

Durham School of the Arts

Graduation Activities & Etiquette

Congratulations Class of 2026! Please read this entire document carefully and share it with your family.

GRADUATION INFORMATION

In order to participate in graduation you must:

- Meet **ALL** graduation course requirements
- Attend both parts of graduation **REHEARSAL**
- **RETURN** all materials and **PAY** any fines – This includes chromebook, library books, textbooks, instruments, etc.

Any senior who wishes to be exempt from graduation exercises **MUST** have their parent(s) send an email to Mr. Jones before **Tuesday, May 26, 2026**. Please include Ms. Schepp in the email.

Wednesday, June 10, 2026 - Graduation Rehearsal

Bring the shoes you will be wearing on graduation day – you need to make sure you can walk in them.

You will receive: graduation tickets, parking passes, and honor cords at rehearsal

1. **Graduation Practice at DSA – 8:30 AM-11:00 AM: Weaver Auditorium - PLEASE BE ON TIME!**
 - Walk through the ceremony
 - Names will be called so you will have an opportunity to work with the announcer on pronunciation
2. **Graduation Practice at Cameron Indoor Stadium – 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM - PLEASE BE ON TIME!**
 - Please have your own transportation to Cameron (**IF** you need help, let Ms. Schepp know **BEFORE** the day of rehearsal)
 - Parking - **Blue Zone (2300 Duke University Rd)** - passes are given out during the Graduation Practice at DSA
 - Meet in **Rubenstein Pavilion** at South End of Cameron Indoor Stadium

Thursday, June 11, 2026 - Graduation

- **3:00 pm** - Parking - **Science Drive Garage (3100 Cameron Blvd)** - Arrive early to avoid getting caught in traffic. No parking passes required.
- **3:45 pm** - Meet in **Rubenstein Pavilion** at South End of Cameron Indoor Stadium
 - Check in with Junior Marshall - You should be in full dress at this time
- **4:30 pm** - Report to your Junior Marshall and get in line
- **5:00 pm** - **Graduation ceremony begins**

After graduation tasks:

- **Request final transcript** – Students need to request their final transcript be sent to the college or university they will be attending next year. This student records request is done through the DPS website. Step by step directions are available on the DSA student services website and the senior canvas page. The first day the request can be made is **Wednesday, June 10th**.
- **Pick up diploma** – Diplomas are not given at graduation – only the diploma cover. Students can pick up their diploma in the DSA main office Monday - Thursday from 9am-3pm, **starting June 22nd**.

GRADUATE ATTIRE

- When you receive your gown, be sure to try it on and hang it up. To remove wrinkles press the gown with a **COOL** iron – gowns will melt if you use heat! A neat trick is to hang the gown in the bathroom while you shower to let the steam knock out the wrinkles.
- Caps should be worn straight on head with tassel on the right; **absolutely no decorations on caps.**
- Acceptable Graduation Attire:
 - Dress pants/slacks (no jeans) with a white dress shirt or blouse
 - Tie or bow tie
 - Skirt with a white dress shirt or blouse
 - Dress
- **NOTHING** can be in your hands when you walk out onto the floor! Either wear something with pockets to hold your keys/phone or give them to a family member prior to the ceremony. We will NOT be responsible for personal items.

GUEST INFORMATION

Tickets: DPS allows graduates to invite **15 guests** to attend the spring graduation ceremony. You will receive 15 paper tickets during graduation rehearsal. **BE CAREFUL if you lose your tickets, we can not give you more.** There are ***no extra tickets available.***

Tickets for children: Children age two and under who will remain seated on the lap of an adult for the duration of the graduation ceremony will not require a ticket. Children over age two and those under age two who will require their own seat need to have their own ticket.

ADA - Handicapped Seating: Guests who have requested handicap-accessible seating from their school will be issued a General Admission ticket prior to graduation. These guests are allowed to have **one escort** sit with them. Upon arrival at graduation, these guests and their escorts will enter the venue together via the lower-level ADA entrance and provide their names.

Please fill out this Google Form to request ADA seating:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeMcLJRNWpD2-6O5suHgBrUqI1hUZJFp_mOwBzfgCFzH2tLCQ/viewform

Bag Policy: Bags or purses of any kind (including but not limited to backpacks, duffel bags, tote bags, fanny packs, clear bags, drawstring/cinch bags, messenger bags, plastic grocery bags, camera bags, binocular bags, gift bags, etc.) are not permitted to enter Cameron Indoor Stadium for graduation ceremonies.

All bags MUST be smaller than 5" x 8" x 1". However, diaper bags and medical bags will be allowed.

Prohibited items include but are not limited to:

- Flowers & Balloons
- Gift Bags & Wrapped Gifts
- Artificial Noise Makers

Approved items include:

- Cameras and Video Cameras (no cases)
- Binoculars (no cases)
- Umbrellas

Guest Parking: Science Drive Garage - 3100 Cameron Blvd

ADA Parking is available in the Blue Zone - 2300 Duke University Rd



Visit the QR code to review the Durham Public Schools graduation information website.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Ms. Schepp - marykatherine_schep@dpsnc.net