

open



River Ridge High School *Senior Scoop*

May 2021

THOUGHTS FROM MRS. MEEK:

The time is near Class of 2021! It is so bittersweet as we approach graduation day! I know crossing the finish line elicits many emotions.... excitement, happiness, sadness, nervousness, and the future may even seem uncertain for some. But know this, you have a strong foundation beneath you, and you have great things ahead! Since your freshmen year, you have been through hurricanes, fires, and a global pandemic. You have shown great resilience in what I know should have been the best year ever. Resilience is one of the greatest attributes that you can take with you! Class of 2021 you are truly the best and will be missed dearly! June 3rd is right around the corner! #21andDone #ForeverRoyal

SENIOR CAR PARADE

Our community sponsored parade is Tuesday, May 18th at Sunwest Park. Please see the detailed flyer on our social media platforms. Contact Gretchen Marzicola with addition questions, her information can be found on the flyer.

SENIOR MOVIE KNIGHT

Our Senior Video will be played on Thursday, May 20th at 6:30 in the RRHS Gym. Immediately following there will be fun and games behind the gym. Food will be available for purchase. Also, be sure and bring your yearbooks for signing. Contact Ann Laroue at alaroue@pasco.k12.fl.us with questions.

ACADEMY AWARDS KNIGHT

Students that are receiving a stole will be recognized on May 24th at 5:30 in the Theater. Students impacted by this event will receive an invitation. Contact Laurie Peterson at lapeters@pasco.k12.fl.us with questions.

KNIGHT OF EXCELLENCE

Students that are receiving special recognitions will be recognized on May 24th at 6:30 in the Theater. Students receiving recognition for this event should have received an invitation. Contact Laurie Peterson at lapeters@pasco.k12.fl.us with questions.

SENIOR SPLASH (formerly Breakfast)

This year in lieu of breakfast we will be hosting an EPIC "Senior Splash" since you all missed out on your Junior to Senior picnic! It will be held on May 25th at 9 am in the stadium. Stay tuned for a flyer on social media for additional information! Contact Shannon Smith at shsmith@pasco.k12.fl.us with questions.

SENIORS ITEMS OWED

Students must have all outstanding debt settled with the school prior to graduation. These items include, but are not limited to outstanding fees, textbooks, uniforms, monies owed to the cafeteria or media, and any fundraising monies owed. Please reconcile all accounts prior to graduation.

YEARBOOKS

Yearbooks are in and can STILL BE PREORDERED at yearbookforever.com to guarantee a pickup until midnight Wednesday, May 12 (limited amount still available). Yearbooks will be distributed to SENIORS WHO PRE-ORDERED ONLY during periods 3-7 on Thursday, May 13 in the area by the HS bus loop. Sales of remaining books will begin Monday, May 17 in room 1-115 anytime EXCEPT during exam periods. The price will be \$65, and can be cash/check.

TRANSCRIPTS

Be sure to submit your transcript request now! The link is on our website under the Counseling tab.

SENIOR SHOUTOUTS

Class of '21 Shoutouts are now available for order. See the graphic on our social media pages for details and submit your shoutout at: <https://rrhs.pasco.k12.fl.us/mform/view.php?id=67165>. Contact Mr. Bruno at rbruno@pasco.k12.fl.us with questions.

LEGACY TILES

Families now have an exciting opportunity to become a part of our Royal history! Please view our flyer on social media. They can be purchased at the following link below. Contact Mr. Mallo at cmallo@pasco.k12.fl.us with questions.
<http://rrhs.pasco.k12.fl.us/mform/view.php?id=120638>

CAPS & GOWNS

All seniors should have ordered their cap & gown and paid senior fees (\$95.00). Cap and gowns will be distributed on 5/27 from 8-10 am and 1-3 pm. If you need additional information regarding cap and gowns, please go to the Class of 2021 section on our website and go to the Herff Jones link to contact them directly. Honor cords will be available if you are graduating summa cum laude (4.2-...), magna cum laude (3.8-4.199), or cum laude (3.20-3.799) weighted GPA. These will be packaged with your cap and gown.

GRADUATION INFORMATION

Graduation is scheduled for June 3rd at 9:00 a.m. in the RRHS Stadium. See reverse side for detailed information. We will also be publishing a link with detailed directions of what graduation day will look like. If you will need handicap seating, please complete the following link and Ms. Zammetti will reach out to you.
<http://rrhs.pasco.k12.fl.us/mform/view.php?id=114005>
For those students not attending the commencement ceremony, diplomas can be picked up anytime in the front office after June 3rd.

