the graduation ceremony.**

BEHAVIOR OF GRADUATES

- Appropriate behavior is expected during the ceremony. Any student who acts otherwise can be removed from the graduation area and suspended pending a hearing at the district office.
- A diploma will not be issued to any student ejected from the ceremony that day.

PHOTOGRAPHS

- **Cameras will not be allowed at any time in the immediate area of graduate seating, in the processional line, or diploma presentation.** Pictures can be taken before and after the ceremony.
- Professional photographers will take pictures of individual graduates receiving their diploma that may be purchased online now through June 6th, at a price of approximately \$13.95 per sheet. All orders will be placed through www.bellphoto.com or by contacting Bell Photographers customer service at (801)479-4624. The photos will be mailed directly to your home.
- We ask that all spectators remain seated until the ceremonies are over.
- Parents, if you would like to take close up pictures of your graduate, please arrange to do so before or after the graduation ceremony.
- Graduation gowns will be turned in immediately after the ceremonies and graduates will then receive their WJHS Diploma.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- **Wednesday, May 19th** All library books, textbooks and other materials due and fines paid
- **Friday, May 21st** Caps and Gowns distributed to graduating seniors without fines or academic holds. 10:30 am to 1 pm. WJHS Commons
- **Saturday, May 22nd** Senior Dinner Dance at WJHS from 6-10 pm with catered meal and DJ. Tickets are available on the school website. <https://westjordanhighathletics.com/event-tickets>
- **Tuesday, May 25th** Senior Photo Day. Seniors bring your cap and ironed gown. Photos with your diploma and yard sign pick-up. During both lunches. Morning JATC students will be excused from class starting at 10:00 to take pictures before leaving for the JATC. Students will receive a FREE 5x7 picture after the graduation ceremony on June 3rd.
- **Wednesday, June 2nd** **Graduation Practice. 9 am – 11 am @WJHS Stadium. *Students must attend graduation practice to participate in commencement. Attendance will be taken.** Seniors do not need to bring caps and gowns to the graduation practice.
- **Thursday, June 3rd** **Graduation Day!** WJHS Stadium. Ceremony begins at 9 am. 6 free tickets are available to each graduate (<https://westjordanhighathletics.com/event-tickets>) Graduates must arrive by 8 am. Guest Seating will also begin at 8 am
- **Thursday, June 3rd** **Graduation Parade.** WJHS @ 3pm. Decorate your vehicle, show your school spirit. Entire family is welcome to participate.
- **Thursday, June 3rd** **Senior Grad Party.** Lagoon Amusement Park at 6 pm – 2 am. To purchase tickets, please visit; <https://www.lagoonpark.com/buy-tickets/> and enter the promo code: celebrate21 for tickets to the senior only graduation party.

AN IMPORTANT NOTE: Students with outstanding fines or academic holds will not be given their cap and gown until all issues have been resolved.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT GRADUATION

The following questions are frequently asked at graduation time. The answers are provided for your information.

1. WHEN DO I PICK UP MY CAP AND GOWN?
Caps and gowns will be distributed **Friday, May 21** from 10:30 am to 1 pm in the WJHS Commons. **Seniors must be cleared for graduation by the Main Office and Counseling Office before being issued their cap and gown.**
2. HOW MANY GRADUATION TICKETS WILL I RECEIVE AND WHEN WILL THEY BE ISSUED?
6 FREE tickets will be available for every graduate. Tickets will be located on our WJHS website: <https://westjordanhighathletics.com/event-tickets>
3. IS PARKING AVAILABLE?
Parking is available anywhere on campus. However, due to limited parking on campus we strongly encourage our graduates and their families to arrive to our graduation ceremony together in one vehicle. Traffic may be heavy so please plan accordingly.

