



Medina High School

Senior Newsletter 2009

“Working Together to Achieve High Levels of Excellence”

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The school year is going by quickly, and Spring is going to bring a lot of exciting events, especially for our seniors. To keep you and the students informed of upcoming issues and activities, we have compiled an overview of important dates and information. Please mark your calendars and remind your children. The final quarter of school always seems to escape us too quickly. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the school office at (330) 636-3200. Information will also be posted on the school's website (www.mcsoh.org/mhs/) and Channel 36.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Panoramic Picture/Class Meeting, Wednesday, April 22, 2009 - A panoramic picture of the class will be taken; cost is \$25.00 for laminated picture and \$21.00 for non-laminated (checks should be made payable to Ohio School Pictures). **Due to problems in the past, no shirts with individual letters may be worn for this picture. Any student who attempts to wear a shirt with an individual letter or letters will NOT be permitted to be in the picture.** Furthermore, any student who chooses to make gestures deemed inappropriate either by Medina High School or the photography studio, including profanity and/or gestures, may be removed from the picture and/or disciplinary action may be taken. The administration reserves the right to take disciplinary action, including restitution for touching up the picture, upon reviewing the panoramic picture.

Commencement Speakers - Applications for Commencement Speakers will be available at the class meeting on Wednesday, April 22nd. We will select three (3) seniors as speakers at commencement - one who will make the opening remarks, one who will address the class during the ceremony and one who will make the closing remarks. The deadline for these applications is Friday, May 1st.

4th Annual In-School Senior Farewell Assembly, Friday, May 22, 2009, 8:30 a.m. – This year we will continue with the MHS tradition where the senior class will be recognized in front of their peers for their academic and co-curricular accomplishments.

Favorite Teacher Letters - We would like to continue the practice of having seniors write letters recognizing a teacher, administrator or other support staff member who has made an impact on their high school career. These letters are to be submitted by Friday, May 1st. Students will have the opportunity to read their letter on the morning announcements. A framed copy will be given to the teacher.

"Skip Day" - Medina High School does not recognize or approve of any kind of senior "skip day". We encourage all students to be in attendance on the Monday after Prom weekend as well as all required days leading up to graduation. Students will be held accountable to the Attendance Policy.

"Senior Moment" (momentary lapse of good judgment) Medina High School will not tolerate any type of senior prank. Students have been informed that if they come onto school property during times in which they are not scheduled to be here, they will be held accountable. This may include involvement of police and formal charges being filed. Students will be held accountable for any type of disruption up to and including Commencement.

Caps & Gowns – Starting the week of May 11th, caps and gowns will be passed out at the HUB. Any senior who has been measured **and has paid all fees and fines** will be permitted to pick up his/her cap and gown. Those who have not ordered a cap and gown need to call Jostens immediately at (330) 722-0131. Those who still owe any fees/fines will not be permitted to pick up his/her cap and gown until all obligations are met.

Payment of Fees and Fines - Seniors must have all fees, fines, books, and financial obligations paid no later than 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 28th. Students are encouraged to take care of these fees in advance. Any senior student still having any outstanding obligations will not receive a diploma at the conclusion of Commencement, nor will final transcripts be mailed from the Senior Census Cards to the college or university of your choice until all financial obligations are paid in full.

Mandatory Commencement Practice – Practice will be held on **Thursday, May 28th from 8:30 am. until 1:30 p.m.** at the JAR Arena at The University of Akron. Seniors will check in at **8:30 a.m.** in the MHS main gymnasium, attendance will be taken and students will be given their bus assignments. This is a **MANDATORY** practice and you are **REQUIRED** to take school insured and provided transportation to Akron. This is considered a field trip. Any senior arriving after 9:00 a.m. may not be permitted to practice and, therefore, forfeit their opportunity to participate in Commencement. The buses will depart Medina High School at 9:15 a.m. and arrive back at Medina High School at approximately 1:30 p.m. Seniors should park in **Lot C**.

Senior Cook Out after Commencement Practice – There will be a “cook-out” lunch provided for seniors upon their arrival back at Medina High School. More details to follow.

Baccalaureate - Will be held on Thursday, **May 28th at 7:00 p.m.** at St. Francis Xavier, 606 E. Washington St. Students report by 6:30 p.m., please bring your cap and gown.

Commencement - Will be held on Sunday, **May 31, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.** at James A. Rhodes Arena, The University of Akron.

Seating/Tickets for Commencement - Each graduate will receive a total of eight (8) tickets. If you realize you need more tickets, please contact Linda or Debbie in the Hub (330-636-3210) and they can assist you in making these accommodations. Tickets will be distributed with the caps and gowns. *If special seating is required, please contact Linda or Debbie in the Hub. A special ticket will be issued which will permit immediate access to the JAR and special seating.