Follow us on:

Twitter: @rrhsknights

Facebook: River Ridge High School

Instagram: @riverridgeknights

Class of 2021 Team:

12TH Grade Administrator: Mrs. Jessica Meek

12th Grade Counselor: Mrs. Kristina Wilson

College and Career Specialist: Mrs. Laurie Peterson

Class of 2021 Sponsor: Mrs. Barb Dukeman

Graduation Enhancement Coach: Mrs. Shannon Smith

2021 Graduation Information

We are so excited to be celebrating the Class of 2021 Commencement with our graduates and their families in person! In order to promote social distancing please arrive during your scheduled time. Masks are not mandatory but strongly encouraged, especially when arriving and departing. We will also be posting the Pasco County Graduation Guidelines on our website.

Arrival Times

Last Name O-Z: 8:00-8:15

Last Name H-N: 8:15-8:30

Last Name A-G: 8:30-8:45

Actions and Items that are **NOT ALLOWED**

- No alcohol, tobacco, vaping, drugs, pets, fireworks, or weapons
- Streamers, silly string, smoke, inflatable objects, or water toys
- Congregating or group gatherings before or after the ceremony
- Leaving prior to conclusion of the ceremony

Dress Code for the Ceremony

- Graduates should wear school appropriate clothing underneath their gowns. Typically, we would ask young men to wear a shirt and tie, but it will be hot. In this case, we suggest a t-shirt with sleeves (no tank tops) or polo shirt with a collar. We also ask that young men wear pants because it looks better with a gown on, but pants, jeans, shorts are all acceptable. We would also encourage comfortable shoes. Typically, we would ask young ladies to wear a dress, skirt, or pants. In this case, you are welcome to wear shorts or jeans. We would also encourage comfortable shoes (you will be walking in grass and that is difficult in heels).
- Caps can be decorated however, if the message is offensive in any way, it will be confiscated prior to the ceremony.

Pre-Ceremony Preparation, Parking, & Arrival

- Please arrive at the scheduled time above, this will ensure smooth traffic flow and seating.
- We will NOT be issuing tickets! Graduates may have up to four guests (two with them on the field and 2 in the stands). Graduates will not be permitted to enter until ALL members of the party have arrived.
- Once seated, graduates should fill out the card with the pencil (both will be on the graduate's seat) with your full name on it- with it spelled phonetically so that the readers can pronounce it correctly.
- Please bring your cell phone and cameras to take pictures.
- Please bring a bottled water per person. We will not be opening the concession stand.
- **Please leave bags/purses in cars. The district bag policy is in effect, so you may bring in a clear bag or Ziploc.**
- Please park in the student parking lot ONLY.
- Upon arrival, you will enter through the gate near the theater or by the media center. We will have RRHS staff on hand to provide guidance.
- Please practice Social Distancing as you enter the Stadium.
- Please go the seat triads that are open.

Commencement Ceremony Expectations

- The Commencement Ceremony will start at 9:00 AM and end at approximately 11:00 AM.
- Please remain in your seat until you are directed to the stage by staff and then return to your seat afterward.
- Graduates and their guests will not be allowed to congregate following the ceremony.
- Graduates will report directly to the back of the gym to pick up their actual diploma (they will be receiving just the cover on stage), go to the appropriate table (in alpha order), and exit through the front of the gym.
- The guests of the graduate will return to their vehicles and exit campus at the conclusion of ceremony via the gates that they entered to maintain CDC guidelines.
- The ceremony will be live streamed on the RRHS Facebook page however, we encourage families to do their own livestream in the event our connection is not working properly.

Protocols for Walking Across the Stage

- Bring your Walk Card with your name on it- with it spelled phonetically so that the readers can pronounce it correctly.
- Please hand the reader the card.
- If necessary, please say your name to the reader so that it is pronounced correctly.
- Please maintain social distancing.
- **Please bring your diploma cover with you across the stage for pictures!**
- Hold it in front of you so that you can have your picture taken on the "X" that will be on the stage. During the ceremony, Gigante will be on-site to take pictures (candid and diploma cover). Their website and link will be provided to families who would like to purchase photos. Parents will be permitted to come forward and take pictures in the designated area by the stage.
- Return to your seat following pictures and remain there for the remainder of the ceremony.

Congratulations, ROYAL Class of 2021!

Share your pictures and videos on Twitter and Instagram!
Use the hashtag #ROYAL2021

UPCOMING DATES:

May 14-19 Senior Exams
May 18 Senior Car Parade
May 20 Senior Exam Make-Ups
May 20 Senior Movie Night
May 24 Academy Awards Knight
May 24 Knight of Excellence
May 25 Senior SPLASH
May 25 Senior grades due in MyStudent by 2 pm
May 27 Cap and Gown Distribution
June 3 Graduation



Pasco County Schools

GRADUATION GUIDELINES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

In light of changing public health guidance from the CDC and State of Florida, Pasco County Schools has adopted the following guidelines for The Class of 2021 Commencement ceremonies occurring after May 28th.

