



Washburn Graduation 2026

What you need to know!

**Friday, June 5, 2026
6:00pm**

New Location!

Royalston Square
501 N. Royalston Ave.
Minneapolis, MN 55405



MINNEAPOLIS
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Urban Education. Global Citizens.

Dear Washburn Graduating Seniors and Families:

The Class of 2026 graduation is quickly approaching! This packet contains all the information you need regarding the graduation ceremony and what happens leading up to it. The ceremony will be **Friday, June 5, at 6:00pm** at the NEW Royalston Square event center downtown. We look forward to seeing you there!

Please read ALL of the information in this packet carefully and be sure you understand what is being asked of students and of families. The information in this packet is part of our efforts to plan a meaningful and memorable graduation ceremony. We need your help to ensure that everything goes well for our graduates.

If you have questions regarding the ceremony, or any information in this packet, please contact:

Michelle Terpening, 12th grade AP: 612-668-3406, michelle.terpening@mpls.k12.mn.us

Kou Thao, 12th grade Dean: 612-668-3411, kou.thao@mpls.k12.mn.us



Congratulations to our graduates and
the family & friends who helped you along the way!

WHS 2026 Graduation Calendar

Dates	Events
Early May	Obligation reminders sent out to seniors
Saturday, May 9	Prom @ A'bulae in St. Paul
Friday, May 15	Last day to pay obligations by check. Cash only after this date.
Wednesday, May 20 and Thursday, May 21	Senior Exit Interviews with Counselors and Yearbook Distribution
Wednesday, May 20	Last day for students to order tickets so we can redistribute unused tickets. Only students may request tickets. (MPS email required. Families: do not request access.)
Friday, May 22	<i>Last scheduled day of classes for Seniors</i> Clean out lockers, hand in all work & Chromebook by this date
Mon-Wed, May 25-27	<i>Memorial Day, Eid & Teacher PD – No School</i>
Thursday, May 28	FINAL senior CR/NC sent from teachers to counselors at 4:00pm. <i>Any student missing required credits at this time will not walk.</i>
Friday, May 29	Families will be notified by this date if requests for extra tickets can be granted
Saturday, May 30	Senior Party Overnight <i>(Pre-registration & ticket purchase required - see last page of this packet)</i>
Monday, June 1	Families will be notified by this date if your senior does not have enough credits to walk in the ceremony
Tuesday, June 2	Senior Recognition & Awards Night 6:00pm
Thursday, June 4	Cap and Gown Distribution 8:00 - 9:45am and then following rehearsal until 1:00pm <i>All obligations must be met prior to cap & gown pick up</i>
Thursday, June 4	Graduation rehearsal 10:00 am in WHS auditorium MANDATORY
Friday, June 5	Graduation Ceremony - 6:00pm at Royalston Square <i>Seniors arrive by 5:00pm! Doors open for families at 5:00 pm</i>

DIPLOMA AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

To **receive a diploma** and status as a graduate of Washburn High School, the following conditions must be met for the Class of 2026:

Earn at least 21.5 credits as follows:

(One year of a class = one credit. Each quarter of a class = .25 of a credit.)

A minimum of the following must be completed:

- 4.0 credits of Language Arts
- 3.5 credits of Social Studies
- 3.0 credits of Mathematics
- 3.0 credits of Science
- 1.0 credit of Fine Arts
- 0.5 credit of Physical Education
- 0.5 credit of Health
- 0.5 credit of Ethnic Studies
- 5.5 credit of other electives for a total of 21.5

To **walk in the graduation ceremony**, the following conditions also must be met:

1. Must be within .75 credits of the total required for graduation **by May 28th**.

Students may continue to earn credits after that date to earn their diploma, but only credits earned by May 28 count toward being able to walk in the graduation ceremony.

Students who are within .75 credits of diploma requirements may participate in the ceremony, and then must complete summer school to finish their credits. You will not receive a diploma or have status as a WHS graduate until all requirements are completed.

2. Must be clear of any financial obligations due to Washburn High School. See p. 5 for more information about how to do this.