4. WHO IS ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GRADUATION CEREMONY?
Only those students who have met the State and District graduation requirements are allowed to participate in the graduation. Seniors who are on suspension at the time of graduation will not be permitted to participate in the graduation ceremony, but will be allowed to pick up their diploma the following day.
5. DOES A GRADUATE NEED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CEREMONY TO RECEIVE A DIPLOMA?
No. Participation in the graduation ceremony is optional. Students who do not want to participate can pick up their diplomas from the Counseling Office on the day following the graduation ceremony.
6. ARE PARENTS ALLOWED IN THE LINEUP AREA?
No. With over 500 graduates, there would be too much confusion if additional people were in the lineup area. All pictures should be taken before the ceremony begins or following the ceremony.
7. ARE PHOTOGRAPHERS OR PARENTS WITH CAMERAS ALLOWED NEAR THE AREA WHERE GRADUATES ARE SEATED OR WHEN THE GRADUATE RECEIVES THEIR DIPLOMAS?
Because of the problems created by parents and friends taking pictures near the graduation stand, we ask that all pictures be taken before or after the ceremony. **A professional photographer has been contracted to take a portrait with the American Flag as well as individual pictures of each graduate receiving his/her diploma. These pictures will be made available to you at a reasonable cost.**
8. IS THERE A PLACE TO KEEP PURSES AND/OR OTHER PERSONAL VALUABLES?
No. Graduates should not bring purses or other personal valuables to the graduation ceremony as there is not a place to secure them during the commencement ceremony. **Please leave cell phones at home or with a parent.**
9. MAY MY PARENTS GIVE ME FLOWERS OR GIFTS AS I RECEIVE MY DIPLOMA?
No. Only graduates and assigned personnel will be allowed in the area where graduates are receiving their diplomas.
10. WHERE SHOULD I GO ON GRADUATION DAY AND WHAT TIME SHOULD I BE THERE? **Graduates must arrive by 8:00 am.** They must meet in the commons area inside the school. Only graduates will be allowed inside of the school. Family and friends will enter through the gate at the north end of the building (near the tennis courts), or the gate in the back parking lot on the west side of the building. Seating for family and friends will begin at 8:00 am. Traffic may be heavy, please plan accordingly.
11. IF A GRADUATE IS UNABLE TO ATTEND THE GRADUATION CEREMONY CAN SOMEONE ELSE TAKE HIS/HER PLACE? No.
12. MAY A STUDENT PARTICIPATE IN THE GRADUATION CEREMONY WITHOUT A CAP AND GOWN?
No. Senior students have been given the opportunity to make arrangements for ordering their caps and gowns. Caps and gowns are required for all who choose to participate in the graduation ceremony.
13. WHEN DO I ACTUALLY RECEIVE MY DIPLOMA?
The diploma is received after each senior has properly participated in the graduation ceremony. Immediately following, each senior will be directed where to go in order to pick up his/her diploma.
14. DO I KEEP MY CAP AND TASSEL?
Yes. Students are given their graduation cap and tassel to remember their graduation.
15. WHAT HAPPENS IF A STUDENT IS DISRUPTIVE DURING THE GRADUATION CEREMONY?
They will be removed. The diploma will be held pending the outcome of a district hearing.

16. DOES WEST JORDAN HIGH SCHOOL HAVE AN AFTER-GRADUATION PARTY?
No. However, the PTA, in conjunction with Lagoon, will sponsor a graduation activity for seniors on Thursday, June 3rd at Lagoon. Hours will be from 6pm to 2am. It is well supervised by adults and police officers. To purchase tickets, please visit; <https://www.lagoonpark.com/buy-tickets/> and enter the promo code: celebrate21 for tickets to the senior only grad party.
17. IS HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE SEATING AVAILABLE AT WJHS stadium?
Yes. Wheelchair accessible seating is available on the East side bleachers.
18. ARE GRADUATES AND GUESTS REQUIRED TO WEAR MASKS DURING THE GRADUATION CEREMONY?
Yes. The Utah Legislature passed House Bill 294 in March. Most people are familiar with the part of the bill that says the state can no longer require masks in most public places after April 10. **However, the mask requirement stays in place for K-12 schools until June 15. Local officials, like a school board or county council, do NOT have the legal authority to end the mask requirement in schools before this date.**

Graduation is an exciting time for students and their families. All of the information discussed above is intended to make this time as special as possible for all involved. Thank you in advance for your help in these matters and congratulations to all graduating seniors!

Sincerely,

James O. Birch, Principal
West Jordan High School

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