The dates for the individual school Commencement ceremonies remain the same.

Each ceremony will have fewer guests than a customary, full Commencement. Ample parking is available at each school.

ENTRANCE PROCEDURES FOR GUESTS

Each graduate is able to bring four guests. Two guests of the graduate will be able to sit on the field with the graduate and two more guests will be able to sit in the stands. Please check with your school on procedures for arrival.

If you or one of your guests need wheelchair seating accommodations, be aware that the schools do **not** provide wheelchairs on site. Guests with mobility concerns are strongly encouraged to bring their own wheelchair or elect to view the livestream.

We ask that guests in the stadium remain seated throughout the ceremony to ensure all guests are able to see the graduates.

COVID-19 EXPECTATIONS

We are committed to a culture of personal accountability as part of our community-wide effort to combat COVID-19. If you are experiencing symptoms or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, we ask that you do not attend the Commencement ceremony.

Face coverings are strongly encouraged for all graduates and guests, particularly when entering, exiting, and moving throughout the stadium. Guests should maintain appropriate social distance between parties in the stands and when moving through the stadium concourse. Please be respectful of those around you.

For those who cannot attend in person, a livestream of the ceremony will be available at each school. Anyone deemed at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19 by public health officials is strongly encouraged to view the livestream rather than attend the ceremony in person.

PARKING

Parking for Commencement is free and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

DISABILITY ACCESS

Disability parking is available at the schools, on a first-come, first-served basis.

Please contact the school administration in advance to make any special arrangements.

Sign language interpreters will be at all graduations.

FACE COVERINGS

Face coverings are strongly encouraged for all guests. We recommend face coverings when entering and leaving, and movement throughout the stadium, as well as any time guests are unable to maintain the recommended physical distance from others who are not in their same household.

Social distancing is recommended while inside and outside of the school stadium.

ENTRANCE/DISMISSAL

- Graduates and guests should arrive together for the check in process.
- Decals will be placed at gate entry to facilitate social distancing.
- Each attendee is allowed to bring in one unopened bottle of water and an umbrella if needed.
- Only clear bags of appropriate size will be allowed in, one per guest.
- At the end of the commencement ceremony, please leave the stadium and collect your diploma packet at the designated area.

VIEWING OPTIONS

We encourage those that are unable/unwilling to attend the in-person ceremony to view the ceremony online.

The ceremony will be broadcast live. See your school's webpage for more information.

PERMITTED/PROHIBITED ITEMS

Security has the right to inspect any item at any time for the purpose of safety.

Prohibited items must be returned to cars or disposed of before entering and will not be accepted by employees nor stored at the gates.

The CLEAR BAG POLICY is in effect for each Graduation Ceremony. Please follow the guidelines below as well:

Permitted Items

- Bags that are clear plastic, vinyl, or PVC and do not exceed 12"x6"x12"
- One-gallon clear plastic freezer bags
- Small clutch bags, with or without a handle or strap, that do not exceed 4.5" x 6.5"
- Bags that contain necessary medical items
- Water, in sealed plastic bottles; must fit inside the permitted-sized bag
- Umbrellas
- Cameras and video recorders (Clear Bag Policy applies to camera bags)
- Strollers (except for in the seating areas)
- Diaper bags are permissible

Prohibited Items

For the safety, security, and experience of all guests, the following items are prohibited:

- Backpacks and bags that do not follow clear bag specifications
- Wrapped gifts or packages wherein the contents are not visible
- Alcohol
- Firearms or weapons
- Glass and aluminum containers
- Pasco County School campuses are tobacco-free campuses and there will be no smoking, or vaping
- Large items, such as banners and posters, or amplification equipment, such as bullhorns or megaphones

RESTROOMS

- Restrooms will be available.
- Decals will be placed on the ground to promote social distancing.

PICTURES

- Pictures will be taken by a photography company during the ceremony and will be made available for purchase.

CLEANING

- The following areas will be cleaned before the ceremony:
 - all stadium restrooms
 - and other common areas
- Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the stadium.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

The Commencement Ceremonies will only be rescheduled in the event of severe weather. Severe weather is defined as rain accompanied by high wind, thunder, and lightning. If necessary, the alternate ceremony time will be announced on the school website.

If it is raining on the morning of Commencement, but not declared severe weather, the ceremony will be held as planned in the stadium.

If weather is a concern for you or a member of your party, you may wish to consider a different viewing option.