

Guilford Park High School Graduation FAQs

TICKETS

How many tickets can we have, and how much do they cost?

Per school system decision, each senior participating will be provided with 10 guest tickets. Tickets will be printed by Print Shop based on senior class size X 10 tickets per senior. Print Shop will not print any additional tickets.

The guest tickets will allow for seating in the pavilion, but guest(s) may choose to sit in the lawn area. No seniors or guests are allowed in the upper area at Merriweather Post Pavilion.

For all graduations, the seniors will sit in the center sections of the pavilion and guests will sit in the sections on the sides and rear.

How can I get extra tickets?

Now that each senior is allowed 10 guest tickets, no additional tickets will be issued. You can ask friends to see if they have any extra tickets.

Do young children who can sit on a lap need a ticket?

No, if they are able to sit on a lap and do not need a chair, they don't need a ticket.

When do we get our tickets?

Tickets were distributed to students on the last day of school for seniors, **May 26** at the end of the day. Chromebooks and other school materials must be turned in to receive tickets. You do not need to order tickets online.

I didn't get my tickets at the graduation rehearsal! How can I get them?

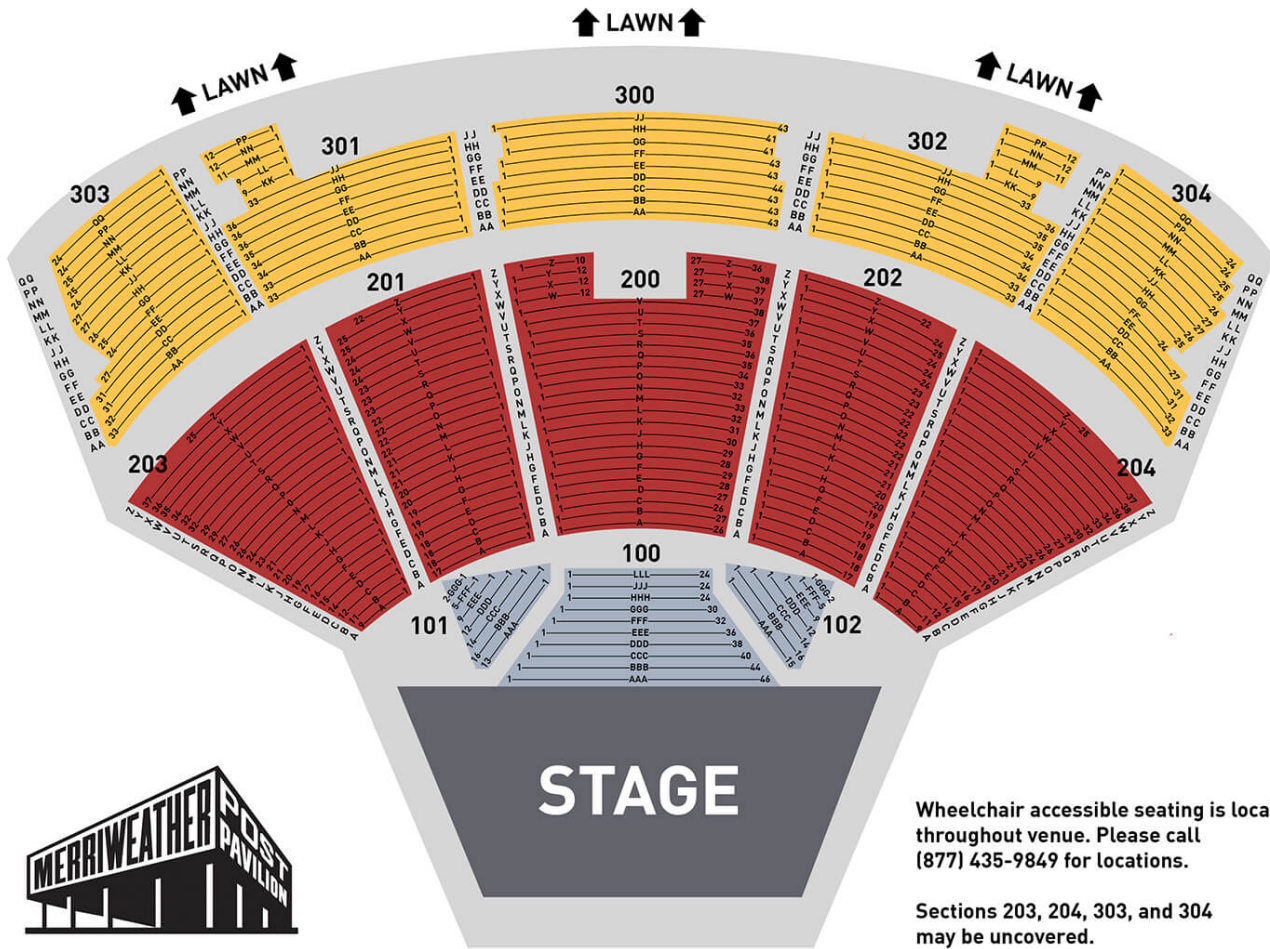
Please come to the front office of the school between **May 28th or May 29th** to pick them up. Staff will verify that you have paid all debts in order to release the tickets to you.

