

McHenry High School - West Campus



Marsha Potthoff Ed.S., Principal
Terry Fitzgibbons, Associate Principal
Greg Eiserman Ed.S., Assistant Principal
Barry Burmeister, CMAA, Athletic Director

4724 W. Crystal Lake Rd.
McHenry, IL 60050
Phone: (815) 385-7077
Fax: (815) 363-8651
www.dist156.org

April 8, 2021

Dear Graduating Seniors and Parents:

The end of the year celebrations are being planned to honor our graduating seniors! We realize that these students have faced many challenges over the past year; our hope is to recognize them in special and memorable ways to end their high school years on a positive note.

Although we cannot hold prom this year, the prom committee is working hard to plan an event with senior input in April at West Campus for all district seniors that will allow them to celebrate the end of the year and participate in fun activities. More information has been shared separately about this event, which is scheduled for Friday, April 30, 2021.

The West Campus Senior Honors & Awards Night will be held on May 12 and 13 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., in the auditorium. If your student will be receiving an award, you will receive an invitation link from SignUpGenius. A multitude of scholarships, certificates, awards, and honors are bestowed upon many of our graduating seniors. Any senior being recognized will be allowed to bring two guests.

For those students who will earn the Distinguished Warrior designation and for seniors who have already completed basic military training, a ceremony is being planned for Sunday, May 16.

Commencement Exercises are scheduled for Thursday, May 20 from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. and Friday, May 21 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the Main Gymnasium at West Campus. Students will graduate in small groups of 25 and will be allowed to bring five guests each. Families will choose their graduation times on SignUpGenius.

On Friday, May 21, at 7:00 p.m. a community parade will be held for our graduating seniors from both East and West Campus. Staging will occur at East Campus and will follow a designated route. All seniors can participate but must either drive alone or with a parent/guardian. No groups of students in cars will be allowed to participate due to COVID requirements.

Because Illinois is still in Phase 4 of COVID requirements, group sizes are limited. Therefore, all of the events above, with the exception of the parade, will occur in small groups. Parents will receive links closer to these events and must register in advance. As guidance changes, we will make modifications while retaining quality experiences.

Caps and gowns will be distributed Monday, April 19 and Tuesday, April 20 **starting at 12:30 p.m. until 2:30 p.m.** It is important that you check that all parts of the cap and gown are included. Please note the wear and care instructions that are included on the bag. The gown should be removed from the package and placed on a hanger to remove wrinkles. If you have not ordered your cap and gown, please call Jostens ***immediately*** at 815-477-3588 or visit their website at Jostens.com.

Dress Code: All students must wear the graduation cap and gown. We want to emphasize the need for consistency in wearing mortarboards (caps) in a level position such that they are not tilted back or to either

The Mission of District 156: We are committed to provide all students with the skills they need to be lifelong learners and productive citizens.

side. Graduates should not wear flowers, pins, artwork or other jewelry on their gowns. Several school organizations distribute approved honor cords that students may wear over their gowns.

Students who are enlisting in the military will be given honor cords to wear over their gowns. Any students who have completed boot camp will be given a military stole to wear over their gowns.

Graduates **must** wear dress clothes and appropriate shoes at the ceremony. Since this is a formal ceremony, students should dress accordingly. Jeans, tennis shoes, shorts, and flip-flops are not allowed. Parents should note that because the seniors purchase gowns, they become personal property and can be reused by a future graduate.

A professional photographer, VIP, will take individual pictures of all graduates as they receive their diplomas. There will be no charge for this service unless you choose to order prints after seeing the proofs. To view and purchase your graduation photos, go to: www.vipis.com and search for your school. Parents who would like to videotape the graduation ceremony may do so from their seats. We are asking that you do not stand to videotape because it blocks the view of the people around you.

Following the ceremonies, students will pick up their diploma in the South entrance where several photo backdrops will also be available for families and small groups.

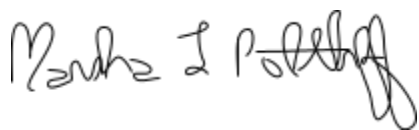
Per District 156 Board of Education policy, all requirements for graduation must be fulfilled in order to participate and march in graduation ceremonies. Each year there are a few seniors who are unable to march in graduation ceremonies due to final semester failures, lack of meeting all graduation requirements, or committing major behavioral infractions. Seniors who are at-risk of not graduating should do everything possible to complete graduation requirements in the few weeks that remain prior to the end of the school year. The last day for seniors to submit any work is **May 14 at 3:00 p.m.** No work will be accepted by teachers after this date. Senior final grades are due on May 18 at 7:20 a.m. Any seniors not passing required courses or obtaining enough credits to graduate will then be notified and options discussed.

Please give your attention to two final notes of caution. Seniors are reminded that the use of alcohol by any person who is under twenty-one years of age, and the use of controlled substances by any person is illegal in the state of Illinois. Please remember to keep graduation celebrations chemically free and adhere to current gathering rules permitted by the state under COVID restrictions. That is the number one way to ensure a happy and healthy start on the road of life for our new graduates.

Please remind your senior that walking at graduation is a **privilege**; therefore, appropriate conduct in the weeks prior to graduation is extremely important. Students who commit "senior pranks" that cause damage to school property or violate handbook rules may be removed from participation in the ceremony.

In closing, I want to extend my heartiest congratulations to the Class of 2021 and their parents. The tradition of Graduation at West Campus is a wonderful event that we enjoy each year. I look forward to celebrating this very special graduation with you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Marsha I. Potthoff". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Marsha" being more legible than the last name "Potthoff".

Marsha Potthoff
Principal