Spectator Conduct at Commencement - Out of respect for our graduates and to preserve the dignity of this ceremony, we request that guests refrain from loud noises and the use of noise makers. We would like to remind everyone that air horns or other noise making devices are not permitted in the arena and will be confiscated by the University of Akron police. These devices have no legitimate place in this ceremony. Cell phones should be set to silent/vibrate mode. Your cooperation in advance is appreciated.

Photography at Commencement - Parents may take photographs during Commencement from the area where they are sitting. We will have a professional photographer taking pictures of each graduating senior as he/she receives his/her diploma. Order forms will be included in the cap and gown packet. More information is available through Chappell Studios at: (<http://www.chappell.com>). Parents and/or spectators will not be permitted down in front where diplomas are being presented.

Videotapes - Feel free to make your own videos from where you are seated. We ask that no one videotape from the upper railing in such a way that taping will block the view of people who are seated. As in the past, Channel 36 will be covering the Commencement ceremony and you can record the ceremony from the re-broadcasts. A DVD order form will be included in the diploma packet each graduate receives after the ceremony. The cost of the DVD is \$20.

Directions to the JAR Arena –Take Rt. 18 East to I-77 South (Montrose-Fairlawn). Merge onto I-77 South toward Massillon which becomes I-77 South/I-76 East. Merge onto OH-8N via Exit 23B on the LEFT toward Cuyahoga Falls. Take the ramp toward OH-18 Carroll St/Buchtel Ave/Akron University. Stay straight to go onto Fountain Street. Turn left onto Carroll Street. The following parking lots are in close proximity to the JAR Arena: Lot 1 Parking Deck (Right on Carroll St., then left into parking deck), Lot 2 (off of Carroll St.), Lots 5 and 13 (take right on Spicer St.) and Lots 8 and 10 (take left on Spicer St. behind the Ocacek Natatorium). Lot 57, in front of the JAR Arena, will be reserved for administration and guests as well as handicapped unloading. Handicapped parking is available in Lot 2 (adjacent to the JAR Arena) and Lot 11 (behind Spicer Hall). More information at: <http://www.uakron.edu/resources/campusMap/drivingDirections.php>

Arrival Time on Graduation Day - Graduates are required to be in the "SENIOR-ONLY staging area" to the rear of the JAR Arena by **1:15 p.m.** At that time, the final attendance will be taken and seniors will be lined up and must remain in their lines. A reminder to parents and guests, entrance into the Arena will be by ticket only.

Diploma Pick Up - There will be designated areas within the JAR Arena to pick up your diploma and other items.

Proper Dress for Graduation Day - Gentlemen should wear a shirt and tie along with dress pants and dress shoes. Ladies should wear a dress or a blouse and skirt/slacks. To minimize the possibility of falling when going up and down stairs, we strongly discourage the wearing of high heels. Under no circumstances should blue jeans, tennis shoes, T-shirts or shorts be worn during the graduation ceremony. **Also, to maintain the dignity of the ceremony, no messages are permitted to be worn on the top of the caps.** Any student improperly dressed will not be permitted to go through Commencement.

Grades/Credits/Transcripts - If you have any questions or concerns about your son/daughter's progress this final semester, please don't hesitate to contact his/her individual teacher and/or guidance counselor. The "Senior Census Card" will generate their final transcript being sent to the appropriate college, university, etc. **The final transcript will not be sent if there are any outstanding fees/fines or obligations.** The Senior Census Card will also provide Scholarship Awards information to our Awards Committee. It is important that every graduating senior turn in a completed card.

- Parents are asked to closely monitor your son/daughter's progress using the Parent Assist Module (PAM) especially in senior required courses, such as Civics, Economics and Advanced Composition. These courses must be passed for a student to graduate from Medina High School. As you monitor his/her current progress and you notice a low grade (D or F) this indicates a possible problem so please call immediately before it becomes a concern that could jeopardize graduation.
- Attendance: Please remind your son/daughter about the school's 7-day absence policy and possible loss of credit.

Final Exams –Senior exams will be given the week of May 18th. Seniors are required to take all exams; if you do not show up for an assigned exam and it is an unexcused absence you will automatically fail for the semester.

Final Exam schedule: **May 18 & 19:**

Science, Foreign Language, and Language Arts

May 20 & 21:

Math, Social Studies, Business, Foods, Clothing and Art

May 22

Make up time after Senior Farewell Assembly