SEATING

Where will we sit?

Each senior will receive 10 tickets and guests may sit wherever they prefer, in the pavilion or on the lawn. Guests sitting in the pavilion will sit on the left and right sides and in the rear behind the students. Students will sit in Sections 100, 102, 201, 200, and 202.

There will be seats reserved for those guests needing priority seating for sign language interpretation in Section 203, rows A and B.



Will there be chairs on the lawn?

For lawn seating, you must bring your own chair or blanket. Most people do not choose to sit out on the lawn. There will be enough seating under the pavilion.

Where will HCPSS employees who are presenting diplomas to their children be seated?

HCPSS employees who are presenting diplomas to their children will sit in the pavilion in Section 201. You will be assisted by a Guilford Park teacher (**Ms. Elizabeth Arbaugh**) at the ceremony. If you are an HCPSS employee planning on presenting your child's diploma and DO NOT receive an email from Ms. Bullock on **April 13th**, please email jamie_bullock@hcpss.org.

Where is handicapped seating?

Handicapped seating will be in the pavilion above section 200 and below section 300.

PARKING

Where do we park?

We encourage families to carpool and limit the number of cars to two per family to minimize the impact on traffic and parking. Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 will be open for graduation parking. See the [HCPSS website](#) for more information.

Where is handicapped parking?

Lot 1 is reserved for ADA, Elected Officials, Teachers and Staff, and Administration. **Lot 2** is open to all and there are ADA spots. **Lots 3, 4, and 5** are open to all. Please click on the image above to see the larger PDF version that can be zoomed in. Hang tags or marked plates will allow access but spaces are extremely limited. Even the accessible spaces still require a walk. Use of the drop off is encouraged. There will be no shuttle from the ADA parking lot to the pavilion.

Do we need to fill out an HCPSS form for handicapped parking?

No, hang tags or marked plates will allow access for handicapped parking.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Is there a rain date?

There is no scheduled rain date for the graduation ceremony.

CEREMONY DETAILS

When and where is graduation?

Our ceremony is set for **6/1/26** at Merriweather Post Pavilion.

What time should graduates arrive?

Graduates should arrive no later than **2:30 PM but no earlier than 2:00 PM**. Graduates need to proceed to the line-up teacher that was assigned to them at rehearsal.

When will the gates open at Merriweather?

Parking will open 60 minutes before the ceremony. Once parked, guests can make their way to the gates.

Can I bring flowers, balloons, and other accessories/gifts for the ceremony?

Please do not bring balloons, as they will block the view of the guests seated behind you. You may bring flowers. Please do not bring any noisemakers.

What is the dress code for graduates?

Cap, gown, and tassel (on the right) are required. Dress shoes should be worn. No sneakers, boots, flip flops, or other casual footwear. Please see the graduation packet for more details. Graduates are welcome to wear a mask if they wish.

