

May 2, 2017

Dear Class of 2017 Parents/Guardians:

We commend this year's graduating class and their families for a fantastic school year. You will soon complete your secondary education, and the following information should be helpful in planning the remaining weeks of school. Receiving this informational packet does not confirm your graduation (final grades and attendance will be taken into consideration). This is intended to apprise you of the calendar of events and responsibilities as your school career comes to a successful conclusion.

Year-end exams and textbook collection will take place the week of May 29th. Students are to return all books, calculators, athletic equipment, etc., by June 2nd. Seniors who do not have debts and fines cleared by June 7 will not receive their diploma at Commencement. Parents, please remind your senior of this important detail. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Seniors who have achieved various awards or honors will be recognized at a special Awards Program May 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the SPHS auditorium. All seniors, parents and families are welcome at this event; distribution of awards and academic honors will comprise the agenda.

Commencement practice will be June 6 and 7. Seniors are to report to their homeroom as if it were a normal school day (by 7:25 a.m.). Attendance will be taken in homeroom. Immediately following, seniors will report to the auditorium for instructions. Practice will conclude at approximately 9:30 a.m. and seniors will be dismissed for home each day.

Cap, gown, tassel and 7 tickets per student will be distributed on Wednesday June 7 following Commencement practice. They are to be maintained neatly for Commencement. Lost or misplaced tickets will not be replaced.

Commencement 2017 will be conducted in the South Park High School gymnasium on Friday June 9 at 7:00 p.m. with seating on a first-come, first-seated basis. Seniors are to report to the auxiliary gym at 6:00 p.m. for line up. Recommended dress for Commencement should be as uniform as possible, consisting of:

- Ladies:** A very light colored dress that will not puff out the gown, appropriate color hosiery and white shoes - no flip-flops or tennis shoes.
- Men:** White shirt, dark tie (no bows) dark trousers, dark socks, black or dark dress shoes - no flip-flops or tennis shoes.

Students wearing flip-flops, sneakers, jeans, shorts or sunglasses **will not** participate in Commencement.

**Students who are deficient more than one (1) credit will not be permitted to participate in the commencement ceremony. Those students who need to make up one (1) credit or less must have proof of registration and payment for the summer class to the counselor's office by June 8, 2017.**

Commencement represents a major step in the lives of the graduates. It is hoped that participants and their guests will allow the program to be completed in a dignified, reserved, and serious fashion. We need the help of parents and friends, especially to maintain an environment conducive to a quality Commencement. Applause should be withheld until all members of the class have been recognized. The audience is asked to remain seated for the entire ceremony. Handicapped individuals requiring special seating need to call my office for arrangements by June 8. Use of tobacco, alcohol, or drugs at this event is strictly prohibited. The Code of Conduct remains in effect. Police will be in attendance. Poorly behaved individuals will be removed without warning.

The graduation ceremony and the various events surrounding the final exercises are the embodiment of student preparation for adulthood, employment, or higher education. The significance of this period in the school year cannot be overemphasized. We congratulate you upon the completion of your secondary schooling, and look forward to sharing the closing activities with you.

Please be sure to check the calendar on the high school web page for important end of the year events.

Educationally,

Mr. David Palmer  
Principal