Students who do not satisfy diploma requirements should make a plan with their counselor to work toward a later graduation date. Students may receive their diploma at whatever point in the future that they complete the required credits.

OBLIGATIONS

Seniors must pay all obligations issued over their years with MPS Public Schools in order to walk in the graduation ceremony. *(Note that lunch debt is not included.)*

Obligations will be clear and students can walk in the graduation ceremony when they have completed the following by May 28th:

- Returned their Chromebook and any other technology to the media center and/or paid for anything lost. See John McCreary in the Media Center.
- Returned all textbooks and library books from ANY MPS school to the WHS Media Center, and/or paid for anything lost. See John McCreary in the Media Center.
- Paid all testing and transcript fees. See Kelly Bloomer in the Counseling Office.
- Paid all athletic fees. See Giovan Jenkins in the Athletic Office.
- Returned all sports equipment and uniforms. See Herb Crowell in the Counseling Office.
- Paid any restitution owed for damage to property. See Michelle Terpening in the Main Office.

Obligations must be paid before a student can receive their cap and gown and participate in the ceremony. Students may do community service if payment is a hardship, but it must be complete by May 28th. See Ms. Terpening to work out a plan.

Cap & gown will not be distributed to any student with outstanding obligations.

Payment Methods:

Cash or Checks until 5/15 – All checks must be payable to “Washburn High School”. The student’s first and last name and Student ID must be written on all checks to ensure your student’s account gets the credit.

Cash only after May 16th

GRADUATION CEREMONY & TICKETS

TICKETS

Each graduate can receive up to **6 tickets for guests** in addition to their own. Tickets will be in the form of a wristband and every person needs one above the age of 2. If extras are available, students may request more (up to 10 total) but they are limited and should not be counted on. Tickets will be distributed with caps & gowns. Seniors will receive their own wristband in addition to the family ticket order. LOST TICKETS WILL NOT BE REPLACED.

[Here is the link](#) for students to order tickets for graduation. The link requires the senior to sign in from their MPS account, so **only students can request tickets**. (Parents, do not request access. These requests will not be answered)

Students must order your tickets by **Wednesday, May 20 at 6:00pm**. If you don't need all 6, please order fewer, and let us redistribute the extras to families who need more. If you do not request tickets on time, you will receive only 4.

LIVESTREAM

The event will be Live Streamed for our community. We encourage extended family members and friends who do not attend in person to gather to watch the ceremony together. *We especially encourage this for young people who will have a hard time sitting quietly for 90 minutes.* The link will be posted on our [Washburn website](#) on graduation day.

DIPLOMAS

Students will receive a diploma cover when they walk across the stage. A professional photo will be taken of this moment by Lifetouch.

After the ceremony, students can pick up their bags & belongings and then join their families. The district has determined that diplomas will be available for pick up on Monday, June 8th instead of the night of the ceremony. Details to come.

Students who are missing credits but allowed to walk in the ceremony will receive their diploma later after the missing credits are completed.

DRESS CODE

Students are encouraged to dress up! Dress professionally and respectfully in dress shirts and pants, suits, or dresses/skirts. Gowns will be fully zipped during the ceremony, but may be unzipped for photos afterward.

Caps, gowns and stoles are provided free for all students and are yours to keep. Do not iron them! they will melt! STUDENTS should click [this order form](#) to order the correct size for your cap and gown February 20th. (This link will not work for parents.) If you do not order your size, Ms. Terpening will guess.

Do not decorate or alter the caps or gowns – You will NOT be allowed to wear it in the ceremony. (Native student beading is the exception). You may keep your cap and gown, so you may decorate them later, but not before the ceremony.

The Class of 2026 is one group and is presented in caps and gowns to show that you have all reached the same important milestone together.

New this year, every student will have an orange stole on which to display athletic & club affiliations. Clubs will order pins or patches for students to display.