What is the dress code for guests?

We suggest business formal attire. Guests on the lawn will want to wear sensible shoes (if the ground is wet, heels will sink down). Guests who wish to wear masks are welcome to do so.

Can graduates carry water bottles?

Graduates need to have their hands free to receive their diploma. Since there is a processional and recessional, students should not bring water bottles.

What is the processional order?

GPHS Administration will lead the processional. They will be followed by student speakers, band and choir members, then by students whose parents are HCPSS employees presenting them with their diplomas and finally the rest of the class in alphabetical order.

Where will the students sit?

Graduates will be seated on the floor and center sections of the pavilion.

How long is the ceremony?

The ceremony will be no longer than 1 hour and 45 minutes.

When will I get my diploma?

They are giving out during/after the ceremony. If you are not at the ceremony you will have to pick it up at school, after our graduation ceremony.

Will there be language interpretation services?

We will have American Sign Language interpretation at the entire ceremony. If you require other language interpretation services, please contact Guilford Park High School to request an interpreter.

There will be seats reserved for those guests needing priority seating for sign language interpretation in Section 203, rows A and B.

Will photographs from LifeTouch be viewable without paying for them first?

You will be able to view a proof of the photo online and you will be able to decide if you want to purchase prints. They use contact information from senior portraits to send proofs directly to families or may be accessed online at <http://events.lifetouch.com/>.

Additionally, HCPSS will take photos of students in the audience and speakers on stage during each ceremony. Those photos will be available for viewing and/or download on the HCPSS Flickr site no later than **June 13**.

Will there be large screens on the lawn for viewing the ceremony?

The “live action” occurring on the stage throughout the ceremony will be projected on the two screens in the pavilion area (one to left of stage and one to the right) and the lawn screen except for the segments when the graduates participating virtually are featured or recorded performances/speeches are used. During those times, the virtual components will be projected on the three screens.

Will the ceremony be live streamed?

Yes, the GPHS ceremony will be livestreamed online and available on-demand following each ceremony at www.hcpss.org and will be rebroadcast on the HCPSS cable channel (Comcast 95, Verizon 42) for Howard County residents. A broadcast schedule will be shared with schools and posted on the school system website.

GRADUATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

When will we receive graduation announcements?

Jostens is in charge of all announcements. They will let you know when they will be given out. You can contact our rep Karen at karen.stewart@jostens.com. Remember that these needed to be ordered through Jostens; Guilford Park does not provide them.

CAPS AND GOWNS

What if I didn't receive my cap and gown?

Cap and gowns will be passed during rehearsals. If you did not order, please contact Ms. Bullock at jamie_bullock@hcpss.org.

How do I wear the cap?

The cap should sit flat on the head, deep part in the back, and the tassel should be on the right side of the mortarboard.

What is worn with the cap and gown?

Students should wear business formal attire, which means no sneakers, flip flops, or other casual footwear. Dark dress shoes are preferred. Very high heels are not recommended because graduates will be standing for long periods of time and navigating stairs. Please button shirts and keep collars inside the gown.

How do I take care of my gown?

Remove the gown from the bag when you get home, and hang it up so the wrinkles fall out. DO NOT iron your gown; it will melt. You may use a steamer to remove wrinkles, or simply hang it in the bathroom while the shower is running.

HONOR CORDS AND STOLES

How do I get my cord(s) and/or stole(s)?

Please contact the sponsor of the school-sponsored club/honor society to which you belong.

SENIOR BANNERS

When can senior banners be picked up?

They will be given out after graduation rehearsals. More information will be provided during rehearsals.

RETURN OF MATERIALS

When can I return school materials?

This should be done during your class time if it is a class material or before or after school if it is for a non class material. Please do not disrupt a class to return materials.

YEARBOOKS

When will yearbooks be delivered?

Yearbooks are delivered to homes in mid-late August.

SENIOR SURVEY

Do all seniors need to fill out the survey?

Yes, ALL seniors need to fill out the senior survey on Naviance. We will do this during one of the rehearsal days.