



FAIRFAX COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Chantilly High School  
4201 Stringfellow Road  
Chantilly, Virginia 20151-2600

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May 1, 2009

Dear Seniors and Parents:

**RE: Important end-of-year information**

Graduation and related activities will take place very soon. In order to make these events successful and allow each family to make the appropriate plans, we are providing the following schedule and information:

**I. PROM**

**Saturday, May 16, 9:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.**  
**Reston Hyatt**

**Reminder:** Persons who have outstanding fees will not be allowed to purchase their Prom tickets.

Please refer to section **VIII** of this letter for clarification of the “substance abuse policy” as it pertains to Prom.

**II. BACCALAUREATE**

Sunday, June 14 (this event is privately sponsored)  
2:00 p.m., Ox Hill Baptist Church

This ceremony is nondenominational and has been organized and sponsored entirely by senior students and parents.

This program is an inspirational ceremony honoring the graduates of 2009. Participation by students is voluntary. Attendance at this ceremony by any school employee is the result of a voluntary, private decision by that individual and does not indicate any endorsement by the school.

**III. CONVOCATION**

Wednesday, June 10, 7:00 p.m. - Chantilly High School auditorium  
Pre-program concert at 6:30 p.m., Chantilly orchestra

This program is an awards ceremony honoring the outstanding achievements of the Class of 2009. All are welcome to attend.

Seniors will not be wearing caps and gowns; however, appropriate dress is expected.

#### **IV. COMMENCEMENT REHEARSAL**

Friday, June 12, 7:30 a.m. - Chantilly High School gymnasium

**ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY!!!** This will be the only rehearsal for the commencement ceremony. **Those individuals who fail to attend the rehearsal will be excluded from the graduation ceremony. No one will be excused from this rehearsal unless approved by Ms. Lynch, class administrator.**

##### **Special instructions for Seniors:**

- A. Report to the gymnasium at 7:30 a.m.
- B. Seniors will be given seating and marching arrangements and will practice the processional and recessional for commencement. A complete rehearsal of the program will be conducted.
- C. All textbooks, fines and other obligations owed to the school must be cleared by **10:00 a.m. on June 10**. Outstanding obligations, including senior dues, should be directed to Mrs. Sylvia Dulany, Finance Officer, located in the main office. **Caps and gowns will not be distributed and diplomas will be held until all outstanding obligations are met.**
- D. Caps and gowns will be distributed after the rehearsal on June 12.

#### **V. SENIOR BRUNCH**

Friday, June 12 - Chantilly High School cafeteria, immediately following the graduation rehearsal

#### **VI. SENIOR ASSEMBLY/SLIDE SHOW**

Friday, June 12, 11:00 a.m. - Chantilly High School auditorium  
All are expected to attend. **Seniors only**

#### **VII. COMMENCEMENT**

Monday, June 15, 7:30 p.m. - Patriot Center, George Mason University

Doors will open for the attendees at 6:30 p.m. There will be no ticket distribution. There is ample seating and parking at the Patriot Center to accommodate everyone. Remember, this is a formal affair. **Noise makers and any other inappropriate items (signs, balloons, etc.) are not allowed and will be confiscated and not returned.**

### **SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS TO SENIORS**

- A. You will wear caps and gowns. Girls should wear white dresses or white pants and white dress shoes (dark dresses will show through white gowns). Boys should wear white or light shirts with ties, dark pants (white or light pants will stand out with purple gowns) and dress shoes (no tennis shoes, boots or sandals). No shorts or jeans. Remember this is a formal affair; **alterations to the cap and gown will not be tolerated. Any items that violate this policy will be confiscated and not returned.** At the discretion of the administrative staff, any senior whose dress and/or behavior are inappropriate for the ceremony will not be allowed to participate. Your cooperation in making this a meaningful occasion for you, your parents, the community, and the school is expected and appreciated.
- B. **Graduates are to arrive at the Patriot Center by 5:00 p.m.** Enter the arena via the loading dock area and sit in **sections 128-129. NO ONE IS ALLOWED ON THE FLOOR!!** At 6:10 p.m., Mr. McKinney will assemble the graduates in marching order (wearing caps and gowns) in the loading dock area on the south side of the Patriot Center.
- C. We request that parents and friends not leave their seats to take pictures during the ceremony. A professional photographer has been contracted to take pictures of each senior as the diploma is awarded. Seniors will be contacted directly by the photographer to place orders.
- D. It has been our experience that traffic is very heavy approaching the Patriot Center. The evening rush hour will also contribute to the heavy traffic. Please adjust your travel plans to accommodate these delays.
- E. The Patriot Center is accessible for the handicapped. The south side entrance provides access to the arena, where there are areas to view the ceremony clearly. To help us facilitate your needs, please call Mr. McKinney at (703) 503-2525.

### **VIII. SPECIAL REMINDER: SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND YOUR SON/DAUGHTER**

As your son/daughter prepares to attend the Chantilly High School graduation ceremony and related events, it is an appropriate time to review the substance abuse policy and the consequences of violation, as it pertains to school-sponsored activities. Violations include use, possession, distribution, manufacturing, giving, and being under the influence of a controlled substance, imitation controlled substance, illegal drugs or intoxicants, including alcohol, while on school property or while attending a school activity (such as graduation). It also includes being present on school grounds

or at a school sponsored activity (**including Prom**) within a reasonable time of having consumed or used a controlled substance, alcohol, or other substance as listed above. The mandatory punishment requires a five-day suspension for the first offense for substance abuse violations, and a thirty-day prohibition from any and all school activities. Distribution of controlled substances, imitation controlled substances, illegal drugs or intoxicants, including alcohol, is an offense that requires a recommendation for expulsion. **Seniors in violation of the policy within thirty days of any of the graduation ceremonies or related functions will not be permitted to participate in those activities.** Please do not allow substance abuse to ruin what should be a joyous time for all students and their families. We want this to be a safe and happy time.

We are very proud of the Class of 2009 and have been honored to work with all members toward this most significant accomplishment. Thank you for all your outstanding support. We look forward to seeing you and celebrating with you!

Sincerely,

James J. Kacur  
Principal

Nicole Lehman and Molly McCaa  
Class of 2009 Sponsors

Zion McKinney  
Graduation Coordinator

Kathleen Lynch  
Class Administrator