Students who earn stoles or cords, (high honors, AVID, military, etc) may have them approved in advance for participation. See Ms. Terpening with questions and for approval. (Note that the Class of 2026 orange stole will be worn on top of any others, so we prefer you choose a pin or patch over other stoles.) Anything extra needs to be approved. THESE STOLES ARE NEW THIS YEAR AND WE ARE EXCITED! We will ask you about your sports and clubs in March.

AUDIENCE

Graduation is a formal ceremony and recognition of achievement. We ask that our audience bring a respectful formality to the event as well.

ARRIVAL

Families can arrive up to one hour prior to the ceremony, so the Royalston Square **doors will open at 5:00pm**. All families should plan to **be seated by 5:50pm**. *Late arrivals will have to wait in the lobby until after the graduates process into the auditorium.* The ceremony will begin promptly at 6:00pm and will last about 90 minutes. The district is closing the doors soon after the graduates come in, so if you are late, you will likely miss the ceremony.

Graduates must arrive by 5:00pm to line up and prepare. Do not be late! *Graduates who are not in line in the right place at the right time will not be able to participate in the ceremony.*

Please note that the Royalston will have metal detectors set up that everyone attending will have to pass through. Please give yourself extra time for this and alert your guests.

We ask four things of everyone attending the ceremony:

1. Do not leave your seat during the ceremony. A professional photographer is taking pictures of every graduate. Do not stand up or move into aisles to take photos, as this blocks the view for other people.
2. Clap and cheer for your student, but be sure to stop quickly so families can hear the next name called. *We want to be sure every name is heard!*
3. Show respect for everyone involved with the ceremony. Stay positive.
4. Wait in your seat until after all of the graduates have recessed out of the auditorium. They will go get their stuff and meet you in the lobby. That will take 10-20 minutes, so there is no rush to get to the lobby. They will find you.

NO USE POLICY

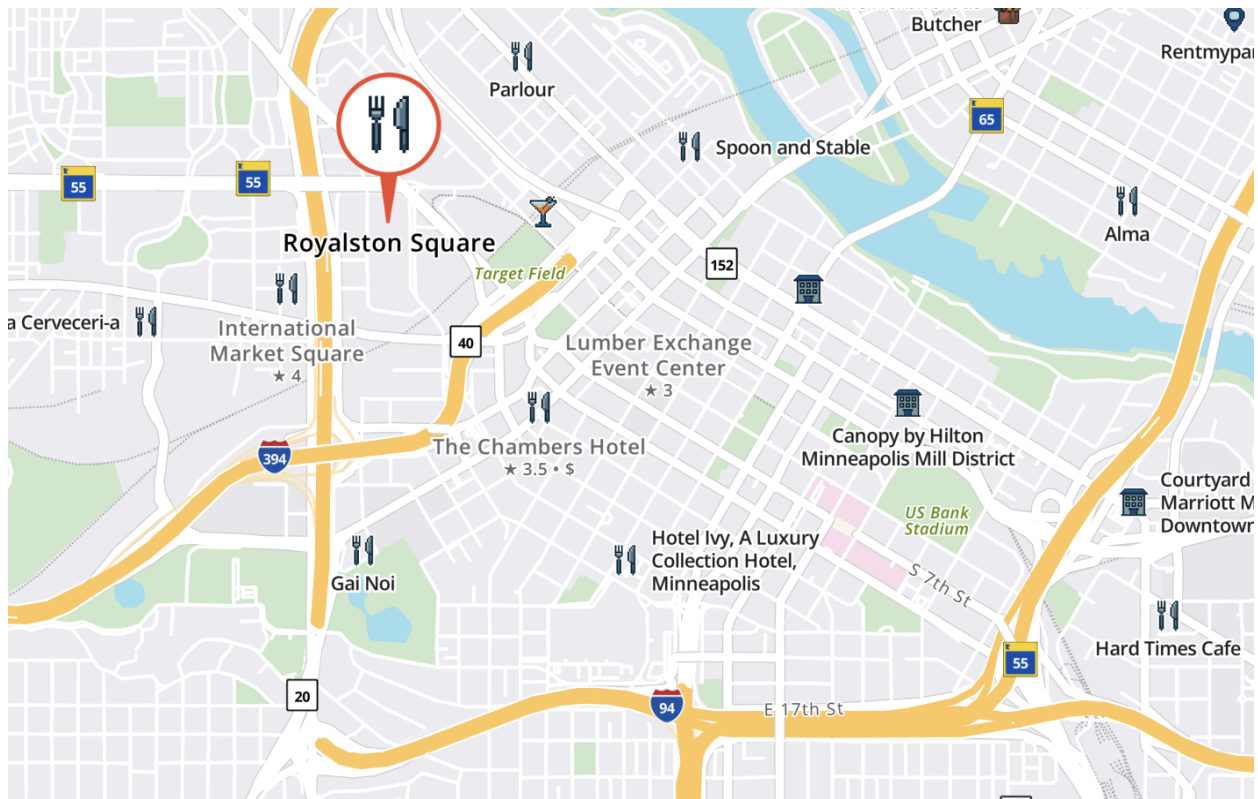
Like all school-sponsored events, no students are allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony or the senior party if they *appear to be* under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Any student or audience member suspected of being under the influence of substances will be escorted out of the event.

