



February, 2026

Dear NCHS Seniors and Families,

On behalf of the staff at Naperville Central, I invite you to attend and participate in our Commencement Ceremony on **Sunday, May 17th at 2:00 p.m. at Memorial Stadium**. Graduation is an exciting time, denoting both the successful conclusion of one's high school career and the beginning of new adventures. Parents and family members, we hope you will join us to celebrate this significant milestone in your student's life. To our graduates, *CONGRATULATIONS* on this important accomplishment!

Naperville Central has a long standing tradition of conducting a dignified graduation ceremony. Please read the materials linked in this message that provides general commencement information as well as our school's commencement philosophy and expectations for commencement ceremony behavior.

Beginning with cap and gown distribution on March 11th and continuing through the remainder of the school year, we will have several opportunities to engage our seniors in end of year activities, complete reflections on their high school experiences and communicate expectations that the Class of 2026 will exit Naperville Central with pride. With graduation quickly approaching, we expect seniors to meet school responsibilities fully through the end of the year in order to participate in the Commencement Ceremony. These responsibilities include regular attendance, payment of outstanding fees, successful completion of any final academic requirements, and behavior consistent with a positive learning environment. I will communicate information about end of the year events and behavior expectations to all seniors in April during advisory.

Seniors, we expect your behavior to be reflective of the level of maturity which we have observed throughout your years at NCHS. However, you need to know that any behavior between now and May 17th which is significantly inappropriate or violates School District 203 policies, may result in your removal from the Commencement Ceremony. Of course, my expectation is that this will not be necessary for any Redhawk.

I would like to thank Mrs. Szopinski, Mrs. Anderson, members of the Senior Class Council as well as members of the Student Advisory Council who will devote significant time and effort to ensuring that the events that mark the end of the high school experience, including the graduation ceremony, are memorable for our seniors. Thank you, parents and family members for your continued support as we together celebrate the Naperville Central Class of 2026 on May 17th.

Sincerely,

Jackie Thornton  
Principal