

Dear Parents and Graduates of the Class of 2023,

Congratulations on your impending graduation! This letter includes important information for graduates and their families about Commencement 2023. With 407 graduates, it is important that everyone involved be well informed about the arrangements for the day so that the ceremony can proceed in a formal, honorable, and dignified manner that you deserve.

PARTICIPATION

Students will be allowed to participate in the ceremony if they have successfully completed all coursework and have served all of their detentions; returned and/or met all lost textbook obligations! Participation is strictly optional and, in fact, is discouraged for any student who is not interested in behaving with dignity and decorum or upholding our IHS values during the Commencement Ceremony. Please note that keeping with our IHS values, any student who engages in activities that are destructive, malicious, and disrespectful toward our school or staff will not be allowed to participate in commencement.

MANDATORY REHEARSAL

Graduates who wish to participate in the Commencement ceremony are required to attend the scheduled rehearsal on Wednesday, May 31. Graduates must report to the IHS game gym no later than 10:00am. Gym doors will open at 9:00 so students have additional time to sign yearbooks.

COMMENCEMENT

The Commencement ceremony will begin promptly at 9:00am, Thursday, June 1 in the Irvine Stadium. The ceremony will last approximately one hour. We have chosen to begin at 9:00am, in an effort to avoid the afternoon heat and because it is necessary for us to share the stadium with Woodbridge High School.

Graduates must report to Irvine High School no later than 8:00am. TA's will be assigned to rooms to meet in for this morning. No one except the graduates and participating staff are allowed in the assigned rooms. Graduates should not bring money, purses, yearbooks, cameras, flowers (including leis), or any other valuables into the room. These items are not allowed on the field and would be left unsecured in the classroom during the ceremony. The school will not be responsible for these items. As the parking lots will be congested, families are encouraged to drop-off their graduates by 8:00am., rather than have graduates drive themselves.

ATTIRE

All participants are expected to wear the Irvine High School cap and gown. Caps may not be "decorated" in any way. Appropriate dress attire must be worn under all robes. Student Attire includes: dress shirts, slacks, tie, dresses, and shoes that are appropriate for walking on grass. Jeans, recreational sandals and/or tennis shoes are not appropriate. Pressing the gown with a warm iron is recommended prior to the ceremony. If you need to purchase a cap and gown, Jostens will be selling these items on May 19. The cost is \$40.00 for the Cap and Gown and Tassel, \$10.00 for the tassel only, and \$20.00 for a Cap and Tassel. Cash only will be accepted at this time. Students who have earned "Honors" should wear their Honor Regalia. Only approved Honor Regalia is to be worn. This Honor Regalia includes Heritage and ROP Award Medallions. No other adornments are allowed unless approval has been granted. No flowers, corsages, leis or regalia from other organizations will be permitted prior to the ceremony.

BEHAVIOR

To underscore the formal nature of the occasion, student behavior is closely monitored. Students are seated with their Teacher Advisor. Any student, who is disruptive at any time during the ceremony, will be subject to disciplinary action before their diploma or transcript is released. Only diploma “covers” are handed out during the ceremony, in order to hold students accountable for their behavior until the end of the ceremony. Participants arriving on campus under the influence of any controlled substance will not be permitted to participate and will also be subject to disciplinary action.

TICKETS and SEATING

Admission to the ceremony is by ticket only. Please note that having a ticket does not necessarily mean that a seat will be available, particularly for late arrivals.

We provide four tickets to each family for graduation. Tickets are distributed with the cap and gown delivery on Friday, May 19. After May 19, additional tickets may be purchased at the SPUR Shop during break and lunch for \$5 each, Cash Only. Tickets will also be sold at the stadium on the day of the event. We do not have “will call” capability, so please make independent plans for getting tickets to your guests. Our stadium seats 3,500 people comfortably. We do not cap ticket sales as the ticket sales help us off-set commencement costs; however, we urge each family to be thoughtful in planning the size of their gathering at the stadium. Again, parking will be at a premium, so please try to carpool.

GENERAL PARKING, HANDICAPPED PARKING, AND SEATING

General parking is available for all guests in the Front Parking Lot located off of Walnut Avenue, and the Back Parking Lot located off of Escolar. Street parking is also available on Escolar, Walnut Avenue (school side beginning at Ravenwood and ending at the Library entrance), as well as overflow parking in the dirt lot located at the end of Escolar. We highly encourage families to carpool as parking may be limited. Please follow all traffic signs and safety officers. Note, there is a NO LEFT TURN from Escolar onto Walnut Avenue between 7:30am and 4:30pm.

Special parking and/or seating arrangements will be available for our handicapped parents and guests. Those requiring special parking must have a DMV blue handicapped placard. The special seating, on the field, is available to those with special needs. If you need special parking or seating, please complete the form [Here](#) or contact Kerri Hitchcock at (949) 936-7104 at least one week in advance of the ceremony. Leave a message with the name of the graduate and the person who will require special parking and/or seating. We can accommodate only one guest to accompany the special needs person to this seating area.

AUDIENCE DECORUM

In order to preserve the dignified tone of the ceremony, the school earnestly seeks the cooperation of parents and guests in refraining from using air horns or loud noisemakers, from leaving early, or from moving from seats anytime during the ceremony, particularly during the roll call of graduates’ names.

- Professional photographers will be taking pictures of graduates as they receive their diplomas. Therefore, parents do not need to try to get to the railing in order to capture the moment.

- Parents are asked to take pictures only from their seats in the stadium.
- Please do not obstruct the view or photo opportunities of those behind you by standing up, or holding up balloon bouquets, umbrellas, or large signs.

Parents and guests are welcome on the field at the conclusion of the ceremony, which ends with the singing of the Alma Mater. Pictures may be taken on the field immediately after the ceremony. The field must be vacated by 3:00pm.

DIPLOMAS

Diplomas are not distributed during the ceremony; they are picked up at the back of the Track immediately following the ceremony. Each Graduate will receive a Graduation Ceremony Program along with their diploma. Graduates will also receive a copy of their immunization records with their diploma. Graduates who have not met school obligations, such as non-returned textbooks and/or library books, uniforms, unpaid fines, or who were disruptive during the ceremony, will have their diplomas held by the school in the upstairs office until such obligations are fulfilled or until disciplinary action is complete.

GRAD NITE ACTIVITIES

The PTSA is sponsoring this year's GRAD NITE PARTY, which will be held on June 1. This is an amazing event and a very safe and exciting place for your graduates to celebrate this wonderful time in their lives! GRAD NITE tickets are on sale for \$200 at <https://www.irvinehsggradnight.com/tickets/>. Please note that today, March 31st is the last day for this price. The price goes up to \$220 beginning tomorrow, April 1. The more students that have purchased tickets earlier, the more we are able to add activities. Please help us confirm our activities for the evening by purchasing your ticket now.

SENIOR TRIPS

We would like to make it clear that any "Senior Trips" taken after graduation to places like Hawaii, Mexico, etc., are not school sponsored. These trips are offered by private groups and are completely independent of the Irvine Unified School District. School officials have concerns about the quality and safety of many of these trips and ask our parents to evaluate them carefully.

We strive to make Irvine High School's Commencement a joyous and memorable occasion. We share your pride in all of the outstanding accomplishments of this very special class of 2023 and look forward to having you join us in celebrating as our students graduate from Irvine High School. We wish each and every one of them a lifetime of happiness and success. If you have further questions, please call Francesca Saugez (949) 936-7104. We look forward to sharing the celebration with you.

Congratulations,

Monica Colunga, Ed.D.

Principal