

Senior Meeting
Thursday, April 13, 2023 @ West (9:10)
Thursday, April 13, 2023 @ Career Center (10:10)

The season of graduation is here and it is a very special time. It is a celebration of the passing into adulthood with a commencement of a new beginnings. Graduation is a special time for you, your family and friends. Every one of you deserves a special moment on stage while receiving your diploma and celebrating a successful four years.

West High has a tradition of respect and dignity – I, along with your senior leaders, expect this to continue.

- West High students traditionally dress for the occasion – dress clothes and shoes please (no tennis shoes)
- Everyone deserves his or her time on stage without distraction
- Please don't attach anything to our graduation gowns – no leis
- No decorations as you are representing West High, our traditions, your excellence and with all of us looking the same
- Please don't come to ceremony with alcohol on your breath. Your behavior is your responsibility and intoxication or drug use will not be tolerated (you will be pulled)
- Please be safe
- We are allowing you to decorate your graduation hats (mortarboards) this year. Decorations must be flat without obstructing anyone's view, they can't extend beyond the graduation mortarboard, decorations must meet school dress code expectations (no sexual/hidden messaging that can harm, no slogans, no alcohol or drug referencing, no singling people out to hurt or harm, no religious or hate messaging, no harmful number sequencing etc.). If decorations do not meet expectation, you will be asked to remove decorations or purchase a new hat. You must have a mortarboard to participate in the ceremony

**** Let's be good to one another. You are classmates, friends, partners, pals, peers, in-this-togethers, helpers, neighbors, and one with each other. Let us show our unity, friendship and compassion for each other, our school, and the greater community of Billings. "Forgiveness is the sweetest revenge."**

Particular Important Dates

Senior Awards Ceremony

- Wednesday, May 17th @ Noon in the Auditorium (Ms. Peterson)

Test Schedule

- Tuesday, May 23rd (periods 4,5,6)
- Thursday, May 25th (periods 1,2,3)
- Teachers will turn in failing grades on Friday, May 26th by 3:25 as well as names of students with excessive absences

Immunization Records

- In your diploma sleeve, you will find a State Immunization blue card with all of your childhood immunizations listed. This is the last record of your immunizations, so please keep it in a safe place. If anyone needs a copy of your immunizations, give them a copy of the blue card and not the original card itself

Payment of Fines

- No payment equals no diploma or report card
- Please see posted lists by main office and the library
- Report cards will be mailed home after June 10th if cleared

Graduation Programs and Names

- Please review your name in the main office (list) and sign-off if your name is spelled correctly
- Mr. Bazant, Mr. Petak and Mr. Gottula will be announcing you at the ceremony. Mr. Bazant will read names A-G, Mr. Petak will read names H-N and Mr. Gottula will read names O-Z

Graduation Party – Bear Bash

- Party will take place in the West High gymnasium
- Bear Bash will begin @ 9 PM on Sunday, May 28th with closing @ 10 PM and end at 3 AM
- Please attend, please support and please be safe
- The cost is \$40

Caps and Gowns

- Distribution has already taken place. Please see Ms. Welch in Activities if you do not have yours yet

Graduation Pictures

- LifeTouch will be taking photos of each graduate from the stage

Commencement

- Line leaders will lead you into the ceremony in two rows
- The first person in the row will wear a West High pin
- We will leave an empty seat for each student graduating in absentia
- Remain standing until asked to be seated
- I will ask you to rise as a class for acceptance as a graduate of Billings West High School meeting requirements for the State of Montana
- The row is to stand as the group and proceed to stage
- Stand on the top stair until your name is read by your Dean
- Accepting diploma – smile, shake firmly and look dignitary in the eyes
- Locate Lifetouch and look at camera with smile
- Exit stage down center stage steps
- Return to your original seat and remain standing until your entire row returns

Ceremony Behavior

- No blow horns by family and friends
- Security will be present
- Checked at the door

Thank you for making this historical year at West memorable. All of you are wonderful people, and I can't think of a better group to send into the world. I wish the best in all of your endeavors and don't be afraid of contacting me if you need future support.

Mr. H