Driving Directions to Royalston Square

501 Royalston Ave,
Minneapolis, MN 55405

[Royalston website](#)

[Click here for driving directions from your location](#)



Parking:

Parking at Royalston Square in Minneapolis (700 N 3rd St) includes a dedicated on-site lot, alongside nearby metered street parking and several commercial garages in the surrounding North Loop/Warehouse District. Major nearby options include Ramp A (3960 spots), Ramp B (2630 spots), and Target Field Station.

NO BALLOONS OR STROLLERS

The Royalston does not allow balloons or strollers in the auditorium. If you bring them, they must be left in the car.



Washburn High School Class of 2026 All Night Party

May 30, ~9:30pm to May 31, ~4:30am

Buses leave Washburn High School DON'T BE LATE!

Ticket Price: \$45

Paper Registration accepted now. Online ticket sales begin in April at: WashburnHSParent.com
Ticket sales end May 15, 2026.
Financial assistance available
Contact Michelle Terpening 612-668-3406

Questions:

Amy Polinske 612-770-3971 ☎ Carole Specktor 612-719-9521

WashburnSeniorParty@gmail.com

Instagram: @wb2026seniorparty

----- Complete and Return to: Senior Party, Washburn High School, 201 West 49th Street Mpls, MN 55419 -----

REFRESHMENTS, FOOD & ACTIVITIES!

Ice Skating ☐ Hockey ☐ Swimming
Spike Ball ☐ Basketball
Photo Booth ☐ Volleyball
Arts/Crafts ☐ Casino Games
AND MORE!

GOOD TO KNOW

- All students must travel on the bus
- Leave valuables at home
- Alcohol, drugs, cigarettes, and vaping devices are not allowed. Bags will be checked, and students may be tested.
- Possession of prohibited material, will result in immediate removal from the party and buses
- Buses leave from, and return to, the Washburn parking lot
- Monitored bag check is available all night
- Optional: Bring water bottle, gym shoes/clothes, swimsuit/towel.
- Ice skates will be available but bring your own hockey helmet, stick and puck.
- Only Washburn seniors are welcome

ATTENDEE INFORMATION

Student Name	Emergency Contact
Student Phone	Email Address
Emergency Phone	
Address	Emergency Email Address
Parent/Guardian Name(s)	Does the student have a health issue that could result in an emergency, or require medication during the event? Y___ N___ Please describe:
Parent/Guardian Phone	
Parent/Guardian Email	In case of a serious emergency, your child will be taken to the nearest hospital. If you require a specific hospital, please list it here:

PAYMENT

\$45 per student
Ticket sales end 5/15/26
Make checks payable to:
Washburn Parent Council

Admission \$

Donation \$

Total Payment \$

Your donations help make
This event possible for all.

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

MEDICATIONS

List all medications your student takes

Parent/Guardian Signature:

This event can only happen with your support! Visit WashburnHSParent.com for information on how to:
Donate money or food - Volunteer at the party - Participate in fundraisers