

CSHS Class of 2024 and Families,

Congratulations to our graduating senior class! The following is important information for seniors, their families, and graduation ceremony guests.

The graduation ceremony will be held on Cedar Shoals' campus at Waters-Wilkins Stadium on Thursday, May 23rd, 2024 at 9:00 am. Students must arrive at the old gym by 7:00 am.

Cedar Shoals has a clear bag policy, which is explained [here](#).

GRADUATION PRACTICE

The rehearsal for graduation will be at 2:00 pm on Wednesday, May 22nd, 2024 at CSHS's Waters-Wilkins Stadium. Rehearsal will last at least 2 hours. All graduating seniors must attend the rehearsal. **Graduates who do not attend the rehearsal will not march in the ceremony.**

Students should bring graduation caps and gowns to rehearsal for a class photo. Students should report to the old gym. Herff Jones will be at graduation practice to pass out cap and gowns for any students who did not pick them up on May 3rd.

GRADUATION CEREMONY

The **graduation ceremony** will be on **Thursday, May 23rd, 2024 at 9:00 am** at Waters-Wilkins Stadium on the campus of Cedar Shoals High School.

Students should arrive **in cap and gown at the old gym**, ready to line up no later than **7:00 AM**. Students will stage on the floor in the old gym before walking out of the back of the gym and onto the football field. **All students must pass through a metal detector prior to entering the main gym. The [clear bag policy](#) applies to graduating students.**

Dress Attire for the Ceremony on May 23rd, 2024:

- White shirt with dark tie or white blouse along with solid color dress pants or skirt (navy, black, or khaki) **or** solid color dress **(NO JEANS)**
- Dress shoes with a flat sole or wedges **(NO HIGH HEELS, NO FLIP FLOPS, NO SLIDES, NO CROCS, NO SNEAKERS)**
- **NO SUNGLASSES**
- Regulation cap, gown, and approved stole(s) and/or cords
 - Students can wear cords from **no more than 5 school-approved honors organizations. (NO PERSONALIZED STOLES/CORDS, FLAGS)**
 - Caps must fit on top of a student's head.
 - **Caps may NOT be altered or decorated!!! Students with altered or decorated caps will not be allowed to participate in the ceremony.**

Seniors not dressed properly will be pulled from the line and not allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony.

GUESTS

There is no limit on the number of guests students may bring to the graduation ceremony unless the rain plan is implemented and the ceremony is moved to the evening at 8:00 pm.

Waters-Wilkins Stadium gates open at 7:30 a.m. for the ceremony. Guests should enter at the main gates on the home-side seating. **All guests must pass through a metal detector prior to entering the stadium.**

Cedar Shoals has **a clear bag policy for all guests** which is explained [here](#).

In order to be prepared for the anticipated heat, guests are encouraged to bring water in clear bottles. Guests will be able to purchase drinks inside of the stadium. Individuals who become overheated can use one of the two cooling stations located beside the concession stands.

We expect guests to remain seated and respectfully quiet throughout the ceremony. Cell phones should be silenced. **Do not bring banners, balloons, tents, or other items which may obstruct the views of other guests.** All seniors and their families want to have the honor of hearing names read and watching the ceremony. The time for a more jubilant celebration is at the end of the ceremony.

Guests are encouraged to sit on the side of the field (home or visitor) on which their student will be seated. Students will be aware of which side they are seated on at the graduation rehearsal.

HANDICAP SEATING

There are options for guests requiring handicap seating or those who have mobility concerns. If guests need more accessible seating that does not require stairs, please alert an usher when you enter the stadium. Guests needing special seating may be escorted by one family member.

RAIN PLAN

In the event of inclement weather on the morning of Thursday, May 23rd, the event will be delayed until 8:00 pm that same day.

PHOTOS

Every senior will be photographed during the presentation of diplomas by photographers from Lifetouch Photography. Photos from the graduation ceremony and the graduation practice (digital downloads and prints) will be available for purchase after the ceremony at <https://my.photoday.com/> using PIN 14578GRAD52324.

PARKING

On campus: Parking for Graduation is free and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Parking will be limited due to construction, so we suggest that family and friends carpool as much as possible.

Green Acres Baptist Church: Shuttles will be available from the Green Acres Baptist Church Parking lot starting at 7:30 am. After the ceremony, shuttles will retrieve passengers at the same drop-off location. Shuttles will run until 11:30 am.

Hilsman Middle School: Shuttles will be available from the Hilsman Middle School Parking lot starting at 7:30 am. After the ceremony, shuttles will retrieve passengers at the same drop-off location. Shuttles will run until 11:30 am.

Guests with limited mobility: Parking for guests with limited mobility is available next to the stadium on the Cedar Shoals campus, but spots are very limited.

Drop off location for guests with limited mobility: Guests can be dropped off in the car rider area, located in front of the main office. Golf carts will be stationed in front of the main office to transport guests with limited mobility directly to the stadium. After dropping off your guests, please park your vehicle off-campus as the on-campus parking will be full.

Visitors may need to walk up to half a mile, including stairs, from parking and throughout the stadium. If guests need more accessible seating that does not require stairs, please alert an usher when you enter the stadium. Guests needing special seating may be escorted by one family member.

LIVE STREAMING OF CEREMONY

The CSHS graduation ceremony will be live-streamed on the [Cedar Shoals High School Facebook page](#). It will remain on the site after the ceremony for future views.

CAP and GOWN INFORMATION

Students who do not pick up their caps and gowns at the May 3rd event will receive them at the graduation practice on May 22nd.

Students who have not ordered their caps and gowns must do so as soon as possible. To order, visit <https://herffjonesgrad.com/product/cap-gown-tassel-unit/>

When students receive their caps and gowns, they should remove the stole and gown from the package and hang them up to allow the wrinkles to smooth out. **DO NOT IRON IT!**

Caps can NOT be decorated! Students who decorate their caps will not be allowed to participate in the ceremony.

FINALIZING OBLIGATIONS

Seniors should complete the Counseling Department's Senior Exit Survey here: [Cedar Shoals Exit Survey](#)" This survey helps us track information about your plans after graduation and other information that helps us provide support to students.

Seniors who are planning on going to college should submit a **"Final Transcript Request"** here: [Final Transcript Request](#)

School computers and other school-owned materials must be turned in before graduation practice. No exceptions.

Student fees, including those for lost textbooks and library charges, must be cleared by the day of graduation practice. Contact Mrs. Ogden (ogdenm@clarke.k12.ga.us) to pay any fees. *(Keep all receipts to verify that payments have been made.)*

Please contact Kerry Hogan at hogank@clarke.k12.ga.us or Courtnei Reese at reeseec@clarke.k12.ga.us with any questions.
